

MINUTE of MEETING of the EAST LIVINGSTON AND EAST CALDER LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE held within MS TEAMS VIRTUAL MEETING, on 14 JUNE 2022.

Present – Councillors Danny Logue (Chair), Damian Doran-Timson, Carl John and Veronica Smith

In Attendance: -

David Maule, Lead Officer, West Lothian Council

Lesley Keirnan, Community Regeneration Officer, West Lothian Council

David Lees, Operational Services, West Lothian Council

Phyllis McFadyen, Housing Customer and Building Services, West Lothian Council

Suzie Young, Head Teacher, Inveralmond Community High School

Jonathan Bertram, Almond Housing Association

James Robertson, Scottish Fire & Rescue Service

Sergeant Kate Blundell, Police Scotland

John Sives, Kirknewton Community Council

Eleanor Blair, Mid Calder Community Council

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

2. ORDER OF BUSINESS.

The Chair ruled in terms of Standing Order 11 that the Police Ward report be considered immediately following approval of the Minute to allow Sergeant Kate Blundell to leave the meeting early to attend another meeting.

3. MINUTE

The committee confirmed the Minute of its meeting held on 3 March 2022.

4. INVERALMOND COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL – PRESENTATION BY HEADTEACHER, SUZIE YOUNG

Suzie Young, Head Teacher, Inveralmond Community High School provided the committee with an overview of the school and which commenced with setting out the school's vision and values.

A series of slides within the presentation outlined some key aspects of the school including the Well Being Centre, Rights Respecting Schools Gold Award; and the Pupil Parliament.

Ms Young continued to outline the school's academic achievements and which included details of types of qualifications on offer and the schools Foundation Apprenticeship.

The presentation concluded with a list of the school's commitment to its local community

Ms Young then responded to a number of questions from members

The Chair thanked Ms Young for the very informative presentation.

Decision

To note the content of the presentation by Suzie Young, Headteacher, Inveralmond Community High School

4. POLICE SCOTLAND WARD REPORT

The Committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by Police Scotland which provided an update on performance, activities and issues across the ward for the period to 31 March 2022.

The committee was invited to note the report.

Decision

1. To note the terms of the report; and
2. To ask Sergeant Kate Blundell to provide all local ward members with information on the following: -
 - Crime data on Hate, Race and Religion in the ward;
 - Crime data or any further Information on wildlife crimes in the Raw Holdings area;
 - If the ward was benefiting from monies from the proceeds of crime; and
 - If a data analyst was in yet post.

6. SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE WARD REPORT

The Committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by Scottish Fire & Rescue Service providing an update on activity across the ward to 31 March 2022.

The committee was asked to note and provide comment on the Bathgate Multi-Member Ward Performance Report.

Decision

To note the content of the report

7. ALMOND HOUSING ASSOCIATION REPORT

The Committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated)

by Almond Housing Association providing an update on housing and community activity in the Craigshill area, including maintenance works and a number of initiatives to support tenants.

Particular note was made in the presentation with regards to the Forth Drive area at the entrance to Letham Primary School which had become a problem area with regards to residential waste storage and disposal. CCTV was due to be installed in this area with a view to dealing with some of the identified issues.

Decision

1. To note the contents of the report; and
2. To agree that the Community Regeneration Officer in consultation with Almond Housing colleagues organise a walk-about of the Forth Drive area including all the ward members

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 East Livingston and East Calder Ward.

It was recommended that the committee note Housing, Customer and Building Service activity as detailed in the Ward report for the period Quarter 4; 1 January to 31 March 2022.

Decision

To note the contents of the report.

9. SERVICES 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 and Countryside Services teams for the period 1 February to 30 April 2022.

It was recommended that committee: -

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

Decision

1. To note the content of the report; and
2. To request officer's, investigate and report back to all ward members on the following issues: -

- Replacement barriers at the junction of the private road and the new road servicing the Xcite Sports Centre;
- Further dog fouling signage at end of Mansefield, close to the entrance to the Xcite Sports Centre
- An update on the work being done by the council and Police Scotland in respect of residents of Calderwood damaging house martin nests;
- Provide members with a copy of the ground maintenance schedule for the summer works;
- To ask that the Open Space Officer provide clarity to ward members with regards to community engagement about Almond Park and how the maintenance of the park was planned and carried out.

10. REPORT ON PROGRESS OF LOCAL REGENERATION PLANNING

The Committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration informing of progress on partner activities, regeneration planning and other activities within the Ward.

It was recommended that the committee note the:

1. Progress and developing actions and activity of the local plan; and
2. Updates provided by partner organisations.

Decision

To note the content of the report

11. 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 the committee to consider the applications to the Place Based Investment Programme Town Centre Capital Fund 2022/23 and to agree the allocation of funding for the Bathgate ward.

It was recommended that the Local Area Committee: -

1. Notes that 3 applications have been received for projects within the ward;
2. Notes the recommendations provided by officers within each town within the ward;
3. Agrees to award funding as set out in the report;
4. Notes that some of the funding costs remain as estimates and

delegates the Head of Planning, Economic Development & Regeneration to finalise award amounts within the overall value of the funding available within the ward;

5. Notes that as projects are implemented the detail and associated costs may change and so delegates the Head of Planning, Economic Development & Regeneration to agree such changes and to re-allocate any money that becomes available as a result, to other projects in the ward, both so long as projects remain within the aims, purposes and overall intent of the original applications and approvals; and
6. Notes the terms and conditions associated to the awarding of grants as set out in the report.

Decision

1. To note the content of the report and of the three applications received;
2. To agree the recommendations outlined in the report with respect to the allocation of town centre funding; and
3. To agree that the remaining unallocated £658 be allocated to the Uphall Station project.

12. SCHEDULE OF LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE VENUES

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the LAC Lead Officer seeking agreement of the venues for East Livingston & East Calder Local Area Committee meetings from August 2022 onwards.

It was recommended that the Local Area Committee: -

1. Notes the options available for the Local Area Committee as outlined in the report; and
2. Agrees suitable venues for all meetings in the calendar from August 2022 onward.

Decision

1. To note the content of the report; and
2. To agree that from August 2022 onwards all local area committee meetings would take place within Council Chambers, West Lothian Civic Centre, or elsewhere in exceptional circumstances as determined by the Lead Officer in consultation with the Chair.

13. WORKPLAN

A workplan had been circulated for information.

Decision

To note the workplan.