



Livingston North Local Area Committee

West Lothian Civic Centre
Howden South Road
LIVINGSTON
EH54 6FF

11 November 2021

A meeting of the **Livingston North Local Area Committee** of West Lothian Council will be held within the **MS Teams Virtual Meeting Room** on **Friday 19 November 2021** at **9:30am**.

For Chief Executive

BUSINESS

Public Session

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Declarations of Interest - Members should declare any financial and non-financial interests they have in the items of business for consideration at the meeting, identifying the relevant agenda item and the nature of their interest
3. Order of Business, including notice of urgent business, declarations of interest in any urgent business and consideration of reports for information.

The Chair will invite members to identify any such reports they wish to have fully considered, which failing they will be taken as read and their recommendations approved.
4. Confirm Draft Minutes of Meeting of Livingston North Local Area Committee held on Friday 17 September 2021 (herewith)
5. Deans Community High School - presentation by Pauline Allison, Head Teacher
6. Police Ward Report - report by Police Scotland (herewith)
7. Fire Service Ward Report - report by Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

(herewith)

8. Community Learning and Development Youth Services Report - report by Head of Education (Learning, Policy and Resources) (herewith)
9. Anti-Poverty Service Update - report by Head of Finance and Property Services (herewith)
10. Livingston North Ballcourts, Multi Use Games Areas (MUGAs) and Kick Pitches - report by Head of Operational Services (herewith)
11. Service Update - Operational Services - report by Head of Operational Services (herewith)
12. Housing, Customer and Building Services - report by Head of Housing, Customer and Building Services (herewith)
13. Pensioners Groups Christmas Fund Allocations 2021/22 - report by Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration (herewith)
14. Community Regeneration and Town Centre Fund Update - report by Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration (herewith)
15. Workplan (herewith)

NOTE **For further information please contact Karen McMahon on tel. no. 01506 281621 or email karen.mcmahon@westlothian.gov.uk**

CODE OF CONDUCT AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

This form is to help members. It is not a substitute for declaring interests at the meeting.

Members should look at every item and consider if they have an interest. If members have an interest they must consider if they have to declare it. If members declare an interest they must consider if they have to withdraw.

NAME	MEETING	DATE

AGENDA ITEM NO.	FINANCIAL (F) OR NON- FINANCIAL INTEREST (NF)	DETAIL ON THE REASON FOR YOUR DECLARATION (e.g. I am Chairperson of the Association)	REMAIN OR WITHDRAW

The objective test is whether a member of the public, with knowledge of the relevant facts, would reasonably regard the interest as so significant that it is likely to prejudice your discussion or decision making in your role as a councillor.

Other key terminology appears on the reverse.

If you require assistance, please ask as early as possible. Contact Julie Whitelaw, Monitoring Officer, 01506 281626, julie.whitelaw@westlothian.gov.uk, James Millar, Governance Manager, 01506 281695, james.millar@westlothian.gov.uk, Carol Johnston, Chief Solicitor, 01506 281626, carol.johnston@westlothian.gov.uk, Committee Services Team, 01506 281604, 01506 281621 committee.services@westlothian.gov.uk

SUMMARY OF KEY TERMINOLOGY FROM REVISED CODE

The objective test

“...whether a member of the public, with knowledge of the relevant facts, would reasonably regard the interest as so significant that it is likely to prejudice your discussion or decision making in your role as a councillor”

The General Exclusions

- As a council tax payer or rate payer or in relation to the council's public services which are offered to the public generally, as a recipient or non-recipient of those services
- In relation to setting the council tax.
- In relation to matters affecting councillors' remuneration, allowances, expenses, support services and pension.
- As a council house tenant, unless the matter is solely or mainly about your own tenancy, or you are in arrears of rent.

Particular Dispensations

- As a member of an outside body, either appointed by the council or later approved by the council
- Specific dispensation granted by Standards Commission
- Applies to positions on certain other public bodies (IJB, SEStran, City Region Deal)
- Allows participation, usually requires declaration but not always
- Does not apply to quasi-judicial or regulatory business

The Specific Exclusions

- As a member of an outside body, either appointed by the council or later approved by the council
- The position must be registered by you
- Not all outside bodies are covered and you should take advice if you are in any doubt.
- Allows participation, always requires declaration
- Does not apply to quasi-judicial or regulatory business

Categories of “other persons” for financial and non-financial interests of other people

- Spouse, a civil partner or a cohabitee
- Close relative, close friend or close associate
- Employer or a partner in a firm
- A body (or subsidiary or parent of a body) in which you are a remunerated member or director
- Someone from whom you have received a registrable gift or registrable hospitality
- Someone from whom you have received registrable election expenses

MINUTE of MEETING of the LIVINGSTON NORTH LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE held within VIRTUAL MEETING ROOM, on 17 SEPTEMBER 2021.

Present – Councillors Dom McGuire (Chair), Alison Adamson, Robert De Bold and Andrew Miller

In Attendance

David Maule, Lead Officer, West Lothian Council
Scott McKillop, Community Regeneration Officer, West Lothian Council
Sergeant Iain Wells, Police Scotland
James Robertson, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
Sandy Ross, Housing Manager, West Lothian Council
David Cullen, Nets, Land & Countryside Services, West Lothian Council
Scott Hughes, Property Services, West Lothian Council
Jill Parton, Carmondean Community Council
Stephen Egan – Eliburn Community Council
Julie Henderson – Knightsridge Community Council

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Agenda Item 10 (Community Regeneration and Town Centre Update) - Councillor Andrew Miller declared an interest in that he was a volunteer at the Food Co-op which was referenced in the report.

2. MINUTE

The committee approved the Minute of its meeting held on 18 June 2021.

Matters Arising

It was noted by committee that the following matters which had been raised at the previous meeting had not been reported back to ward members :-

- To note the Head of Planning, Economic Development & Regeneration would seek information for ward members on whether the two disabled parking spaces located at Hawk Brae are advisory or enforceable; and
- To note the Head of Planning, Economic Development & Regeneration would request that Operational Services provide a written update to ward members regarding double yellow lines in Eliburn South

It was also noted that a request had been made with regards to affording community councils the opportunity to present update reports on their activities at LAC meetings.

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 30 June 2021.

Sergeant Wells also took the opportunity to remind local ward members of the importance of community-led intelligence which helped Police Scotland build up a picture of what was happening in local communities.

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

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

4. FIRE WARD REPORT

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by Scottish Fire and Rescue Service providing an update on the activity within the ward for the period up to 30 June 2021.

It was recommended that members note and provide comment on the report.

Decision

1. To note the terms of the report; and
2. To note the update in relation to new legislation on the installation of interlinked smoke alarms in domestic properties.

5. 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 the local area committee with an update on general services investment in the ward during 2020/21 and planned investment for the seven-year period 2021/22 to 2027/28.

It is recommended that the LAC notes:

1. The progress made in delivering the approved general services capital programme within the Armadale and Blackridge 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 will not be undertaken until 2022;

4. Progress in delivery of the 2021/22 programme will be reported to Council Executive following detailed budget monitoring exercises during the course of the year; and
5. An updated capital investment programme will be presented to Council for approval in February 2022.

Decision

1. To note the content of the report; and
2. To agree that a report on the Open Space and Sports Facility Projects be provided to the next meeting of the LAC outlining usage, future plans and how communities were going to be consulted on the future use of the facilities

6. SERVICE UPDATE - OPERATIONAL SERVICES

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 to 30 June 2021

It was recommended that the committee:

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

Decision

1. To note the terms of the report; and
2. To agree that members be provided with an up-to-date position on when work would be completed on the footpath to access Peel Primary School; and
3. To ask that officers give consideration to the inclusion in future reports of statistics pertaining to the work of the volunteer litter pickers

7. HOUSING, CUSTOMER AND BUILDING SERVICES

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Housing, Customer and Building Services providing an overview of the service activities within the Armadale & Blackridge ward.

It was recommended that the committee note Housing, Customer and Building Service activity as detailed in the ward report for the period Quarter 1 – 1 April to 30 June 2021.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

8. COMMUNITY REGENERATION AND TOWN CENTRE FUND UPDATE

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration providing an update on regeneration activity to support communities across the ward and update the committee on progress in delivering the Town Centre Capital Projects for the ward agreed by the Council Executive on 22 October 2019 and 15 December 2020.

It was recommended that the local area committee notes :-

1. The update on the Vennie activity including the summer programme, community garden, bike project, outreach youth work and youth forum;
2. The reports on the Livingston Station and Carmondean youth summer programmes;
3. The updates for Town Centre Fund 2019/20 and 2020/21 projects for this ward including the outline of public realm works for Livingston Station; and
4. The updates on the Business Gateway and access2employment services.

Decision

1. To note the content of the report;
2. To ask that the Community Regeneration Officer provide all ward members with an update on when work would start on the Deans project;
3. To ask the Community Regeneration Officer provide all ward members with an update on what would happen with the Summer of Fun Activity programme in terms of ongoing funding;
4. To agree that the Community Regeneration Officer provide updates in future reports what funding options were available to The Vennie; and
5. To agree that the Community Regeneration Officer provide an update in future reports on the activities being carried out at the Ability Centre and Livingston North Partnership Centre; and
6. To agree that a report be brought back to the next meeting of the LAC on pre and post Covid youth work and provision in the ward

9. WORKPLAN

A workplan had been circulated for information.

Decision

1. To note the workplan and
2. To agree that the following reports be added to the workplan :-
 - A report on Open Space and Sports Facility Projects outlining usage, future plans and how communities were going to be consulted on the future use of the facilities.
 - Youth provision in the ward pre and post Covid.

OFFICIAL



West Lothian Area Command

Lothian and Scottish Borders



Ward 3 Livingston North 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 North Community Engagement Priorities:

- Reducing Anti-Social Behaviour
- Substance Misuse
- Road Safety

Livingston North Community Officers

PC Alan McMahon

PC Hayley Cunningham

Executive Summary:

Officers in West Lothian have been focused on 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 and SNT in relation to an address in the ward area where there are repeat incidents of ASB. This has included joint intervention visits and disclosures to enable the local authority to apply to the court for a full ASBO which has been granted.

- **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 North	Recorded		
Crime Type	YTD	LYTD	% Diff
Robbery	1	2	-50.0%
Serious Assault	4	4	-
Sexual Crimes	29	22	+31.8%
Housebreaking dwelling	7	8	-12.5%
Housebreaking non-dwelling (sheds/garages)	2	7	-71.4%
Housebreaking Other Premises	0	10	-100.0%
Theft of motor vehicle	5	13	-61.5%
Theft from motor vehicle (OLP)	4	2	+50.0%
Vandalism	40	54	-25.9%
Total drugs supply	5	1	+400.0%
Possession of Drugs	33	30	+10.0%
Common Assault	87	88	-1.1%
Common Assault - emergency worker	4	5	-20.0%
Total Crimes and Other Offences	660	724	-8.8%

Through local engagement we will continue to work with communities and partners to deliver a quality service which responds to their needs.

Together we can increase community resilience and prevent crime.

Data Label: Public



West Lothian
Council

LIVINGSTON NORTH LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE

LIVINGSTON NORTH MULTI-MEMBER WARD PERFORMANCE REPORT

REPORT BY SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To update the Livingston North Local Area Committee on the activity within Livingston North 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 North 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 North Multi-member Ward Quarterly Report

Following the publication of the Livingston North 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 North 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 North 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
October 2021
Appendix 1 - Livingston North Multi-Member Ward Performance Report



West Lothian Council Area

Ward Performance Report

Quarter 2 2021

Livingston North

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

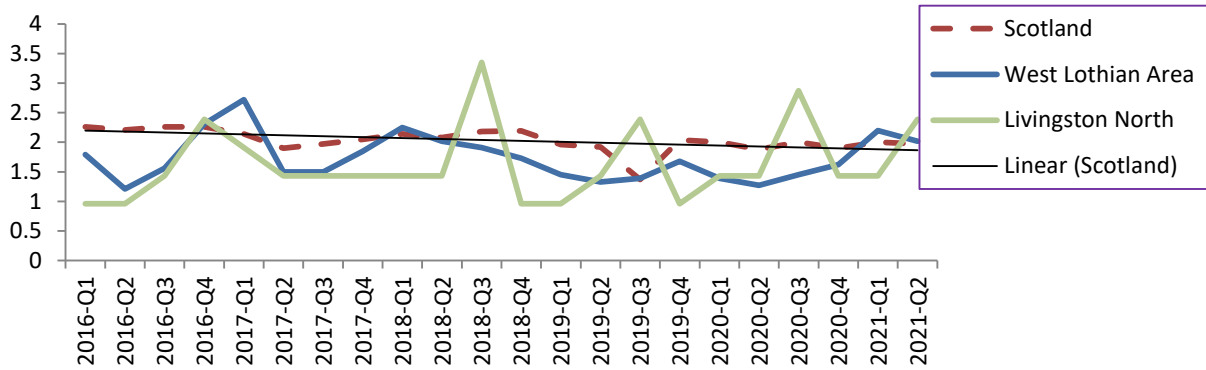
Welcome to the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Ward Performance Report. This performance report is designed to provide citizens, stakeholders and partners with information relating to ward based activity undertaken by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.

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.

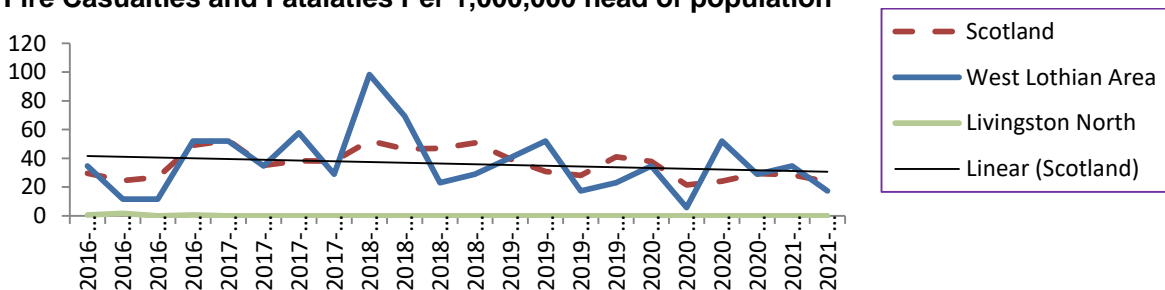
However, regardless of statistical anomalies, emerging patterns and trends in fire related incidents and events can assist the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service and Community Planning Partners plan and implement preventative intervention initiatives to target reducing fire related incidents and events.

Accidental Dwelling Fires Per 10,000 head of population



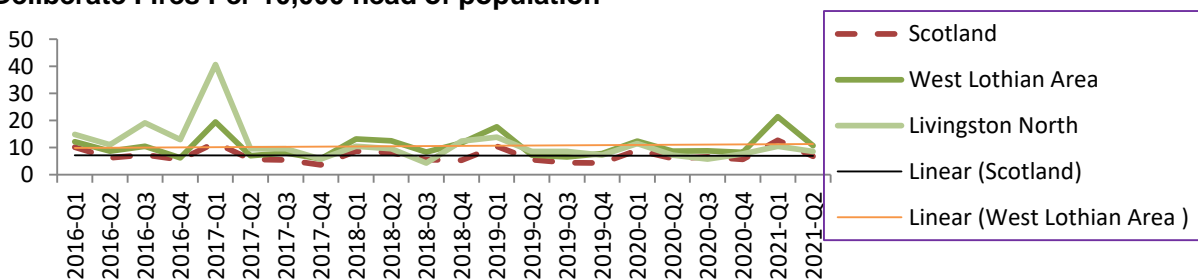
During the 2021-22 year to date reporting period SFRS have dealt with 5 accidental dwelling fires in comparison to 3 during 2020-21 year to date reporting period.

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



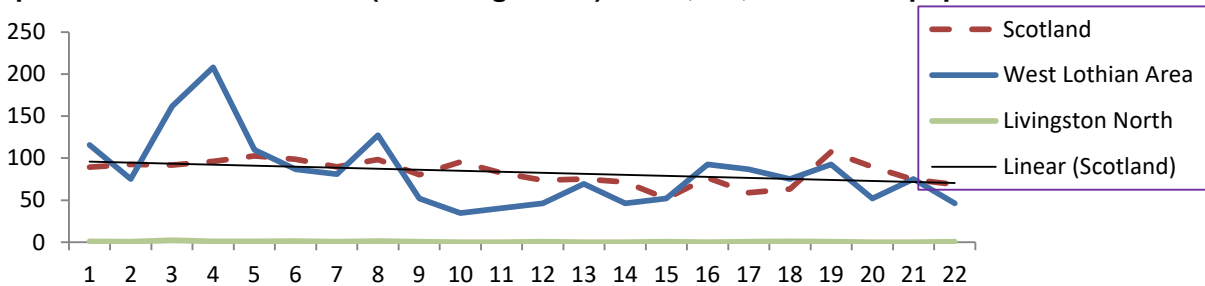
SFRS have dealt with 18 Deliberate fire incidents during 2021-22 year to date reporting period in comparison to 15 during 2020-21 year to date reporting period.

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



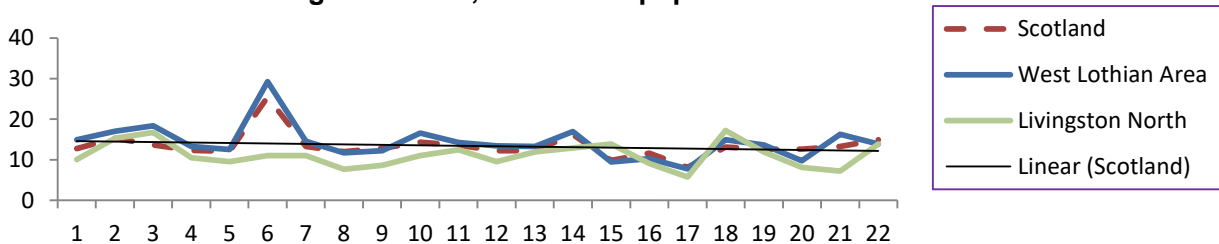
SFRS have dealt with 1 non domestic fire incidents during 2021-22 year to date reporting period in comparison to 2 during 2020-21 year to date reporting period.

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



SFRS have dealt with 1 casualties from Special Services during 2021-22 year to date reporting period in comparison to 2 during 2020-21 year to date reporting period.

Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals Per 10,000 head of population

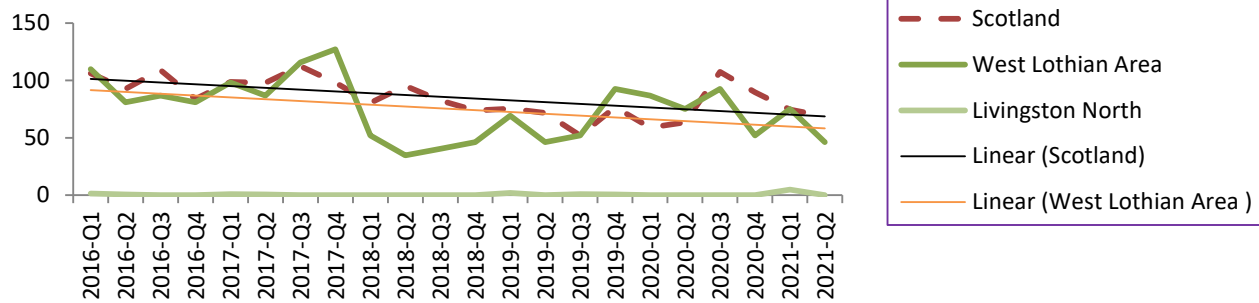


SFRS have dealt with 29 UFAS incidents during 2021-22 year to date reporting period in comparison to 36 during 2020-21 year to date reporting period.

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 NORTH LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE
COMMUNITY LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT YOUTH SERVICES REPORT
REPORT BY HEAD OF EDUCATION (LEARNING, POLICY AND RESOURCES)

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of the report is to update the Local Area Committee on CLD Youth Services community-based youth work provision that existed in the Ward prior to the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020, and the provision being delivered linked to recovery, from September 2021.

B. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Local Area Committee note the progress made by CLD Youth Services and partners in resuming community-based youth work provision in the Ward.

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)	Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2013-23 CLD Partnership Plan 2021-24 Corporate Plan 2018/19-2022/23 Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015
III	Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers	None.
IV	Impact on performance and performance Indicators	There is a suite of indicators linked to the CLD Partnership Plan 2021 - 24.
V	Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement	Outcome 1 - Our children have the best start in life and are ready to succeed. Outcome 2 - We are better educated and have access to increased and better quality learning and employment opportunities. Outcome 4 - We live in resilient, cohesive and safe communities.

Outcome 7 - We live longer, healthier lives and have reduced health inequalities.

VI	Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)	Activities delivered from approved budgets and external funding sources.
VII	Consideration at PDSP	None.
VIII	Other consultations	None.

D. TERMS OF REPORT

D.1 BACKGROUND

In September 2021, CLD Youth Services implemented a new fit for purpose operational model which ensures flexibility of response, makes best use of resources, and delivers a comprehensive learning and support offer that helps young people develop the skills for learning life and work.

Through community-based youth work provision delivery is linked to these five key themes:

- Tackling inequalities
- Developing skills to improve employability
- Increasing participation/ youth voice
- Raising attainment and achievement
- Promoting health and wellbeing of young people

Building on the lessons learned from delivery throughout the pandemic, the community-based youth work approach now includes, where appropriate the following activities:

- Centre-based youth work in community centres, schools and village halls.
- Detached/outreach work in areas as and when required focused on engagement with harder-to-reach young people; signposting to positive activities; providing information, advice and guidance and distributing home learning packs.
- Digital youth work through facilitation of online youth groups, preparation of online content and support to vulnerable young people not yet ready to engage in person.
- Outdoor learning activity programmes delivered in a range of settings; e.g. parks, community gardens and open spaces.
- Mental Health & Wellbeing group work – Me Time, which is focused on earlier intervention to support young people's mental health and wellbeing.

D.2 COMMUNITY BASED YOUTH WORK PROVISION (Prior to COVID-19 March 2020)

Youth Clubs

There were six centre-based provisions in place prior to the national lockdown in March 2020.

Club Name	Week Day	Age Group	Time
Carmondean Children's Club	Wednesday	P1 - P4	6.30 - 8.30pm
Carmondean Youth Club	Thursday	P5+	6.30 - 8.30pm
Deans Fun Fever	Tuesday	P7 - S2	6.00 – 9.00pm

Livingston Station Children's Club	Wednesday	P1 – P4	3.30 – 5.30pm
Livingston Station Youth Club	Wednesday	P5 – S2	6.00 – 8.00pm
Mosswood Children's Club	Friday	P1 - P7	1.0 2.30pm

School Holiday Provision

During the Summer holidays CLD Youth Services provided a daily Lunch and activity club in July at Livingston Station Centre. This consisted of free lunch and a variety of sports, crafts and trips. This provision was organised in partnership with the Adult Learning Team linking in with ESOL classes for the Syrian Resettlement Programme.

Partnership with The Vennie

CLD Youth Services Partnership Agreement with The Vennie in conjunction with the Cashback for Communities Fund supported the delivery of outreach work by The Vennie with a focus on youth engagement. CLD Youth Services funded resources for S1 to S4 developments, as well as advice and support via the Senior Community Education Worker for the area.

D.3 COMMUNITY BASED YOUTH WORK PROVISION (Into Recovery September 2021)

Youth Clubs

The six centre-based provisions have resumed.

Club Name	Week Day	Age Group	Time
Carmondean Children's Club	Wednesday	P1 - P4	6.30 - 8.30pm
Carmondean Youth Club	Thursday	P5+	6.30 - 8.30pm
Deans Fun Fever	Tuesday	P7 - S2	6.00 – 9.00pm
Livingston Station Children's Club	Wednesday	P1 – P4	3.30 – 5.30pm
Livingston Station Youth Club	Wednesday	P5 – S2	6.00 – 8.00pm
Mosswood Children's Club	Friday	P1 - P7	2.0 2.30pm

School Holiday Provision

During the summer holidays, CLD Youth Services took advantage of the Scottish Government Summer of Play 2021 funding. This enabled the service to deliver an activity programme at Livingston Station in July and Carmondean in August, which included a variety of sports, crafts and trips away.

Livingston United Parish Church (Carmondean) and The Vennie (Knightsridge) also received funding through the Summer of Play to deliver holiday activity programmes.

Scottish Government has indicated that there will be funding in place for a Summer 2022 offer for children and families in low income households which provides

coordinated access to food, childcare and activities during the holidays. It is anticipated that this funding will support delivery locally and that an application process will be implemented to widen opportunities for community groups and third sector organisations to provide activities.

Partnership with The Vennie

Following discussions with The Vennie, the renewal of the partnership agreement for 2021-22 jointly funded by both partners was finalised in order to provide Outreach and Youth Empowerment Work in Livingston North.

Carmondean Arts Project

CLD Youth Services has supported the delivery of an arts project in Carmondean, planned by young people throughout the year with a UFO theme. The idea came from the famous UFO sighting in the Dechmont Hill area of Livingston. The young people involved worked with an Arts Tutor to design and produce artwork on four underpasses and bus shelters near Deans Community High School. There will be an event on 29 November in recognition of the young people's achievements.

Me Time

Me Time is a Community Based Mental Health Support Project for young people in S1+ that works towards achieving the following outcomes:

- Young people will learn more about themselves and how to recognise their triggers.
- Young people will develop coping strategies for dealing with triggers and positive self-care activities they can use.
- Young people develop a positive peer support network.
- Young people will be aware of other opportunities they can access to continue their development and self-care.

A Me Time group was delivered from the Carmondean Community Centre. Young people took part in various activities based around the themes of the Me-Time Toolkit. This group also participated in a mental health-based tattoo design activity facilitated by an Artist. The young people provided very good feedback on the project and were able to clearly articulate through baseline and qualitative evidence that this project has had a very positive impact on them.

Statements from young people:

"They were very welcoming and nice to me and have helped me think about what I can do after school because I was so unhappy at school."

"I found it fun and I enjoyed doing the Activities. I think I have got a bit better with my self-confidence and talking."

All of the young people who took part have moved or have imminent plans to move onto further youth engagement.

E. CONCLUSION

The Local Area Committee is asked to note the progress made by CLD Youth Services and partners in resuming community-based youth work provision in the Ward.

F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

None.

Appendices/Attachments: None.

Contact Person: Beverley Akinlami, CLD Youth Services Manager

Email: Beverley.akinlami@westlothian.gov.uk

James Cameron Head of Education (Learning, Policy and Resources)

Date of meeting: 19 November 2021

DATA LABEL: PUBLIC



LIVINGSTON NORTH 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	<p>We are better educated and have access to increased and better quality learning and employment opportunities.</p> <p>We live longer, healthier lives and have reduced health inequalities.</p> <p>We have tackled significant inequalities in West Lothian society.</p>

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 North area and further information on the Anti-Poverty Service.

The Advice Shop has helped 1,687 customers to manage their money and to resolve benefit problems within the Livingston North ward. This is a 7% increase from the previous year and resulted in 7,189 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 understanding 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 North 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.

Contact Person: Elaine Nisbet, Anti-Poverty and Welfare Advice Manager

Tel: 01506 282921 Email: Elaine.Nisbet@westlothian.gov.uk

Donald Forrest

Head of Finance and Property Services

Date of meeting: 19th November 2021

DATA LABEL: PUBLIC



LIVINGSTON NORTH LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE

LIVINGSTON NORTH BALLCOURTS, MULTI USE GAMES AREAS (MUGAs) AND KICK PITCHES REPORT

REPORT BY HEAD OF OPERATIONAL SERVICES

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of the report is to provide information to committee members of the availability of Ballcourts, Multi Use Games Areas (MUGAs) and Kick pitches within the ward.

B. RECOMMENDATION

It is suggested that the committee notes the 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)	The Council is required to demonstrate Best Value through a structured framework for the management of its assets.
III Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers	Not applicable
IV Impact on performance and performance Indicators	Nil
V Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement	Outcome 12 – We value and enjoy our built and natural environment and protect it and enhance it for future generations. Outcome 14 – We reduce the local and global environmental impact of our consumption and production. Outcome 15 – Our public services are high quality, continually improving and efficient.
VI Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)	None
VII Consideration at PDSP	NA

VIII Other consultations None

D. TERMS OF REPORT

D1 Background

A request was made at a previous Local Area Committee meeting to provide members with an update on the Ballcourts, Multi Use Games Areas (MUGAs) and Kick pitches within the ward.

D2 Asset Table and Update

The table at Appendix 1 provides a list of all of the requested facilities within the ward. The table also includes the purpose of the facility, the last and next review date for the facility, and the recommendations of the latest review, where available.

The facilities are freely available and open to the public, therefore there are no usage figures for them. The facilities are however, in line with all play assets, subjected to a routine inspection every 10 working days.

The construction of these facilities is such that they would generally provide a lifespan of circa 25 years before any significant intervention is required, however running repairs are a feature of these facilities and are carried out when a safety related issue is identified during inspection. Following a review period investment is allocated from the Open Space Capital to refurbish the facility and keep it in a "fit for purpose" condition. The level of this investment would be dependant upon the condition at the time of the review inspection coupled with the additional inspection information held on the facility.

D3 Recent and Planned Activity

In 2018/19 Aller Place Basketball Court and Striker Goals were repaired. In 2023 these assets will be reviewed for potential repair or replacement.

In 2020 Sutherland Way Ball Court boundary fence was repaired. In 2022 the surface will be reviewed for potential repairs and vegetation will be cleared from the perimeter.

In 2020 Mosswood MUGA surface and drainage was repaired and goals were repaired. In 2021, surface was repaired. In 2023 the surface will be reviewed for potential replacement.

In 2020 Forestbank Ball Court surface and boundary fence were repaired.

In 2022 the timber boundary at Livingston Village Ball Court will be removed and replaced with steel fencing. Vegetation and landscape will be cleared from the perimeter to facilitate works.

In 2022 Raeburn Rigg 143 Kick Pitch will be reviewed for repair. It is anticipated that any repairs will be minor, as this ball court is in close proximity to housing and any upgrade would increase noise and ball disturbance.

E. CONCLUSION

The Ward has a range of MUGAs, ballcourts and kick pitches providing opportunities for play. The assets are subject to regular inspection and are refurbished in line with the recommendations of the inspection programme, lifecycle and resource availability.

F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

Nil

Appendices/Attachments:

Appendix 1 – Ward Asset List

Contact Person: Andy Johnston, NETs, Land and Countryside Manager

Email: andy.johnston@westlothian.gov.uk Tel: 01506 284623

Jim Jack, Head of Operational Services

Date: 19 November 2021

Appendix 1
LAC Report dated 19 November 2021

Livingston North – Ward Asset List
Ballcourts – Multi Use Games Areas (MUGA) and Kick Pitches

Locality	Location	Postcode	Size / Purpose	Primary Ownership	Last Review	Next Review Year	Last Review Recommendation
Livingston Village	Livingston Village Ball Court	EH54 7AJ	Ball Court	NLC	2017	2022	Partial Refurb
Deans	Deans MUGA	EH54 8BE	MUGA	NLC	NA	2030	
Deans	St John Ogilvie PS MUGA	EH54 8NQ	MUGA	Education	2017	2037	
Deans	Lenzie Avenue Ball Court	EH54 8NR	Ball Court	NLC	NA	2025	
Deans	Raeburn Rigg 143 Kick Pitch	EH54 8PJ	Kick Pitch	NLC	NA	2022	
Knightsridge	Sutherland Way Ball Court	EH54 8HR	Ball Court	NLC	2017	2022	Extend Life 5 yrs
Knightsridge	Mosswood MUGA	EH54 8JF	MUGA	NLC	2017	2023	Extend Life 5 yrs
Knightsridge	Ogilvie School Campus MUGA	EH54 8UL	MUGA	Education	2017	2037	
Eliburn	Eliburn Park Striker Goals	EH54 6FL	Kick Pitch	NLC	2021	2041	No works
Eliburn	Peel PS MUGA	EH54 6RH	MUGA	Education	2017	2037	
Eliburn	Aller Place Basketball Court	EH54 6RG	Ball Court	NLC	2018	2023	Extend Life 5 yrs
Eliburn	Aller Place Striker Goals	EH54 6RG	Kick Pitch	NLC	2018	2023	Extend Life 5 yrs
Ladywell	Heatherbank MUGA	EH54 6UD	MUGA	NLC	NA	2030	
Ladywell	Larchbank Ball Court	EH54 6EB	Ball Court	NLC	NA	2024	
Ladywell	Forestbank Ball Court	EH54 6DX	Ball Court	NLC	2020	2025	Extend Life 5 yrs
Ladywell	Harrismuir PS MUGA	EH54 6HN	MUGA	Education	2017	2037	
Ladywell	Stonebank MUGA	EH54 6HG	MUGA	NLC	2008	2038	
Howden	Calgary Avenue Goals and Basketball	EH54 6BL	Kick Pitch	Housing	2010	2024	

DATA LABEL: PUBLIC



LIVINGSTON NORTH LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE

SERVICE UPDATE – OPERATIONAL SERVICES

REPORT BY HEAD OF OPERATIONAL SERVICES

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To appraise members of the Operational Services activities for Livingston North from 1 July 2021 – 30 September 2021.

B. RECOMMENDATION

The Local Area Committee is asked to:

1. Note the work carried out by the service within the local area.
2. Advise 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 NETs, Land and Countryside Services

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.

D2.1 Grounds Maintenance Enquiries

In total 105 ground maintenance related enquiries were received and dealt with during this reporting period for 2021.

	2021	2020
Ball Game Enquiries	0	2
Complaint Grounds Maintenance	2	9
Drainage Flooding Grass Areas	1	0
Emergency Tree Out of Hours	1	0
Enforcement Officer Enquiries	0	1
Fencing Enquiries	0	1
Grass Area Damaged	1	2
Grass Cutting Enquiries	21	22
Grass Cutting Missed Not Cut	6	6
Grass Highway Verges	2	1
Grass Left On Paths or Roads	0	1
Ground Ownership Enquiries	2	6
Grounds Property Vandalised	2	3
Hedge Cutting Enquiries	5	9
Public Park Enquiries	0	2
Shrub Bed Enquiries	6	6
Shrub Bed Overhanging Path	36	29
Shrub Beds Not Maintained	4	8
Shrub/ Vegetation Sight Lines	1	1
Weeds General Enquiries	6	2
Weeds on Paths or Roads	9	1
Total	105	112

D2.2 Garden Maintenance Routine Works

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

D2.3 Garden Maintenance Enquiries

There were 27 garden maintenance enquiries received during this period for 2021.

	2021	2020
Complaint Garden Maintenance	0	5
Garden Maintenance General Enquiries	13	15
Garden Maintenance Grass Not Cut	12	20
Garden Maintenance Hedge Cutting	1	0
Garden Maintenance No Longer Required	0	2
Garden Maintenance Standard of Cut	1	1
Total	27	43

D2.4 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.

Cleaner Communities Enquiries

In total 147 cleaner communities enquiries were received and dealt with during this period in 2021.

	2021	2020
Complaint Street Cleansing	0	1
Dead Animals	8	5
Dog Bin New Request for Bin	5	0
Dog Bin Overflowing	2	0
Dog Fouled Grass Open Space	1	0
Dog Fouling on Paths Roads	6	6
Fly Tipping/Dumping	68	66
Glass on Paths or Open Spaces	0	2
Graffiti Racist or Offensive	4	0
Litter Bin New Request for Bin	1	1
Litter Bin Overflowing	1	0
Litter General Enquiries	7	4
Litter Grass Open Space	1	0
Litter Paths Roads Verges	13	13
Needles Syringes Abandoned	1	0
Street Sweeping Enquiries	8	10

Trolleys Abandoned/ Dumped	9	1
Trolleys Dumped in Livingston	1	1
Vehicle Abandoned	11	21
Total	147	131

Fly Tipping Enquiries (Full Year)

	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Illegal Fly Tipping/Dumping	253	205	223	169	139

D2.5 Environmental Community Involvement

Officers continue to deal with enquiries relating to fly tipping, littering, dog fouling, abandoned vehicles and general enquiries. For the period of the report, there has been 68 enquiries in relation to fly tipping compared to 66 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 a significant increase in the purchase of litter picking equipment by West Lothian Council as volunteer groups are expanding.

There has been one Fixed Penalty Notice issued in Ward 3 for the period of 1 July 2021 – 30 September 2021. For the same period in 2020, there were two Fixed Penalty Notices issued in the Ward.

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: 2021

1 July 2021 – 30 September 2021	59.8 tonnes
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 enquiries received between 1 July 2021 – 30 September 2021 for the Ward was 68 out of 525 enquiries for the whole of West Lothian equating to 12.95% of fly tipping enquiries relating to Ward 3.

Percentage wise this would equate to an approximate cost for the Ward of £5,103.13 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).

Fly tipping costs: 2020

1 July 2020 – 30 September 2020	83.88 tonne
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 enquiries received between 1 July 2020 – 30 September 2020 for the Ward was 66 out of 613 enquiries for the whole of West Lothian equating to 10.77% of fly tipping enquiries relating to Ward 3.

Percentage wise this would equate to an approximate cost for the ward of £5,953.05 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).

D2.6 Parks and Woodland Enquiries

In total 74 Parks and Woodland related enquiries were received during this reporting period.

	2021	2020
Tree Advice or Consultations	4	3
Tree Blocking Light	0	1
Tree Branches Overhanging	27	24
Tree Broken Damaged or Dead	2	6
Tree Dangerous or Unsafe	5	3
Tree Enquiries General	34	32
Tree Leaves Causing Problems	1	2
Tree Roots Causing Problems	1	1
Total	74	72

	2021	2020
Access Rights Way Core Paths	0	1
Country Park General Enquiries	2	0
Ranger Service Beecraigs	0	2
Ranger Service Education	1	0
Ranger Service General Enquiry	1	0
Total	4	3

No. Rights Of Way / Core Path / Patrols carried out (hours)	9.5
No. Access Enquiries	2

Ranger Service

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 engaging the public on a range of access related issues, SOAC (Scottish Outdoor Access Code) and responsible dog walking behaviour, including one event at Dechmont Law. They have also been running activity sessions for schools across West Lothian, including two classes planned for Peel Primary.

The Ranger Service devoted a lot of time in August to help facilitate Lothian Running Club's event on Dechmont Law on 27th August.

Officers patrolled the Nell Burn path – assessing signage location and condition to feed into a new signage plan for this route being progressed in partnership with Active Travel (Roads). During this patrol a broken fence on Dechmont Law was highlighted to the Rangers by a member of the public, which has subsequently been passed on to the maintenance team for action.

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. We have put the new tick awareness posters 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. We have also spoken to Media about supporting the collaboration when we have something to share.

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

The Ranger Service attended the Forth & Borders Ranger meet up (virtual) to discuss Rangering during Covid and our recovery plans. There was also a discussion on 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 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

The Ranger Service have received mixed feedback from users of the Shale Trail. People do seem to be enjoying the experience, but the service were contacted by a member of the public who said it was very difficult to follow between Almond Pools and Livingston Village. There has also been reports of missing signage elsewhere on the trail. Parks & Woodland are in the process of taking on long term maintenance of this aspect of the trail, and have just received a stock of extra waymarkers from Edinburgh & Lothian Greenspace Trust. Officers plan to walk and fully audit the trail in October to see what's missing and what could be improved, and then liaise with ELGT (Edinburgh & Lothian Greenspace Trust) to get replacements installed thereafter.

The Ranger Service had two enquiries relating to Dechmont Law. One from a member of the public asking if they could ride their dirt bike on the site. Officers replied to thank them for getting in touch, and explained that it is not allowed at Dechmont Law, and access legislation in Scotland doesn't permit it either (without landowner permission). The other enquiry concerned a large bump on the path to Deer Park, which we inspected and removed.

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.

D2.7 Open Space Capital Programme

Livingston Village Park - the entrance path into the park from the main street has been resurfaced, vegetation cut back and drainage installed. All work is complete.

Livingston North Blue Green Network (LNBGN) - Green Action Trust is preparing tenders for works.

Conclusion

The Capital Programme is progressing as planned.

Open Space Enquiries

There were four open space enquiries received during this period in 2021.

	2021	2020
Childrens Play Enquiries	3	8
Complaint Childrens Play Areas	0	1
Glass or Litter In Play Areas	1	1
Safety Issues in Play Areas	0	2
Total	4	12

D3 Roads and Transportation Service

Street Lighting Routine Works

There are no Capital Street Lighting works scheduled for the Livingston North Area for the remainder of this financial year.

During the period we received and dealt with 71 customer enquiries from residents. Throughout the same period last year, we received 90 enquiries from residents.

Roads Maintenance and Operations - Capital Road Maintenance Programme

During the period, the following works were carried out within the ward.

The footpath providing pedestrian access from Aller Place to Peel Primary School is now complete, with the exception of the pedestrian guard-rail. This still has to be installed but the contractor is still awaiting delivery of the railing. This project was funded from the Town Centre Fund 2020/21.

No other works have been carried out.

D4 Waste Services

Customer Enquiries

During the period we received and dealt with 980 customer enquiries from residents in Livingston North. During the same period last year, we received and dealt with 888 customer enquiries.

342 customer enquiries were received and dealt with relating to missed bin collections in the local area. During the same period last year, we received and dealt with 185 customer enquiries.

215 customer enquiries were received and dealt with relating to requests for new grey, blue or brown bins from local residents. During the same period last year, we received and dealt with 222 customer enquiries relating to new bin requests.

E. CONCLUSION

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

There has been an increase in Waste customer enquiries and the number of missed bins and bin requests from local residents compared to the same period last year.

F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

Open Space Strategy

Capital Programme

Appendices/Attachments: none

Contact Persons:

David Cullen, Open Space & Cemeteries Manager,
Whitehill Service Centre, 01506 284610, David.Cullen@westlothian.gov.uk

Graeme Malcolm, Roads & Transportation Service Manager,
Whitehill Service Centre, 01506 282351, Graeme.Malcolm@westlothian.gov.uk

David Robertson, Interim Waste Services Manager, Whitehill Service Centre, (TBC)
David.Robertson2@westlothian.gov.uk

Jim Jack
Head of Operational Services
19 November 2021

DATA LABEL: PUBLIC



LIVINGSTON NORTH 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 North 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 – 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 North ward.

Housing staff have been working from home as a result of the Covid19 measures, however we have deployed a small number of officers who have been working alongside our central void team in order to ensure that our properties were being re let and ensuring that we were meeting our duty under homeless legislation in providing temporary accommodation.

Property Void & Let Performance: Mainstream Tenancies

Void Period	July 2021	%	Aug 2021	%	Sept 2021	%	WL Target %
0-2 weeks	1	25%	2	25%	2	33.3%	55%
2-4 weeks	1	25%	0	0%	1	16.7%	30%
4+ weeks	2	50%	6	75%	3	50%	15%
Total Lets	4	100%	8	100%	6	100%	100%

Property Void & Let Performance: Temporary Tenancies

Void Period	July 2021	%	Aug 2021	%	Sept 2021	%	WL Target %
0-2 weeks	1	50%	0	0%	3	75%	55%
2-4 weeks	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	30%
4+ weeks	1	50%	1	100%	1	20%	15%
Total Lets	2	100%	1	100%	4	100%	100%

Delays in re-letting can occur for a variety of reasons - the type or location of the property, the completion of void work or the identification of additional works not visible during the initial inspection. Ensuring that vulnerable persons are appropriately supported through the viewing and sign up process can also add to timeframes. Some of our applicants have specific support

requirements which require detailed planning and co-ordination by both social work and housing services prior to tenancy commencement.

D2. Livingston North - Financial Summary

For the Livingston North ward the collection rate for the YTD in Q2 remains excellent at 96.3%. Livingston North has collected £3,418,520 vs a charge of £3,548,797.

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 North ward had 276 Universal Credit (UC) households in arrears. Since then the number of UC households in arrears has increased by 8.0%.

The number of tenancies in arrears in this ward has increased by 29 since last year. Small debt cases (£300 or less), account for 52.8% of households.

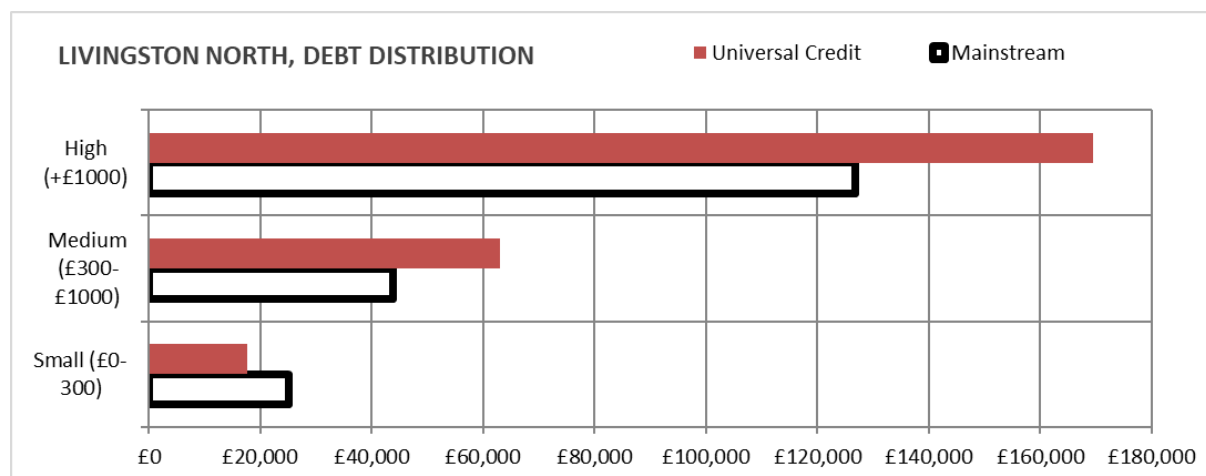
There are 122 serious arrears cases (+£1000 in arrears). These cases are 18.3% of all households in arrears in this area, containing 66.5% of the debt.

The arrears position for Livingston North Q2 is £446,182. This is an increase of £17,117 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

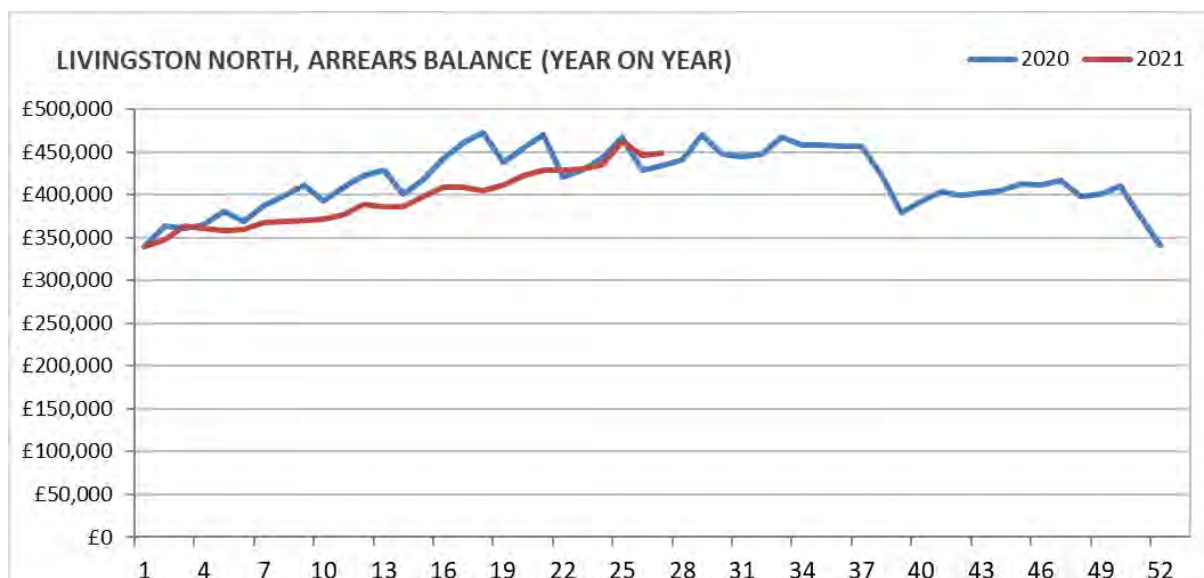


Arrears Banding	2020/21 (WK26)				2021/22 (WK26)			
	Mainstream		UC		Mainstream		UC	
	Balance	Cases	Balance	Cases	Balance	Cases	Balance	Cases
£0.01 to £99.99	£4,570	119	£1,726	33	£4,696	119	£2,181	37
£100.00 to £299.99	£21,612	116	£10,882	57	£20,407	116	£15,503	79
£300.00 to £499.99	£12,287	32	£15,804	41	£17,436	45	£16,965	44
£500.00 to £749.99	£13,969	23	£13,980	23	£14,932	25	£27,250	43
£750.00 to £999.99	£15,516	18	£21,887	26	£11,436	13	£18,887	22
£1000.00 to £1999.99	£40,611	29	£95,252	69	£44,822	30	£61,503	44
£2000+	£70,312	23	£90,658	27	£82,068	19	£108,096	29
Group Total	£178,876	360	£250,188	276	£195,797	367	£250,385	298
Movement					(+) £16,920	(+) 7	(+) £197	(+) 22

Overall Total
Overall Movement

£429,065 **636**

£446,182 **665**
(+) £17,117 (+) 29



D3 Livingston North Area Team Activity

Officers in the team have over the period in Q2 been working from home as a result of lockdown measures. Officers initially were contacting as many tenants as possible to offer 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 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 plans and, where appropriate, assist with applications for Discretionary Housing Payments. Officers have also been doing targeted 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 to progress requests for mutual exchanges and other essential housing management tasks. This 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 adviser 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

D4. Capital Programme and New Build Council Housing

WLC completions 84

WLC New Build Activity	Site	No of units	Site Start	No. of Houses Handed Over	Site Completion
WLC	Deans South Phase 2	29	Apr -21	0	May-22
WLC	Houston Road, Eliburn	20	Oct-20	20	Sep-21

Deans South New Build Phase 2 Update

West Lothian Council's Deans South Phase 2 new build housing project continues to make good progress on site, with groundworks nearing completion and the first houses being erected. Springfield Properties have also commenced initial drainage infrastructure works on adjoining land to facilitate the redevelopment of the core area of Deans South.

Phase 2, which commenced on site in May 2021, will provide 29 new council homes for rent. The first of these new homes are due to be completed by April 2022, with overall completion of this phase, estimated to be end of June 2022.

D5. Tenant Participation

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 Council Officer 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

Cases and Incidents	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Incidents Reported to SNT	78	39	55	56	73	51						
Number of new cases	2	0	2	1	2	0						
Number of Active Cases	7	8	8	6	7	6						
Number of resolved cases	2	0	0	4	1	1						

Incident Types	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
ASB Part 2 Complaint	39	25	30	37	40	24						
ASB Part 5 Noise Complaint	15	8	10	7	11	7						
Dog Barking	0	0	0	1	1	0						
ENV Health Complaint	3	1	0	0	0	2						
Non ASB Noise Complaint	20	3	10	6	4	10						
SST Section 3 Tenancy Management	1	2	5	5	15	7						
Youth Disorder	0	0	0	0	1	0						
Unauthorised Encampment	0	0	0	0	1	1						
Grand Total	78	39	55	56	73	51						

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

ASBO	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Number of ASBO's current – Liv North	0	0		
All of West Lothian	12	12		

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

West Lothian	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
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

Contact Person: Sandy Ross, Housing Manager, Housing, Customer and Building Services

Email; Sandy.ross@[westlothian.gov.uk](mailto:Sandy.ross@westlothian.gov.uk)

Tel: 01506 283973

Date: 19th November 2021

DATA LABEL: PUBLIC



LIVINGSTON NORTH 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 North 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. Three groups in Livingston North 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 £1,878,80 allocated to groups in Livingston North 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 5 organisations and 432 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 North 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.

Five groups in total were contacted in Livingston North Ward. When contacted, two groups declined to apply to the fund including Pentland View Court Social Club and Society of St Vincent De Paul (St Peters, Livingston Conference) the former group advising they had disbanded. 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 North Ward

- Five groups in Livingston North Ward were contacted and three applied to the fund
- Two groups declined funding including one group that noted they had disbanded
- Two Livingston North groups that applied to the fund requested a grant payment
- One Livingston North group 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 North 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 were 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 North Ward, Livingston Wide and West Lothian Wide.

Letters and e-mails were 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

Contact Person: Graham Whitelaw, Information Officer, Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration

Tel: 01506 281101

E-mail: graham.whitelaw@westlothian.gov.uk

Craig McCorriston
Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration

19 November 2021

LIVINGSTON NORTH 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 North Ward, Livingston-wide groups and West Lothian-wide groups.

Livingston North Ward Organisations

Group	Provision	Number of Beneficiaries	Amount Awarded
Deans Bowling Club	Finance Option	90	£603.90
Livingston Village Community Council	Finance Option	60	£402.60
Mosswood Community Education Association	Meal Option	130	£872.30
Totals		280	£1,878.80

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: Five groups in Livingston North Ward were contacted and invited to apply to the fund. Three groups applied to the fund. Two groups declined funding including one that advised they have disbanded. 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 NORTH LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE

COMMUNITY REGENERATION AND TOWN CENTRE FUND UPDATE

REPORT BY HEAD OF PLANNING, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & REGENERATION

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to update the Local Area Committee on Economic Development and Regeneration activity to support communities across the ward.

B. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Local Area Committee notes:

1. an update on the Vennie activity;
2. updates on the Carmondean Underpasses and Bus Shelters projects, the improvement Safety project in Eliburn and Livingston Station Public Realm Improvements;
3. updates on the Business Gateway and access2employment services;
4. updates on activity at Livingston North Partnership Centre; and
5. raising awareness and community engagement activity regarding the bid for city status for Livingston.

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)	To be assessed on an individual project basis but it is not anticipated that any proposals will require to be the subject of specific assessments.
III	Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers	The report sets out specific delegations to the Head of Planning, Economic Development & Regeneration.
IV	Impact on performance and performance Indicators	None.
V	Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement	Outcome 1 – We make West Lothian an attractive place to do business.

Outcome 10 – We live in well-designed, sustainable places where we are able to access the services we need.

Outcome 12 – We value and enjoy our built environment and protect it and enhance it for future generations.

VI	Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)	Across West Lothian, a total of £1.826 million was available through this Town Centre Fund for 2019/20 and a further £658,000 has been available for 2020/21.
VII	Consideration at PDSP	Not applicable.
VIII	Other consultations	Capital Asset Management Board

D. TERMS OF REPORT

D1 Background

The report updates the committee on the work of the Community Planning and Regeneration Team and its partners to support communities in Livingston North with a particular focus on Knightsridge, one 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. The first version of the plan was presented to members in November 2018 following extensive community consultation and development and development by the Knightsridge Regeneration Group.

The report also updates on other activities that the Community Planning & Regeneration team is undertaking to support groups and communities within the ward. Much of the focus of the team over recent months has been regarding the implementation of the Town Centre Fund.

D2 Vennie Update

D2.1 Food Outlet: this is open on Tuesday's from noon and Thursday's from 2pm. It has a steady flow of regulars attending each week and continues to attract new people weekly too. The Vennie continues to be supported by their suppliers and volunteers to ensure a continuity of quality and quantity of service and product.

D2.2. Community Garden: a member of the Vennie staff has responsibilities for looking after the garden. During the light nights, the Vennie had a youth group running on Wednesday evenings in the garden called the 'Life Skills Club'. This has now been moved to the Vennie because of the dark nights and weather conditions.

All the beds and greenhouses have been harvested, tidied up and prepared for the winter. They have planted three fruit trees for the next growing season. The community side of the garden is open and available for use, including the adaptable play equipment.

- D2.3 Bicycle Lending Library: There were 87 hires of bicycles and two cycle led-rides in the last two months. These were undertaken locally and further afield for more accomplished cyclists. There were also numerous sessions on bicycle maintenance by the Vennie's technician. Four young volunteers updated their skills on bike maintenance.
- D2.4 Youth Forum: this continues to meet on Tuesday evenings. Attendance varies from 6-18 people per week. The age range of attendees is from 11-18. They ran a six-week mental health workshop to create a platform for the young people to discuss issues that may have arisen for them. This also included topics of financial health, oral health & first aid. They had guests each week to discuss these issues in depth. During the forum's meetings, some of the main topics that the young people raise have included discussions around Cop26, fears around fireworks/ bonfires/ pyrotechnics, poverty and deprivation and the unproportionate suffering of people who live in lower socioeconomic households, through the pandemic. The community Police Officers attended a forum meeting to introduce themselves and to discuss young people's concerns.
- D2.5 Core youth clubs: the youth clubs run on Tuesdays between 4-7pm, Wednesdays between 5-7pm life skills Club, Thursdays between 5-8pm Girls Group and Fridays between 1-5pm mixed club.

D3 Carmondean Underpass and Bus Shelter Art project – Carmondean Community Council

The artwork has been installed across the four underpasses and six bus shelters. A launch event has been organised for Saturday 20 November which will include a guide tour of the area and artwork.

The project has been commissioned and led by Carmondean Community Council with support from Community Arts and Economic Development and Regeneration.

D4 Improving Safety project – Eliburn Community Council

As of mid-October, the tactile pads had been installed and the lining and signs had been also been put in place. The contractor is awaiting the delivery of the visirail fencing. This is the only outstanding item of work and the installation contractor has programmed these works for 18 and 19 November.

D5 Livingston Station Public Realm Improvements

The public realm works begun in late September and the various elements are continuing to be implemented. This includes:

- bollard painting works which have been completed
- new metal fence has been erected next to the shops
- the wall beside Scotmid has been repaired
- removal of broken brick planter area within the car park
- repairs to the wall entrance of car park.

The main outstanding works to date relate to surfacing part of the car park area outside the Bowling Club. This had been partly delayed due to a container being placed within the area which has now been relocated to the car park area to the north of the masonic hall facility.

D6 Community Council Elections

Following the recent elections in September, the Community Planning and Regeneration Team has been supporting Committee Services undertake the facilitation of the inaugural meetings for the community councils across West Lothian.

Within the Livingston North ward, there are community councils in place for all four areas with the former Carmondean and Deans community council areas being merged which has created Carmondean and Deans Community Council. The other three community councils with coverage within the ward are Elburn, Knightsridge and Livingston Village.

D7 Business Gateway Update

The Business Gateway team is part of the Economic Development & Regeneration service. 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, we have developed a commercially-focused website, <https://www.investinwestlothian.com/why-west-lothian/>. The site highlights the range of support for our local firms. It also sells West Lothian as an inward/mobile investment destination. Initial feedback from stakeholders has been positive. Work will be on-going to ensure the site remains credible, relevant and compelling.

Economic challenge has always been considered as a driver of new start businesses. In the half-year to September 2021, 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. And 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 the six months to the end of September 2021, the Business Gateway team helped 146 new businesses to start trading. Of this half-yearly total, we helped 22 new start-ups in the Livingston North ward. Over the same timescale, the team engaged with 412 established firms. This included 42 social enterprises, 19 of whom operate across West Lothian. There were 68 commercial firms supported including 2 social enterprises who are located in the Livingston North ward.

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. LAC is asked to note the team's ongoing contribution to a sustained and inclusive economic recovery.

D8 Access2employment Update

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

In 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:

- Number of new registrations to the service - **392**
- Number of new and existing customers supported – **1,136**
- Number of clients supported into employment education or training - **194**
- Number of workshops delivered – **60**
- Number of short-term N2W courses delivers – **4**

The service was also success in securing 200 Chromebooks and internet connections to give to unemployment clients seeking work that currently did not

have any digital connectivity.

In the Livingston North Ward 54 new residents registered with the service, with 34 being supported into employment, education or training.

D9 Livingston North Partnership Centre Update

D9.1 Carmondean Library

The Customer Information Service (CIS) now up and running, staff are providing a helpful supporting service for the Community and many of the Ability Centre clients are also using this service to assist them in obtaining Blue Badges and bus passes.

Many activities have also restarted within the library with craft sessions fortnightly, Lego sessions monthly, reading groups re-starting soon, Storytime's & Bookbug Sessions for the Children. These sessions are becoming increasingly popular with 20 Adults and Children attending fortnightly.

Networking with nurseries and primary schools is also being carried out. Staff continue to visit schools where necessary but some schools and nurseries are not visiting the library or allowing staff to visit due to the current situation with Covid-19. Book Week Scotland runs from 15 November and we have many Scottish themed activities running throughout the week for both adults and juniors. Events being held for Book Week Scotland include a Match the Author quiz, a Scottish-words for adults to translate exercise, a picture quiz, A St. Andrew's Flag treasure hunt for children, Scottish craft session and a Scottish Bookbug Session too.

New self-service machines have been purchased for all libraries and this makes it easier for customers to check in and out books, it is also compatible with the new Cloud Library app. The new library furniture is very welcoming for customers and many lovely comments have been received. There has been an increase in customers over the past few weeks and it is hoped that this will continue.

D9.2 Ability Centre Support Services

The service moved back in to the building in May 2021. The service is a West Lothian Council Day Care Support Service for adults who have a physical disability aged between 16 – 65 years old. The service provides a range of occupational, social, therapeutic and educational opportunities for service users to participate in including – art, cooking, woodwork, computing, crafts, Art Therapy, games, quizzes, discussion groups and many more. Service users also have the opportunity to take in part in planned outings to various places of interest of their choice.

Service users are empowered to be as independent and included in their community as possible. Alongside the centre-based service, we provide community-based Outreach Groups in various community centres in West Lothian. Service users are also supported by the staff team to access other community-based opportunities such as community groups, volunteer work, college courses and employment.

Feedback from service users regarding being based in Livingston North Partnership Centre has been very positive and people are happy with the new updated facilities within the building. There has also been positive feedback regarding the good partnership working with other services located in the building. There has been a number of service users who have signed up to the library and enjoy using this facility when they attend. Service users have also been utilising the Customer Information Service (CIS) for applying and renewing of bus passes and blue

badges.

D9.3 Supported Employment Service

The staff from this team are still currently working from home but do have an allocated office base on the 1st floor at Livingston North Partnership Centre. The service is part of Social Policy with West Lothian Council and provide a supported employment to West Lothian residents who have a disability or additional support needs. The service offers one-to-one and group work opportunities to individuals to support them to build skills and confidence to help them gain and sustain employment. The service is mainly offering online services at present. Further updates will be provided on their activities once they are based back in the building.

D10 Livingston City Status Bid

As members will be aware, on 7 September 2021, Council Executive agreed that the council would enter the competition to obtain city status, as part of the Platinum Jubilee Civic Honours for Queen Elizabeth II.

The bid was launched on 27 October. This included the council sharing information on its social media channels and the wider media. A number of groups, services and organisations were contacted also, and encouraged to provide written support to the council which it could refer to in the bid. These groups included:

- Businesses within Livingston
- Local primary, secondary and special schools
- Community Councils
- Community Centre management committees
- Voluntary organisations and charities based within and serving the town
- Other community organisations, in particular, those who provide services within the town and its neighbourhoods
- Local members, MPs and MSPs.
- Community Planning Partners

The bid is being made in the approach to the 60th anniversary of Livingston as a new town, therefore there has been close working between officers involved in both these projects to ensure they are complimentary.

Officers have been undertaking engagement work on both the Livingston's 60th project and the city status bid with residents in the Wee Museum of Memories. This is based in a unit within Livingston Centre, managed and staffed by the Living Memory Association.

The bid application will be submitted in December, as per arrangements agreed by Council Executive, and the outcome of this will be announced in early 2022.

E. CONCLUSION

Members are asked to note the above activities taking place across the ward and in particular the support to groups to help deliver the Town Centre Fund projects that have been granted funding within the ward.

F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

None.

Appendices/Attachments: None.

Contact Person: Scott McKillop, Community Regeneration Officer, Email:
scott.mckillop@westlothian.gov.uk, Tel no: 07500 816862

**Craig McCorriston - Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration,
19 November 2021**

DATA LABEL: PUBLIC



LIVINGSTON NORTH LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE – 19 NOVEMBER 2021

Report	Purpose	Lead Officer	Meeting
Economic Development and Regeneration	To update on regeneration activity within the ward	Craig McCorriston	21 Jan 2022
Police Report	Quarterly update on police/NRT activity	Sgt Iain Wells	
Fire and Rescue	To provide an update on Operational Services activity	Gordon McCaig	
School presentation	To inform members of the attainment and activity of schools.	To be confirmed	
Economic Development and Regeneration	To update on regeneration activity within the ward	Craig McCorriston	18 Mar 2022
Housing Report	Quarterly update on Housing Services activity (inclusive of Deans South and Springfield updates)	Marjorie Mackie	
Operational Services Report	To provide a quarterly update report on activity	Jim Jack	
School presentation	To inform members of the attainment and activity of schools.	To be confirmed	