

MINUTE of MEETING of the WHITBURN AND BLACKBURN LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE held within MS TEAMS VIRTUAL MEETING ROOM, on 6 JUNE 2022.

Present – Councillors George Paul (Chair), Kirsteen Sullivan, Jim Dickson and Mary Dickson

In Attendance -

Marjory Mackie, Lead Officer, West Lothian Council
Scott McKillop, Community Regeneration Officer, West Lothian Council
Michelle Kirkbright, Community Regeneration Officer, West Lothian Council
Paul Harvey, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
Sergeant Mike Harte, Police Scotland
Eirwen Hopwood, Parks and Woodland Manager, West Lothian Council
Gary Stoddart, Housing Manager, West Lothian Council
Peter Kain, Greenrigg Community Council

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Item 5 - Place Based Investment Fund 2022/23 Town Centre Fund -
Councillor Kirsteen Sullivan stated that she had a connection with this item as a result of her husband volunteering with Blackburn United Community Sports Club and her children playing in teams within the club. However, having applied the objective test she considered that this did not amount to an interest and would participate in the item of business.

2. ORDER OF BUSINESS

The Chair ruled, in terms of Standing Order 11, that:

- Item 7 (Police Ward Report) would be considered first followed by Item 8 (Fire and Rescue Service Ward Report);
- Item 6 (Schedule of Local Area Committee Venues) would be considered after Item 11 (Community Regeneration Update); and
- Item 5 (Place Based Investment Programme 2022/23 Town Centre Capital Fund) would be considered before Item 9 (Service Update: NETs, Land and Countryside).

3. MINUTES

The committee confirmed the Minute of its meeting held on Monday 28 February 2022 as a correct record. The Minute was thereafter signed by the Chair.

4. 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 31 March 2022.

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

Decision

To note the contents of the report.

5. FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE WARD REPORT

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service updating on the activity within the ward for the period up to 31 March 2022.

It was recommended that the committee note and provide comment on the Whitburn and Blackburn Multi-Member Ward Performance Report.

Decision

To note the contents of the report.

6. PLACE BASED INVESTMENT PROGRAMME 2022/23 TOWN CENTRE CAPITAL FUND

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive inviting them to consider the applications to the Place Based Investment Fund Town Centre Fund and to agree the allocation of funding for the settlements within the ward.

It was recommended that the committee:

1. note that 10 applications had been received for projects within the ward;
2. note the recommendations provided by officers within each town within the ward;
3. agree to award funding as set out in the report;
4. note that some of the funding costs remained as estimates and delegate the Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration to finalise award amounts within the overall value of the funding available within the ward;
5. note that as projects were implemented the detail and associated costs may change and so delegate the Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration to agree such changes and to re-allocate any money that became available as a result to other projects in the ward, both so long as projects remained within the aims, purposes and overall intent of the original applications and approvals; and
6. note the terms and conditions associated to the awarding of grants

as set out in the report.

Decision

1. To note the contents of the report; and
2. To agree the recommendations outlined in the report with respect to the allocation of town centre funding.

7. SERVICE UPDATE: NETS, LAND AND COUNTRYSIDE

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Operational Services advising of the recent activity of the NETs, Land & Countryside Services' teams for the period 1 February 2022 – 30 April 2022.

It was recommended that the committee:

1. note the work carried out by service within the local area; and
2. advise of any areas that required further information or investigation.

Decision

To note the contents of the report.

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 ward.

Committee noted the work being undertaken in the Capital Programme with regards to roofs and roughcasting. The engagement with private owners, in relation to the options for such work on their properties, was queried and the current processes explained. Officers advised they would consider if there were any additional methods available to them, in order to promote similar improvements to private owners, to enhance the aesthetics of all properties in any area where work was being undertaken.

It was recommended that the committee note Housing, Customer and Building Service activity as detailed in the ward report for the period Quarter 3; 1 January – 31 March 2022.

Decision

1. To note the contents of the report; and
2. To consider any additional methods in engaging with private owners when carrying out roof and roughcasting work to

neighbouring council owned properties.

9. COMMUNITY REGENERATION UPDATE

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Deputy Chief Executive updating on regeneration activity within the ward.

It was recommended that the committee note the updates on:

1. regeneration activity in both Blackburn and Whitburn;
2. the progress and development of actions progress with the development of Whitburn Partnership Centre;
3. progress with establishing a management committee for the community wing in Greenrigg Primary School;
4. the access2employment service; and
5. Business Gateway activity including statistics for the ward.

Decision

To note the contents of the report.

10. SCHEDULE OF LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE VENUES

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Local Area Committee Lead Officer informing of the process to agree venues for Local Area Committee meetings from August 2022 onwards.

It was recommended that the committee:

1. Note the options available to the committee; and
2. Agree suitable venues for all meetings in the calendar from August onwards.

Decision

1. To note the contents of the report; and
2. To agree that meetings were held in the community with one meeting in each of the following locations; Blackburn Partnership Centre, Seafeld Community Centre, Whitburn Partnership Centre and East Whitburn Community Centre with Greenrigg Community Wing as an alternative if any of the four locations were unavailable.

11. WORKPLAN

A workplan had been circulated for information.

Decision

To note the workplan.