

MINUTE of MEETING of the COMMUNITY SAFETY BOARD held within MS TEAMS VIRTUAL MEETING, on 24 JANUARY 2022.

Present – Councillors Lawrence Fitzpatrick (Chair), Kirsteen Sullivan, Charles Kennedy and Andrew McGuire; Graham Hope (Chief Executive, West Lothian Council), Graeme Struthers (Depute Chief Executive, West Lothian Council), Julie Whitelaw (Head of Housing, Customer and Building Services, West Lothian Council), Alison Smith (Customer Services Manager, West Lothian Council), Yvonne Beresford (West Lothian Council), Steven Michie (Scottish Fire and Rescue Service), Paul Harvey (Scottish Fire and Rescue Service), Alun Williams (Police Scotland), Lisa Blackshaw (NHS Lothian)

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

2. MINUTES

The Board approved the Minute of its meeting held on 5 October 2021 as a correct record. The Minute was thereafter signed by the Chair.

The Board noted the Action Note of the Community Planning Steering Group Meeting held on 19 May 2021.

3. COMMUNITY SAFETY PERFORMANCE REPORT

The Board considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the West Lothian Community Safety Partnership providing them with an update on Quarter 2 performance 2021/2022, for the indicators that supported the Community Safety Plan.

The Board noted the figures detailed within the report with regards to road safety and queried if there were plans in place to address this. Inspector Williams advised work was planned locally for Spring and Summer and activities would also link in with the police national campaign calendar where appropriate.

Discussion led to the figures outlined regarding anti-social behaviour. Officers advised work was undertaken with partners, outlining the processes currently in place and noting that corroboration of events was required to take individual matters forward. Inspector Williams and Group Commander Michie provided information from a Police Scotland and Scottish Fire and Rescue Service perspective, both highlighting the benefit of the partnership working and detailing individual service approaches.

It was recommended that the Board note the updated performance 2021/22.

### Decision

To note the contents of the report.

#### 4. WEST LOTHIAN BONFIRE/FIREWORKS 2021 DEBRIEF

The Board considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the West Lothian Community Safety Partnership providing an overview of the multi-agency debrief following the preventative activities undertaken within the West Lothian area during the Bonfire / Firework Period 2021.

Group Commander Steven Michie introduced himself to the Board having replaced Brian Robertson who had moved on to another role.

The Board were advised that the outcome of the activities and engagement detailed within the report should have been included in the update. Group Commander Michie advised that within the three categories measured there had been 174 deliberate fires for the same period in 2020-21 compared to 134 in 2021-22. This amounted to a 23% reduction and a saving of £80,000 considering each deliberate fire was costed at £2,000.

It was recommended that:

1. SFRS and Community Planning Partners agree on the detail within the report and implement improvements for the 2022 Bonfire Activity period; and
2. the Board consider and make any comment in relation to the report.

### Decision

1. To approve the contents of the report; and
2. To note the update advising of a 23% decrease in deliberate fires compared to 2020-21 resulting in a saving of £80,000.

#### 5. SAFETY OF WOMEN AND GIRLS CONSULTATION

The Board considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the West Lothian Safer Communities Strategic Planning Group providing an update on the feedback received from respondents to the Safety of Women and Girls (2021) consultation and proposed development of an action plan.

It was recommended that the Board:

1. note the key points identified in the consultation responses in relation to incidents of violence against women and girls in public places and spaces;

2. support a wider conversation around the safety of women and girls in our public places and spaces;
3. support the development of a safety plan for women and girls in public places and spaces; and
4. agree that an outline of a safety plan would be developed by the Board and an update reported to the Community Planning Partnership Board meeting on 21 February 2022.

#### Decision

1. To approve the contents of the report; and
2. To note the additional recommendation that the Board consider the development of an action plan for the safety of women and girls in public places and spaces within the Community Safety Plan 2022-2025.

#### 6. COMMUNITY SAFETY PLAN 2022-2025 UPDATE

The Board considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the West Lothian Safer Communities Strategic Planning Group providing an update on the review of the current 'Building Strong Communities and Protecting People at Risk' Community Safety Plan 2019-2022.

It was recommended that the Board note the update, Plan and updated timeline for taking forward the important piece of work being carried out by the Community Safety Partners.

#### Decision

1. To note the contents of the report; and
2. To approve the inclusion of action plan development for the safety of women and girls in public places and spaces within the Community Safety Plan 2022-2025.

#### 7. COMMUNITY SAFETY BOARD MEETING DATES 2022/23

The Board considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the West Lothian Safer Communities Strategic Planning Group providing the proposed Dates for 2022. Once approved, the dates would also provide a structured timeline for the Safer Communities Strategic Planning Group meetings for 2022. The dates were also set out in the report for approval.

It was recommended that the Board approve the proposed dates for the Community Safety Board and the Safer Communities Strategic Planning Group for 2022/23.

Decision

To approve the contents of the report.