



Livingston South Local Area Committee

West Lothian Civic Centre
Howden South Road
LIVINGSTON
EH54 6FF

25 November 2021

A meeting of the **Livingston South Local Area Committee** of West Lothian Council will be held within the **Virtual Meeting Room** on **Thursday 2 December 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. Deputation Request by Ms Karon Langan relating to Handrail Request on Ivanhoe Rise, Dedridge, Livingston
5. St Margaret's Acacemy Presentation (herewith)
6. Confirm Draft Minutes of Meeting of Livingston South Local Area Committee held on Thursday 02 September 2021 (herewith)
7. Handrail Request in Ivanhoe Rise in Dedridge, Livingston - Report by Head of Operational Services (herewith)

8. Fire Service Report - Report by Fire and Rescue Service (herewith)
9. Housing, Customer and Building Services - Report by Head of Housing, Customer and Building Services (herewith)
10. Service Update - NETs, Land & Countryside - Report by Head of Operational Services (herewith)
11. Anti-Poverty Service Update - Report by Head of Finance and Property Services (herewith)
12. Report on Progress of Regeneration Planning - Report by Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration (herewith)
13. Pensioners Groups Christmas Fund Allocations 2021/22 - Report by Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration (herewith)
14. Covid-19 Local Recovery and Renewal Fund - Report by Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration (herewith)
15. Police Ward Report - Report by Police Scotland (herewith)
16. 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



ST MARGARET'S ACADEMY ATTAINMENT AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Session 2021
Local Area Committee Meeting

ATTAINMENT 2021

2018

2019

2020

2021

S₅ SCQF 1@6

71.4%

76.5%

79.0%

85.5%

S₅ SCQF 3@6

53.2%

60.7%

64.5%

69.5%

S₅ SCQF 5@6

35.0%

43.4%

42.0%

50.0%

ATTAINMENT 2021

S₄ SCQF 5@5

2018	2019	2020	2021
62.2%	60.4%	70.0%	64.5%

S₆ SCQF 1@level 7

2018	2019	2020	2021
19.5%	15.8%	24.6%	25.1%

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLANNING

- Recovery focus
- West Lothian Council improvement framework
- Excellence and Equity
- Engagement in learning and teaching
- Digital learning

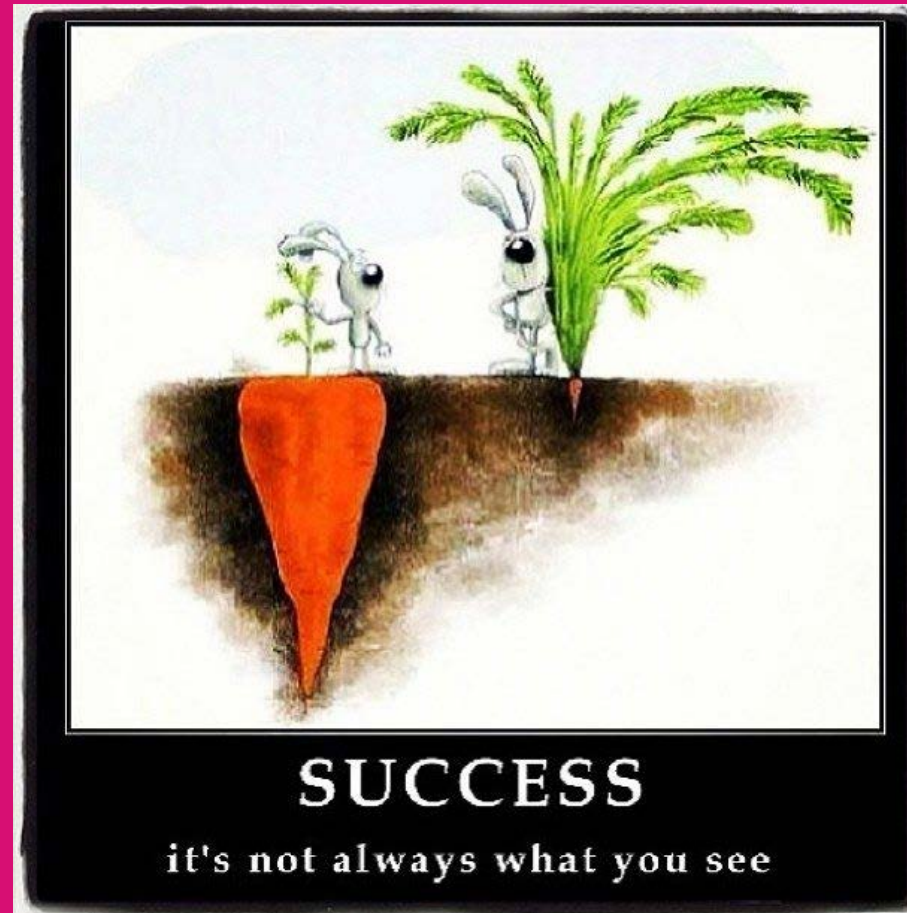


SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLANS

- Engagement of pupils, parents and staff
- Well being- universal and targeted support
- Numeracy and Literacy recovery
- Care for creation
- LEARN Self evaluation model
- New curriculum offers



COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIPS



ACHIEVEMENTS

- First West Lothian Secondary school to receive the Digital Schools Award
- Sky Edit winners
- Social Enterprise Start Up
- COP 26- The Solution to Pollution finalists
- Laudato Si School (caring for creation)
- Bikeability programme



ACHIEVEMENTS



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.

DATA LABEL: PUBLIC



LIVINGSTON SOUTH LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE

HANDRAIL REQUEST IN IVANHOE RISE IN DEDRIDGE, LIVINGSTON

REPORT BY HEAD OF OPERATIONAL SERVICES

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to provide the Local Area Committee with information in relation to concerns that have been raised regarding the lack of handrail provision at a footpath at Ivanhoe Rise in Dedridge.

B. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Local Area Committee note the contents of this report.

C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

I Council Values	Being honest, open and accountable; providing equality of opportunities; making best use of our resources.
II Policy and Legal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues, Health or Risk Assessment)	Not applicable
III Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers	Not applicable
IV Impact on performance and performance Indicators	Not applicable
V Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement	Not applicable
VI Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)	Additional funding would be required for any new handrail installation.
VII Consideration at PDSP	None.

D. TERMS OF REPORT

- D1** A site inspection took place on the 17th May 2021 to assess the request for a handrail on the sloped section of footpath that links Ivanhoe Rise to the main centre footpath, which has been previously raised by Dedridge Regeneration Group in February 2021. At this time it was recommended that this handrail request be placed on the council's infrastructure request list for further consideration. This is the council's mechanism for considering the introduction of new public road and footway infrastructure when additional funding becomes available.

This footpath runs generally south-westwards, parallel with Dedridge East Road, from Ivanhoe Rise to the main centre path over a distance of approximately 125 metres. The footpath is generally level except for the last 32 metres which slope towards the centre path and its underpass of Dedridge East Road at an average gradient of 11%. The footpath has an asphalt surface and is approximately 2.5 metres wide. The location is highlighted on the plan shown in Appendix 1 with photographs of the footpath shown in Appendix 2.

Guidance on appropriate standards for ramps and handrail provision is given in the Department for Transport publication, 'Inclusive Mobility' and the Transport Scotland publication, 'Roads for All'. As the ramp is an existing feature and there are constraints on site, it may not be possible to consider all the guidance given. However, the standards suggested for any retrofitted features such as handrails the guidance should be followed to improve accessibility.

Both guidance documents recommend handrails are provided on both sides of ramps with gradients of 5% or greater. It is also recommended in 'Roads for All' that such handrails should be dual height to accommodate children and other users of smaller stature. An alternative that has been used across the council area and may be considered is a central handrail. For this there should be sufficient space to accommodate minimum clear widths and the necessary double-sided handrail offsets.

Based on previous installations, it is expected that a single double height handrail (double sided) would cost around £20,000 and would be installed in the centre of the footpath. For two single sided handrails installed at each side of the footpath this cost would be expected to rise to around £30,000. The details of these handrail constructions are shown in Appendix 3.

E. CONCLUSION

It is officers' recommendation that two double height railings as shown in Appendix 3 would provide the most suitable outcome for this footpath for all users. By installing two handrails, this would permit the most available footpath width for this link footpath which may have a high volume of users.

Any proposals in relation to any new handrail infrastructure provision will require additional investment as there is no funding available in the existing Roads and Transportation revenue budget for a proposal of this nature.

F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

Appendices/Attachments:

- Appendix 1 – Location plan
- Appendix 2 – Photographs of the site
- Appendix 3 – Handrail standard detail

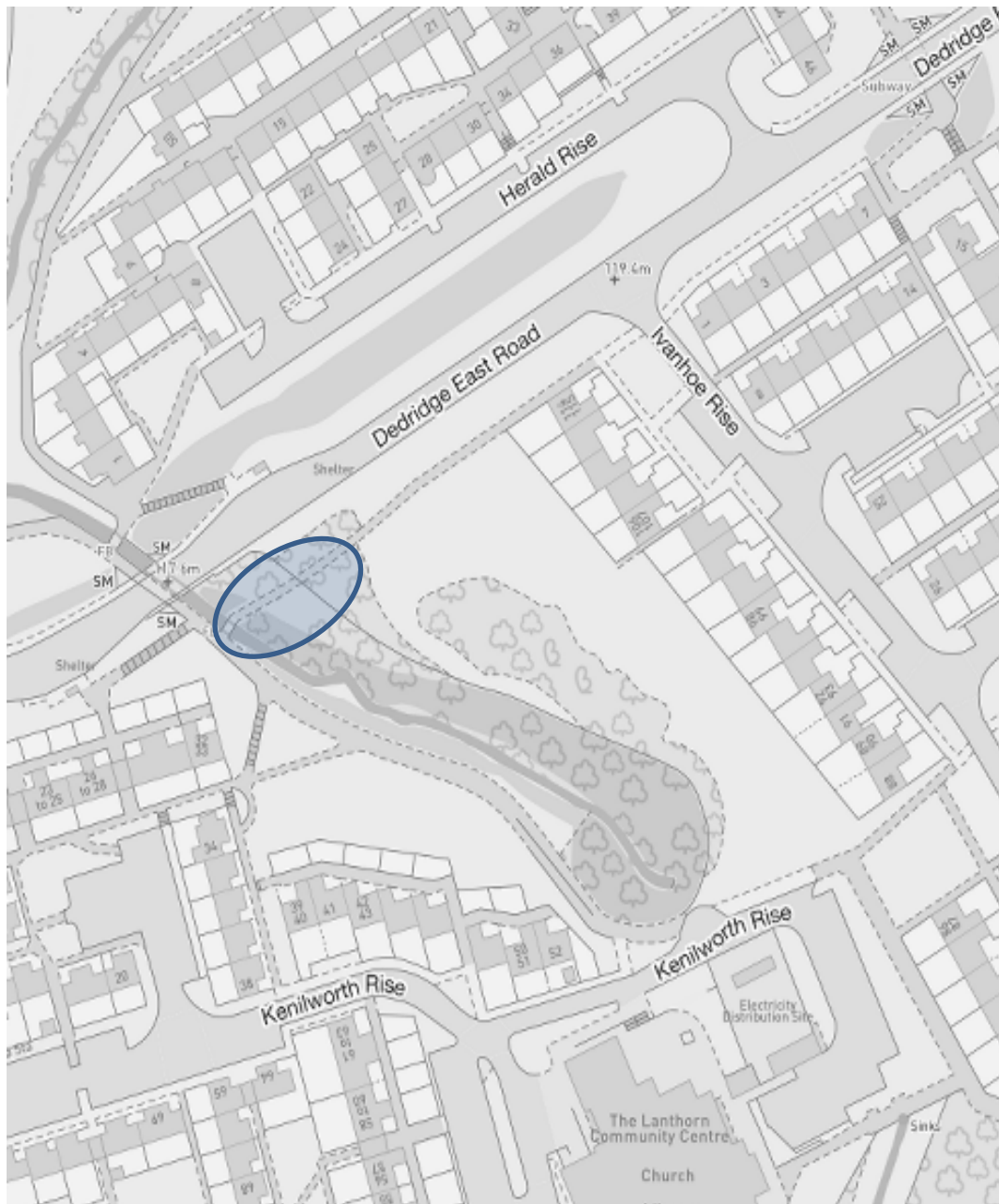
Contact Person: Gordon Brown, Roads Network Manager, Operational Services.

Email: Gordon.Brown@westlothian.gov.uk

Jim Jack, Head of Operational Services

Date: 2 December 2021

APPENDIX 1 – Location plan

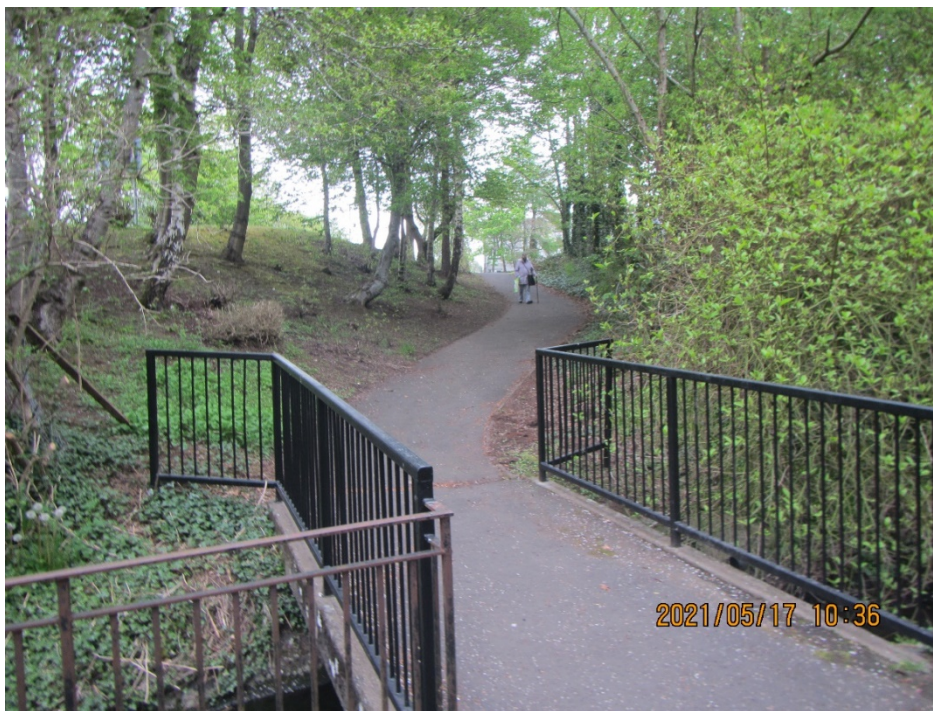


Location of footpath

APPENDIX 2 – Photographs of the site

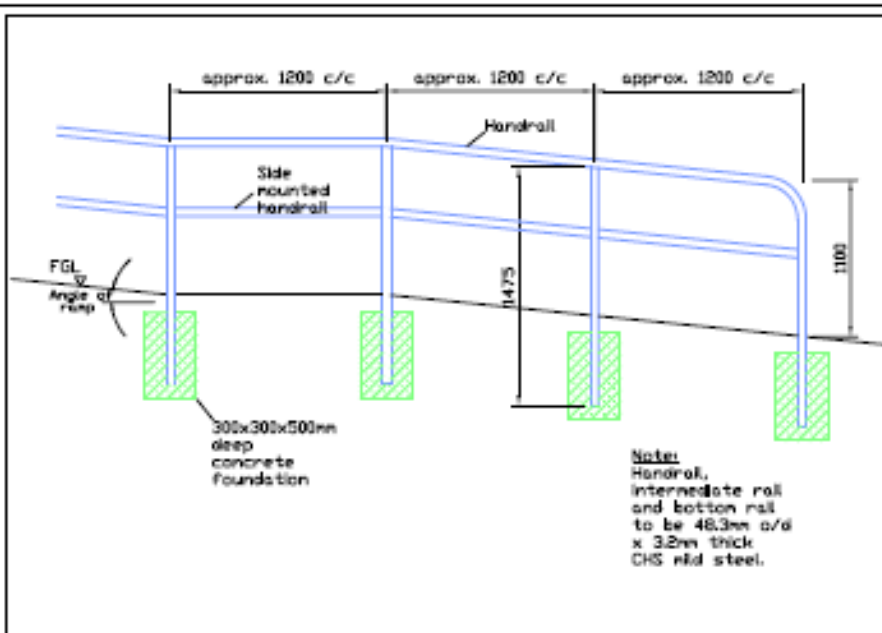


Photograph 1 – footpath looking west

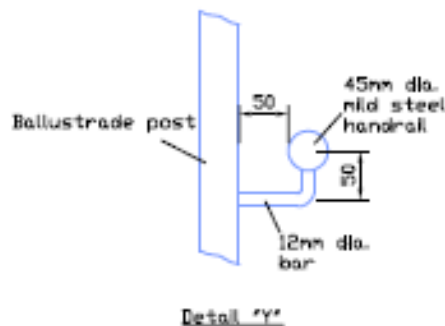
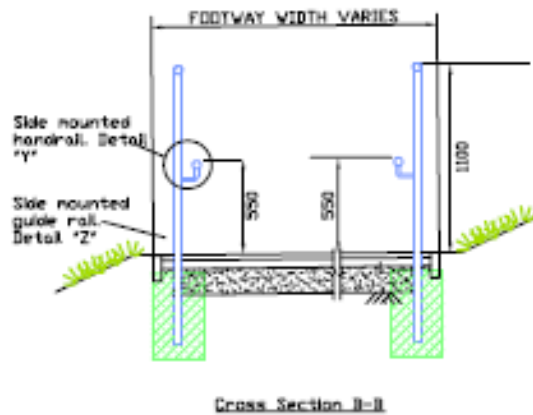


Photograph 2 – footpath looking east

APPENDIX 3 – Handrail standard detail



1. Handrail and posts to be constructed from 48.3mm O.D. mild steel tube.
2. All joints to be welded and ground to provide a smooth finish.
3. All metal shall be given 1 coat of primer, 2 coats of undercoat (All of different colour) and 1 top coat of black paint.
4. Foundation to be Class C20p concrete.
5. Handrail to be parallel to footpath. Posts to be vertical.
6. Handrail and mid-rail to be parallel to the pitch line/landing posts to be vertical.



Data Label: Public



LIVINGSTON SOUTH LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE

LIVINGSTON SOUTH MULTI-MEMBER WARD PERFORMANCE REPORT

REPORT BY SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To update the Livingston South Local Area Committee on the activity within Livingston South Multi-Member Ward for the period up to 30th September 2021.

B. RECOMMENDATION

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

C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

I Council Values	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Being honest, open and accountable• Focusing on our customers' needs• Making best use of our resources• Working in partnership
II Policy and Legal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues, Health or Risk Assessment)	Quarterly reports on the Multi-member Ward Operational Plans are being produced to ensure delivery of the Local Fire and Rescue Plan, which is a statutory requirement of the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012.
III Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers	None.
IV Impact on performance and performance Indicators	WL CPP SOA Performance indicators.
V Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement	SOA1304_13 Number of deliberate fires per 100,000 population SOA1304_14 Number of accidental dwelling fires per 100,000 population.
VI Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)	The council contributes to directly and in partnership to the delivery of the Ward Plan
VII Consideration at PDSP	None
VIII Consultations	West Lothian Citizen's Panel Survey, July 2014.

D. TERMS OF REPORT

D.1 Background

Quarterly reports on the Multi-Member Ward Operational Plans have been produced by SFRS to ensure delivery of the Local Fire and Rescue Plan for West Lothian 2018, which is a requirement under the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012, Section 41E.

D.2 Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) Livingston South Multi-member Ward Quarterly Report

Following the publication of the Livingston South Multi-member Ward Operational Plan, the Local Senior Officer for Falkirk and West Lothian has produced a Performance Report detailing activity against the key priorities.

The seven key priorities within the Livingston South Ward area are as follows:

Continuous Priority

- Local Risk Management and Preparedness.

High Priority

- Reduction of Dwelling Fires
- Reduction in Fire Fatalities and Casualties
- Reduction of Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals

Medium Priority

- Reduction of Deliberate Fire Setting
- Reduction of Fires in Non-Domestic Property
- Reduction in Casualties from Special Services (excluding RTC's).
- Reduction in RTC Fatalities and Casualties

E. CONCLUSION

The Livingston South Multi-Member Ward Performance Report aligns to the key priorities of the Local Fire and Rescue Plan for West Lothian 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.

James Robertson

Station Manager, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

02 December 2021

Appendix 1 - Livingston South Multi-Member Ward Performance Report



West Lothian Council Area

Ward Performance Report

Quarter 2 2021

Livingston South

DISCLAIMER

The figures included in this report are provisional and subject to change as a result of quality assurance and review. The statistics quoted are internal management information published in the interests of transparency and openness.

The Scottish government publishes Official Statistics each year which allow for comparisons to be made over longer periods of time.

Please ensure any external partners in receipt of these reports are aware of this.

Introduction

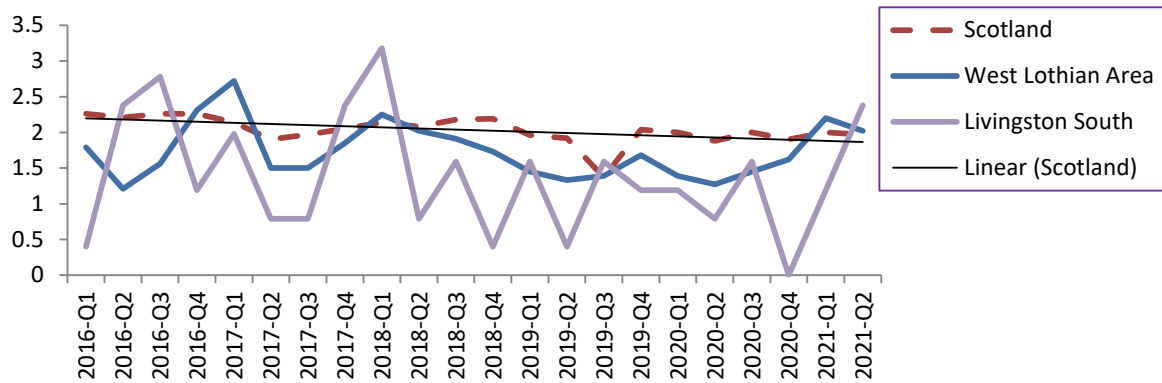
Welcome to the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Ward Performance Report. This performance report is designed to provide citizens, stakeholders and partners with information relating to ward based activity undertaken by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.

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

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

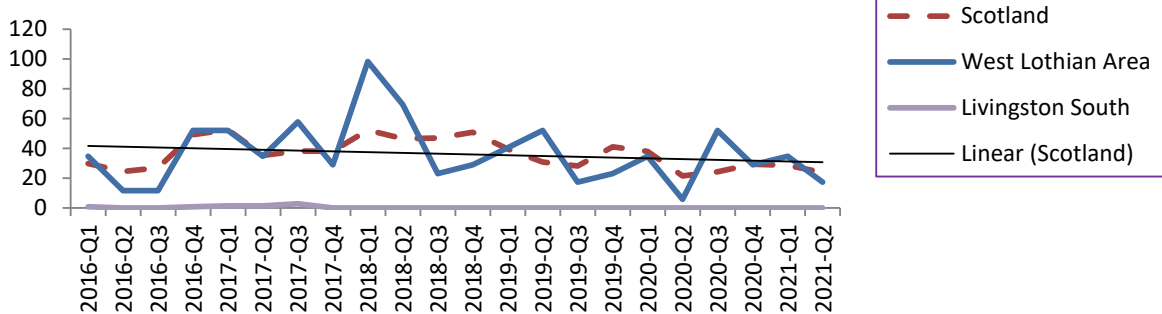
However, regardless of statistical anomalies, emerging patterns and trends in fire related incidents and events can assist the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service and Community Planning Partners plan and implement preventative intervention initiatives to target reducing fire related incidents and events.

Accidental Dwelling Fires Per 10,000 head of population



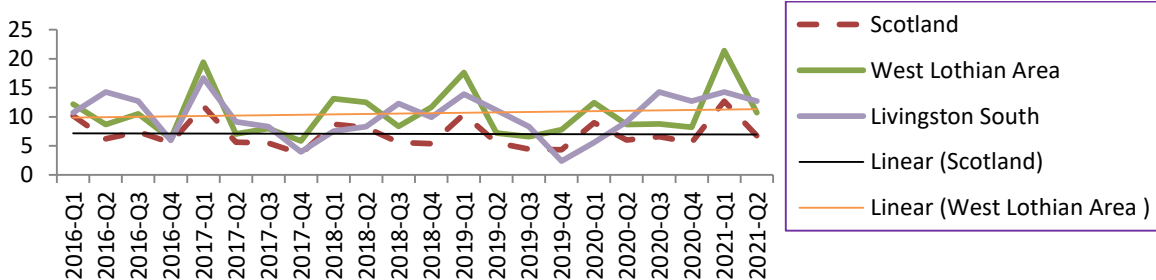
During the 2021-22 year to date reporting period SFRS have dealt with 6 accidental dwelling fires in comparison to 3 during 2020-21 year to date reporting period.

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



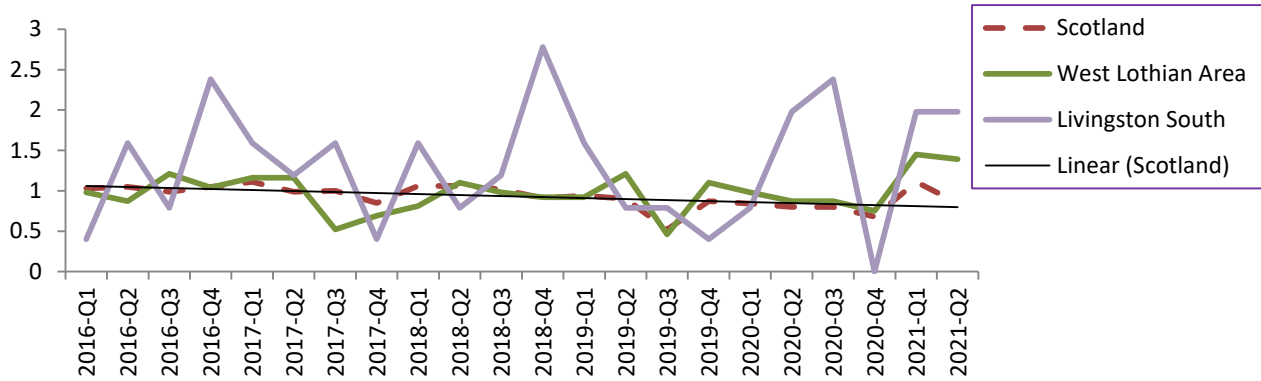
During the 2021-22 year to date reporting period SFRS have dealt with 0 Casualties and Fatalities due to fire in comparison to 0 Casualties and Fatalities during 2020-21 year to date reporting period.

Deliberate Fires Per 10,000 head of population



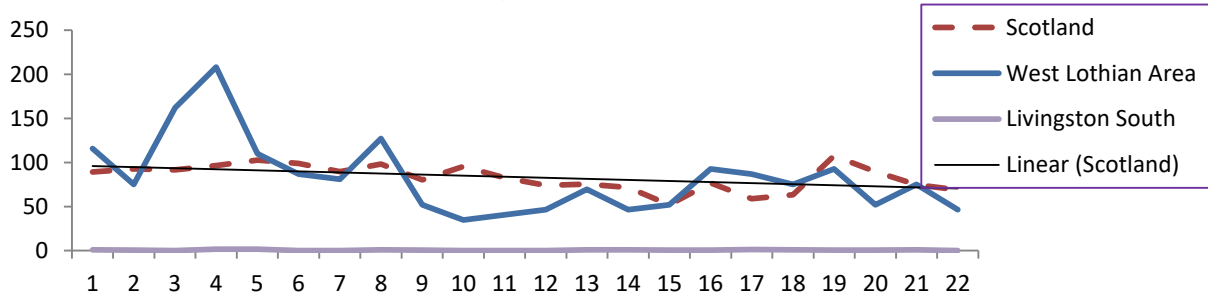
SFRS have dealt with 32 Deliberate fire incidents during 2021-22 year to date reporting period in comparison to 21 during 2020-21 year to date reporting period.

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



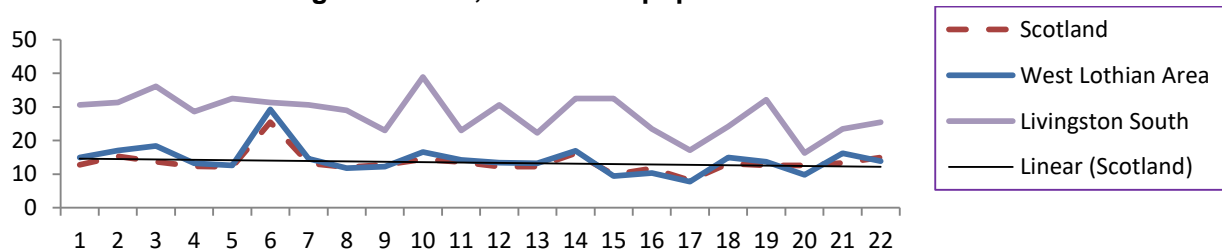
SFRS have dealt with 5 non domestic fire incidents during 2021-22 year to date reporting period in comparison to 5 during 2020-21 year to date reporting period.

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



SFRS have dealt with 0 casualties from Special Services during 2021-22 year to date reporting period in comparison to 0 during 2020-21 year to date reporting period.

Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals Per 10,000 head of population

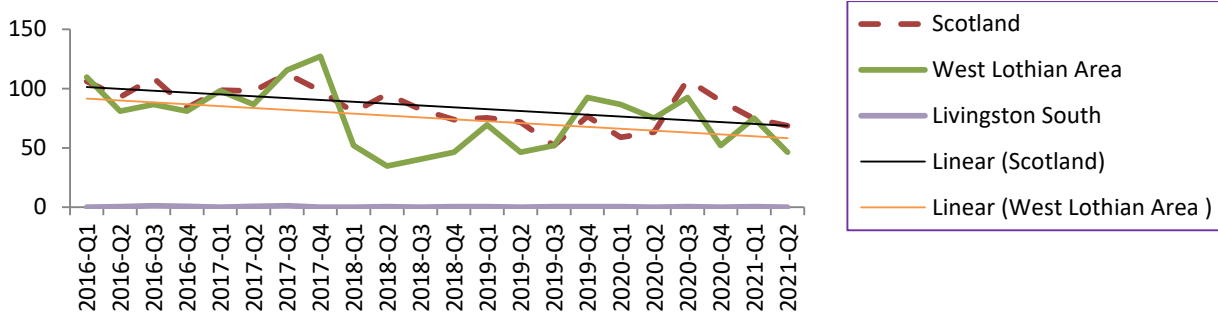


SFRS have dealt with 67 UFAS incidents during 2021-22 year to date reporting period in comparison to 61 during 2020-21 year to date reporting period.

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 2021-22 year to date reporting period SFRS have dealt with 0 Casualties and Fatalities from RTC's in comparison to 0 Casualties and Fatalities during 2020-21 year to date reporting period.

DATA LABEL: PUBLIC



LIVINGSTON SOUTH LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE

HOUSING CUSTOMER AND BUILDING SERVICES

REPORT BY HEAD OF HOUSING, CUSTOMER AND BUILDING SERVICES

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To provide the Local Area Committee with an overview of the service activities within the Livingston South Ward.

B. RECOMMENDATION

The Local Area Committee is asked to note Housing, Customer and Building Service activity as detailed in the ward report for the period Quarter 2 - 1st July 2021 to 30th September 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 are positive impact on the following SOA indicators: SOA4 – we live in resilient, cohesive and safe communities SOA8 – we make the most effective use of resources by minimising our impact on the built and natural environment
VI Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)	None

VII	Consideration at PDSP	Yes
VIII	Other consultations	N/A

D. TERMS OF REPORT

D1. Housing Performance Information

The purpose of this report is to provide the Local Area Committee with an overview of the activities of Housing, Customer and Building Services, specific to the Livingston South Ward.

Property Void & Let Performance: Mainstream Tenancies

Void Period	July 21	%	Aug 21	%	Sept 21	%	WL Target %
0-2 weeks	1	33.3%	0	0%	0	0%	55%
2-4 weeks	0	0%	2	50%	0	0%	30%
4+ weeks	2	66.7%	2	50%	2	100%	15%
Total Lets	3	100%	4	100%	2	100%	100%

Property Void & Let Performance: Temporary Tenancies

Void Period	July 21	%	Aug 21	%	Sept 21	%	WL Target %
0-2 weeks	1	50%	1	100%	1	100%	55%
2-4 weeks	1	50%	0	0%	0	0%	30%
4+ weeks	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	15%
Total Lets	2	100%	1	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 and time taken ensuring that vulnerable persons are supported through the viewing and sign up process. Some of our applicants have specific support requirements which require detailed planning and co-ordination by both social work and housing services prior to tenancy commencement.

There was 9 Mainstream Lets and 4 Temporary Tenancy Lets during the Quarter

D2. Arrears Performance – Financial Summary.

For the Livingston South ward the collection rate for the YTD in Q2 remains excellent at 96.8%. Livingston South has collected £3,123,252 vs a charge of £3,227,308.

The overall increased arrears in comparison to last year are as a result of Full-Service Universal Credit being introduced in West Lothian from May 2018, along with other Welfare Benefit reforms and the current economic climate.

In the same week last year Livingston South ward had 253 Universal Credit (UC) households in arrears. Since then the number of UC households in arrears has increased by 12.6%.

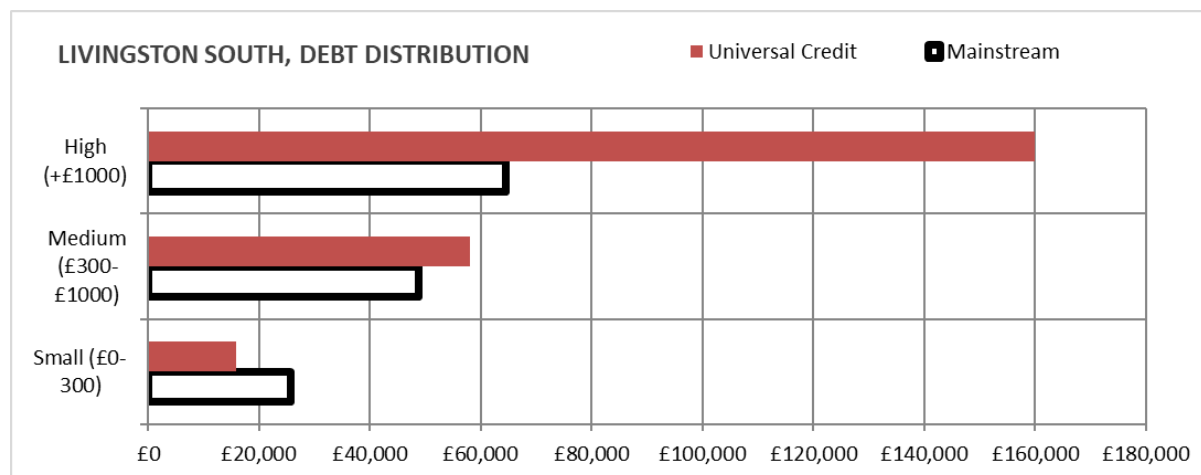
The number of tenancies in arrears in this ward has increased by 54 since last year. Small debt cases (£300 or less), account for 54.2% of households.

There are 95 serious arrears cases (+£1000 in arrears). These cases are 15.2% of all households in arrears in this area, containing 60.2% of the debt.

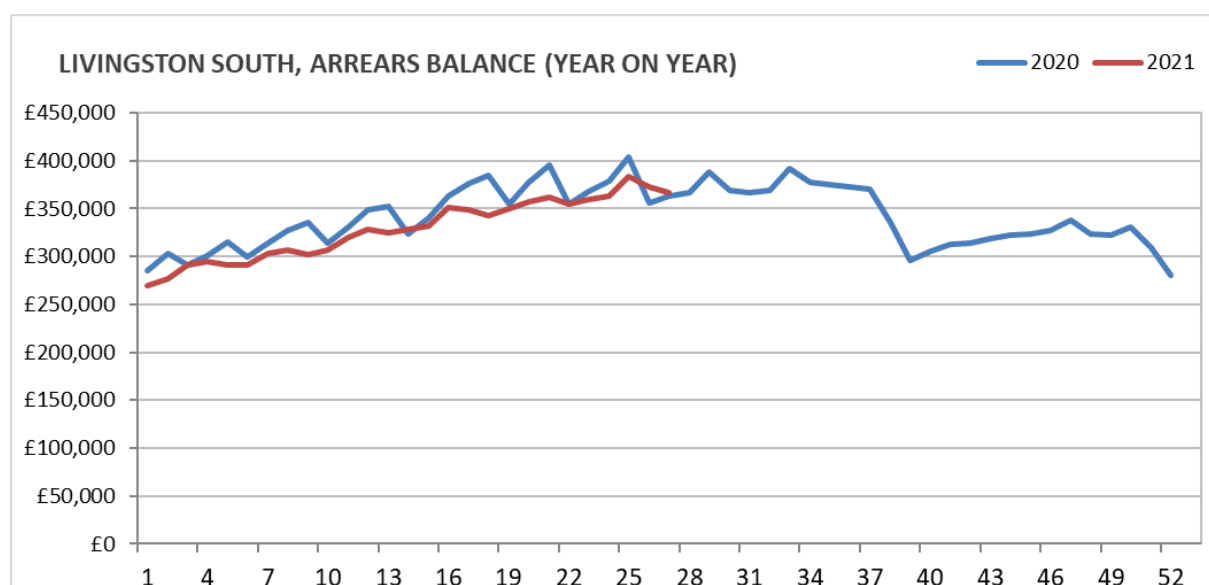
The arrears position for Livingston South Q2 is £373,065. This is an increase of £16,770 on last year's position. The West Lothian overall position is currently £4,150,768.

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	2020/21 (WK26)				2021/22 (WK26)			
	Mainstream		UC		Mainstream		UC	
	Balance	Cases	Balance	Cases	Balance	Cases	Balance	Cases
£0.01 to £99.99	£4,399	103	£1,684	37	£3,989	100	£2,124	46
£100.00 to £299.99	£19,373	111	£10,441	55	£21,836	122	£13,690	72
£300.00 to £499.99	£11,904	31	£18,884	49	£15,965	41	£17,108	43
£500.00 to £749.99	£14,068	23	£20,653	33	£20,857	34	£24,847	41
£750.00 to £999.99	£12,330	14	£13,021	15	£12,061	14	£16,122	19
£1000.00 to £1999.99	£29,600	22	£50,020	34	£32,158	22	£46,807	33
£2000+	£50,531	16	£99,387	30	£32,419	9	£113,082	31
Group Total	£142,204	320	£214,090	253	£139,286	342	£233,779	285
Movement					(-) £2,919	(+) 22	(+) £19,689	(+) 32
Overall Total	£356,295				£373,065			
Overall Movement					(+) £16,770			



D3. Livingston Team Activity.

Officers in the team in Q2 have been working from home as a result of lockdown measures. Officers initially were making contacting with as many tenants as possible to officer advice and assistance to ensure that any support and guidance was given and signposting to other services such as Advice Shop and Foodbank.

The focus on rent arrears activity has continued to be a weekly priority task for the team and will continue to work with all our tenants in offering the support, advice and assistance. Such assistance includes referrals for money and debt advice, benefit health checks, completion of income and expenditure to help set up a sustainable payment plan and where appropriate, assist with applications for Discretionary Housing Payments. Officers have also been doing targetted work to encourage tenants to update their universal credit journals as many have not updated their housing costs in April following the rent increase meaning they are losing out on money they are entitled to.

During Quarter 2 whilst we have continued in the main with home working for staff, we have required to mobilise more officers in order we could progress requests for mutual exchanges and other essential housing management tasks which has required a presence within the office/community, whilst adhering to health and safety measures. This has been a challenging time for the service and we have worked with our Health & Safety advise and Trade Unions to ensure we have safe operating

systems, risk assessments and personal protection equipment so that we are safe guarding our staff whilst undertaking key essential tasks at this time

D.4 New Build

WLC completions 134

RSL completions 59

WLC New Build Activity	Site	No of units	Site Start	No. of Houses Handed Over	Site Completion
WLC	Eagle Brae	29	Apr-21	0	May-22
WLC	Wellhead	42	Aug-21	0	Jan -23
RSL New Build Activity	Site	No of Units	Site Start	No of Units Handed Over	Site Completion
West Lothian Housing Partnership	Almondvale	146	Mar-19	0	Mar-21
Places for People	Quentin Court	18	Dec-18	18	June-21

D5. Tenant Participation Update Q 2

The TP Team continued to carry out the schedule of meetings with tenants using online resources to ensure Tenant Participation remains high on the services agenda. The tenants take a well-earned rest during July and come back in August refreshed and ready to scrutinise service performance and share their views on service delivery.

Tenants Panel

Tenant members 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 any changes to service delivery. Members have also been involved in performance and financial scrutiny, questioning information on spend, budgets, performance targets and results.

Capital & Repairs Working Group (CAR's)

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. Members were updated on Capital Programme projects and spend, the launch of HCBS Community Choices within the west of the county and updates on various projects including the Central Voids Team and Estates Management.

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 continue to review the current TP Strategy with an emphasise on digital engagement and inclusion. They have recently received updates from the new CX Team on tenant engagement and how the team ensure they promote traditional tenant participation, with the aim of encouraging more tenants to get involved.

Editorial Panel

Members are in the process of producing the Annual Landlord Report and the winter edition of Tenants News. With the use of Adobe Reader, members are now able to review publications and propose changes online prior to meeting up to finalise all articles.

TP Facebook Group

The FB Group Page has around 360 members. The TP Officer posts useful information from various sources such as Scottish Government, NHS and the Council's Corporate websites as well as HCBS information and consultation matters. Recently, the Tenant Participation Development Working Group (TPDWG) have committed to review the FB content at regular meeting and propose articles of interest to post, thus keeping tenants well informed.

Learning & Development Sessions for customers

Tenants and service users continue to meet online to hear about various topics in our learning and development sessions. Within this period, senior managers and staff have given presentations on changes to the Scheme of Assistance (Tenement Management Scheme). Tenants were also asked to share their views and contribute to the consultation from the Scottish Government on the Scottish Social Housing Charter review.

D6. Safer Neighbourhood Team Update

Ward 4 – Livingston South - SNT Ward Information

The Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) officers continue to work across the nine multi member ward areas as an integral part of the Community Safety Unit. The working remit of the team is to engage with customers and work with partner services and agencies to reduce noise and antisocial behaviour (ASB) within our communities.

During the Covid restrictions, officers have been working a blended model carrying out some home working as well as office and community-based work for enquiries and to engage with customers. From home, officers have been providing a telephone service to 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 continue with our partnership working.

Partnership working involves the local housing team, council officers with the SNT and officers from Police Scotland and the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service all working together to tackle antisocial behaviour. When necessary, the partners will liaise with colleagues from the voluntary organisations including West Lothian Youth Action Project, Mental Health advisory workers and private landlords in order to reduce antisocial behaviour and support members of our community who have been affected.

Table 1: The following tables set out details of the number of new cases opened each month, overall number of active cases; number of cases resolved. Not all incidents become a case and officers will open a case where further investigations are necessary

<i>Cases and Incidents</i>	<i>Apr</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>Jun</i>	<i>Jul</i>	<i>Aug</i>	<i>Sep</i>	<i>Oct</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>Dec</i>	<i>Jan</i>	<i>Feb</i>	<i>Mar</i>
Incidents Reported to SNT	17	19	46	54	40	30						
Number of new cases	0	2	8	7	2	0						
Number of Active Cases	3	5	17	15	9	7						
Number of resolved cases	0	2	0	3	3	3						

Table 2: The following table provides an overview of the types of incidents that are being reported to the SNT.

Incident Types	<i>Apr</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>Jun</i>	<i>Jul</i>	<i>Aug</i>	<i>Sep</i>	<i>Oct</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>Dec</i>	<i>Jan</i>	<i>Feb</i>	<i>Mar</i>
ASB Part 2 Complaint	10	8	22	28	16	16						
ASB Part 5 Noise Complaint	2	5	20	22	21	9						
Dog Barking	0	0	0	0	0	1						
ENV Health Complaint	0	0	0	0	1	2						
Non ASB Noise Complaint	3	1	0	3	2	2						
SST Section 3 Tenancy Management	0	1	2	1	0	0						
Youth Disorder	2	4	2	54	40	30						
Unauthorised Encampment	0	0	0	28	16	16						
Grand Total	17	19	46	22	21	9						

Table 3: The following table provides numbers of ASBO that are current in ward and compared to all of West Lothian.

ASBO	<i>Q1</i>	<i>Q2</i>	<i>Q3</i>	<i>Q4</i>
Number of ASBO's current – Liv South	0	0		
All of West Lothian	12	12		

Table 4: The following table provides number of all active cases and total number of incidents for West Lothian

West Lothian	<i>Apr</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>Jun</i>	<i>Jul</i>	<i>Aug</i>	<i>Sep</i>	<i>Oct</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>Dec</i>	<i>Jan</i>	<i>Feb</i>	<i>Mar</i>
Total Number of Active Cases	73	72	121	104	83	68						
Total Number of Incidents	484	402	456	448	461	441						

E. CONCLUSION

To note the contents of the report.

F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

None

Appendices/Attachments:

None

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Date: 02 December 2021

DATA LABEL: PUBLIC



LIVINGSTON SOUTH LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE

SERVICE UPDATE – NETS, LAND & COUNTRYSIDE

REPORT BY HEAD OF OPERATIONAL SERVICES

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To advise members of the recent activity of the NETs, Land & Countryside Services teams for the period 1 July 2021 – 30 September 2021.

B. RECOMMENDATION

The Local Area Committee is asked to:

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

C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

I	Council Values	Focusing on our customers' needs; making best use of our resources; working in partnership
II	Policy and Legal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues, Health or Risk Assessment)	None
III	Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers	None
IV	Impact on performance and performance Indicators	None
V	Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement	Relates to items 9 - We live our lives free from crime, disorder and danger & 12 – We value and enjoy our built environment and protect it and enhance it for future generations
VI	Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)	In line with available revenue and capital budgets
VII	Consideration at PDSP	None
VIII	Other consultations	None

D1 Terms of Report

The report covers the activity for the period 1 July 2021 – 30 September 2021.

D2 Grounds Maintenance Routine Works

Grounds staff have completed 10 grass cycles up to 30 September 2021 and will complete one further cut in October before the end of the cutting season.

Weed Spraying will cease mid-October with two cycles having been successfully completed within the ward.

One off cuts and garden tidy ups for Housing Services are on course to be completed.

Enquiries and Councillors request are being dealt with on a daily basis.

We have recently recruited three new Apprentices Horticulturists/Gardeners on a three- year contract.

Grounds Maintenance Enquiries

In total 137 grounds maintenance related enquiries were received and dealt with during this reporting period in 2021.

	2021	2020
Ball Game Enquiries	1	0
Bench or Seat Enquiries	0	1
Complaint Grounds Maintenance	7	8
Drainage Flooding Grass Areas	1	1
Enforcement Officer Enquiries	1	4
Fencing Enquiries	4	5
Flower Bed or Bulb Displays	1	0
GalaDay Public Event Enquiries	1	0
Grass Cutting Enquiries	18	26
Grass Cutting Missed Not Cut	2	1
Grass Highway Verges	4	1
Grass Left On Paths or Roads	1	1
Ground Ownership Enquiries	2	3
Grounds Planning Applications	1	0
Grounds Property Vandalised	0	1
Hedge Cutting Enquiries	5	12
Illegal Adverts Estate Signs	0	1
Manholecover Damaged in Grass	0	1
Public Park Enquiries	1	4
Shrub Bed Enquiries	8	7
Shrub Beds Overhanging Path	50	27
Shrub Beds Not Maintained	8	8
Shrub/ Vegetation Sight Lines	1	1
Weeds General Enquiries	11	4
Weeds on Paths or Roads	9	1
Total	137	118

D3 Garden Maintenance Routine Works

The Garden Maintenance Scheme will meet their target of eleven cuts.

Garden Maintenance Enquiries

There were 25 garden maintenance related enquiry received and dealt with within this reporting period in 2021.

	2021	2020
Complaint Garden Maintenance	0	3
Garden Maintenance General Enquiries	11	12
Garden Maintenance Grass Not Cut	8	16
Garden Maintenance Hedge Cutting	3	2
Garden Maintenance No Longer Required	1	1
Garden Maintenance Standard of Cut	2	0
Total	25	34

Cleaner Communities Routine Works

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.

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.

There has also been additional funding granted to recruit more personnel to assist the NETs team in bulky uplift collections, fly tipping removal and lifting bags of waste collected by volunteers.

D4 Cleaner Communities Enquiries

In total 216 cleaner communities related enquiries were received and dealt with during this reporting period.

	2021	2020
Complaint Street Cleansing	1	0
Dead Animals	5	10
Dog Bin New Request for Bin	3	0
Dog Bin Overflowing	2	6
Dog Fouled Grass/Open Space	0	1
Dog Fouled Kids Play Area	0	2
Dog Fouling on Paths/Roads	12	15
Dog No Fouling Sign Request	0	1
Fly Posting	0	3
Fly Tipping Dumping	93	127
Glass on Paths or Open Spaces	7	3
Graffiti Non-Offensive	1	0
Graffiti Racist or Offensive	5	5
Litter Bin Burnt Damaged	0	2
Litter Bin New Request for Bin	2	1

Litter Bin Overflowing	3	4
Litter General Enquiries	7	15
Litter Grass Open Space	1	0
Litter Paths Roads Verges	32	22
Needles Syringes Abandoned	0	2
Street Sweeping Enquiries	14	12
Trolleys Abandoned/Dumped	8	12
Trolleys Dumped in Livingston	1	3
Vehicle Abandoned	19	20
Total	216	266

Fly Tipping Enquiries (January to December)

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

Environmental Community Action

Officers continue to deal with enquiries relating to fly tipping, littering, dog fouling, abandoned vehicles and general enquiries. There have been 93 enquiries in relation to fly tipping for the period compared to 127 for the same period in 2020.

In dealing with abandoned vehicles, Officers have gained compliance from vehicle owners with said vehicles getting removed from public highways or getting taxed in most cases. Where appropriate, requests have been sent to WLC contractors for removal. However, there are instances where vehicle owners are not compliant and result to moving their vehicles between streets. When presented with such tactics from rogue owners, officers have resulted to contacting the DVLA and VOSA for support.

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 were no Fixed Penalty Notices issued in Livingston South for Fly tipping, dog fouling or littering within the Ward for the period of 1 July 2021 – 30 September 2021. In comparison to the similar period in 2020, four Fixed Penalty Notices were issued for fly tipping and none for either dog fouling or littering.

Costs for fly tipping for the period 1 July 2021 – 30 September 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 70% of their time and for 2020 the estimate was 80% of their time.

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

Fly tipping costs:

1 July 2021 – 30 September 2021	59.8tonnes
Cost of disposal including costs for NETs team/vehicles	£39,406.41
Contractor removal of fly tipping	£0.00
Removal of asbestos	£0.00
TOTAL	£39,406.41

The number of fly tipping enquiries received between 1 July 2021 – 30 September 2021 for the Ward was 93 out of 525 enquiries for the whole of West Lothian equating to 17.7% of fly tipping enquiries relating to Ward 4.

Percentage wise this would equate to an approximate cost for the Ward of £6,974.93 for disposal of fly tipping between 1 July 2021 and 30 September 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 July 2020 – 30 September 2020

1 July 2020 – 30 September 2020	83.88 tonnes
Cost of disposal including estimated costs for NETs team/vehicles	£55,274.40
Contractor removal of fly tipping	£0.00
Removal of asbestos	£0.00
TOTAL	£55,274.40

The number of fly tipping enquiries received between 1 July 2020 – 30 September 2020 for the Ward was 127 out of 613 enquiries for the whole of West Lothian equating to 20.72% of fly tipping enquiries relating to Ward 4.

Percentage wise this would equate to an approximate cost for the ward of £11,452.86 for disposal of fly tipping between 1 July 2020 and 30 September 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 4.

D5 Parks and Woodland

Parks and Woodland Enquiries

In total 75 Parks and Woodland related enquiries were received during this reporting period.

	2021	2020
Tree Advice or Consultations	2	5
Tree Blocking Light	3	1
Tree Branches Overhanging	28	22
Tree Broken/Damaged or Dead	4	2
Tree Dangerous or Unsafe	4	9
Tree Enquiries General	30	28
Tree Leaves Causing Problems	0	1
Tree Planting Requests	1	0
Tree Roots Causing Problems	3	1
Total	75	69

	2021	2020
Access Rights Way Core Paths	4	3
Complaint Country Parks/ Trees	2	0
Country Park Forestry or Woods	2	1
Country Park General Enquiries	0	1
Ranger Service Education	1	0
Ranger Service General Enquiry	1	1
Total	10	6

Ranger Service Update

No. Rights Of Way / Core Path / Patrols carried out (hours)	23
No. Access Enquiries	7

Two Assistant Rangers and two Assistant Operatives have been employed from 28th June 2021, funded by NatureScot as part of their Better Places Green Recovery Fund. The Assistant Rangers have carried out patrols in hotspot areas, run pop-up events, engaged the public on a range of access related issues, SOAC (Scottish Outdoor Access Code) and responsible dog walking behaviour. They have been running activity sessions for schools across West Lothian, including two classes planned for Howden St Andrews Primary School.

The Ranger Service had a second meeting with the Lyme Resource Centre, to discuss how we can collaborate on a tick/Lyme Disease awareness-raising project in the new year, and to report back on progress so far. New tick awareness posters are in every notice board in the three country parks, and the Assistant Rangers have incorporated tick awareness into their public engagement 'pop up' events across West Lothian. More than 300 people have been directly spoken to about ticks so far at these events. Have also spoken to Media about supporting the collaboration when there is something to share.

Officers attended the quarterly West Lothian Cycle Forum, updating from an access perspective on district-wide issues.

Officers attended the Forth & Borders Ranger meet up (virtual) to discuss Rangering during Covid and our recovery plans, the challenges land managers and ranger services are facing, and different ways of tackling issues seen on sites across the wider countryside.

The Ranger Service have also been assisting Green Action Trust (GAT) by reviewing their map of potential 'missing link' habitat sites across the district and providing additional biodiversity / access information.

Hannah Crow left the Ranger Service at the end of September to work in one of the new Biodiversity and Ecology Officer posts within West Lothian Council. Her ranger position will be advertised in late October but until it is filled, the service will be reduced from four rangers to three, with Hannah's responsibilities and outstanding projects distributed around the remaining team.

Access

A new access enquiry was received about 'no unauthorised access' signs on the Skivo section of the Murieston Trail. Officers investigated and found the signs were from the WDLC days, referring to motorised access.

Investigation into the equestrian access issue/request on Murieston Trail continues. Site visit made, and an ad-hoc site meeting with landowner was held in hope of a resolution through installation of equine latch and cut back of hedge.

The Ranger Service patrolled and assessed the condition of the Murieston Trail from Campbridge Pond to the railway station, after enquiries were received in regards to the condition of the boardwalks. Short term fixes have been implemented by Parks & Woodlands but, long term replacement or further upgrades will have to be prioritised accordingly depending on access needs across the whole of West Lothian.

Officers undertook a site inspection at Linn Jaw to see the condition of current access. They also surveyed from the Morton side, and from Oakbank to Linhouse Loop, to see where best to place semi-permanent signage to inform people that there is currently no safe crossing of Linhouse Water. Two further public enquiries have been received asking about access to the waterfall.

Several visits were made to check the path from Williamston Bridge to Oakbank Park Place under different weather conditions and, while definitely scoured by surface water, it is in a much better state than most other non-sealed paths in West Lothian. Officers explained to the customer that on this basis that the Ranger Service would not be looking to repair at this time as need to prioritise accordingly. Checked with Planning to see if Valneva have any conditions attached to their development for access improvements, but they do not. If any further developments come up at Oakbank Park Place, officers will mention the path in any planning consultations as a warranted upgrade, as it is an important link.

The Ranger Service received two public reports in quick succession about slats missing from a wide bridge on the Linhouse Circular. A jeep had driven along there the night before and stolen fuel from path contractors. Officers secured the vehicle gate and contacted Structures, who inspected the bridge the same day. The Ranger Service put hazard advisory signage out and are arranging the repair on behalf of Structures.

The upgrade of core path WL13, the Linhouse Circular was completed. This is now a stone and dust surfaced path. As part of these works officers also upgraded the much-degraded link between Linhouse Circular and the A71 at Oakbank.

Ecology and Biodiversity

A new team has been developed to address growing biodiversity and climate change issues across West Lothian. Becky Plunkett and Hannah Crow have recently been appointed as Ecology and Biodiversity Officers, with a third person to be recruited this autumn.

More information on the officers' roles and responsibilities will follow, and updates will be regularly provided in the local area committee reports.

D6 Open Space and Cemeteries

Bellsquarry Park - the contract for park works for this year's five parks has been awarded. A programme of works has yet to be received.

Howden Park - the wildflower meadow interpretation board is in place, and the picnic benches will be moved as part of the LNBGN works.

Livingston North Blue-Green Network (LNBGN) - Green Action Trust are drawing up tender documents for all works. These are to be issued before Christmas.

Open Space Enquiries

There were four Open Space enquiries for this reporting period in 2021.

	2021	2020
Childrens Play Enquiries	4	11
Complaint Childrens Play Areas	0	1
Glass or Litter In Play Areas	0	1
Play Area Property Vandalised	0	1
Safety Issues in Play Areas	0	1
Total	4	15

Cemeteries Routine Works

Routine grass cutting and weed control tasks have been completed. Seasonal maintenance works and lair reinstatement and burial duties are ongoing across the cemetery estates.

Cemeteries Enquiries

There were 92 Cemeteries enquiries for this reporting period in 2021.

	2021	2020
Cemeteries General Enquiries	10	6
Lair Enquiries	8	6
Memorial/ Headstone Works	18	27
New Interment Booking	41	20
Purchase of Interment Lair	15	12
Total	92	71

E. CONCLUSION

Officers continue to deal with enquiries relating to fly tipping, littering, dog fouling, abandoned vehicles and general enquiries.

A new team has been developed to address growing biodiversity and climate change issues across West Lothian.

F BACKGROUND REFERENCE

None

Appendices/Attachments: None

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Jim Jack
Head of Operational Services
02 December 2021

DATA LABEL: PUBLIC



LIVINGSTON SOUTH LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE

ANTI-POVERTY SERVICE UPDATE

REPORT BY HEAD OF FINANCE AND PROPERTY SERVICES

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of the report is to inform the Local Area Committee of the work undertaken by the Anti-Poverty Service from April 2020-March 2021.

B. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the committee notes:

1. The Anti-Poverty Service provision in the ward; and,
2. The impact provision is having in terms of supporting the outcomes of the Community Planning Partnership's Anti-Poverty Strategy 2018-23.

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)	None.
III	Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers	None.
IV	Impact on performance and performance Indicators	The activity contained in the report contributes to service KPIs.
V	Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement	We are better educated and have access to increased and better quality learning and employment opportunities. We live longer, healthier lives and have reduced health inequalities. We have tackled significant inequalities in West Lothian society.

VI	Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)	Activities delivered from approved budgets supplemented by external funding from Macmillan Cancer Support, European Social Fund and Scottish Legal Aid Board.
VII	Consideration at PDSP	None.
VIII	Other consultations	None.

D. TERMS OF REPORT

D.1 Background

The Anti-Poverty Service provides services to help the most vulnerable households in West Lothian. The service contributes to the Council's Corporate Plan priority "Minimising poverty, the cycle of deprivation and promoting equality" by providing comprehensive advice, support and assistance to people in West Lothian who are:

- Without work or in low paid work
- Are poor and / or fuel poor
- Have money / debt issues
- Have been affected by cancer or other long term conditions
- In crisis
- In receipt of benefits and /or have an entitlement to payments managed by the service
- Being assessed for social care services

The service aims to help these groups increase their disposable income, manage their debt, improve their budgeting skills, remain in their home and to appeal decisions made by the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP). The service also utilises the skills and knowledge of volunteers who provide a valuable role in supporting customers to access services and provide a listening ear which can offer a network of support and information.

The service is responsible for the administration of Housing Benefit, the Council Tax reduction scheme and the Scottish Welfare Fund (SWF). It also has the responsibility of administering and improving the uptake of free school meals, school clothing grants, education maintenance allowance and blue badges. It provides a front-line service to recipients of benefits, which includes assessing eligibility, processing claims, assessing benefits, processing discretionary housing payments, self-isolation grants as well as other payments to claimants.

All activity across the service is informed and prioritised by the Community Planning Partnership Anti-Poverty Strategy 2018 to 2023. The overall purpose of this strategy is to reduce the inequalities gap and tackle the causes of inequality to ensure that people are not financially excluded and minimises the impact of poverty on the people of West Lothian.

D.2 Provision

Over the past year the service has:

- Fully supported customers throughout the covid-19 pandemic through using pro-active and reactive measures and successfully adapting to challenges and restrictions ensuring all customers who required support received this.

- Digitalisation of areas of the service, improving efficiencies and offering more choice to customers at a time which suits them. This has included online forms, self-help tools and video conferencing software adding a new service delivery channel increasing accessibility to the service.
- Developed and implemented new software to improve accessibility and processing timescales for Blue Badges.
- Worked with Housing, Customer and Building Services to implement the Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan particularly focussing on preventions and early intervention.
- Introduced PayPoint as a cash pay-out service for SWF Grants which significantly improved reach and reduced traveling costs for vulnerable customers.
- Implementation of the FORT referral and tracking system to allow internal and external services and organisations to easily refer customers ensuring customers receive the support required at the earliest point. 48 partners are currently using the system which resulted in 3910 referrals being received in the 2020/21 period.
- The service recorded our best ever Housing Benefit and Council Tax Reduction performance with new housing benefit claims being processed on average within 11 days against a Scottish average of 17 days.
- Completed implementation of a revised Housing Benefit and Council Tax Reduction verification policy and the ability for customers to provide evidence in support of applications digitally.
- Developed and implemented processes to improve uptake on Free School Meals and Milk, Clothing Grants and Education Maintenance Allowance.
- Payment of an additional School Clothing Grant in January 2021 totalling £622,080 and supporting 7,776 children.
- Application for Education Maintenance Allowance was fully digitalised with all applications made online.
- Supported 436 households experiencing fuel poverty by paying £48,650 in grants.
- Working with customers and partners to increase uptake of the Discretionary Housing Payment. This supported 180 households with payments amounting to £119,011.
- Development and introduction of the Improving the Cancer Journey service offering a holistic service to those affected by cancer alongside the Macmillan@WestLothian and Macmillan Benefits teams.

We continue to embed services into the local community and to support customers to help mitigate poverty, to enable and empower people and work collaboratively with partners to maximise the benefits of our service at a customer's time of need.

Local Provision

The below section shows the number of people the Anti-Poverty service has worked with over the last year in the Livingston South area and further information on the Anti-Poverty Service.

The Advice Shop has helped 1,735 customers to manage their money and to resolve benefit problems within the Livingston South ward. This is a 9% increase from the previous year and resulted in 7,906 additional enquiries and contacts from these customers. As a result, customers have a better understanding of their situation and options available to them. Feedback shows this has a positive impact on individuals by increasing knowledge and understanding and ultimately improving the customer journey and empowering customers.

Anti-Poverty Service

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic West Lothian Council's Anti-Poverty Service has continued to offer help and support to constituents across West Lothian. The service has pro-actively adapted to the current situation to maximise the help and support on offer to individuals and the information and results of this support is detailed below;

Advice Shop

In 2020/21 The Advice Shop has supported 14,258 individuals resulting in 72,540 additional enquiries and contacts from these customers, covering money and debt, energy, housing and welfare benefits. This is a 4% increase from the previous year.

The Advice Shop generated £30,026,258 in extra income and successfully managed £5,334,196 in debt.

163 appeals were lodged to help customers appeal a DWP benefit decision. 88% of appeals had their decisions overturned. This is a 63% decrease in the number of appeals compared to the previous year.

83% of money advice customers debt was successfully managed in 2020/21 which is a 10% increase on the previous year. Total debt amounted to over £4.1million.

1,707 customers were provided money and energy advice to help improve household income. This is a 14% increase from the previous year. 17% of these customers were aged 60 years and over.

A range of targeted support and campaigns have been delivered over the period to support self-employed, those who may have been entitled to Discretionary Housing Payment, increasing uptake in new Social Security Scotland payments and, help and advice relating to energy. Advisors were able to support customers to engage with charities and third sector organisations which had received additional, one-off funding to help the most vulnerable as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic; this included access to white goods, one off payments for energy or transport costs.

Service delivery has also had to adjust to the current restrictions and new requirements. Implementation of new digital outreach sessions and appointments have been well received by customers and staff.

Improved processes and system digitalisation has also meant that we have managed to continue to fully support customers. This includes the benefit check and budgeting calculator which is freely available to customers. Self-help guides and information continues to be developed and publicised by the service which information such as the West Lothian Food Map. The service has continued to provide face to face appointments where alternative options are not suitable.

Benefits

In 2020/21, 1,103 Housing Benefit applications have been received and 18,362 change of circumstance notifications. Despite the demand, performance remains high and within the target, new housing benefit claims were processed within 11 days and change of circumstances within three days.

There were 4,623 applications received for Council Tax Reduction and 38,385 change of circumstance notifications. Again, despite the demand performance remains within the target with new Council Tax Reduction claims processed within 10 days and change in circumstances within 3 days.

Scottish Welfare Fund

In 2020/21 there was a significant increase in the number of Crisis Grant applications received compared to pre Covid-19 levels. There were 12,789 crisis grant application received between 1 April 20 and 31 March 21, compared to the 8,647 in 2019/20. The total financial support provided via Crisis Grants for this period in 2020/21 is £1,022,126 compared to £375,801 in 2019/20. There is a significant increase in the cost of the grants due to households requiring increased grant amounts to cover the impact on the loss of household income due to furlough and redundancies.

2,872 Community Care Grant applications were received during the same period which resulted in £1,084,269 in Community Care Grant payments.

Self-Isolation Grant

This grant was introduced on 12 October 2020 to provide financial assistance to individuals who are required to self-isolate. Individuals are awarded a £500 payment if they are working, unable to work from home during self-isolation and will lose income as a result. Individuals also have to be in receipt of a qualifying benefit. In 2020/21 from mid-October to 31 March 2021, 1,409 applications were received and 404 individuals awarded a grant.

In 2021/22 from 1 April to 22 October 21, which covers roughly the same number of months as the analysis for 2020/21, 2,461 applications have been made to the fund with 997 individuals awarded a grant.

School Clothing Grants/Meals

In 2020/21, over 4,943 children were awarded free school meals and school clothing grants were awarded to 8,594 pupils.

Children eligible for Free School Meals have also benefited from financial support during the school holidays. In the summer of 2021/22, a total of £729,570 was paid to parents to help with the purchase of food during school holidays and in the October school break, a total of £92,070 was paid. In total 3,303,482 was paid throughout the 2020/21 period.

Discretionary Housing Payments

In 2020/21 the service has made 6,105 awards for discretionary housing payments amounting to £3,411,751.

1146 awards amounting to £632,989 were awarded for financial hardship and 4,959 awards amounting to £2,778,762 for under occupancy.

Family Pandemic Payments

The service administered the Scottish Government Family Pandemic Payments of £100 per child paid in December 2020 to children in receipt of Free School Meals based on low income. This resulted in payment amounting to £608,200

Priorities 2021/22

The Anti-Poverty Service has identified the following priorities for development over the 2021/22 year, which are:

- Continuing to work with partners and customers to mitigate the effects of the Covid 19-Pandemic for customers, including targeted advice and support to those who have been affected in areas such as furlough, redundancy and Cancer.
- Supporting customers affected by debt through Improving the Debt Journey to improve understand and maximise tailored support for long term benefits.
- Supporting the roll out of the Child Disability and Adult Payment.
- Supporting payments for the Tenants Grant Fund
- Payment of Scottish Governments Low income Pandemic payment of £130 to approximately 16,000 eligible households in receipt of Council Tax Reduction or qualifying Council Tax exemption.
- Retain Scottish National Standards for Information Advice Providers.
- Meal payments during school holiday periods with payments already made in the summer and October 2021 amounting to £1,042,625
- Payment of the Scottish Government Family Pandemic Payment of £100 per child.
- Automation of Education Benefits starting with School Clothing Grants and Free School Meals followed by Education Maintenance Allowance
- Introduction of a new operating system by the National Entitlement Card Production Office.
- New Under 22 travel scheme for all those with a Young Scot card.

E. CONCLUSION

The report summarises the work of the Anti-Poverty service in the Livingston South ward area and provide an overview of the service as a whole. The Local Area Committee is asked to note the contents of the report and to consider how the service could better target its resources in this area. It is the intention to report on activity in the ward area on an annual basis.

F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

None.

Appendices/Attachments: None.

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Donald Forrest

Head of Finance and Property Services

Date of meeting: 02 December 2021

DATA LABEL: PUBLIC



LIVINGSTON SOUTH LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE

REPORT ON PROGRESS OF REGENERATION PLANNING

REPORT BY HEAD OF PLANNING, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND REGENERATION

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to inform the Local Area Committee of progress on partner activities, regeneration planning and other activities in within the ward.

B. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the committee notes the report.

C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

- | | |
|---|---|
| I Council Values | Focusing on our customers' needs. Being honest, open and accountable. providing equality of opportunities; developing employees; 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 Planning reinforces the council's commitment to community planning ad 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 | <p>We are better educated and have access to increased and better-quality learning and employment opportunities.</p> <p>We live in resilient, cohesive and safe communities</p> <p>We live longer, healthier lives and have reduced health inequalities</p> <p>We make the most efficient and effective use of resources by minimising our impact on the built and natural environment.</p> |

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

D. TERMS OF THE REPORT

D.1 Background

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

These areas were identified as priority areas due to being within the bottom 20% of data zones in the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation.

D.2 Partner updates

D2.1 Lanthorn and Crofthead Farm Committees and Food Support

Due to the ongoing work at the Lanthorn, the Food pantry work, continues to be delivered from Crofthead Farm Community Centre. To date over 16,000 food, cleaning and hygiene parcels along with free pet food and sanitary products have been provided. Since moving to Crofthead they have opened on a Tuesday evening which is proving to be their busiest time as it allows working families to attend.

The two committees are working closely to continue to support their communities. The build up to Christmas a number of events will be taking place:

- 1 December - At time of writing the Crofthead Farm Christmas Tree lights were due to be switched on at 18.00 with carols from 1st Livingston Girls Brigade and 23rd Livingston Rainbows;
- 11 December (11.00 to 13.00) - Free family event with face painting, balloon modelling, café, cold cooking and inflatables;
- Christmas Giving Tree set up seeking donations to help local families with gifts. A number of collection and drop off points are in place up to the 10 December; and
- 19 December – Family Event with refreshments and Santa and his Sleigh. The time is still to be confirmed.

D2.2 Crofthead Farm and Bike Lending Library

The Scottish Government Bike Repair Scheme has started again where anyone can get a service/repair on their bike up the value of £50 or £100 for an Adaptive Bike or eBike. The Bike Lending Library are taking bookings at bookings@wlbikelibrary.co.uk

The Library was, at the time of writing, preparing for a sale of Kids bikes on 27th

November from 10.00 to 12.30 when lots of bikes at very low prices will be offered for sale. This follows on from last year when 48 bikes went to new homes just before Christmas.

A partnership application with Crofthead Community Centre has been approved through the Place Based Investment Programme part of which is to support the development of a Cycle Practice Area adjacent to the Bike Library, this was identified in the Community Survey carried out by Community Regeneration with the aim of bringing together families to not only get moving but strengthen family relationships.

D.2.3 Dedridge Good Neighbour Network

The Network is nearly back to full capacity, meeting three days per week, with new members attending and groups increasing. Work is in hand for their Christmas get together. Due to COVID-19 regulations groups will be split this year with Christmas lunch provided over three consecutive days.

D.2.4 Dedridge and Ladywell Planning Groups

The Dedridge and Ladywell Planning Groups continue to meet virtually and last met in September. They will next meet in January 2022.

D.2.5 Livingston Skatepark

A report on the Skatepark was discussed at the Environmental Policy PDSP which set out the work carried out to date and the next steps which include:

- Applying for Historic Status by Planning colleagues in November / December 2021;
- Development of user group led by Community Regeneration and Youth Services;
- Contractor appointed; and
- Establish sustainable funding to ensure long term viability

Link to report:

<https://coins.westlothian.gov.uk/coins/viewSelectedDocument.asp?c=e%97%9Di%92iy%8E>

D.3 Business Gateway Support

Business Gateway provides confidential and impartial support to residents looking to start-up in business, local firms, new and existing 3rd sector organisations and our major employers. All engagement with Business Gateway is client-led. Support is provided to individual clients and business owners/decision makers. Business Gateway also work closely with the West Lothian Social Enterprise Network to ensure network members receive the business support they need.

The team's key outcomes include helping residents to start their own business, enabling local firms to grow in a sustainable and inclusive manner and providing a single point of contact for our strategic employers.

As part of Council's long-term commitment to retain and attract the best businesses and to grow our value-added sectors, a commercially-focused website, <https://www.investinwestlothian.com/why-west-lothian/> has been developed to highlight the range of support available. It also sells West Lothian as an inward/mobile investment destination. Initial feedback from stakeholders has been positive with work on-going to ensure the site remains relevant and compelling.

Economic challenge has always been considered as a driver of new start businesses. In the half-year to September 2021:

New Business Starts Livingston South Ward	New Business Starts West Lothian
14	146
Businesses engaged with in Livingston South Ward	Businesses engaged with in West Lothian
48 (inc 6 Social Enterprises)	412 inc. 42 Social Enterprises (19 operate across WL)

The 146 new businesses started trading with help from Council's Business Gateway advisers. Customer feedback remains consistently positive as the team continue to deliver the range of start-up services remotely. The vision and commitment of local people to start their own business, especially in such challenging circumstances, is commendable. These new start firms have created over 188 new jobs. The main business sectors are personal, professional and local services. Around 20% of all early stage firms go on to take premises, employ staff and grow the scale of the business. New starts are worth over £10.5 million to the local economy every year.

The Business Gateway team also includes advisers who deal with existing, growing and relocating firms to West Lothian. The advisers provided direct support to over 400 local firms in the half-year to September 2021. Our priority sectors include Life Sciences, Manufacturing, Engineering, Construction and enabling technologies. As restrictions were eased during the year, West Lothian firms engaged with us around new premises, new markets, working capital, Research & Development, export regulation, digital marketing and carbon reduction projects. Council's Business Gateway advisers support firms who have combined annual sales in excess of £1.41 Billion per annum. While these businesses employ over 8,300 staff, it is only 11% of total jobs in West Lothian. However, they account for more than 30% of the annual gross value add (GVA) of the West Lothian economy.

With the end of the furlough scheme at the end of September and higher unemployment than pre-pandemic, we have focused on creating demand among local firms for additional staff. Our "Volume Job Grant" is funded with £1 million approved by Council Executive in June 2021.
<https://www.investinwestlothian.com/business-support/develop-your-business/job-creation-fund/> Support is targeted at viable local firms. Success will be the creation of at least 300 new jobs. Each new role must be permanent and pay a starting salary of approximately £21k+ pa. The new recruits must be currently unemployed and aged 25+. Support for our younger people aged 16-24 will see an additional 100 places offered as part of the successful Steps N2 Work programme.

In summarising the work to date of the Business Gateway team, it is not all about sales and wider economic impacts. The advisers have the trust of local people, working with them to find solutions often in complex circumstances.

D.4 Employment 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 meet their individual goals to secure sustainable employment including better paid employment and education opportunities.

In March 2020 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. This is the delivery model that is still in place for the service during 2021.

From the 1st April 2021 – 30th September 2021 the service delivered the following:

	West Lothian	Livingston South Ward
Number of new registrations to the service	392	59
Number of clients supported into employment education or training	194	21

Overall 1136 new and existing customers were supported over the six months with 60 workshops and 4 short terms N2W courses delivered.

The service was also successful in securing 200 Chromebooks and internet connections to give to unemployment clients seeking work that currently did not have any digital connectivity.

D.5 Town Centre Capital Fund 2019/20 and 20/21

As previously reported the Community Regeneration Officer continued to support the delivery of the previously committed projects in the ward. A final completion report will be brought to the all Local Area Committees at a future meeting.

D.6 Community Council Elections 2021

The Community Planning and Regeneration Team has been supporting the delivery of the inaugural meetings of the newly elected Community Council's across West Lothian including the Livingston South Ward.

At the time of writing the process has been completed for five of the six Community Council's in Livingston South with Bellsquarry and Adambrae due to meet on the 6th December.

E CONCLUSION

Economic Development and Regeneration continue to deliver and support the work of partners in the ward. The report highlights some of the areas of work and in particular the activities of partners in the ward.

F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

None

Appendices/Attachments:

None

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Craig McCorriston

Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration

02 December 2021

DATA LABEL: PUBLIC



LIVINGSTON SOUTH LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE

PENSIONERS GROUPS CHRISTMAS FUND ALLOCATIONS 2021/22

REPORT BY HEAD OF PLANNING, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND REGENERATION

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to inform the Local Area Committee of the final allocations that were made from the Pensioners' Groups Christmas Fund 2021-22 to groups in the Livingston South Ward, Livingston-wide groups and West Lothian-wide groups. The committee is asked to note the continuing impact that COVID – 19 has had on the application and allocation process regarding the fund. The panel is also asked to note that applicants were offered, as they were in 2020, an additional option of a pre-prepared meal as an alternative to a direct grant award.

B. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the committee notes:

1. The effect of COVID-19 on the arrangements regarding the Pensioners Groups Christmas Fund in 2021-22
2. The continued inclusion of a pre-prepared meal option and
3. Five groups in Livingston South Ward are being supported through the Pensioner's Christmas Fund 2021-22

C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

I Council Values	Focusing on our customers' needs. Being honest, open and accountable. providing equality of opportunities; developing employees; making best use of our resources; working in partnership.
II Policy and Legal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues, Health or Risk Assessment)	The report does not raise any health or risk assessment issues. No strategic environmental assessment is required.
III Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers	The Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration Services has the delegated authority to make the final allocations and payments.
IV Impact on performance and performance Indicators	This will be reported against indicator EDR061_9b.1b; Number of community organisations funded or supported through funding managed or administered by Community Planning and Regeneration.

V	Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement	Older people are able to live independently in the community with an improved quality of life.
VI	Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)	£29,000 agreed by the Council with £2,207.59 allocated to groups in Livingston South Ward.
VII	Consideration at PDSP	The Voluntary Organisations PDSP is updated annually.
VIII	Other consultations	A similar report will be made to all Local Area Committees

D. TERMS OF THE REPORT

D.1 Background

Each year the Council approves the Pensioners' Groups Christmas Fund. In 2021-22 the total fund amounts to £29,000 which is allocated through an application process. Funding is paid out on the basis of a pro-rata allocation based on the beneficiary numbers identified by the applicants. In 2020/21 this saw 3 organisations and 201 beneficiaries supported with an allocation of £8.64 per head.

D.2 2021 and the ongoing effect of COVID-19

In 2021, as was the case in 2020, due to ongoing effect of COVID-19, many groups will not be delivering support in the same manner as usual if at all, at Christmas 2021.

In 2020, the council in partnership with the West Lothian Food Network, offered applicants the option of a pre-prepared chilled Christmas meal as an alternative to a direct grant award as a contribution towards the costs an event or activity, this option was offered again to applicants in 2021.

The meal will be prepared and delivered to groups with support from the Council's Anti-Poverty Service. The meal will be delivered to groups to deliver to their members. The value of the meal is equivalent to the amount that groups receive per capita in a grant payment.

D.3 Applications 2021/22

Officers contacted all previous recipients of the fund in Livingston South ward, Livingston Wide and West Lothian Wide by email or phone to ask if they were intending to provide a service this year and if so would they be interested in the provision of a pre-prepared meal or would they prefer a direct grant payment.

Seven groups in total were contacted in Livingston South ward. When contacted, two groups declined to apply to the fund including Joint Churches Senior Citizens Lunch t/a Livingston South Community Church and Murieston 50+ Group. Two further groups, Boghall Drop In Centre and the Society of St. Vincent de Paul (Whitburn Conference) when contacted, indicated that they deliver to beneficiaries across multiple wards. The two groups have been moved from their respective wards to the West Lothian Wide list.

As a result of this work:

Livingston South Ward

- Seven groups in Livingston South were contacted and five applied to the fund
- Two groups declined funding
- Three groups that applied to the fund requested a grant payment
- Two groups that applied to the fund requested the meal option

Livingston Wide

- One Livingston Wide group was contacted and applied to the fund
- The group requested a grant payment

West Lothian Wide

- Two West Lothian Wide groups were contacted and applied to the fund
- Both groups requested a grant payment
- Two groups were added to the West Lothian Wide list
- One of the additional groups requested a grant payment
- One of the additional groups requested both a grant payment and a meal option to be delivered to the groups they support across two wards

All applicants will be supported.

As in previous years the fund is divided equally by the total number of beneficiaries of the fund, which in 2021-22 will see £6.71 per head allocated to recipients in the Livingston South Ward, Livingston Wide and West Lothian Wide.

Appendix 1 shows the overall breakdown by ward, Livingston Wide and West Lothian Wide.

Letters and e-mails have been issued to groups advising them of the amount of funding they are to receive in a grant payment or its equivalent in the form of a pre-prepared meal. Payments will be made to the bank accounts of groups via Pecos or BACs for those groups not on PECOS.

This will also advise that they must follow Scottish Government guidelines with regard to the delivery of hampers, gift packs and / or meals, for example, around minimising contact with individuals, car sharing, shopping and visiting care homes etc. and that if they were unable to follow guidelines they would be required to return all funding received to the council.

E CONCLUSION

The report asks the committee to note the continuing effect of COVID-19 on the uptake and allocation of the Pensioners' Groups Christmas Fund in 2021-22 and the continued inclusion of the pre-prepared chilled meal option this year.

The report advises of the allocations that will be made from the Pensioners' Groups Christmas Fund 2021-22 to groups in the Livingston South Ward, Livingston Wide and West Lothian Wide.

Letters and e-mails will be issued to groups advising them of the amount of funding they will receive in a grant payment or its equivalent in the form of a pre-prepared meal. Payments will be made to the bank accounts of groups via Pecos or BACs for those groups not on PECOS.

A satisfaction survey will be conducted with applicants in January 2022.

F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

None.

Appendices/Attachments: Appendix 1 Pensioners Groups Christmas Fund Allocations 2021-22

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Craig McCorriston
Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration

02 December 2021

LIVINGSTON SOUTH LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE

PENSIONERS' GROUPS CHRISTMAS FUND ALLOCATIONS 2021/22

REPORT BY HEAD OF PLANNING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND REGENERATION

Appendix 1: 2021/22 Allocations to groups in the Livingston South Ward, Livingston-wide groups and West Lothian-wide groups.

Livingston South Ward Organisations

Group	Provision	Number of Beneficiaries	Amount Awarded
Dedridge Baptist Church Lunch Club	Meal Option	44	£295.24
Dedridge Good Neighbour Network	Finance Option	100	£671.00
Forestbank Community Education Association	Finance Option	45	£301.95
Ladywell Community Council	Meal Option	80	£536.80
Ladywell Neighbourhood Network	Finance Option	60	£402.60
Totals		329	£2,207.59

Livingston-Wide Organisations

Group	Provision	Number of Beneficiaries	Amount Awarded
Braid House Day Centre	Grant Payment	67	£449.57
Total		67	£449.57

West Lothian-Wide Organisations

Group	Provision	Number of Beneficiaries	Amount Awarded
Boghall Drop-In Centre	Grant Payment	200	£1,342.00
Society of St Vincent De (Paul (Whitburn Conference))	Grant Payment and Meal Option	135	£905.85
West Lothian 50+ Network	Grant Payment	388	£2,603.48
West Lothian Financial Inclusion Network	Grant Payment	100	£671.00
Total		823	£5,522.33

Notes: Seven groups in Livingston South Ward were contacted and invited to apply to the fund. Five groups applied to the fund. Two groups declined to apply to the fund. One Livingston Wide group was contacted and applied to the fund. Two West Lothian Wide groups were contacted and applied to the fund. Two groups that indicated that they delivered a service across multiple wards applied to the fund and were moved from their respective wards to the West Lothian Wide List.

DATA LABEL: PUBLIC



LIVINGSTON SOUTH LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE

COVID-19 LOCAL RECOVERY AND RENEWAL FUND

REPORT BY HEAD OF PLANNING, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & REGENERATION

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of the report is to invite the committee to consider and agree the allocation of the £150,000 budget from the COVID-19 Recovery and Renewal Fund for Livingston South Ward as set out in the report.

B. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Local Area Committee (LAC):

1. Considers the list of proposed and potential expenditure as set out in the report;
2. Agrees what work should be delivered from the list to the value of £150,000; and
3. Notes that any balance remaining, in that ward will be reported back to Council Executive for a decision.

C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

I Council Values	Focusing on our customers' needs; being honest, open and accountable; providing equality of opportunities; developing employees; making best use of our resources; working in partnership
II Policy and Legal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues, Health or Risk Assessment)	The Covid-19 Local Recovery & Renewal Fund was approved by Council Executive on 22 June 2021. The report itself does not raise any strategic environmental assessment, equality or risk issues but these may be considerations at implementation stage.
III Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers	The proposals set out in this report do not have any implications for the scheme of delegation.
IV Impact on performance and performance Indicators	None
V Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement	Relevant to all outcomes.
VI Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)	A total of £1,350,000 for the fund was agreed at Council Executive on 22 June 2021 to be split equally across all 9 wards giving a fund of £150,000 for each ward.

Delivery will be by council staff or appointment of contracts as is normal practice for works of this nature.

VII Consideration at PDSP Not required. Council Executive instructed officers to report back to Local Area Committees.

VIII Other consultations All council service areas.

D. TERMS OF REPORT

D.1 Background

At the Council Executive meeting on 22 June 2021, funding of £150,000 for each of the nine wards was agreed to support recovery and renewal in towns and villages following to COVID-19 pandemic. The funding was part of a wider response by the council to issues arising from the Covid-19 pandemic. Council Executive agreed that the funding was to be used to enable the refresh and renewal of the physical environment in neighbourhoods, including town and village centres.

D.2 Allocating Funds

As agreed at the Council Executive on 16 November 2021 this report sets out a costed list of proposed and potential expenditure for the Livingston South ward. The list of potential expenditure covers towns, villages and in the case of Livingston, neighbourhoods within the town. The LAC is invited to agree the allocation of funding up to a total value of £150,000. Expenditure can only be from the items listed in Appendix 1. Any money not allocated from the £150,000 will be referred back to the Council Executive on 21 December 2021.

The work detailed in Appendix 1 totals £254,922, and the LAC is asked to consider the potential investments identified and agree the allocation of the £150,000 available.

Following approval by the LACs, or where necessary Council Executive, officers will commence implementation of the funding in accordance with, normal procurement arrangements.

In accordance with normal budgetary arrangements officers will look to have as much of the funding committed and implemented by 31 March 2022 but there is a recognition that this may stretch beyond 31 March 2022 given known challenges with material supplies and appointment of contractors.

E. CONCLUSION

The expenditure of the Covid-19 Local Recovery and Renewal Fund in accordance with the process set out in this report identified will support the refresh and renewal of the physical environment within neighbourhoods, villages and town centres in accordance with the decision of Council Executive on 22 June 2021 and 16 November 2021

F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

Council Executive Reports 22 June 2021 Updated Covid-19 Recovery and Renewal Plan and Draft 2020/21 General Fund Revenue Budget Outturn and Update on Unallocated 2021/22 One-off Funding Resources.

Council Executive Report 16 November 2021 COVID-19 Local Recovery and Renewal Fund

Appendices/Attachments: Appendix 1 List of Proposed Investment

Contact Person: Jim Cameron, jim.cameron@westlothian.gov.uk

Craig McCorriston
Head of Planning Economic Development & Regeneration
2 December 2021

Appendix 1

List of Proposed Investment

Ref	Proposal	Service Lead	Cost Estimate £	Comment
Operational Services				
LS1	Road Channel Cleaning - Category A Road	NETS	1,734	Cost based on channel length per road length. Costs include cleaning of channels on roundabouts and traffic islands.
LS2	Road Channel Cleaning - Category B Road	NETS	1,018	Cost based on channel length per road length. Costs include cleaning of channels on roundabouts and traffic islands.
LS3	Road Channel Cleaning - Category C Road	NETS	322	Cost based on channel length per road length. Costs include cleaning of channels on roundabouts and traffic islands.
LS4	Road Channel Cleaning - Category U Road	NETS	560	Cost based on channel length per road length. Costs include cleaning of channels on roundabouts and traffic islands.
LS5	Deep Clean of Town Centre Hard Surfaces including Chewing Gum Removal	NETS	51,287	Cost based on Town Centre area.
LS6	Smart Solar Compactor Bins - Ward (2 per Ward)	NETS	8,000	Cost based on £4,000 per unit.
LS7	Smart Solar Compactor Bins - District Parks, Neighbourhood Parks & Skateparks	NETS	36,000	Cost based on £4,000 per unit. 1 bin located in each of the following parks: Bankton Mains, Almondvale Park, Howden Park, Quarry Park, Heatherbank Park, Falcon Brae, Lanthorn, Almondvale Skatepark, Heatherbank Skatepark.

Ref	Proposal	Service Lead	Cost Estimate £	Comment
LS8	Bench renewal/replacement	NETS	10,000	Cost based on £1,000 per bench.
LS9	Handrail renewal/replacement/installation to improve access	Roads	47,000	General funding allocation. Funding to be focused on priority risk areas. Exact locations will be finalised after allocated sum is agreed. Risk that projects may not be fully delivered by 31 March 2022 due to contractor availability and weather conditions.
Elected Member				
LS10	Improve/refresh road markings, particularly at junctions, roundabouts to improve visibility and safety.	Roads	30,000	General funding allocation. Funding to be focused on town centres areas and other priority risk areas. Exact locations will be finalised after allocated sum is agreed. Risk that projects may not be delivered by 31 March 2022 due to contractor availability and weather conditions.
LS11	Clear walkways by cutting back vegetation	NETS	N/A	Included in routine cyclical work. Work already started in ward.
LS12	Look at walkways and install handrails to assist if gradient had previously been raised as an issue (Dedridge)	Roads	N/A	Included in LS9
LS13	Install additional grit bins in areas that caused concern in winter 2020/21 (streets that currently have no grit bin) as we have an ageing population and a lot of safe routes to school	NETS	N/A	The Council has an approved policy for the provision of grit bins. Any requests for new grit bins would be assessed and would need to achieve the criteria set out in the Council's Winter Service Policy.

Ref	Proposal	Service Lead	Cost Estimate £	Comment
LS14	Clean/repair replace road signage	Roads	30,000	General funding allocation. Exact locations required to enable a cost estimate to be provided. Risk that projects may not be delivered by 31 March 2022 due to contractor availability.
LS15	Additional litter/dog waste bins in areas that have less available	NETS	N/A	Consultation on litter bins requirements planned for Spring 2022. Sensors being used to determine need.
LS16	Speed limit signage updated/installed	Roads	N/A	General funding allocation as per LS14. Exact locations required to be identified. Risk that projects may not be delivered by 31 March 2022 due to contractor availability. Any alterations or changes to speed limits require Council Executive approval and statutory Traffic Regulation Order process to be followed and would not be delivered by 31 March 2022.
LS17	Warning signs around schools updated (reduce speed - perhaps that light up at drop off and pick up times)	Roads	N/A	General funding allocation as per LS14. Exact locations required to be identified. Risk that projects may not be delivered by 31 March 2022 due to contractor availability. Any alterations or changes to speed limits require Council Executive approval and statutory Traffic Regulation Order process to be followed and would not be delivered by 31 March 2022.
LS18	Improve road markings (repaint)	Roads	N/A	General funding allocation as per LS10. Exact locations required to be identified.

Ref	Proposal	Service Lead	Cost Estimate £	Comment
LS19	Clear water drains- to reduce flooding in severe weather	Roads	N/A	Included in LS1-4.
LS20	Clear and clean walkways of fallen leaves	NETS	N/A	Included in routine cyclical work. Work already started in ward. Requires mechanical brush so work is slow. This will be complete before requirement to spend funds.
LS21	Street & Footpath drains, debris removal to reduce flooding all areas of Livingston South.	NETS	N/A	Included in routine cyclical work. Work already started in ward. Requires mechanical brush so work is slow. This will be complete before requirement to spend funds.
LS22	Public footpaths, cut back intruding / overhanging vegetation to allow safe passage of pedestrians, especially during winter months, all areas within Livingston South.	NETS	N/A	Included in routine cyclical work. Work already started in ward.
LS23	Murieston Trail a Core path. Repair potholes and regular muddy areas.	NETS	5,000	The Council has a full repair programme for core paths. Risk that project may not be fully delivered by 31 March 2022 due to contractor availability and weather conditions.
LS24	Remove flyposting and unauthorised signage	Roads	N/A	Included in LS14.

Ref	Proposal	Service Lead	Cost Estimate £	Comment
LS25	More lighting and illumination in Howden and Dedridge	Roads	N/A	All street lighting is installed to the appropriate classification of BS EN 13201. The majority of Dedridge and Howden has already been upgraded to LED lanterns with any remaining due to be converted next financial year (2022/23) as part of the capital programme.
LS26	Additional litter bins/dog bins and possible placement of smart bins, all areas in Livingston South, better placement of bins	NETS	N/A	Consultation on litter bins requirements planned for Spring 2022. Sensors being used to determine need.
LS27	Planting and replanting on common land in Ladywell, in particular hedging on the loan path near Willowbank/Harrysmuir path	NETS	2,000	Cost based on plant costs. Staffing costs would be covered by existing service budgets.
LS28	Regenerate the Fernbank shopping area	Property	20,000	General funding allocation of £20,000 for general environmental improvements. The 3 shops located are not owned by Council. General Shop front improvements could be considered with each of the tenants and general environmental improvements would be on open space and footpaths.
LS29	Planting and replanting at the common areas within Ladywell	NETS	2,000	Cost based on plant costs. Staffing costs would be covered by existing service budgets.
LS30	Regenerate the Thymebank shop area as there are broken walls and it is in general disrepair	Property	10,000	General funding allocation of £10,000 for small wall repairs or removals and general clean-up/tidy for areas within Council ownership.

Ref	Proposal	Service Lead	Cost Estimate £	Comment
LS31	Stonebank play area and MUGA pitch seem to be in poor condition	NETS	N/A	Included in General Services Capital Programme.
LS32	Heatherbank and Gowanbank MUGA pitches area might be worth looking at as well.	NETS	N/A	Included in General Services Capital Programme.
LS33	Underpass painting in Howden.	NETS	N/A	Included in Public Arts Programme.
	Total		254,922	

OFFICIAL



**POLICE
SCOTLAND**

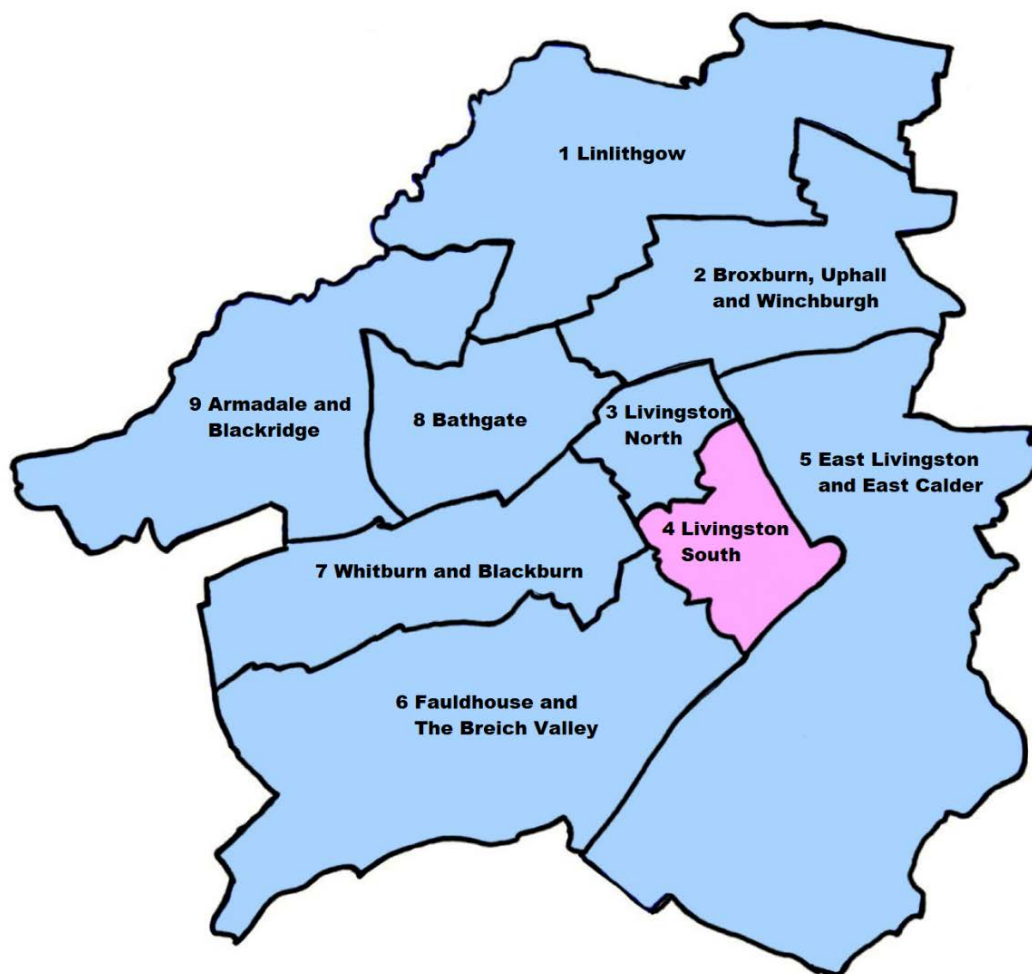
Keeping people safe

POILEAS ALBA



West Lothian Area Command

Lothian and Scottish Borders



Ward 4 - Livingston South Multi Member Ward Report

Quarter 2 – 2021/2022

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 3rd October 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

Introduction:

This document is intended to provide a summary of the performance of West Lothian Area Command for the reporting period of Quarter 2 2021/2022. 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.

Livingston South Community Engagement Priorities

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

Livingston South and Craigshill Community Officers

PC Ewan Hannay

PC Gillian Minshull

Executive Summary:

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

- **Protecting the most vulnerable people**

Domestic abuse crimes is an area of focus in terms of providing confidence to report, undertaking professional investigations, providing victim support, pursuing perpetrators and managing offenders. Although West Lothian has an increased number of domestic incidents reported, strong links have been established with both internal and external partners allowing increased confidence to report along with excellent support services for victims.

During Q2, Medics Against Violence, in partnership with Police provided further online ASC (Ask Support Care) online training sessions to major employers within West Lothian in conjunction with DAPDG. At the time of writing, over 100 individuals have been trained allowing additional support and guidance to be given to victims of crime, complementing the response from officers. All major employers in West Lothian have been made aware of this training and the uptake has been positive. Further training sessions are being planned.

As has been described in previous papers, our officers have had cause to deal with an increasing number of people who have been experiencing mental health crisis. With thanks to our partners in NHS Lothian, since 2020 we agreed protocols allowing operational officers to access the Acute Care and Support Team (ACAST) in West Lothian, a Mental Health Community Triage System. The ACAST system frees up capacity at A&E/Out of Hours, whilst ensuring that those people who met the criteria, receive the most appropriate support at

source. During this process, officers remain with the individuals ensuring support is provided throughout. In Q2, ACAST was utilised over 59 times by officers.

The Herbert protocol has been rolled out within West Lothian with officers being made aware of this initiative and the benefit of it. We have now part of the pilot scheme for the Autism Protocol which is a further development to ensure that police are focused on protecting vulnerable people.

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

Recent patterns relating to Anti-Social Behaviour continue with incidents of Vandalism and Fireraising - continue to fall following the 5 year average.

Through the work of the West Lothian Community Safety Partnership, (Police, SFRS, WLC SNT, Housing, WLYAP and Criminal Justice) we identify emerging trends, problematic areas, repeat ASB locations and establish strategies to deal with issues. This frequently involves joint visits and follow up disclosures to enable partner interventions, ASBO applications etc.

In identifying problematic areas, officers are tasked with high visibility patrols to provide reassurance to the local community. We have also ran a series of "pop-up" engagement events which allow communities the opportunity to approach and engage with officers about any concerns they have in their communities. Further "pop-up" events are planned over the next few months.

There continues to concerns raised about the use of off-road bikes in both urban and rural settings. This is an issue across the whole of Scotland. This is being assessed at the Community Safety Partnership to identify an overall partnership approach to address the issue. There has been a number of media requests to identify those responsible however there has been very little community intelligence coming through naming the persons involved.

There has been significant work with partners in relation to Bonfire season with SFRS taking the lead. This includes joint patrols between SFRS / Police and policing plan for the weeks running up to the 5th November and close links to various other WLC depts. And other agencies.

Since West Lothian schools returned after the summer break, School Link Officers have positively engaged with pupils at Whitburn, St Kents, St Margarets, Inveralmond and the Inclusion and Support services. These officers delivered various prevention inputs including knife crime, drugs and alcohol. The funding for these posts comes direct from each of the schools.

Police are working closely with WLC Housing, SNT and registered social landlords (RSLs) in relation to addresses in the ward area where there are repeat incidents of ASB. This has included joint intervention visits and disclosures to enable further action to be considered by the local authority and RSLs under ASBO legislation.

- **Reducing Acquisitive Crime**

Dealing with Acquisitive Crime to Protect People by reducing the financial and personal pressure on individuals and communities remains a priority.

Recently, there has been numerous Housebreakings reported with various high powered vehicles stolen. Local and National resources have been investigating and a number of arrests have been made. We have utilised social media to highlight this type of crime and to share preventative messages.

Rural Crime - West Lothian Partnership against Rural Crime (WLPARC), in conjunction with Police Scotland and West Lothian PSYV, held an information event at Beecraigs Country Park to highlight rural crime, partnership approaches and reporting methods in relation to suspicious activities within rural and urban areas. This was extremely well received and WLPARC will be developing their remit further over the coming months.

West Lothian Police Scotland Youth Volunteers (PSYV), have assisted in providing prevention advice across West Lothian. The young people completed 168 hours of voluntary work assisting in various activities including letter drops in relation to off-road bikes, inconsiderate parking, rural crime, delivering Keep Safe packs and working alongside WLPARC. An application process for new youth volunteers members has now closed with multiple applicants.

The Neighbourhood Watch Scheme is increasing in numbers with 1400 members. Police Scotland continue to utilise social media to encourage members of the community to sign up for regular updates. <http://www.neighbourhoodwatchscotland.co.uk/>. Police Scotland provide regular updates for the online alerts, to highlight crime trends and local issues.

During Q2, our Prevention and Intervention Officer conducted 7 Crime Prevention Surveys to victims of crime providing advice and guidance on keeping themselves and their property safe. Officers have also been working in conjunction with the WLPARC to share information and identify prevention opportunities.

- **Improving Road Safety**

Road safety is a priority for the police and local authority. Officers in West Lothian work in partnership with the council address road safety issues and educate the public to prevent incidents from occurring.

Officers in the West Lothian area work closely with partners to prevent collisions from occurring. During Q2, Roads Policing officers continued with Local and National Campaigns including National Motorcycle Safety Campaign, National Speeding Campaign and National Drug Driving Campaign. Preparations have also commenced for the yearly festive Drink Drive Campaign.

Between July and September 2021, Road policing officers undertook proactive speed checks in 27 locations, resulting in 32 offences detected, including 41 warnings in relation to manner of driving and construction and use defects.

Consultation is continuing with partner agencies regarding the delivery of Westdrive 2021, however due to Covid restrictions, final decisions are still to be made as to what format this may take.

In relation to 20 mph speed limits, Police Scotland will continue to monitor this trial with WLC. Such limits should be 'self-enforcing' and sustainable, either as a result of the current road layout, existing vehicle speed data or through the addition of appropriate physical speed reduction measures. Deployment of resources must prioritise sites which represent the greatest risk and should only be undertaken where considered necessary and in the interests of casualty reduction.

There is no data around pre/post 20 mph in relation to accident statistics or enforcement, however Roads Policing officers work closely with the highways department to identify "hotspots" for them to consider road engineering solutions to improve safety.

- **Tackling Serious and Organised Crime**

Reducing Drug supply, Production and Cultivation linked to Organised Crime is a policing priority for the West Lothian local authority area and the wider Lothian & Scottish Borders Division of Police Scotland.

During Q2, 25 General evidence / Misuse of Drugs Act Warrants were executed which resulted in multiple drugs seizures and a substantial amount of money recovered. Seized cash usually forms part of criminal cases and further investigation under Proceeds of Crime legislation to disrupt organised crime. If applicable, police will disclose information with registered social landlords in relation to MDA enforcement action at their properties to enable follow up in relation to breaches of tenancies.

Operation Phantom (OCG disruption) executed simultaneous warrants at two West Lothian addresses in relation to the supply of controlled drugs. During this, two West Lothian males were arrested and charged with MDA offences. Nearly £37,000 worth of drugs were seized along with a quantity of cash.

Any drug supply/possession offences are due to proactive police work which is greatly assisted by intelligence from local residents. This can be reported to the police via 101 or anonymously via the charity "Crimestoppers" on 0800 111 555.

During Q2, officers working on Operation Hutchen commenced an enquiry into recent Transit van thefts in both Lothian and Scottish Borders and Forth Valley Divisions. During this enquiry, a 26 year old male was identified as being responsible. This was due to excellent forensic work by detectives and resulted in him being reported for 24 vehicle related offences.

We continue to focus our activity on disrupting Organised Crime groups, particularly referencing drugs supply, larger scale cultivations and class A drugs.

We continue to develop 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 2021 – September 2021			
Livingston South	Recorded		
Crime Type	YTD	LYTD	% Diff
Robbery	4	2	+50.0%
Serious Assault	12	5	+140.0%
Sexual Crimes	38	55	-30.9%
Housebreaking dwelling	1	4	-75.0%
Housebreaking non-dwelling (sheds/garages)	2	1	+50.0%
Housebreaking Other Premises	7	3	+133.3%
Theft of motor vehicle	6	12	-50.0%
Theft from motor vehicle (OLP)	4	13	-69.2%
Vandalism	114	98	+16.3%
Total drugs supply	5	5	-
Possession of Drugs	48	71	-32.3%
Common Assault	174	166	+4.8%
Common Assault - emergency worker	69	38	+81.5%
Total Crimes and Other Offences	1330	1223	+8.7%

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.



**LIVINGSTON SOUTH LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE – December 2021
WORKPLAN 2021/22**

	Issue	Purpose	Lead Officer	Date
1	Police Report	Quarterly update report	Sgt Iain Wells	All meetings
2	Fire Report	Quarterly update report	Paul Harvey	All meetings
3	Housing report	Quarterly update report	Sandy Ross	All meetings
4	NETS & Land Services Report	Quarterly update report	Andy Johnston	All meetings
5	Local Regeneration Planning Report	Quarterly update report	Lesley Keirnan	All meetings
6	Pensioners Xmas Fund Allocation 2021	To provide update on allocation of pensioners fund to groups in the ward	Lesley Keirnan	November 2022
7	Anti Poverty Services	Annual Update Report	Nahid Hanif	November 2022
8	James Young High School	To provide an annual report on activity and attainment at the school and cluster primaries	Tricia Gallagher	February 2022
9	Inveralmond Community High School	To provide an annual report on activity and attainment at the school and cluster primaries	Suzie Young	May 2022
10	Livingston South Blues Green Network	To provide and update on project	Graeme Hedger	TBC
11	Planning Report	Annual update on future planning intentions in ward.	Chris Alcorn	TBC