

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

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

In Attendance

Jim Cameron, Lead Officer, West Lothian Council  
Dougie Grierson, Community Regeneration Officer, West Lothian Council  
Sergeant Iain Wells, Police Scotland  
Lynne Gow, Scottish Fire & Rescue Service  
Siobhan McGarty, Head Teacher, St Margaret's Academy  
Gordon Brown, Network Manager, West Lothian Council  
David Cullen, Operational Services, West Lothian Council  
Ross McDonald, Property Services, West Lothian Council  
Sandy Ross, Area Housing Manager, West Lothian Council  
Davidson McQuarrie, Murieston Community Council Representative  
Michael Duncan, Dedridge Community Council Representative  
Mary Benson, Ladywell Community Council Representative  
Alan Dick, Howden Community Council Representative

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

2. ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. The Committee agreed to hear the deputation request received from Mrs Karon Langan; and
2. The Chair ruled in terms of Standing Order 11 that he would promote agenda item 7 to follow immediately on from the deputation as it concerned the same subject matter.

3. DEPUTATION REQUEST BY MS KARON LANGAN RELATING TO HANDRAIL REQUEST ON IVANHOE RISE, DEDRIDGE, LIVINGSTON

Mrs Karon Langan addressed committee in respect of a footpath at Ivanhoe Rise. Dedridge. Mrs Langan explained that part of the path lacked a handrail for about 32m of its length and this was the part of the footpath where the gradient was at its steepest. She continued to explain that in wet slippery conditions the path was difficult to use particularly for those with disabilities and that it was a much used access route to local shops and facilities.

The committee proceeded to ask Mrs Langan questions on the matter.

The Chair thanked Mrs Langan for her presentation.

Report by Head of Operational Services

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Operational Services providing committee with information in relation to the concerns that had been raised regarding the lack of handrail provision at a footpath at Ivanhoe Rise, Dedridge.

Details of the type of handrails that could be installed were summarised in the report along with costings.

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

#### Decision

1. To note the content of the deputation from Mrs Karon Lagan;
2. To note the terms of the report by Head of Operational Services; and
3. To agree to refer the matter to the Environment PDSP for further consideration

#### 4. ST MARGARET'S ACACEMY PRESENTATION

The committee considered a presentation by Headteacher Siobhan McGarty, who proceeded to provide members with a summary of the school attainment and achievements throughout 2021.

The presentation commenced with a series of slides in respect of attainment in 2021 providing comparisons with previous years, noting that this was in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic. School improvement plans were also outlined for the benefit of committee members and included the further development of digital learning and numeracy and literacy recovery; this would involve partnership working with parents, pupils and staff.

The presentation concluded with a summary of achievements by the school and included being the first West Lothian secondary school to receive the Digital Schools Award, a finalist at COP26 "The Solution to Pollution" and the commencement of the Bikeability programme, which would see the provision of bikes to some school pupils with the hope of expanding the programme further to include their families.

Mrs McGarty proceeded to answer questions from committee.

The Chair thanked Mrs McGarty for the very informative presentation.

#### Decision

To note the content of the presentation by Mrs Siobhan McGarty, Headteacher, St Margaret's Academy.

#### 5. 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 3 October 2021.

Sergeant Iain Wells proceeded to provide committee with a summary of the main areas of focus for Police Scotland in respect of the policing priorities; these being :-

- Protecting the Most Vulnerable People
- Reducing Violence and Anti-Social Behaviour
- Reducing Acquisitive Crime
- Improving Road Safety
- Tackling Serious and Organised Crime

Sergeant Wells also provided committee with a flavour of the partnership working that was underway with NHS Lothian and Fire Service colleagues.

In respect of the crime statistics contained in the report members enquired as to the sharp increase in the figures pertaining to “Common Assault – Emergency Workers”. Sergeant Wells explained that this data set included incidents involving covid-related spitting as well as incidents at the custody suite at West Lothian Civic Centre. It was to be noted that there had been no incidents against fire personnel in the ward around the bonfire night period.

On a final note members enquired as to whether the crime statistics could include a separate entry for domestic abuse/violence. Sergeant Wells undertook to see if this was possible.

### Decision

1. To note the terms of the report; and
2. To ask if in future Police Ward reports data pertaining to domestic abuse/violence could be detailed separately as part of the crime type reporting.

## 6. MINUTE

The committee confirmed the Minute of its meeting held on 2 September 2021.

## 7. FIRE SERVICE REPORT

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

The report contained a series of graphs highlighting some of the key performance indicators that were being measured across the ward and the whole of West Lothian by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.

In respect of the new legislation that would be coming into force across Scotland from February 2022 and which related to interlinked smoke alarms in domestic properties committee asked if it would be possible to obtain information pertaining to the number of linked alarms that had been fitted by the SFRS to those who met the “high risk” criteria for all properties across West Lothian.

The Fire Officer undertook to see if this information was available.

#### Decision

1. To note the terms of the report; and
2. To request, if possible, for ward members to be provided with the number of interlinked smoke alarms that had been installed by SFRS for those deemed in the “high risk” category.

### 8. HOUSING, CUSTOMER AND BUILDING SERVICES

The Committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Housing, Customer and Building Services providing an overview of the service activities within the Livingston South ward

The Committee was asked to note the Housing, Customer and Building Services activity as outlined in the report for the period Quarter 2, 1 July to 30 September 2021.

#### Decision

To note the terms of the report

### 9. SERVICE UPDATE - NETS, LAND & COUNTRYSIDE

The Committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Operational Services advising members of the recent activity of the Nets, Land and Countryside Services teams for the period 1 July to 30 September 2021.

The committee also wished to place on record their thanks for the work done on the Murieston Trail.

It was recommended that committee:-

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

investigation/

Decision

1. To note the terms of the report; and
2. To record a note of thanks for the work carried out on the Murieston Trail.

10. ANTI-POVERTY SERVICE UPDATE

The Committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Finance and Property Services advising of the work undertaken by the Anti-Poverty Service from April 2020 to March 2021.

It was 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.

Decision

1. To note the terms of the report; and
2. To record a note of thank to the whole service for all that they do in the community.

11. REPORT ON PROGRESS OF REGENERATION PLANNING

The Committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration providing an update on locality planning within the ward.

It was recommended that the local area committee note :-

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

Decision

To note the terms of the report

12. PENSIONERS GROUPS CHRISTMAS FUND ALLOCATIONS 2021/22

The Committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration advising of the final allocations that were made from the Pensioners' Groups Christmas Fund 2021-22 to groups in the Livingston South Ward, Livingston-wide groups and West Lothian-wide groups.

It was recommended that the committee notes :-

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

#### Decision

To note the terms of the report

### 13. COVID-19 LOCAL RECOVERY AND RENEWAL FUND

The Committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration inviting members to consider and agree the allocation of the £150,000 budget from the Covid-19 Recovery and Renewal Fund for Livingston South Ward as set out in the report.

It is recommended that Local Area Committee (LAC):

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

#### Decision

1. To agree that the sum of £150,000 be allocated to the following projects, in accordance with the appendix to the report :-
  - Projects LS1 to LS4 be fully funded;
  - Projects LS6 & LS7 be fully funded;
  - Project LS8 be partially funded to the sum of £3,500
  - Projects LS10 and LS14 be fully funded
  - Projects LS23, LS27 and LS29 be fully funded; and
  - Project LS9 to the sum of £20,000 for a single/middle handrail at Ivanhoe Rise, £6,00 for a handrail at Knowepark; and £3,500 for

a staggered handrail at Bankton Park East all of which would be subject to further technical surveys by officers, details of which would be shared with local ward members in due course.

2. To note that all costs were estimates and could change as work commenced.

14. WORKPLAN

A workplan had been circulated for information.

Decision

To note the workplan.