

MINUTE of MEETING of the ENVIRONMENT POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY PANEL held within MS TEAMS VIRTUAL MEETING ROOM, on 1 FEBRUARY 2022.

Present – Councillors Tom Conn (Chair), Cathy Muldoon, Alison Adamson, Diane Calder, Chris Horne, Andrew McGuire, George Paul and Andrew McGuire

In attendance – Pippa Plevin (West Lothian Joint Forum of Community Councils Representative)

1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

2 ORDER OF BUSINESS

The Chair advised that a briefing note had been circulated to panel members on Weekend Access to Community Recycling Centres by the Head of Operational Services and that he would invite the Head of Operational Services to speak to the note after agenda item 14.

3 MINUTES

The panel approved the minute of its meeting held on 17 November 2021 as a correct record.

4 REQUEST FOR A 30MPH SPEED LIMIT ON THE B8046 WESTFIELD ROAD, THE B792 SLACKEND AND CATHLAW LANE IN TORPHICHEN

The panel considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Operational Services informing members of the outcome of the additional speed limit survey work carried out, following the interim report presented to the Environment PDSP on the 1 June 2021.

It was recommended that the panel note and consider the following recommendation, which was intended to be submitted to the Council Executive for approval:

It was recommended that there was no justification for the reduction of the existing 40mph speed limits on the B8047 Westfield Road, the B792 Slackend and Cathlaw Lane in Torphichen at that time. Those routes would continue to be monitored through the council's annual Accident Investigation and Prevention programme.

Decision

1. To note the terms of the report.

2. To agree that the report be presented to a future meeting of Council Executive for approval.

5 REQUEST FOR SPEED REDUCTION MEASURES IN MAIN STREET, MID CALDER

The panel considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Operational Services informing members of a deputation which had been remitted to the Environment PDSP from the West Lothian Council meeting on 23 November 2021. The deputation was seeking the introduction of traffic calming measures on Main Street, Mid Calder.

It was recommended that the panel note and consider the following recommendation which was intended to be submitted to the Council Executive for approval:

It was recommended that Main Street, Mid Calder continue to be monitored through the annual AIP programme and any accident trends or changes be analysed accordingly through this programme.

Decision

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

6 CONSULTATION RESPONSE TO SCOTLAND'S PAVEMENT PARKING PROHIBITIONS

The panel considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Operational Services informing members of the consultation that was being carried out by the Scottish Government in relation to Scotland's Pavement Parking Prohibitions. The report suggested a council response to the consultation questions.

It was recommended that the panel note the content of the Scotland's Pavement Parking Prohibitions consultation document and recommend the proposed response detailed in Appendix 1 of the report to Council Executive.

Decision

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

7 REGIONAL TRANSPORT STRATEGY 2035 CONSULTATION RESPONSE

The panel considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Operational Services providing an update on the completion of SEStran's draft Regional Transport Strategy 2035 and providing a draft consultation response to the associated consultation (Appendix 1).

The report also provided a short update on the national Strategic Transport Projects Review 2 (STPR2) process, which contained priorities for regional mobility that would shape the content of the Regional Transport Strategy (RTS) and outlined the next steps in the process. In addition, the relationship of the emerging RTS to the ongoing development of the STPR2 was considered.

It was recommended that the panel note the draft Regional Transport Strategy 2035 and approve the suggested draft consultation response (Appendix 1) for Council Executive.

Decision

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

8 UNDERGROUND REFUSE SYSTEMS - INVESTIGATION OF POTENTIAL BENEFITS

The panel considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Operational Services investigating a pilot scheme for underground waste disposal in Craigshill with the options available, feasibility and costs of an initial pilot; reporting on areas suitable for a roll out with the estimated costs and potential phasing; and comparing underground refuse provision with equivalent above ground shared provision.

It was recommended that the panel note:

1. That on 23 November 2021 full council resolved that officers bring a report to this PDSP in relation to Underground Refuse Systems;
2. And consider the following recommendations which were intended to be submitted to Council Executive for approval:
 - a. The assessment of benefits and cost implications of a pilot scheme and roll out of underground refuse systems;
 - b. The view that the proposed system did not currently offer value for money and would require significant capital expenditure to implement; and
 - c. The receipt of grant funding of £964,000 to implement improvements to above ground recycling provision and monitor successful implementation.

Decision

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

Councillor Diane Calder's dissent to the panel's decision was noted.

9 PERFORMANCE REPORT

The panel considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Operational Services informing members of the current levels of performance for all indicators which were the responsibility of the Environment Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel.

It was recommended that the Panel note the performance information and determine if further action or enquiry was necessary for any of the indicators mentioned within the report.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

10 HIRING OF COUNCIL MINIBUSES TO COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS

The panel considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Operational Services advising members of the outcome of a review of the hire of council minibus to community organisations and of an alternative service provision.

It was recommended that the panel:

1. Note the outcome of the review;
2. Consider the suggested alternative service provision; and
3. Note the intention to recommend that Council Executive approve the introduction of the alternative service provision to replace the external hire of council minibuses.

Following a suggestion from members, officers agreed to liaise with the council's Procurement department to ascertain whether the council's contract with Scotland Excel allowed for a framework agreement with commercial bus providers in order to provide a better hire rate for users.

Decision

1. To note the terms of the report.
2. To agree that the report be presented to a future meeting of

Council Executive for approval.

11 2021/22 FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE - MONTH 6 MONITORING REPORT

The panel considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Finance and Property Services providing an update on the financial performance of the Environment portfolio.

It was recommended that the panel:

1. Note the financial performance of the Environment portfolio as at month 6;
2. Note that the Environment portfolio position at month 6 was part of the overall council budget position reported to Council Executive on 16 November 2021; and
3. Note any actions required to be taken by Heads of Service and budget holders to manage spend within available resources.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

12 GREENING THE JOHN MUIR WAY STUDY

The panel considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration informing members of the recent consultancy study undertaken for the Green Action Trust (GAT), with input from West Lothian Council, on greening the John Muir Way.

It was recommended that the panel note and consider the following recommendation:

To note the contents of the report and the potential environmental improvements projects in West Lothian related to 'Greening the John Muir Way'.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

13 QUARTERLY CLIMATE CHANGE UPDATE

The panel considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration presenting the first of the agreed quarterly climate change updates as set out in the new Climate Change Strategy, informing and advising of key

announcements and changes in relation to climate change both during and in the period since COP26, and to present an updated design of the Climate Change Strategy which was approved at a meeting of the Council Executive on 26 October.

It was recommended that the Panel:

1. Note the content of the report, including the changes to public sector reporting from March 2022, and;
2. Note the updated design of the Climate Change Strategy 2021 – 28 attached as Appendix 1, and that this version would now be published on the council's internet and intranet.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

14 WEEKEND ACCESS TO COMMUNITY RECYCLING CENTRES FOR NON-COMMERCIAL VEHICLES

A briefing note had been circulated for information and discussion on Weekend Access to Community Recycling Centres for Non-Commercial Vehicles, following a motion proposing that access to CRC sites is reinstated for vans at weekends, which had been debated at West Lothian Council on 25 January 2022. Council had agreed that the Head of Operational Services should review the current controls regarding social distancing measures and the logistical management of the five CRCs and take the appropriate necessary measures and provide the Environment PDSP with a verbal update on 1 February 2022..

Decision

To note that the briefing note was tabled and was considered by the panel.

15 WORKPLAN

A workplan had been circulated for information.

Decision

To note the workplan.

16 CLOSING REMARKS

The Chair on behalf of the panel extended the panel's thanks and appreciation to Graeme Malcolm for his service to the council and wished him well in his retirement.

