



Bathgate Local Area Committee

West Lothian Civic Centre
Howden South Road
LIVINGSTON
EH54 6FF

8 November 2022

A physical meeting of the **Bathgate Local Area Committee** of West Lothian Council will be held within the **Conference Room 14/15, Bathgate Partnership Centre, South Bridge Street, Bathgate** on **Monday 14 November 2022** at **10:00am**.

For Chief Executive

BUSINESS

Public Session

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Declarations of Interest - Members must declare any interests they have in the items of business for consideration at the meeting, identifying the relevant agenda items and the nature of their interests.
3. Order of Business, including notice of urgent business, declarations of interest in any urgent business and consideration of reports for information.

The Chair will invite members to identify any such reports they wish to have fully considered, which failing they will be taken as read and their recommendations approved.
4. Confirm Draft Minutes of Meeting of Bathgate Local Area Committee held on Monday 29 August 2022 (herewith).
5. Police Ward Report - report by Police Scotland (herewith).
6. Fire and Rescue Service Ward Report - report by Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (herewith).
7. Service Update - NETS, Land and Countryside - report by Head of Operational Services (herewith).

8. Housing, Customer and Building Services - report by Interim Head of Housing, Customer and Building Services (herewith).
9. Anti-Poverty Service Update - report by Head Finance and Property Services (herewith)
10. Place Based Investment Programme 2022/23 Town Centre Capital Fund - report by Depute Chief Executive, Education, Planning and Economic Development (herewith).
11. COVID-19 Local Recovery and Renewal Fund - report by the Local Area Committee Lead Officer (herewith).
12. Pensioners Groups Christmas Fund Allocations 2022/23 - report by Depute Chief Executive (Education, Planning and Economic Development)
13. Report on Economic Development and Regeneration Activity - report by Depute Chief Executive, Education, Planning and Economic Development (herewith).
14. Workplan (herewith)

NOTE **For further information please contact Lorraine McGrorty on 01506 or email lorraine.mcgrorty@westlothian.gov.uk**



CODE OF CONDUCT AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (2021)

This form is a reminder and an aid. It is not a substitute for understanding the Code of Conduct and guidance.

Interests must be declared at the meeting, in public.

Look at every item of business and consider if there is a connection.

If you see a connection, decide if it amounts to an interest by applying the objective test.

The objective test is whether or not a member of the public with knowledge of the relevant facts would reasonably regard your connection to a particular matter as being so significant that it would be considered as being likely to influence your discussion or decision-making.

If the connection does not amount to an interest then you have nothing to declare and no reason to withdraw.

If the connection amounts to an interest, declare it as soon as possible and leave the meeting when the agenda item comes up.

When you declare an interest, identify the agenda item and give enough information so that the public understands what it is and why you are declaring it.

Even if the connection does not amount to an interest you can make a statement about it for the purposes of transparency.

More detailed information is on the next page.

Look at each item on the agenda, consider if there is a “connection”, take advice if necessary from appropriate officers in plenty of time. A connection is any link between the item of business and:-

- you
- a person you are associated with (e.g., employer, business partner, domestic partner, family member)
- a body or organisation you are associated with (e.g., outside body, community group, charity)

Anything in your Register of Interests is a connection unless one of the following exceptions applies.

A connection does not exist where:-

- you are a council tax payer, a rate payer, or a council house tenant, including at budget-setting meetings
- services delivered to the public are being considered, including at budget-setting meetings
- councillors’ remuneration, expenses, support services or pensions are being considered
- you are on an outside body through a council appointment or nomination unless it is for regulatory business or you have a personal conflict due to your connections, actions or legal obligations
- you hold a view in advance on a policy issue, have discussed that view, have expressed that view in public, or have asked for support for it

If you see a connection then you have to decide if it is an “interest” by applying the objective test. The objective test is whether or not a member of the public with knowledge of the relevant facts would reasonably regard your connection to a particular matter as being so significant that it would be considered as being likely to influence your discussion or decision-making.

If the connection amounts to an interest then:-

- declare the interest in enough detail that members of the public will understand what it is
- leave the meeting room (physical or online) when that item is being considered
- do not contact colleagues participating in the item of business

Even if decide your connection is not an interest you can voluntarily make a statement about it for the record and for the purposes of transparency.

The relevant documents are:-

- [Councillors’ Code of Conduct, part 5](#)
- [Standards Commission Guidance, paragraphs 129-166](#)
- [Advice note for councillors on how to declare interests](#)

If you require assistance, contact:-

- James Millar, Interim Monitoring Officer and Governance Manager, 01506 281613, james.millar@westlothian.gov.uk
- Carol Johnston, Chief Solicitor and Depute Monitoring Officer, 01506 281626, carol.johnston@westlothian.gov.uk
- Committee Services Team, 01506 281604, 01506 281621
committee.services@westlothian.gov.uk

January 2022

MINUTE of MEETING of the BATHGATE LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE held within CONFERENCE ROOM 14/15, BATHGATE PARTNERSHIP CENTRE, SOUTH BRIDGE STREET, BATHGATE, on 29 AUGUST 2022.

Present – Councillors Harry Cartmill (Chair), William Boyle, Pauline Stafford and Tony Pearson

In attendance -

Carol Johnston, Lead Officer, West Lothian Council
Dougie Grierson, Community Regeneration Team Leader, West Lothian Council
Nairn Pearson, BID & Town Centre Manager, West Lothian Council
Sergeant Lee Brodie, Police Scotland
Paul Harvey, Local Authority Liaison Officer, Scottish Fire & Rescue Service
Eirwen Hopwood, Parks & Woodland Manager, West Lothian Council
Graeme McKee, Housing Manager, West Lothian Council
Tracy Tonner, Auditor, West Lothian Council
Ronnie McLeod, Bathgate Community Council

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Agenda Item 9 (General Services Capital Programme Update) – Councillor Stafford declared a connection in that she had children who attended Balbardie Primary School which was referred to in the report. As the connection was remote Councillor Stafford would take part in the business.

2. MINUTE

The committee confirmed the Minute of its meeting held on 13 June 2022. The Minute was thereafter signed by the Chair.

3. POLICE 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 3 July 2022.

The Committee was invited to note the report.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

4. FIRE 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 30 June 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

5. HOUSING, CUSTOMER AND BUILDING SERVICES UPDATE

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 Bathgate ward for the period Quarter 1 - 1 April to 30 June 2022.

The committee was invited to note the service activity as detailed in the ward report for the period 1 April to 30 June 2022.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

6. 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 NET's, Land and Countryside teams for the period 1 April to 31 June 2022.

It was recommended that the Committee:

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

Decision

To note the terms of the report

7. GENERAL SERVICES CAPITAL PROGRAMME UPDATE

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Finance and Property Services providing an update on general services capital investment in the ward during 2021/22 and planned investment for the six-year period 2022/23 to 2027/28, subject to the review of future expenditure requirements as part of the process for preparing the next ten-year capital programme for 2023/24 to 2032/33.

It was recommended that the committee notes:

1. The progress made in delivering the approved general services capital programme within the Bathgate ward in 2021/22;
2. The approved capital projects planned for the ward in 2022/23 to 2027/28, subject to the review of expenditure requirements as agreed by West Lothian Council on 15 February 2022;
3. That detailed allocations of block budgets for the period 2023/24 to 2027/28 to specific programmes attributable to individual wards would be undertaken as part of the development of the new ten year programme;
4. Progress in delivery of the 2022/23 programme would be reported to Council Executive following detailed budget monitoring exercises during the course of the year; and
5. An updated capital investment programme would be presented to Council for approval in early 2023.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

8. PLACE BASED INVESTMENT PROGRAMME 2022 TOWN CENTRE CAPITAL FUND

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive, Education, Planning and Economic Development to invite the committee to consider the allocation of an additional £8,846.20 available to support the Place Based Investment Fund Town Centre Fund projects and to agree the allocation as set out in the report.

It was recommended that the committee:

1. Notes that the Council Executive on 21 June 2022 agreed an additional £8,846.20 to support projects in the ward;
2. Notes the three-step process to be used to decide the allocation;;
3. Agrees to award funding as set out in the report;
4. Notes that some of the funding costs remained 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 were implemented the detail and associated costs might change and so delegates the Head of Planning, Economic Development 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.

A number of questions arose in relation to further information members and officers required on the potential projects that could benefit from the additional funds available. As a result, it was agreed that the Community Regeneration Team Leader should meet with the community council and other eligible groups to establish in full detail the extent of the projects and what was achievable within the timescales for spending the funds. The Chair recommended that a special meeting of the committee be called once the additional information had been obtained to allow members to make an informed decision on how they wished to allocate the funding.

Decision

- (a) To note the terms of the report.
- (b) To agree that a special meeting of the committee be arranged to determine which projects should benefit from the additional allocation of funds for the town once further information had been obtained.

9. COVID-19 LOCAL RECOVERY AND RENEWAL FUND

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Lead Officer providing the committee with an update on the projects allocated funding from the £150,000 COVID-19 Recovery and Renewal Fund approved by the committee on 14 December 2021 together with an update on projects from the original list that were to be funded from resources available under the Town Centre Management Fund.

It was recommended that the committee notes the update on the approved projects.

Having noted that project B41 was not deliverable for the reasons set out within the report, ward members requested that the Lead Officer establish whether the £20,000 available as a result of project B41 not proceeding could be put towards project B47. The Lead Officer would also establish whether an underspend in the initial funding awarded to project B47 could be used to undertake further works on the project.

Decision

- (a) To note the terms of the report.
- (b) To note that an updated report on the Lead Officer's findings would

be presented to a special meeting of the committee for consideration.

10. REPORT ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND REGENERATION ACTIVITY

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration which provided an overview of the economic development, regeneration and local partners activities within the Bathgate ward during the reporting period.

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

Decision

To note the content of the report

11. WORKPLAN

A copy of the workplan had been circulated for information.

Decision

To note the workplan.

West Lothian Area Command

Lothian and Scottish Borders



Ward 8 Bathgate Multi Member Ward Report Quarter 2 – 2022/2023

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to provide the Local Area Committee with an update on performance, activities and issues across the Ward for the period up to 1st October 2022.

B. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Local Area Committee notes the content of the report.

C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

I	Council Values	Focusing on our customers' needs; being honest, open and accountable; making best use of our resources; and working in partnership
II	Policy and Legal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues, Health or Risk Assessment)	None.
III	Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers	None.
IV	Impact on performance and performance Indicators	Performance relative to the same period in 2021 set out in the report.
V	Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement	We live our lives free from crime, disorder and danger; we take pride in a strong, fair and inclusive society
VI	Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)	None.
VII	Consideration at PDSP	None.
VIII	Other consultations	None.

D. TERMS OF REPORT

Introduction:

This document is intended to provide a summary of the performance of West Lothian Area Command for the reporting period of Quarter 2 2022/2023. The report references the police priorities within the Local Police Plan for West Lothian 2020-2023, namely:

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

The data provided in this report is for information purposes to allow Partnership Members to conduct their scrutiny responsibilities.

Bathgate Community Engagement Priorities:

- Violence, Disorder and Anti-Social Behaviour
- Substance Misuse
- Acquisitive Crime
- Road Safety

Bathgate Community Officers

PC Graeme Comrie

PC Francis Sinnet

Executive Summary:

Officers in West Lothian have been focused to delivering, with our key partners, our Local Policing Priorities, and meeting our commitment to Keep People Safe.

- **Protecting the most vulnerable people**

Domestic abuse crimes is an area of focus in terms of providing confidence to report, undertaking professional investigations, providing victim support, pursuing perpetrators and managing offenders.

The Disclosure Scheme for Domestic Abuse Scotland (DSDAS) has two main approaches. The “Right to Ask” is open to anyone who has concerns about a new partner’s abusive past or has concerns about another person’s new partner. The “Power to Tell” is when we receive information or intelligence about the safety of a person who may be at risk, this information is thereafter disclosed to the person concerned so they are able to make informed decisions about their personal safety. During Q2, there was 58 applications in the last Quarter (121 YTD), this is 17 more than the previous quarter and highlights the ongoing commitment to keeping people safe.

We had recorded 34 crimes under the Domestic Abuse Scotland Act 2018 by the end of Q2 – domestic offences relating to controlling and coercive behaviours. This shows better recording of this crime type and understanding amongst officers. Detection rate is at 76.5% which is expected to increase as many enquiries take time to collate all the necessary evidence.

During Q2, there were five individual missing person incidents pertaining to adults living with Dementia, the individuals concerned were traced safe and well. Since the implementation of the protocol in 2020, West Lothian has dealt with 22 individuals who met the criteria. In September, we supported World Alzheimer's day, whilst using the opportunity to extensively promote this protocol in Social Media.

The ACAST mental health triage system is still widely utilised by officers when appropriate. By the end of Q2, this service was utilised 54 times providing support and advice to individuals suffering from a mental health crisis.

At the start of the educational year, local Community officers attended the Fresher's Fayre held at West Lothian College where Hate Crime awareness and crime prevention advice was shared to those in attendance. Advice regarding student online safety was also distributed to all students at West Lothian College as well as those attending Oatridge agricultural college.

We know that Hate Crimes continue to be massively underreported, and we continue to work with external agencies to support reporting mechanisms, including remote, online and 3rd party reporting.

Community officers have been engaging with 3rd sector organisations such as West Lothian Drug and Alcohol Service (WLDAS) or Change Grow Live (CGL) for those members of the public who may be affected by alcohol or substance misuse to streamline referral processes rather than criminalise individuals. These organisations can assist with early and effective intervention to break the criminal cycle and offer much needed support to members of the community when in crisis.

Annual national campaigns such as #That-Guy are being promoted within the ward area highlighting violence against women and girls. This and other campaigns are promoted through partnership working with large employers within West Lothian area which enables messages to reach all sections of the community.

- **Reducing Violence and Anti-Social behaviour**

We continue to tackle Anti-Social Behaviour in its various forms with our partners.

During Q2, West Lothian Police worked alongside Lothian and Country buses and ran a 'decoy bus' initiative throughout the county. The initiative was instigated following a number of incidents of buses being vandalised in various towns throughout the county. During the initiative there were no incidents of vandalism to the decoy bus or any service buses, however during the initiative a number of youths were identified as being in possession of alcohol which was subsequently seized. Similar operations are being planned for Q3.

The anti-social behaviour use of off road vehicles continues to be a concern in a number of communities in the county. Local community officers have been carrying out letter drops in communities where regular reports occur in an attempt to establish the identity of those involved. Such information was provided to officers after an incident in Livingston which resulted in a 17 year old male being identified and charged with numerous offences.

During 2022, Police Scotland promoted the National Firearms Surrender Campaign which allowed members of the public to hand in unwanted or illegal firearms and ammunition anonymously, if required, without prosecution. To date, 23 firearms were surrendered to West Lothian Police Stations, this included Lethal, Imitation and Airsoft Weapons. Various types of ammunition were also surrendered, including cartridges, ball bearings and powders. Although firearm offences remain low, the removal of unwanted weapons from criminal availability will help to reduce the risk of harm to the public and our communities.

The 'It'll Cost You' proxy purchasing campaign continued in Q2 with the assistance of the Police Scotland Youth Volunteers (PSYV). The aim of this campaign was to raise awareness

with off licence premises. To date, there has been no FPN tickets issued although premises staff are fully cited on the consequences should their business fail any future proxy purchase.

Community officers have continued to work with care providers for young people, engaging with both staff and residents to provide support where and when required. Officers in the ward area have been delivering bespoke inputs to schools regarding dangers of fireworks and general anti-social behaviour. Regular unannounced visits continue to be made to licensed premises to ensure conditions of their licence are being met. These visits are reported to divisional licensing officers who use information for subsequent licence board meetings.

- **Reducing Acquisitive Crime**

Dealing with Acquisitive Crime to protect people by reducing the impacts of theft on individuals and communities remains a priority.

During Q2, our Preventions and interventions Officer along with Community Officers held several Community Surgeries in Broxburn, Linlithgow, Bathgate and Armadale. During these surgeries, officers were on hand to provide home security advice with focus on practical and often inexpensive ways for communities to protect their homes. Vehicle security advice was also provided as well as through our social media accounts. Due to the positive feedback from communities and elected members, further surgeries are being considered.

Furthermore, with the darker nights closing in, the Rural Watch Scotland alert scheme is being utilised to encourage those living in our rural communities to report any suspicious activity witnessed in their area. As always, all suspicious activity can be reported via 101, the 'contact us' form on the Police Scotland internet page or anonymously through Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

During Q2, pro-active patrols (with both marked and unmarked vehicles used) continued at identified vulnerable premises, and pro-active team officers will continue to target recidivist offenders. When possible, our Community officers have also been carrying out high visibility patrols in both urban and rural areas within their community, working with partners and 3rd sector organisations to assist in the prevention of crime.

Community officers have continued to work with partners such as Scottish Business Resilience Centre (SBRC) to provide information to local businesses and/or individuals regarding various methods of fraud including on line, postal or telephone scams which have a detrimental effect on individuals who may lose their life savings causing substantial stress and hardship.

- **Improving Road Safety**

Road safety is a priority for the police and local authority. Officers in West Lothian work in partnership with the council to address road safety issues and educate the public to prevent incidents from occurring.

Sadly Q2 saw four fatalities in West Lothian. Extensive enquiries are also still ongoing into previous fatalities from 2021/22 which is unfortunately reducing abilities to engage with the usual speeding initiatives.

We will continue to support the Roads Policing campaign calendar during 2022/23. During Q2, we supported the Summer Drink Drug Drive, Commercial Vehicle Week and Vulnerable Road Users Week.

With school returning during Q2, local community officers visited a number of schools during drop off/collection times to assess inconsiderate parking. No offences were detected during visits however it is acknowledged that the volume of traffic around schools during peak times is high. Schools are encouraged to partake in the 'Parksmart' scheme which includes pupils

from the schools providing educational advice in relation to inconsiderate parking/driving outside schools to parents and carers.

Community officers carry out high visibility patrols of identifiable accident locations to create a visible deterrent for speeding drivers. This will be enhanced once training in hand held speed detection devices is completed where enforcement rather than advice may be considered. Officers also aim to be visible at the various schools during peak times prior to delivering other inputs to pupils (as per reducing ASB section)

- **Tackling Serious and Organised Crime**

Drugs supply has a close link to Organised Crime Groups (OCG), and is a blight on any community. We focus to those who bring harm to our communities, and particularly those who are involved in drugs supply, cultivation/production and the sale and distribution in particular, but not exclusively, of Class A drugs.

West Lothian Pro-active Crime Team continue to develop and carry out enforcement on members of organised crime groups based in West Lothian (Operation Wingman) that are involved in the supply of controlled drugs. By the end of Q2, Op Wingman removed over £643,769 worth of drugs from West Lothian streets, along with nearly £130,000 in cash along with numerous items linked to proceeds of crime.

Our divisional approach is now well established which introduces multi-agency engagement and recording of all Non-Fatal Overdoses. We send notification of any NFO to the local addiction services who ensure the individual is offered support. This programme is seeing an increased engagement with local drug support groups and is allowing for intelligence streams around developing drug trends and potentially harmful products. By the end of Q2 we had referred 55 people for direct intervention via our Non-Fatal Drugs Overdose processes.

During Q2, Police Scotland Counter Terrorism Liaison officer delivered further Counter Terrorism and Prevent Awareness Training to new recruits at HMP Addiewell. ACT e-learning package has also been prepared and rolled out to staff based at Howden Park Centre with plans to complete face-to-face training once online training has been completed.

Two sessions of Postal Threats Training was delivered at ESC for Livingston COPFS staff during Q2. This training was completed by the Police Scotland Counter Terrorism Liaison Officer. Further sessions are currently in the planning.

Community officers have assisted in both local and national operations within their community utilising their knowledge of local trends to feed information and intelligence in order to target organised crime groups.

Community officers continue to work closely with partner organisations to enhance the intelligence picture concerning crime groups who may seek to utilise the ward area as a base to conduct their criminal ventures. Working with 3rd sectors organisations (WLDAS and CGL) advice is given to those who may be involved in criminality to give the confidence to break this cycle and receive additional support where required.

Please note: Police Scotland have recently migrated to a new data source as its single source of truth for our reporting requirements. During the transition it was identified that significant improvements could be made to the completeness and accuracy of our geo-spatial data. Over the last eight to nine months we have been developing, deploying and quality assuring a number of processes that would improve these data. We are now in the final stages of the transition process and working on the outputs required at MMW and datazone levels. We hope to launch revised products in the next couple of months. Subsequently, MMW figures will be unavailable until validity checks have been completed.

Data Label: Public



BATHGATE LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE

BATHGATE MULTI-MEMBER WARD PERFORMANCE REPORT

REPORT BY SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To update the Bathgate Local Area Committee on the activity within the Bathgate Multi-Member Ward for the period up to 30th September 2022.

B. RECOMMENDATION

Committee members are invited to note and provide comment on the Bathgate Multi-Member Ward Performance Report.

C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

I Council Values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Being honest, open and accountable • Focusing on our customers' needs • Making best use of our resources • Working in partnership
II Policy and Legal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues, Health or Risk Assessment)	Quarterly reports on the Multi-member Ward Operational Plans are being produced to ensure delivery of the Local Fire and Rescue Plan, which is a statutory requirement of the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012.
III Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers	None.
IV Impact on performance and performance Indicators	WL CPP SOA Performance indicators.
V Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement	SOA1304_13 Number of deliberate fires per 100,000 population SOA1304_14 Number of accidental dwelling fires per 100,000 population.
VI Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)	The council contributes to directly and in partnership to the delivery of the Ward Plan
VII Consideration at PDSP	None
VIII Consultations	West Lothian Citizen's Panel Survey, July 2014.

D. TERMS OF REPORT

D.1 Background

Quarterly reports on the Multi-Member Ward Operational Plans have been produced by SFRS to ensure delivery of the Local Fire and Rescue Plan for West Lothian 2021, which is a requirement under the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012, Section 41E.

D.2 Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) Bathgate Multi-Member Ward Quarterly Report

Following the publication of the Bathgate Multi-Member Ward Operational Plan, the Local Senior Officer for Falkirk and West Lothian has produced a Performance Report detailing activity against the key priorities.

The key priorities within the Bathgate area are as follows:

Continuous Priority

- Local Risk Management and Preparedness.

High Priority

- Reduction of Dwelling Fires
- Reduction in Fire Fatalities and Casualties
- Reduction of Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals

Medium Priority

- Reduction of Deliberate Fire Setting
- Reduction of Fires in Non-Domestic Property
- Reduction in Casualties from Non-Fire Emergencies. (excluding RTCs)
- Reduction in RTC Fatalities and Casualties.

E. CONCLUSION

The Bathgate Multi-Member Ward Performance Report aligns to the key priorities of the Local Fire and Rescue Plan for West Lothian 2021, the West Lothian Strategic Assessment of Community Safety and continues with the excellent partnership working on Community Safety, which is evident in West Lothian.

F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

None.

Bryan Bell
Station Commander, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
October 2022
 Appendix 1 Bathgate Multi-Member Ward Report



West Lothian Council Area

Ward Performance Report

Quarter 2 2022/23

Bathgate

DISCLAIMER

The figures included in this report are provisional and subject to change as a result of quality assurance and review. The statistics quoted are internal management information published in the interests of transparency and openness.

The Scottish government publishes Official Statistics each year which allow for comparisons to be made over longer periods of time.

Please ensure any external partners in receipt of these reports are aware of this.

Introduction

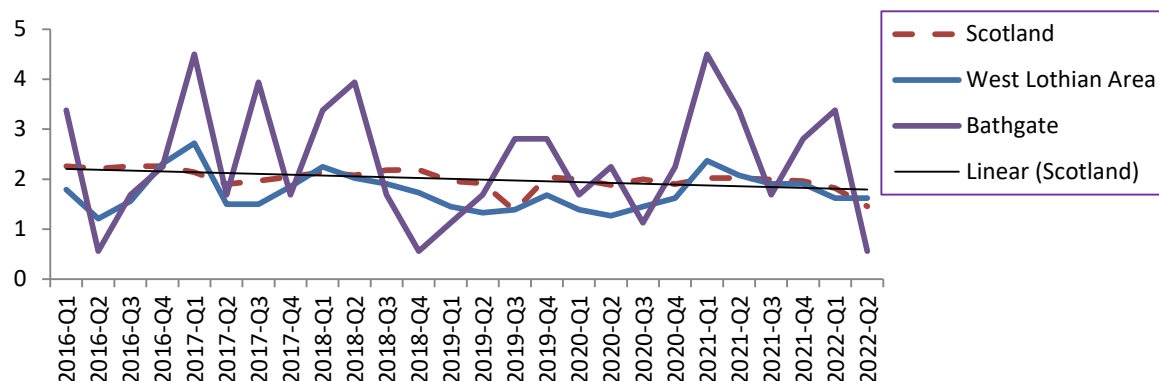
Welcome to the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Ward Performance Report. This performance report is designed to provide citizens, stakeholders and partners with information relating to ward based activity undertaken by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.

In addition to historical ward based activity, this performance report provides information on the historic activity in the West Lothian Council area and Scotland. To allow benchmarking to be undertaken, the units of measurement in the performance graphs in the report are based on incidents/events per head of population.

Whilst using historic statistical benchmarking data, consideration must be taken of the somewhat random nature of fire related incidents and events, and how this can pose difficulties in interpreting emerging patterns and trends. This is of specific relevance where ward level data is analysed due to the relatively small number of actual incidents/events that occur in ward areas.

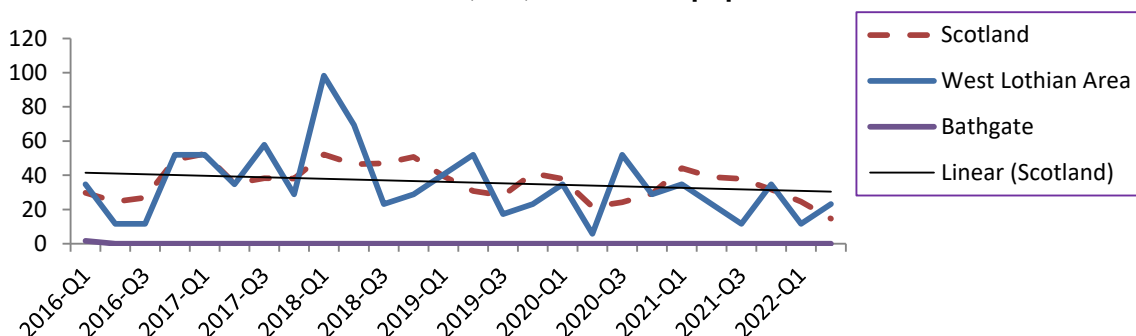
However, regardless of statistical anomalies, emerging patterns and trends in fire related incidents and events can assist the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service and Community Planning Partners plan and implement preventative intervention initiatives to target reducing fire related incidents and events.

Accidental Dwelling Fires Per 10,000 head of population



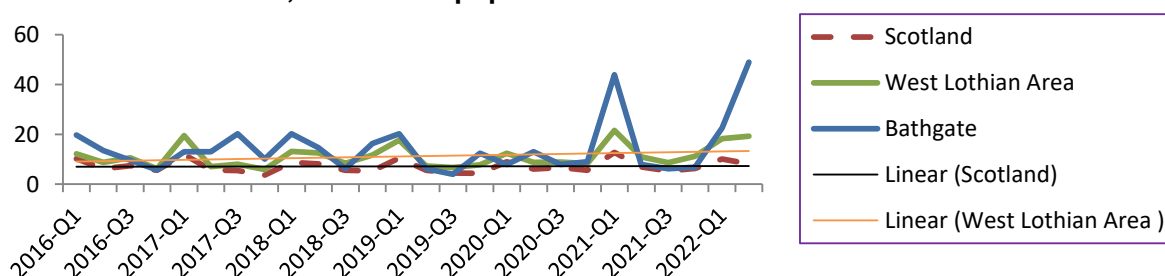
During the 2022-23 year to date reporting period SFRS have dealt with 1 accidental dwelling fires in comparison to 6 during 2021-22 year to date reporting period.

Fire Casualties and Fatalities Per 1,000,000 head of population



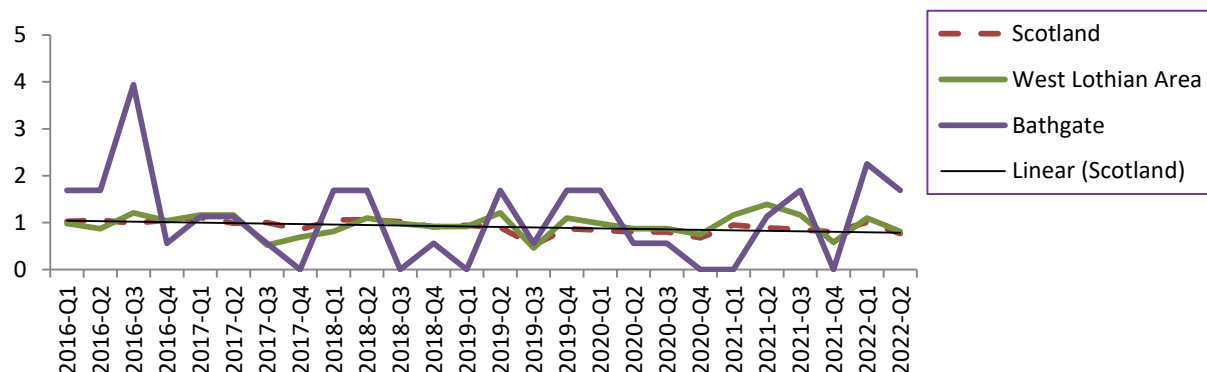
During the 2022-23 year to date reporting period SFRS have dealt with 1 Casualties and 0 Fatalities due to fire in comparison to 0 Casualties and Fatalities during 2021-22 year to date reporting period.

Deliberate Fires Per 10,000 head of population



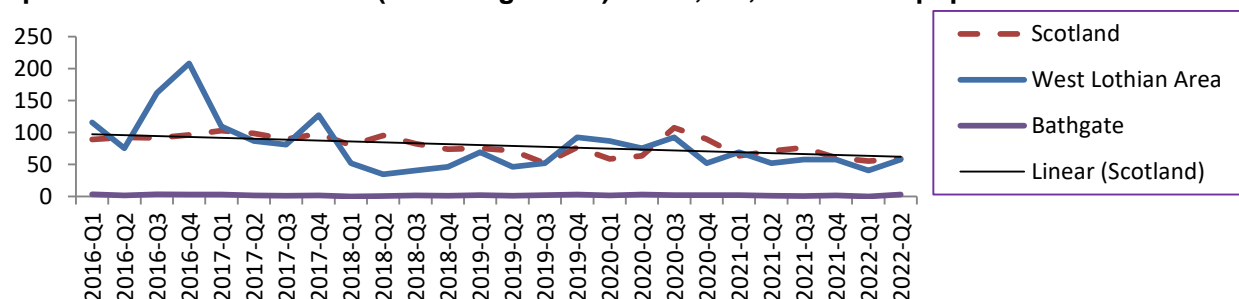
SFRS have dealt with 87 Deliberate fire incidents during 2022-23 year to date reporting period in comparison to 14 during 2021-22 year to date reporting period.

Fires In Non Domestic Property Per 10,000 head of population



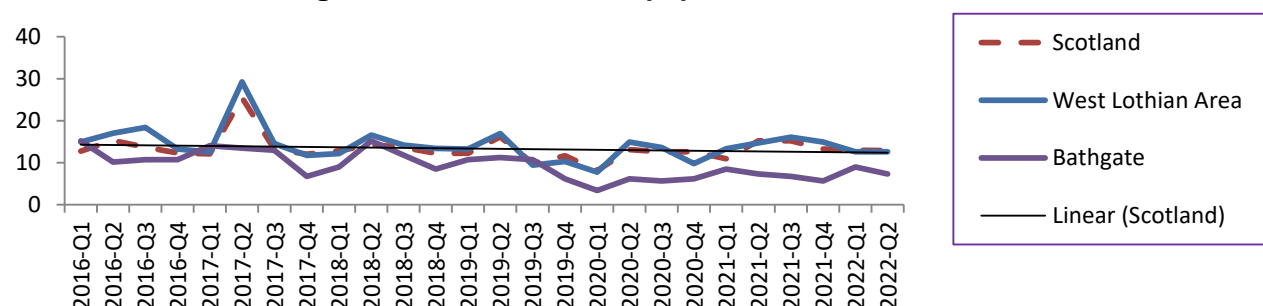
SFRS have dealt with 3 non domestic fire incidents during 2022-23 year to date reporting period in comparison to 2 during 2021-22 year to date reporting period.

Special Services Casualties (excluding RTC's) Per 1,000,000 head of population



SFRS have dealt with 5 casualties from Special Services during 2022-23 year to date reporting period in comparison to 0 during 2020-21 year to date reporting period.

Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals Per 10,000 head of population

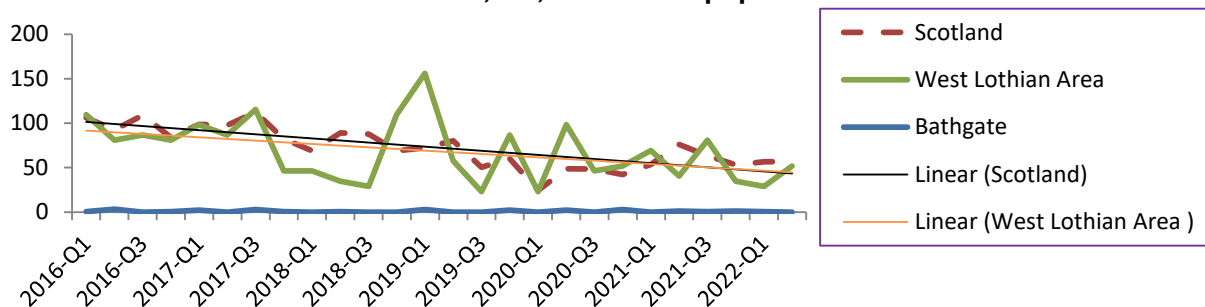


SFRS have dealt with 13 UFAS incidents during 2022-23 year to date reporting period in comparison to 13 during 2021-22 year to date reporting period.

Additional Comments

SFRS is committed to 'Working Together for a Safer Scotland' and to engage with business partners to reduce demand from Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS).

RTC Casualties and Fatalities Per 1,000,000 head of population



During the 2022-23 year to date reporting period SFRS have dealt with 0 Casualties and Fatalities from RTC's in comparison to 2 Casualties and 0 Fatalities during 2021-22 year to date reporting period.

DATA LABEL: PUBLIC



BATHGATE LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE

SERVICE UPDATE – NETS, LAND & COUNTRYSIDE

REPORT BY HEAD OF OPERATIONAL SERVICES

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To advise members of the recent activity of the NET's, Land & Countryside Services teams for the period 1 July 2022 – 30 September 2022.

B. RECOMMENDATION

The Local Area Committee is asked to:

1. Note the work carried out by the service within the local area.
2. Advise of any areas that require further information or investigation.

C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

I	Council Values	Focusing on our customers' needs; making best use of our resources; working in partnership
II	Policy and Legal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues, Health or Risk Assessment)	None
III	Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers	None
IV	Impact on performance and performance Indicators	None
V	Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement	Relates to items 9 - We live our lives free from crime, disorder and danger & 12 – We value and enjoy our built environment and protect it and enhance it for future generations
VI	Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)	In line with available revenue and capital budgets
VII	Consideration at PDSP	None
VIII	Other consultations	None

D1 Terms of Report

The report covers the activity for the period 1 July 2022 – 30 September 2022.

D2 Grounds Maintenance Routine Works

The grass cutting team for the ward are on cycle 11 and due to the time of the year and wet weather will not be able to start the 12th cut. This will be one short of the Service Level Agreement of 12 cuts.

All grass areas that required a one-off cut have been completed.

It has been a difficult year for our weed management squads and as stated in previous reports we are currently running behind due to weather conditions throughout the year and may not complete the second weed spray of our soft landscaping areas.

The winter works programme of open space hedge cutting and shrub bed maintenance will start in late October.

Enquiries are being dealt with on a daily basis.

Grounds Maintenance Enquiries

In total 59 ground maintenance related enquiries were received and dealt with during this reporting period.

	2022	2021
Bench or Seat Enquiries	0	1
Burns or Watercourses	3	0
Complaint Grounds Maintenance	0	3
Fencing Enquiries	1	0
Flower Bed or Bulb Displays	0	1
Grass Area Damaged	2	0
Grass Cutting Enquiries	10	13
Grass Cutting Missed Not Cut	3	4
Grass Highway Verges	1	1
Grounds Property Vandalised	4	1
Hedge Cutting Enquiries	2	4
Neighbourhood Env. Teams	1	1
Public Park Enquiries	2	2
Shrub Bed Enquiries	1	1
Shrub Bed Overhanging Path	15	17
Shrub Beds Not Maintained	0	1
Shrub/ Vegetation Sight Lines	2	0
Weeds General Enquiries	6	13
Weeds on Paths or Roads	6	4
Total	59	67

Garden Maintenance Routine Works

The Garden Maintenance Scheme grass cutting was completed and have met the Service Level Agreement of 11 grass cuts. Garden Maintenance hedge cutting will commence in early October and weather permitting will be completed by the end of October.

Garden Maintenance Enquiries

In total there were 35 garden maintenance enquiries received and dealt during this reporting period.

	2022	2021
Complaint Garden Maintenance	2	0
Garden Maintenance Accident Ins Claim	1	0
Garden Maintenance General Enquiries	14	9
Garden Maintenance Grass Not Cut	10	20
Garden Maintenance Hedge Cutting	2	0
Garden Maintenance No Longer Req	0	1
Garden Maintenance Standard Of Cut	6	2
Total	35	32

D4 Cleaner Communities Routine Works

Staff continue to carry out routine works of emptying street litter/ dog waste bins, litter picking and sweeping of footpaths and road channels while dealing with enquiries as they arise.

Officers continue to work with volunteer's litter picking within the Ward and have assisted with arranging the uplift of bags and debris that they have collected.

The NETs team continue to deal with fly tipping enquiries and removing fly tipping from Council ground.

The contract for carrying out a deep clean of Bathgate Town Centre that was approved through the Covid recovery funds within the Ward has been completed.

We have now received the nine replacement compact sweepers giving us one per Ward.

Cleaner Communities Enquiries

In total 120 cleaner communities enquiries were received and dealt with during this reporting period.

	2022	2021
Complaint Street Cleansing	0	2
Dead Animals	5	3
Dog Bin New Request for Bin	2	2
Dog Bin Overflowing	1	0
Dog Fouling on Paths Roads	16	6
Dog No Fouling Sign Request	0	1
Fly Posting	1	2
Fly Tipping Dumping	44	29
Glass on Paths or Open Spaces	4	3
Graffiti Racist or Offensive	4	3
Litter Bin Burnt Damaged	1	1
Litter Bin New Request For Bin	2	2
Litter Bin Overflowing	1	2
Litter General Enquiries	0	7
Litter Grass Open Space	0	1
Litter Paths Roads Verges	20	4

Needles/Syringes Abandoned	0	2
Street Sweeping Enquiries	3	3
Trolleys Abandoned/Dumped	1	2
Vehicles Abandoned	15	12
Total	120	87

Fly Tipping Enquiries (January-December)

	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
Illegal Fly Tipping/Dumping	166	201	161	149	151

Environmental Community Action

The Education, Engagement and Enforcement Officers continue to deal with enquiries relating to fly tipping, littering, dog fouling, abandoned vehicles and general enquiries. There were 44 enquiries in relation to fly tipping for the period compared to 29 for the same period in 2021.

In dealing with abandoned vehicles, Officers have gained compliance from vehicle owners with said vehicles getting removed from public highways or getting taxed in most cases. Where appropriate, requests have been sent to WLC contractors for removal. However, there are instances where vehicle owners are not compliant and result to moving their vehicles between streets. When presented with such tactics, officers have resulted to contacting the DVLA and VOSA for support.

Officers have also had to educate members of the public that their vehicles with a SORN marker needs to be off public roads or kept on private land where they have the landowner's permission or inside a garage. This is a scenario that has occurred quite frequently of late.

Throughout West Lothian, officers continue to engage with volunteering groups, attend regeneration group meetings and render the necessary assistance needed to encourage the exercise they currently perform.

There was No (0) Fixed Penalty Notices issued in Ward 8 for the period 1 July 2022 – 30 September 2022. For the same period in 2021, there was two (2) Fixed Penalty Notices issued within the Ward.

Officers carried out Dog Fouling Stencilling within Belvedere Road/Place Bathgate.

Costs for fly tipping for the period 1 July 2022 –30 September 2022:

Please note the table below for 2022 covers the period of strike action when any Fly tipping would have been taken direct to the contractor's site instead of the Councils transfer station, and is not included in the figures below.

Wards	Number of Fly Tipping Enquiries	% of enquiries relating to Ward	Total Tonnage all wards	Cost of disposal including costs for NETs team/vehicles	Contractor removal of Fly Tipping	Removal of Asbestos
1	12	2.32	56.56	£865.10		
2	48	9.28	56.56	£3,460.40		
3	66	12.77	56.56	£4,758.04		

4	98	18.96	56.56	£6,675.25		
5	118	22.82	56.56	£8,506.81		
6	32	6.19	56.56	£2,306.93		
7	64	12.38	56.56	£4,613.86		
8	44	8.51	56.56	£3,172.03		
9	35	6.77	56.56	£2,523.21		
TOTAL	517			£34,574.70		

Costs for fly tipping for the period 1 July 2021 – 30 September 2021

Wards	Number of Fly Tipping Enquiries	% of enquiries relating to Ward	Total Tonnage all wards	Cost of disposal including costs for NETs team/vehicles	Contractor removal of Fly Tipping	Removal of Asbestos
1	32	6.08	63.38	£2,540.00		
2	42	7.98	63.38	£3,334.89		
3	68	12.93	63.38	£5,399.34		
4	93	17.68	63.38	£7,384.40		
5	144	27.38	63.38	£11,433.91		
6	38	7.22	63.38	£3,017.28		
7	62	11.79	63.38	£4,922.93		
8	29	5.51	63.38	£2,302.66		
9	18	3.42	63.38	£1,429.24		
TOTAL	526			£41,764.65		

D5 Parks and Woodland

Parks and Woodland Enquiries

In total there were 33 Tree and Woodland related enquiries were received during this reporting period.

	2022	2021
Tree Advice or Consultations	6	9
Tree Blocking Light	0	1
Tree Branches Overhanging	10	9
Tree Broken Damaged or Dead	0	1
Tree Dangerous or Unsafe	5	0
Tree Enquiries General	12	12
Tree Felling Work Unauthorised	0	1
Tree Leaves Causing Problems	0	1
Total	33	34

	2022	2021
Access Rights Way Core Paths	1	0
Country Park General Enquiries	2	0
Total	3	0

Tree and Woodland Management

Ash Dieback Disease

Observations have shown that the decline in ash trees due to this disease has not been as rapid as seen over the previous two much wetter years. However, a repeat survey of some of the areas of trees previously looked at showed the following: -

- 4% showed an improvement
- 71% had the same condition score
- 25% were worse

A condition survey of all the ash trees along the road network managed by WLC, started two years ago, has been completed and once the results have been compiled an update will be published on the Ash Dieback section of the website [Ash Dieback Disease - West Lothian Council](#).

One of the Tree Inspectors, Wayne Murphy, has been appointed to the new post of Ash Dieback Officer. It is proposed that he will be supported by a new Technical Officer in due course and that the Tree & Woodland Team will be strengthened with the appointment of two apprentices.

Preparations are being made to undertake further remedial work along roads and in well-used public openspace over Winter 2022-23. This will be followed by replanting in suitable locations.

Ranger Service Update

No. Rights of Way / Core Path / Patrols carried out (hours)	6
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The six new Assistant Rangers, funded by NatureScot's Better Places Fund 3, have been working with the Ranger team since the start of July. Their remit is to raise awareness of the Scottish Outdoor Access Code (SOAC), providing information and advice to visitors across West Lothian.

Since July, they have patrolled over 250km, with 160+ hours spent on patrolling hotspot areas, including several patrols of Ravenraig, where many fire sites have been cleared and litter removed from site.

The Assistant Rangers have started delivering Scottish Outdoor Access Code (SOAC) lessons to P6/7 classes and have visited two schools in Bathgate so far, delivering a total of four lessons, which have received a high level of engagement from students.

The Wild Wednesday events for summer 2022 were a success, with the Assistant Rangers being joined by many different partner organisations, including the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, RSPB, Hopetoun Ranger Service, Home Energy Scotland, Police Scotland, the Scottish Governments Road Safety Campaign 'Ziggy's Big Day Out' and the West Lothian Council's Waste Strategy Team.

The wildfire fire risk for July was 'Very High' and a number of sites suffered from fire damage and ongoing smouldering fires. The Assistant Rangers attended four fires, along with the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service - three of which were discovered by the Assistants during hotspot patrols.

The monthly Volunteer Ranger Service (VRS) sessions continue to be popular with regular and new volunteers, and the Ranger team have been able to offer extra sessions due to having the Assistant Rangers in post.

The Ranger Service continue to assist different organisations wishing to run events across West Lothian and within the Country Parks, including running clubs, filming crews, RSPB and Home Energy Scotland.

Little Boghead Nature Park

The Ranger Service have met with the Friends of Little Boghead group and the Ecology & Biology team to plan tasks for next year. The Lothian Conservation Volunteers (LCV) have been booked in for two pond work sessions to clear out vegetation, ahead of two Community/Volunteer Ranger Service sessions at the end of October.

Access

The Rangers continue to review all West Lothian planning applications for access implications, and submit comments to Planning Services.

The Access Ranger post has been filled, and the Ranger team are in the process of talking through existing access issues and the format for submitting planning comments with the Access Ranger, to move enquiries forward and process new ones.

Any access enquiries should continue to be reported through the 'Report it > Core Paths & Rights of Way' section on the Council's website.

Ecology and Biodiversity

Ecology and Biodiversity Officers are actively engaged in the co-design process for Nature networks and 30 x 30 with NatureScot by participating in workshops. Nature networks and 30 x 30 are two key mechanisms being put forward to meet Scottish Biodiversity Strategy. The next round of workshops has been scheduled for late October to mid-November. The overall intention is for NatureScot to deliver a draft framework development which will be consulted on next spring with the intention on publishing guidance in June 2023. It's hoped this will be used in connection with our forthcoming Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP).

Government Consultations - Officers compiled a council response to the Scottish Government's Scottish Biodiversity Strategy (SBS) consultation. The SBS will be a new 10-year national strategy for biodiversity, which will influence statutory nature restoration targets set in the new Natural Environment Bill. The council response included a detailed analysis of the draft document, identified shortcomings and proposed amendments for the final strategy. The response was agreed at the WLC Environment and Sustainability PDSP and Council Executive.

Planning – Officers continue to provide input to planning applications, to ensure that legislation for the protection of wildlife, and policies and processes to safeguard the environment are followed. This ranges from written responses, to meetings with Planning officers and developers to discuss particular concerns (for example with regard to protected species). This type of proactive working with developers and the Planning team should encourage better results for local environments and wildlife in future applications. For the reporting period, Ecology and Biodiversity team received 264 planning applications for Ecological comments of which 36 were specific to Bathgate.

Community Choices - Officers have been working on a grassland management plan for grounds maintenance. The plan seeks to improve the diversity of habitats in settlements and to enhance nature networks across the area, through changed land management including relaxed grass cutting, in appropriate areas voted on by communities.

WLC Climate Emergency Fund projects

- Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) – a new LBAP is being created by officers. Currently, consultants are compiling a map of habitats across the whole of West Lothian and assessing the condition of the habitats. Once this is done, they will also calculate the benefits provided by the habitats, and specifically the benefits provided by the natural assets owned by West Lothian Council. This information will guide how habitats should be managed and enhanced through the LBAP, in order to ensure viable nature networks across the area. An LBAP partnership will be set up with other land owners/managers in West Lothian to work together on this joint plan.

Nature Restoration Fund projects

- Raingardens – these are areas in parks and open spaces that naturally collect water, where we are creating bog gardens to enhance biodiversity and also slow the flow of water from the park drainage into the wider drainage system (Chapel Well Garden).
- Habitat monitoring – Buglife was employed to organise and lead urban wildflower meadow (Balbardie Park) and freshwater workshops for the public over the summer of 2022. They also assessed the condition of all the B-Lines wildflower meadows created in the last 2-3 years and compiled a report to aid in the management of these meadows as they develop.

D6 Open Space and Cemeteries

Wester Inch Circle Play Area, Bathgate. Works to replace the toddler multi-unit, and upgrade footpaths have been completed.

Hope Park Gardens Play Area, Bathgate. Refurbishment is largely complete. Additional toddler play equipment has been installed, existing equipment has been refurbished, seat has been replaced, and vegetation has been cleared from perimeter. The bin is due to be replaced, concluding works.

Windyknowe Park - The survey results report on the initial community consultation is available on the website at <https://www.westlothian.gov.uk/parkinfo> under feedback. A number of enhancements were suggested by the community and three proposals were drawn up for the community to vote on. Quotes for the most popular will be obtained and implemented, if within budget.

Open Space Enquiries

There were seven Open Space enquiries for this reporting period.

	2022	2021
Childrens Play Enquiries	7	6
Total	7	6

Cemeteries Routine Works

Routine grass cutting and weed control tasks have been completed. Seasonal maintenance works and lair reinstatement and burial duties are ongoing across the cemetery estates.

Cemeteries Enquires

There were 98 Cemeteries enquiries for this reporting period.

	2022	2021
Cemeteries General Enquiries	7	10
Complaint Cemeteries & Burials	0	1
Family History Searches	1	0
Lair Enquiries	11	5
Lair Sunken or Uneven	1	1
Memorial/ Headstone Works	25	41
New Interment Booking	38	42
Purchase of Interment Lair	13	20
War Memorial Enquiries	2	0
Total	98	120

E CONCLUSION

Officers continue to deal with enquiries relating to fly tipping, littering, dog fouling, abandoned vehicles and general enquiries.

The Open Space Capital Programme is progressing as scheduled.

F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

Open Space Strategy

Capital Programme

Appendices/Attachments: None

Contact Person: Pat McArdle, Whitehill Service Centre, Bathgate 01506 284616,
Pat.McArdle@westlothian.gov.uk

Jim Jack
Head of Operational Services
14 November 2022

DATA LABEL: PUBLIC



BATHGATE LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE

HOUSING, CUSTOMER AND BUILDING SERVICES UPDATE

REPORT BY HEAD OF HOUSING, CUSTOMER AND BUILDING SERVICES

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To provide the Local Area Committee with an overview of the service activities within the Bathgate ward.

B. RECOMMENDATION

The Local Area Committee is asked to note Housing, Customer and Building Services activity as detailed in the ward report for the period Quarter 2 – 1st July to 30th September 2022.

C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

I Council Values	Focusing on our customers' needs. Being honest, open and accountable. Providing equality of opportunities. Making best use of our resources. Working in partnership.
II Policy and Legal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues, Health or Risk Assessment)	Housing (Scotland) Act 2001 Housing (Scotland) Act 2010
III Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers	None
IV Impact on performance and performance Indicators	There is no impact
V Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement	There are positive impacts on the following SOA indicators: SOA4 – we live in resilient, cohesive and safe communities SOA8 – we make the most effective use of resources by minimising our impact on the built and natural environment
VI Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)	None
VII Consideration at Housing Services PDSP	Yes
VIII Other consultations	N/A

D. TERMS OF REPORT

D1. Housing Performance Information

The purpose of this report is to provide the Local Area Committee with an overview of the activities of Housing, Customer and Building Services, specific to the Bathgate Ward. Tables 1 and 2 provide details on letting performance.

Table 1: Property Void & Let Performance: Mainstream Tenancies

Void Period	July 2022	%	Aug 2022	%	Sept 2022	%	WL Target %
0-2 wks	2	28.6%	2	20%	0	0%	55%
2-4 wks	0	0%	0	0%	2	16.7%	30%
4+ wks	5	71.4%	8	80%	10	83.3%	15%
Total Lets	7	100%	10	100%	12	100%	100%

Table 2: Property Void & Let Performance: Temporary Tenancies

Void Period	July 2022	%	Aug 2022	%	Sept 2022	%	WL Target %
0-2 wks	1	20 %	2	50%	0	0%	80%
2-4 wks	1	20%	0	0%	0	0%	15%
4+ wks	3	60%	2	50%	6	100%	5%
Total Lets	5	100%	4	100%	6	100%	100%

Delays in re-letting can occur for a variety of reasons - the type or location of the property, the completion of void work or the identification of additional works not visible during the initial inspection. Ensuring that vulnerable persons are appropriately supported through the viewing and sign up process can also add to timeframes. Some of our applicants have specific support requirements which require detailed planning and co-ordination by both social work and housing services prior to tenancy commencement.

There were 23 policy voids in the ward for this period, 2 more than the last reporting period.

Table 3: Policy Voids

Void period	Number of properties	PV reasons
<4 weeks	2	2 x upgrades

4 – 12 weeks	6	6 x upgrades
13 – 16 weeks	8	7 x upgrades 1x police investigation
26+ weeks	7	2 x Wardens Offices 2 x held for decant 3 x upgrades

D2. Arrears

For the Bathgate ward the collection rate for the YTD in Q2 remains excellent at 94.4%. Bathgate has collected £4,567,332 vs a charge of £4,835,991.

The overall increased arrears in comparison to last year are as a result of Full-Service Universal Credit being introduced in West Lothian from May 2018, along with other Welfare Benefit reforms and the current economic climate.

In the same week last year Bathgate ward had 392 Universal Credit (UC) households in arrears. Since then the number of UC households in arrears has increased by - 1.3%.

The number of tenancies in arrears in this ward has increased by 68 since last year. Small debt cases (£300 or less), account for 56.4% of households.

There are 134 serious arrears cases (+£1000 in arrears). These cases are 13.9% of all households in arrears in this area, containing 60.6% of the debt.

The arrears position for Bathgate Q2 is £577,804. This is an increase of £99,099 on last year's position. The West Lothian overall position is currently £4,780,804.

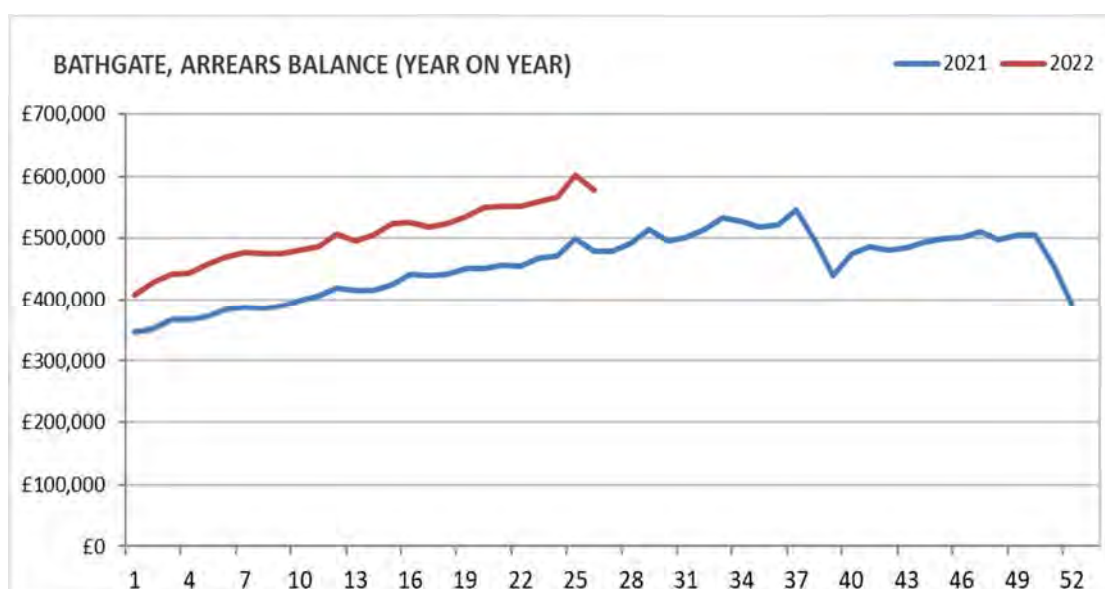
During the course of this year we plan to focus on the following:

- Making best use of resources by considering communicating more with customers through SMS, email and telephone
- Benchmarking with other local authorities to ensure we identify and consider implementing any best practice
- Performance Monitoring and Reporting will be reviewed and where appropriate streamlined to ensure information is meaningful and robust to assist with improving rent arrears due.
- Promote Alternative payment methods, particularly the Tenant's Self-Service Portal and telephone payments.

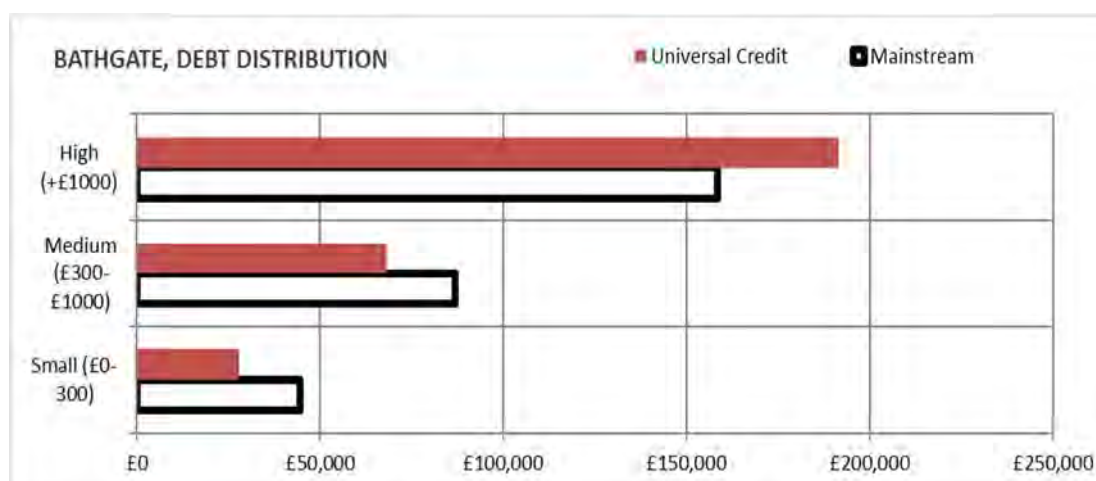
Table 4: Arrears Banding

Table 5: Arrears Balance

Arrears Banding	2021/22 (WK26)				2022/23 (WK26)			
	Mainstream		UC		Mainstream		UC	
	Balance	Cases	Balance	Cases	Balance	Cases	Balance	Cases
£0.01 to £99.99	£6,535	154	£4,584	74	£7,443	157	£4,064	68
£100.00 to £299.99	£34,423	185	£24,979	128	£37,173	198	£23,830	121
£300.00 to £499.99	£22,202	56	£29,369	74	£27,848	72	£30,550	77
£500.00 to £749.99	£24,671	41	£17,844	30	£33,291	54	£18,630	31
£750.00 to £999.99	£21,533	25	£21,451	25	£25,694	30	£19,194	23
£1000.00 to £1999.99	£29,827	22	£46,197	33	£53,372	39	£40,207	30
£2000+	£89,925	22	£105,165	28	£105,175	28	£151,332	37
Group Total	£229,116	505	£249,589	392	£289,996	578	£287,808	387
Movement					(+) £60,880	(+) 73	(+) £38,219	(-) 5
Overall Total			£478,706	897			£577,804	965
Overall Movement							(+) £99,099	(+) 68

Table 6: Debt Distribution

D3.

Bathgate Area Team Activity

As part of office remobilisation procedures, officers in the Housing team have been working to the council's flexible/hybrid working arrangements since April 2022. The focus on rent arrears activity has continued to be a weekly priority task for the team and they will continue to work with all our tenants offering support, advice and assistance. Such assistance includes referrals for money and debt advice, benefit health checks, completion of income and expenditure to help set up a sustainable payment plan and where appropriate, assist with applications for Discretionary Housing Payments.

During quarter 2, officers have continued to work closely with colleagues in Building Services, engaging with tenants to ensure that health and safety work has been completed and all necessary compliance work is undertaken in tenancies to ensure that these meet legislative requirements. As a result, we have identified a number of tenants requiring support.

Officers have been working to support a number of tenants in the area alongside colleagues from other service areas and agencies, dealing with a range of tenancy management issues and supporting tenants sustain their tenancies. This can range from being involved in complex care management cases alongside colleagues in social policy to being involved in assisting to resolve neighbour disputes with police and Safer Neighbourhood colleagues.

D4. Capital Programme and New Build Council Housing

To date, the Council has had 313 new build completions and Registered Social Landlords (RSLs) have had 129 completions in the ward.

Table 7: New Build Activity

WLC New Build Activity	Site	No of units	Site Start	No. of Houses Handed Over	Site Completion
WLC	Standhill	22	Jan-20	22	Mar-22
WLC	Hopetoun Street (Conversion of former Newlands House)	4	Apr-21	0	Nov-22
WLC	Marjoribanks Street	6	TBC	0	TBC
WLC	Mid Street	5	TBC	0	TBC
RSL Build Activity	Site	No of units	Site Start	No. of Houses Handed Over	Site Completion
West Lothian Housing Partnership	Jarvey Street	42	Mar-17	42	Mar-22

D5. Tenant Participation Update

Tenant Participation continued throughout the quarter via digital and seen the return of face to face meetings (once a month).

The customer experience team and tenant participation team have worked together to ensure the best possible service is delivered to our tenants. They have jointly implemented improvements and communication.

Tenants Panel

Tenant members continued to take part in monthly digital meetings with senior managers and the Head of Service, discussing service improvements and developments and receiving updates from each service area. They have been provided with the HRA and Capital Overview and have been involved in performance scrutiny over the quarter.

Capital & Repairs Working Group (CaRs)

Managers from Building Services and the Strategy & Development Team met with tenant members to discuss major improvement works, update them on the various projects being carried out and share benchmark information.

These meetings ensure that tenants' views are heard and offer another scrutinising service delivery method.

Tenant Participation Development Working Group (TPDWG)

Members meet to ensure Tenant Participation stays high on the services agenda, looking at ways of engaging with more tenants. This group have worked with the Tenant Participation Team to review and agree the roles and remit of each working group. They have worked hard to produce a new 5 year Tenant and Customer Participation Strategy.

The TPDWG completed their work on the animated video to increase engagement. This has now been launched and widely recognised by TPAS and TIS. This was an excellent piece of work.

Editorial Panel

This quarter the members have been involved in the collation of the Winter edition of Tenants News. The members continue to review the tenant's handbook online to ensure it is still relevant and current.

TP Facebook Group

The Tenant Participation team continue to see a steady rise in the number of tenants engaging with Facebook posts. The members have recently reviewed what content should be shared on the Facebook page and how the 397 members would like to be involved in Tenant Participation. These discussions have resulted in implementing the tenant's talk scheme, where tenants become experts on our social media platforms. We share our surveys in digital form on the Facebook page for tenants to complete. We will soon be investigating how we can implement focus groups using the Facebook group.

D6. Safer Neighbourhood Team

The Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) officers continue to work across the nine multi member ward areas as an integral part of the Community Safety Unit, as part of their working remit to reduce noise and antisocial behaviour (ASB). Partnership working

involves the local housing team, council officer within the SNT and officers from Police Scotland and the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service all working together to tackle antisocial behaviour. When necessary, the partners will liaise with voluntary organisations including West Lothian Youth Action Project, mental health advisory workers and private landlords in order to reduce antisocial behaviour.

Bathgate Ward Data

The following tables set out details of the number of new cases opened each month, overall number of active cases; number of cases resolved. Not all incidents become a case and officers will open a case where further investigations are necessary.

Table 8: Cases and Incidents

<i>Cases and Incidents</i>	<i>Apr</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>Jun</i>	<i>Jul</i>	<i>Aug</i>	<i>Sep</i>
Incidents reported to SNT	70	76	65	54	62	41
Number of new cases	3	2	6	1	2	1
Number of active cases	12	7	10	11	5	10
Number of resolved cases	7	7	3	0	6	2

The following table provides an overview of the types of incidents that are being reported to the SNT.

Table 9: Incident Types

Incident Categories	<i>Apr</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>Jun</i>	<i>Jul</i>	<i>Aug</i>	<i>Sep</i>
ASB Part 2 Complaint	26	46	47	37	38	28
ASB Part 5 Noise Complaint	34	21	8	14	15	8
Dog Barking	0	0	0	0	0	0
ENV Health Complaint	0	0	0	1	1	0
Non ASB Noise Complaint	5	3	1	0	1	1
SST Section 3 Tenancy Management	5	6	9	2	7	4
Youth Disorder	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unauthorised Encampment	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grand Total	70	76	65	54	62	41

The following table provides numbers of ASBO that are current in ward and compared to all of West Lothian.

Table 10: Anti-Social Behaviour Orders

ASBO	<i>Q1</i>	<i>Q2</i>
Number of ASBO's current	<i>1 Interim</i>	<i>1 Interim</i>
All of West Lothian	<i>7 plus 1 Interim</i>	<i>8 plus 1 Interim</i>
Age of perpetrator	<i>37</i>	<i>37</i>

West Lothian Ward Data

The following table provides number of all active cases and total number of incidents for West Lothian

Table 11: Active Cases and Incidents

West Lothian	<i>Apr</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>Jun</i>	<i>Jul</i>	<i>Aug</i>	<i>Sep</i>
Total Number of Active Cases	45	47	51	61	51	58
Total Number of Incidents	309	339	323	326	333	229

Examples of SNT work during Quarter 2

Partnership working is essential to reaching outcomes. **Joint visits** with Housing Operations, Social Policy, Police and SRFS have taken place across the Ward. A recent **walk about** was carried out in a new build estate with Housing Officer, Safer Neighbourhood Officer and Police Scotland to encourage residents to report anti-social behaviour. **Warnings** have also been issued to residents for excessive noise and also following a police enquiry. Various **letter drops** have also been carried out in specific areas, these are used to assist SNT to gather further information from neighbourhoods when officers have difficulty obtaining independent corroboration and seek witnesses to come forward with information.

E. CONCLUSION

Housing staff have adapted well to working hybrid arrangements and further embraced new ways of working whilst continuing to support vulnerable customers in our communities. In addition, officers have continued to provide advice and support on a range of issues such as anti-social behaviour, moving into new homes, financial issues and working with Building Services to ensure essential compliance work is progressed in tenant's homes to keep them safe.

F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

None

Appendices/Attachments:
None

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Julie Whitelaw

Interim Head of Housing, Customer and Building Services

14th November 2022

DATA LABEL: PUBLIC



BATHGATE LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE

ANTI-POVERTY SERVICE UPDATE

REPORT BY HEAD OF FINANCE AND PROPERTY SERVICES

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of the report is to inform the Local Area Committee of the work undertaken by the Anti-Poverty Service from April 2021 to March 2022.

B. RECOMMENDATION

It is 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 and the Planning Partnership's Anti-Poverty Strategy 2018-23.

C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

I	Council Values	Focusing on our customers' needs; being honest, open and accountable; providing equality of opportunities; making best use of our resources; working in partnership
II	Policy and Legal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues, Health or Risk Assessment)	None.
III	Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers	None.
IV	Impact on performance and performance Indicators	The activity contained in the report contributes to service KPIs.
V	Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement	<p>We are better educated and have access to increased and better quality learning and employment opportunities.</p> <p>We live longer, healthier lives and have reduced health inequalities.</p> <p>We have tackled significant inequalities in West Lothian society.</p>

VI	Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)	Activities delivered from approved budgets supplemented by external funding from Macmillan Cancer Support, European Social Fund and Scottish Legal Aid Board.
VII	Consideration at PDSP	None.
VIII	Other consultations	None.

D. TERMS OF REPORT

D.1 Background

The Anti-Poverty Service provides services to help the most vulnerable households in West Lothian. The service contributes to the council's Corporate Plan priority "Minimising poverty, the cycle of deprivation and promoting equality" by providing comprehensive advice, support and assistance to people in West Lothian who are:

- Without work or in low paid work
- Are poor and / or fuel poor
- Have money / debt issues
- Have been affected by cancer or other long term conditions
- In crisis
- In receipt of benefits and /or have an entitlement to payments managed by the service
- Being assessed for social care services

The service aims to help these groups increase their disposable income, manage their debt, improve their budgeting skills, remain in their home and to appeal decisions made by the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP). The service also utilises the skills and knowledge of volunteers who provide a valuable role in supporting customers to access services and provide a listening ear which can offer a network of support and information.

The service is responsible for the administration of Housing Benefit, the Council Tax reduction scheme and the Scottish Welfare Fund (SWF). It also has the responsibility of administering and improving the uptake of free school meals, school clothing grants, education maintenance allowance and blue badges. It provides a front-line service to recipients of benefits, which includes assessing eligibility, processing claims, assessing benefits, processing discretionary housing payments, self-isolation grants as well as other payments to claimants.

All activity across the service is informed and prioritised by the Community Planning Partnership Anti-Poverty Strategy 2018 to 2023. The overall purpose of this strategy is to reduce the inequalities gap and tackle the causes of inequality to ensure that people are not financially excluded and minimises the impact of poverty on the people of West Lothian.

D.2 Key Highlights 2021/22

Over the past year the service has undertaken the following activities:

- Supported customers throughout the Covid-19 pandemic and recovery period using pro-active and reactive measures and successfully adapting to challenges and restrictions ensuring all customers who required support

implemented this.

- Digitalisation of areas of the service, improving efficiencies and offering more choice to customers at a time which suits them. This has included online forms, self-help tools, video conferencing software and ask the advisor sessions on Facebook adding a new service delivery channel and increasing accessibility to the service.
- Developed and implemented new software to improve accessibility and processing timescales for Blue Badges.
- Continued development of the FORT referral and tracking system to allow internal and external services and organisations to easily refer customers ensuring they receive the support required at the earliest point. 710 users across 88 agencies are currently using the system which resulted in 4998 referrals being received during 2021/22.
- Introduced automation to Education Benefits for Free School Meals and Clothing Grants reducing the FTE required by one. This has allowed resources to be diverted to other areas of pressured work such as Crisis Grants.
- Supported 855 households experiencing fuel poverty by paying £60,025 in grants and issuing 1,783 in fuel vouchers worth £78,171.
- Offered holistic support and advice to customers looking to access the Foodbank. In total 3,768 Foodbank vouchers were issued by the service. The food insecurity project has worked with 77 customers experiencing persistent food insecurity to secure extra income of £119,190.
- Assumed Responsibility for the Under 22 Young Scot Travel scheme, with around 45% of all young people in West Lothian entitlement to the scheme now using it successfully. Efforts to increase take up will continue throughout this financial year and is helped by the delayed Scottish Government campaign that went live on 27 September 22.
- Provided additional support to 359 individuals through the Feeling the Pinch Fund amounting to £79,988.
- The service recorded the third best Housing Benefit and Council Tax Reduction performance in Scotland with new housing benefit claims being processed on average within 13 days against a Scottish average of 18 days.
- Delivered Winter Support Funding of £633,285 to 4,691 Council Tax Reduction recipients with additional vulnerabilities to assist with the additional costs experienced over the winter period.
- Provided direct financial support to Ukrainian refugees and their hosts with £39,950 paid directly to help support 232 individuals and £61,041 in "Thank You" payments made to 50 families hosting Ukrainian refugees.
- Payment of Scottish Governments Low income Pandemic payment of £130 to approximately 16,000 eligible households in receipt of Council Tax Reduction or qualifying Council Tax exemption.

The Anti-Poverty Service continues to embed services into the local community and to support customers to help mitigate poverty, to enable and empower people and work collaboratively with partners to maximise the benefits of our service at a customer's time of need.

D.3 Local Provision

The section below shows the number of people the Anti-Poverty service has worked with over the last year in the Bathgate ward and provides further information on the Anti-Poverty Service.

The Advice Shop has helped 1,774 customers to manage their money and to resolve benefit problems within the Bathgate ward. This resulted in 22,549

additional enquiries and contacts from these customers. As a result, customers have a better understanding of their situation and options available to them. Feedback shows this has a positive impact on individuals by increasing knowledge and understanding and ultimately improving the customer journey and empowering customers.

The Advice Shop generated £3,942,710 in extra income and successfully managed £274,629 in debt within the Bathgate ward.

D.4 Work delivered by team within the Anti-Poverty Service

Since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic and throughout the recovery period, West Lothian Council's Anti-Poverty Service has continued to offer help and support to constituents across West Lothian. The service has pro-actively adapted to the current situation to maximise the help and support on offer to individuals and the information and results of this support is detailed below;

Advice Shop

In 2021/22 The Advice Shop has supported 13,433 individuals resulting in 155,374 additional enquiries and contacts from these customers, covering money and debt, energy, housing and welfare benefits. This is a 54% increase compared to 2020/21 figure for contacts and enquiries.

The Advice Shop generated £28,126,573 in extra income and successfully managed £1,325,572 in debt.

109 appeals were lodged to help customers appeal a DWP benefit decision. 84% of appeals had their decisions overturned. This is a 43% decrease in the number of appeals compared to the previous year.

1,800 customers were provided energy advice to help improve household income and savings. This is a 5% increase from the previous year and amounted to £480,439. 13% of these customers were aged 60 years and over.

A range of targeted support and campaigns have been delivered over the period which include increasing uptake in new Social Security Scotland payments and, help and advice relating to energy. Advisors were able to support customers to engage with charities and third sector organisations which have received additional, one-off funding to help the most vulnerable as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Service delivery continued to adjust throughout the pandemic. Further Implementation of new digital outreach sessions and re-introduction of face to face appointments have been well received by customers and staff.

Improved processes and system digitalisation has also meant that we have managed to continue to fully support customers. This includes the benefit check and budgeting calculator which is freely available to customers. Self-help guides and information continues to be developed and publicised by the service which information such as the West Lothian Food Map.

Benefits

In 2021/22, 1,350 Housing Benefit applications have been received and 21,098 change of circumstance notifications. Despite the demand, performance remains high and within the target, new housing benefit claims were processed within 13 days against a Scottish average of 18 days. Change of circumstances within 3 days

against a Scottish average of 5 days.

There were 2,917 applications received for Council Tax Reduction and 31,959 change of circumstance notifications. Again, despite the demand performance remains within the target with new Council Tax Reduction claims processed within 13 days and change in circumstances within 5 days.

Scottish Welfare Fund

In 2021/22 there continued to be a significant number of Crisis Grant applications received. There were 12,284 Crisis Grant applications received between 01 April 2021 and 31 March 2022, compared to 12,789 for the same period in 2020/21. The total financial support provided via Crisis Grants for this period in 2021/22 was £1,025,212 compared to 2020/21 is £1,022,126. Although the number of applications are slightly down in the last financial year compared to the previous year, the amount paid out on Crisis Grants was marginally higher. This is because the amount paid in each grant was higher. Households continue to struggle with household bills given the current cost of living crisis and it is expected that as we move into the winter months, the demand for Crisis Grants will increase.

2866 Community Care Grant applications were received during the same period which resulted in £1,212,699 in Community Care Grant payments.

Self-Isolation Grant

This grant continued during the 2021/22 financial year but went through a number of changes by Scottish Government in relation to qualifying criteria. During this year, those that qualified received a £500 payment if they are working, unable to work from home during self-isolation and lost income as a result. Individuals also have to be in receipt of a qualifying benefit. In 2021/22 6002 applications were received and 3008 individuals were awarded a grant. The total paid was £1,504,000.

The grant is due to end on 31 October 22 however we await final confirmation from Scottish Government. We are now only receiving a few applications for this grant on a weekly basis. The amount of the award also changed in May 2022 from £500 to £225.

School Clothing Grants/Meals

Education Grants are reported in academic years running from August to June the following year. In the Academic Year 2021/22, over 4,913 children were awarded free school meals and school clothing grants were awarded to 7,468 pupils. From August 2021, all children from P1 to P4 were awarded Universal Entitlement to Free School Meals, this increase to include P5 from January 22.

Children eligible for Free School Meals or living in households with low income, have also benefited from financial support during the school holidays. In the Academic Year, including the summer of 2021, a total of £1,207,254 was paid to over 5,700 children. This was paid to parents to help with the purchase of food during school holidays periods.

Discretionary Housing Payments

In 2021/22 the service has made 6,196 awards for discretionary housing payments amounting to £3,410,786.

1126 awards amounting to £492,204 were awarded for financial hardship and 5,070 awards amounting to £2,918,581 for under occupancy.

Bridging Payments

Scottish Government Bridging payments replaced the previous Family Pandemic Payment and were paid during the 2021/22 Academic Year and continue to be paid until the end of this calendar year. We await information from Scottish Government as to whether these will continue however given the payment is a compensation payment for the late roll out of the Child Payment which is due for roll out at the beginning of 2023, it is unlikely that these will continue. The payment is made to all children who qualify for Free School Meals because they live in a low-income household, or any child entitlement to Universal Entitlement to School Meals if they live in a low-income household. During 2021/22, the October 21 and December 21 payment was £160, however the payment changed and in April 22 and June 22, the payment reduced to £130. Over the Academic Year 2021/22 £3,103,400 was paid to over 5,500 children.

D.5 Priorities 2022/23

The Anti-Poverty Service has identified the following priorities for development over the 2022/23 year, which are:

- Continuing to work with partners and customers to assist in the recovery from the Covid 19-Pandemic which includes targeted advice and support.
- Providing advice and support to customers and partners to help mitigate the effects of the increased cost of living crisis which includes in work poverty.
- Increasing awareness, understanding and knowledge of support available in relation to poverty through arranged events, training and information sharing channels such as social media.
- Providing face to face support in community settings such as Community Hubs, Health Care Settings and Partnership Centres.
- Supporting customers affected by debt through Improving the Debt Journey to improve understand and maximise tailored support for long term benefits.
- Supporting the roll out of the Child Disability and Adult Disability Payment.
- Providing focused support and advice to those affected by addictions with multiple issues and/or a history of none engagement with support services.
- Providing targeted support to customers who have exhausted Foodbank vouchers.
- Retaining Scottish National Standards for Information Advice Providers.
- Making meal payments during school holiday periods with payments already made in October 2022 amounting to £127,995
- Payment of the Scottish Government Bridging Payment until the end of the 2022 calendar year of £130 per child.
- Continuing to support the Under 22 travel scheme for all those with a Young Scot card by promoting the scheme in schools; businesses and on our own website and social media pages.
- Awarding an additional £80 clothing grant to all qualifying children as at January 2023. This is estimated to benefit around 6000 children
- Awarding a £20 fuel payment to all Crisis Grant recipients who apply and are awarded a Crisis Grant that includes a fuel request from 1 October 2022. There is currently a budget of £44,000 for this scheme
- Supporting Ukrainian Refugees to access all available advice and support including financial, housing, debt, energy, training and employment.
- Increasing uptake of the Council Tax Reduction scheme
- Delivering further Winter Support Fund payment of £80 to 4,242 Council Tax

Reduction claimants with additional vulnerabilities to support them with additional costs over the winter period.

E. CONCLUSION

The report summarises the work of the Anti-Poverty service in the Bathgate ward area and provide an overview of the service as a whole. The Local Area Committee is asked to note the contents of the report. It is the intention to report on activity in the ward area on an annual basis.

F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

None.

Appendices/Attachments: None.

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Donald Forrest

Head of Finance and Property Services

Date of meeting: 14th November 2022

DATA LABEL: PUBLIC



BATHGATE LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE

PLACE BASED INVESTMENT PROGRAMME 2022/23 TOWN CENTRE CAPITAL FUND

REPORT BY DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE, EDUCATION, PLANNING, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND REGENERATION

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to invite the committee to consider the allocation of the additional £8,864.20 available to support the Place Based Investment Fund Town Centre Fund projects and to agree the allocation as set out in this report.

B. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Local Area Committee:

1. notes that the Council Executive on 21 June 2022 agreed and additional £8,864.20 to support projects in the ward;
2. notes the three-step process to be used to decide the allocation;
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.

C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

I Council Values	Focusing on our customers' needs; being honest, open and accountable; providing equality of opportunities; developing employees; making best use of our resources; working in partnership.
II Policy and Legal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues, Health or Risk Assessment)	<p>Place Based Investment is a Scottish Government Initiative.</p> <p>This report does not raise any specific SEA, Equality, Health or Risk Assessments requirements. However, projects supported through the fund may require assessments.</p>

III	Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers	The report details a one-off specific delegation to the Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration.
IV	Impact on performance and performance Indicators	Investment in place-based projects has potential to increase positive outcomes across a range of indicators.
V	Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement	Relevant to all outcomes.
VI	Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)	West Lothian's allocation of the Scottish Government's Place Based Investment Programme Funding 2021-22 was £1,302,000. The Scottish Government is expected to award £1,000,000 for the year 2022-23, which will be available from 1 April 2022. This has now been confirmed as £1.132M
VII	Consideration at PDSP	Updates will be made to Development & Transport PDSP and the nine Local Area Committees on a regular basis.
VIII	Other consultations	None.

D. TERMS OF REPORT

D.1 Background

On the 8 February 2022, Council Executive approved recommendations in a report by the Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration setting out the proposed allocation of the Scottish Government's Place Based Investment Capital Grant (PBIP) for 2022/23. Funding for West Lothian Council in 2022/23 at that time was expected to be £1,000,000.

The Council Executive agreed the funding would be allocated on the basis of two equal funding streams:

1. Town Centre Capital Fund (£500,000); and
2. Community Wealth Building (£500,000).

Since the original report the grant awarded to West Lothian Council has been confirmed as been confirmed as £1,132,000.

The Council Executive at its meeting on 21 June 2022 agreed that the additional £132,000 would be split between the two streams of funding, with an additional £66,000 being made available for the Town Centre Funding stream, the other half going to the Community Wealth Building stream.

The process for this is detailed in D.2.

D.2 Town Centre Capital Fund 2022/23 – Additional Linlithgow Allocation and process

The table below shows the funding allocated to eligible towns in the Linlithgow Ward using the original process, the revised allocation and the additional amount to be distributed.

Town	Original Allocation	Revised Allocation	Additional amount to be allocated
Bathgate	£46,260.00	£55,124.20	£8,864.20

Given the relatively small additional funding available the Council Executive agreed that rather than open up a new application process for the additional funding, that the step by step approach set out below is used by Regeneration Officers and reported, for allocation to the Local Area Committee at the first meeting after the summer recess. The process agreed is set out below:

1. Where there are projects that the Local Area Committee was keen to support but could not support in full, or at all, due to a lack of available funding, the additional resources should be considered to increase the allocation to those agreed projects.
2. Where the Local Area Committee has agreed projects that were allocated the full amount requested, officers will discuss with applicants as to where eligible additional works could be included and agreed what these might be. This would also apply where an application was approved on estimated costs but the actual cost of delivery is higher. The additional cost could be funding through the allocation.
3. Where applicants are unable to identify additional works Regeneration officers will discuss with local community groups, partners and council services where there may be new projects/works that can be considered by the Local Area Committee. Officers will work with organisation to develop the proposals for the Local Area Committee to consider funding.

As was previously the case, the Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration retains the delegated authority to move funding between towns within the ward allocation should this be required. Should the overall ward allocation not be fully allocated by the LAC the balance of funding will be reported to Council Executive for a decision.

D.3 Bathgate Ward Applications - Allocation of the additional funding recommendations

In the original report the Local Area Committee in June five applications were received, considered and the awarded funding. These were:

Code	Application Name	Amount applied for	Amount awarded
BAT22-01	Town Centre Events Fund	£46,260	£5,760
BAT22-02	Reconnect Regal Theatre	£29,500	£29,500
BAT22-03	A Sense of Place	£26,600	£11,000
	Totals	£102,360	£46,260

Based on the agreed three-stage process officers have assessed the original awards as set out above.

Step 1

Two projects can be considered for potential additional support, as they were not fully funded based on the total funding requested. These projects are BAT22-01 (Town Centre Events Fund) and BAT22-03 (A Sense of Place),

Although neither of these were fully funded, BAT22-03 (£11,000) was submitted based on three distinct work packages, with two being supported (historical plaques and floral displays) and the third related to physical improvements to key building gable ends, not viewed as being the most suitable use of the available funding. As such the elements funded were funded in full.

BAT22-01 (£5,760) was partly funded in principle on the basis that the applicant developed their approach and methodology for a local events fund and the associated application process that officers were happy met the criteria, to support capital town centre projects, and that funding and could be delivered within the timescale required.

In the report presented to the committee in August BAT22-01 had not progressed to a point where officers felt the project could be offered the additional funding. The committee requested that further discussions between officers and Bathgate Community Council take place to see if the original project could be progressed to a point that officers were happy with. Following a subsequent meeting and further discussion a process including guidance and application form was agreed and the Community Council is understood to have launched the scheme locally.

Given the progress since the August committee meeting it proposed that under Step 1 the £8,864.20 can now be allocated to BAT22-01. As the project is based around a mini grant scheme being delivered by Bathgate Community Council it is proposed that the grant holder provides regular updates on progress with allocating the funding and a decision be taken in early January 2022 on whether the full grant is likely to be drawn down within the required timescale. At that point should any funding need to be returned it will be offered to the projects detailed below.

Step 2 and 3

As the additional funding has been dealt with under Step 1 there is no need to consider moving the steps 2 and 3 at this time. However, given the nature of BAT22-01 should any funding be returned officers will discuss with projects BAT22-02 (Reconnect SCIO) and BAT22-03 (A Sense of Place) to identify if any works can be delivered within the timescales remaining and within the funding available. Officers will agree any allocation and report that back to the committee.

D.4 Delivery of projects

Following this committee's decision on the funding requests all applicants will be notified of the outcome. Many of the projects will be delivered by the council on behalf of the community group. However, in some instances the grant funding will be paid direct to the community group. In the latter case, the community group will hold full responsibility for delivery of the project. Where projects are to receive funding they will be required to agree to conditions of grant which will detail when the conditions which have to be met before the funding will be released.

As projects are implemented the detail and associated costs may change it is delegated to 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.

As all projects have to be contractually committed by 31 March 2023, and have project completed by 30 September 2023, officers will liaise with successful applicants to ensure projects are on track to meet these deadlines. At this stage the applicant will be asked whether they still intend to progress the work and confirm that any necessary contracts can be let by 31 March 2023. If it is not confirmed that it can be achieved, or where officers have reservations, and the issue is not resolvable by the proposed delegations set out in the recommendations, the matter will be reported to Council Executive for a decision on the funding. Where possible, that report will also detail a reserve list of applications which could be implemented to utilise the available funding, although at that time opportunities to do so will likely be very limited because of time constraints.

E. CONCLUSION

This report provides the committee with the process to agree and allocate and additional allocation of funding to top up the original ward allocation from the Town Centre Capital Funding element of the Scottish Government's Place Based Investment Capital Grant awarded to West Lothian for 22/23. The detail of this is set out in D.2. The funding provided local organisations with the opportunity to enhance their local community working in partnership with the Council and key stakeholders.

F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

Council Executive, 8 February 2022

<https://coins.westlothian.gov.uk/coins/submissiondocuments.asp?submissionid=51113>

Council Executive, 21 June 2022

<https://coins.westlothian.gov.uk/coins/viewDoc.asp?c=e%97%9Di%95j%7C%8F>

Appendices/Attachments:

None

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Elaine Cook
Deputy Chief Executive, Education, Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration

14 November 2022

DATA LABEL: PUBLIC



BATHGATE LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE

COVID-19 LOCAL RECOVERY AND RENEWAL FUND

REPORT BY THE LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE LEAD OFFICER

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of the report is to provide the committee with an update on the projects allocated funding from the £150,000 COVID-19 Recovery and Renewal Fund approved by the committee on 14 December 2021. The report also provides an update on projects from the original list that were to be funded from resources available under the Town Centre Management Fund.

B. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Local Area Committee (LAC):

1. notes the update on the approved projects;
2. agrees the work for phase 2 of the upgrade of the path from Little Boghead;
3. notes that £20,000 remains unallocated and can be redistributed.

C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

I	Council Values	Focusing on our customers' needs; being honest, open and accountable; providing equality of opportunities; developing employees; making best use of our resources; working in partnership
II	Policy and Legal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues, Health or Risk Assessment)	The Covid-19 Local Recovery & Renewal Fund was approved by Council Executive on 22 June 2021. The report itself does not raise any strategic environmental assessment, equality or risk issues but these may be considerations at implementation stage.
III	Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers	The proposals set out in this report do not have any implications for the scheme of delegation.
IV	Impact on performance and performance Indicators	None
V	Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement	Relevant to all outcomes.
VI	Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)	A total of £1,350,000 for the fund was agreed at Council Executive on 22 June 2021 to be split equally across all 9 wards giving a fund of £150,000 for each ward.

Delivery will be by council staff or appointment of contracts as is normal practice for works of this nature.

VII Consideration at PDSP Not required. Council Executive instructed officers to report back to Local Area Committees.

VIII Other consultations All council service areas.

D. TERMS OF REPORT

D.1 Background

At the Council Executive meeting on 22 June 2021, funding of £150,000 for each of the nine wards was agreed to support recovery and renewal in towns and villages following to COVID-19 pandemic. The funding was part of a wider response by the council to issues arising from the Covid-19 pandemic. Council Executive agreed that the funding was to be used to enable the refresh and renewal of the physical environment in neighbourhoods, including town and village centres.

D.2 Allocating Funds

On 14 December 2021 the Bathgate LAC considered the list of costed projects and agreed to allocate the £150,000 available to five projects. Following approval by the LAC, officers have progressed the required procurement arrangements and works to be undertaken internally by council services have been progressed. An update on the progress on each project is set out in Appendix 1.

The projects continue to be impacted by challenges in securing material supplies and/or the appointment of contractors. Such risks were identified at the time of the previous report to the LAC and have become more acute in a number of areas over the last 7 months. One project, B41, is not deliverable for the reason set out in Appendix 1.

D.3 B49- Upgrade of the path from Little Boghead (Robertson Avenue) to Meadow Park including lighting and path upgrade

At the Committee meeting on 29 August it was reported that project B49 Upgrade of the path from Little Boghead (Robertson Avenue) to Meadow Park including lighting and path upgrade had been completed but officers understood that there was a significant underspend on the project. It was also reported that Project B41 could not be delivered and that the £20,000 from that project was available for reallocation.

Officers were asked to look into the possibility of additional paths work at Little Boghead that could utilise any underspend and absorb the £20,000 returned for project B41.

On further investigation Roads had identified a small paths link that would complete the original £97,000 allocation (see appendices 3 to 5) and is ready to put this out a tender. However, they were unable to identify any further work that would utilise the £20,000.

D.4 Next Steps

The £20,000 decommitted from project B41 remains unallocated. The Committee can either use the money to offset any overspend(s) that may arise in other previously agreed projects or return to the original list for the December 2021 report (attached as appendix 2) and choose one or more project from that list to utilise the £20,000.

Alternatively, Committee may decide to reserve its position relative to the unallocated funding, pending project updates at a future committee. This would allow for the overall picture on completion of all the projects to be clearer before a decision is taken on the final allocation. This would allow consideration of allocation of funding to those projects which anticipate overspend, and allocation of any further underspends which may arise.

E. CONCLUSION

The projects approved by the LAC support the refresh and renewal of the physical environment within neighbourhoods, villages and town centres in accordance with the decision of Council Executive on 22 June 2021 and 16 November 2021.

F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

- Bathgate LAC Report 14 December 2021 Covid-19 Local Recovery and Renewal Fund
- Council Executive Reports 22 June 2021 Updated Covid-19 Recovery and Renewal Plan and Draft 2020/21 General Fund Revenue Budget Outturn and Update on Unallocated 2021/22 One-off Funding Resources.
- Council Executive Report 16 November 2021 COVID-19 Local Recovery and Renewal Fund

Appendices/Attachments: 5

Contact Person: Carol Johnston, carol.johnston@westlothian.gov.uk

Carol Johnston
Bathgate LAC Lead Officer
14 November 2022

Appendix 1

List of Approved Projects

Ref	Proposal	Service Lead	Cost Estimate £	Approved Amount £	Comment	LAC Update
B5	Deep Clean of Town Centre Hard Surfaces including Chewing Gum Removal.	NETS	48,162	25,000	Cost based on Town Centre area. Approved funding capped at £25,000 approved in conjunction with B40.	Anticipated for completion 2022 on budget.
B11	Clean/repair replace road signage.	Roads	30,000	2,000	General funding allocation. Exact locations required to enable a cost estimate to be provided. Risk that projects may not be delivered by 31 March 2022 due to contractor availability. Approved funding of £2,000 in conjunction with B13.	NETS has included this in their contract for deep cleaning which has commenced.
B26	Purchase mature trees in large planters for George Street.	NETS	6,000	6,000	Costs based on the provision of 12 trees and planters at a cost of £500 per tree. Approved funding of £6,000.	Delayed pending community agreement on planting location and awaiting 2022 planting season. Anticipated to be on budget.
B41	Create a storage area so the industrial sized commercial waste bins are kept out of sight. These bins currently infest	NETS	20,000	20,000	Estimated costs are based on similar projects delivered as part of General Services Capital	Undeliverable by council, not council owned land.

Ref	Proposal	Service Lead	Cost Estimate £	Approved Amount £	Comment	LAC Update
	this same area and is a 'blot' on the landscape.				Programme. The project requires a design to finalise construction details and costs, and will require public consultation and may require planning permission. Approved funding of £20,000.	
B49	Upgrade of the path from Little Boghead (Robertson Avenue) to Meadow Park including lighting and path upgrade	Roads	250,000	97,000	Contractor appointed and work to be delivered in 2022/23.	To be completed within allocated budget.
	Total		354,162	150,000		

List of Proposed Investment

Ref	Proposal	Service Lead	Cost Estimate £	Comment
Operational Services				
B1	Road Channel Cleaning - Category A Road	NETS	3,680	Cost based on channel length per road length. Costs include cleaning of channels on roundabouts and traffic islands.
B2	Road Channel Cleaning - Category B Road	NETS	1,866	Cost based on channel length per road length. Costs include cleaning of channels on roundabouts and traffic islands.
B3	Road Channel Cleaning - Category C Road	NETS	2,628	Cost based on channel length per road length. Costs include cleaning of channels on roundabouts and traffic islands.
B4	Road Channel Cleaning - Category U Road	NETS	392	Cost based on channel length per road length. Costs include cleaning of channels on roundabouts and traffic islands.
B5	Deep Clean of Town Centre Hard Surfaces including Chewing Gum Removal	NETS	48,162	Cost based on Town Centre area. Approved funding capped at £25,000 approved in conjunction with B40
B6	Smart Solar Compactor Bins - Ward (2 per Ward)	NETS	8,000	Cost based on £4,000 per unit.
B7	Smart Solar Compactor Bins - District Parks, Neighbourhood Parks & Skateparks	NETS	24,000	Cost based on £4,000 per unit. 1 bin located in each of the following parks: Balbardie Park of Peace, Boghall Playing Fields, Kirkton Park, Balbardie Park Skate Ramp, Meadow Park, Alexandria Drive Skate Park.
B8	Bench renewal/replacement	NETS	12,000	Cost based on £1,000 per bench.

Ref	Proposal	Service Lead	Cost Estimate £	Comment
B9	Handrail renewal/replacement/installation to improve access	Roads	8,000	General funding allocation. Funding to be focused on priority risk areas. Exact locations will be finalised after allocated sum is agreed. Risk that projects may not be fully delivered by 31 March 2022 due to contractor availability and weather conditions.
B10	Improve/refresh road markings, particularly at junctions, roundabouts to improve visibility and safety.	Roads	30,000	General funding allocation. Funding to be focused on town centres areas and other priority risk areas. Exact locations will be finalised after allocated sum is agreed. Risk that projects may not be delivered by 31 March 2022 due to contractor availability and weather conditions.
B11	Clean/repair replace road signage	Roads	30,000	General funding allocation. Exact locations required to enable a cost estimate to be provided. Risk that projects may not be delivered by 31 March 2022 due to contractor availability. Approved funding of £2,000 in conjunction with B13
Community Regeneration				
B12	Circular Planter and seats	NETS	4,000	General funding allocation. Exact design of planter and specification of seats needs to be provided for the works to go ahead.
B13	Replacement Street Letters - St David's Square, George Street	Roads	N/A	Included in B11, subject to available budget.
B14	Rotary Club Bench - Whitburn Road (at entrance to Bathgate Retail Park)	NETS	N/A	Included in B8, subject to available budget.

Ref	Proposal	Service Lead	Cost Estimate £	Comment
B15	Cycling and active travel provision- Bathgate Town Centre and Approaches	Roads	N/A	A study has already been carried out to assess cycling and active travel provision- Bathgate Town Centre and Approaches as part of the Bathgate Water Regeneration Project. There are also projects currently being developed under Cycling Walking and Safer Routes, including Bathgate Road/Blackburn Road, Edinburgh Road from Guildiehaugh to King Street, Link between Wester Inch and Whitehill Industrial Estate.
B16	Street Furniture	NETS	N/A	Included in B8, subject to available budget.
B17	Flyposting, Graffiti & Unauthorised Signage	NETS	N/A	Included in B11, subject to available budget.
B18	Kerbside railings - Elizabeth Drive, Boghall	Roads	N/A	Included in B9, subject to available budget.
Elected Member				
B19	Refurbishing our War Memorial (the wall is actually falling down which bounds St John's Church)	NETS	75,000	Estimated costs are based on pointing and resetting sections of the wall and a general tidy up of the site. Estimated costs are based on the costs of a similar project at Glasgow Road Cemetery. To obtain accurate costs, the project requires a full structural assessment of the wall to determine the full scope of the wall repairs.
B20	Repainting of the cycle lane which runs from Kaimes Park through the town centre	Roads	N/A	Included in B10, subject to available budget.

Ref	Proposal	Service Lead	Cost Estimate £	Comment
B21	Purchase the Car Park at the Retail Park off Whitburn Road and scrap restrictions and carry out improvements i.e., Pedestrian paths, disabled parking and electric car parking points.	Property	745,000	Cost of Purchase estimated at £420,000, this is based on basic land rate of £300,000 per acre for town centre use. No valuation has been possible. Improvements would need to be subject to survey by Roads, an allowance of £25,000 is proposed. Cost of charging points are - £30,000 for rapid charge and £10,000 for fast charge (excluding infrastructure, ground and potential contingency costs). Have provided for 10 rapid charge in estimate.
B22	Phase Two create another car parking level with Solar Panels on the top to create energy for the network. This extra provision should solve the town centre car parking problems for years to come.	Property	200,000	Unclear on additional car park level what would be proposed, if physical building / construction then cost could potentially be significant. Cost of Solar Canopies are approx. £5,000 to £10,000 per space depending upon infrastructure, ground conditions and economies of scale. Have provided for 20 space solar canopy in cost estimate.
B23	Reconfigure the Car Park at King Street into a full car park scrapping the coach stance and reducing or scraping the taxi rank and replacing the metal feature at the old station platform with a better feature	Roads	400,000	A layout would have to be designed and a Traffic Regulation Order required to remove/amend the restrictions currently in place regarding the taxi and bus stop. Due to this, the need to consult and resource and contractor availability, it is unlikely that the Project would not delivered until late 2022/23 early 2023/24.

Ref	Proposal	Service Lead	Cost Estimate £	Comment
B24	Create a pedestrian access at the west corner of the station carpark to allow faster access to and from the town centre	Roads	50,000	The estimate is base on a ramp leading into the northwest corner of the station car park from Edinburgh Road. If the request is for a link between King Street car park along the old railway line the estimated cost for this would be £300,000. Due to the need to consult with Network Rail on either option and resource and contractor availability, it is unlikely that the Project would not delivered until late 2022/23 early 2023/24.
B25	Purchase an empty unit in Bathgate Town Centre to allow the creation of an indoor market	Property	500,000	No vacant property identified and unlikely to be viable commercially. Would not be in accordance with approved Asset Management Strategy or Commercial Property Portfolio Strategy and Management Plan. A general provision of £500,000 identified for acquisition, compliance works for multiple occupancy.
B26	Purchase mature trees in large planters for George Street	NETS	6,000	Costs based on the provision of 12 trees and planters at a cost of £500 per tree. Approved funding of £6,000

Ref	Proposal	Service Lead	Cost Estimate £	Comment
B27	Repair Up lighting at George Street in front of St David's Church	Roads	40,000	This is major works, not a simple repair job on the four uplighters mentioned in the request, as extensive tracking work is required. As part of the works the granite slabs in George Street would have to be lifted and relaid. Due to this, the need to consult and resource and contractor availability, it is unlikely that the Project would not delivered until late 2022/23 early 2023/24.
B28	Cosmetic Treatment to the front of building on west side of George Street	Property	20,000	Unclear which building involved, suggest a general allowance of £20,000 is provided or project is incorporated with wider Shop / Property front improvement schemes.
B29	Café Culture Project in Steelyard -Purchase of items and storage	NETS	20,000	Further details would be required. Provisional cost allowance. Contribution would be to actual costs up to provisional cost allowance.
B30	Increase the shop front grants from £750 to £2000	Economic Development	12,500	Increase grant for a maximum of 10 applications,
B31	Establish a shop interior improvement grant scheme with grants between £1000 and £3000	Economic Development	30,000	Assume maximum of 10.
B32	Create a Solar Farm in Acredale Car Park with panels on a frame above the existing parking places and an improvement to landscaping in the car park and creation of disabled spaces and more electric car charging points	Property	760,000	If all 152 spaces to be covered with solar canopy cost would be approx. £5,000 - 10,000 per space depending upon local infrastructure, economies of scale and ground conditions etc. Total Cost would be £760,000 to £1.5m.

Ref	Proposal	Service Lead	Cost Estimate £	Comment
B33	Basketball Court	NETS	40,000	Estimated costs are based on similar projects delivered as part of General Services Capital Programme. The project requires a design to finalise construction details and costs, and will require public consultation and may require planning permission.
B34	Green spaces for local community - former Baths site	NETS	300,000	This is a general estimate based on removing existing rubble and importing soil and turf to create a greenspace. This does not include park infrastructure such as paths, play equipment, furniture etc. The project requires a detailed design to finalise construction details and costs, and will require a public consultation and may require planning permission. The addition of park infrastructure and play equipment will add between £100,000 to £150,000 to the project value.
B35	Flower Garden, toddlers play area, Boghall	NETS	50,000	Estimated costs are based on similar projects delivered as part of General Services Capital Programme - Flower Garden £20,000 & toddlers play area £30,000. The project requires a design to finalise construction details and costs, and will require public consultation and may require planning permission.
B36	Chapel Well Garden Enhancement	NETS	4,000	General funding allocation for garden improvements

Ref	Proposal	Service Lead	Cost Estimate £	Comment
B37	Bathgate War Memorial - improvements and essential repairs	NETS	N/A	Refer to B19.
B38	There has also been quite a number of comments on the Spaces for people "survey" I did for the cycle lane markings to be repainted as they are also invisible	Roads	N/A	Included in B10, subject to available budget.
B39	Balbardie Indoor Bowling Club – rental to West Lothian Leisure of £15,000.	Education	N/A	Not eligible under the recovery and renewal criteria agreed by Council Executive.
B40	A deep cleaning of George Street /Steelyard Bathgate area 'the precinct' is much needed and would be a very welcome initiative	NETS	N/A	Included in B5, subject to available budget.
B41	Create a storage area so the industrial sized commercial waste bins are kept out of sight. These bins currently infest this same area and is a 'blot' on the landscape.	NETS	20,000	Estimated costs are based on similar projects delivered as part of General Services Capital Programme. The project requires a design to finalise construction details and costs, and will require public consultation and may require planning permission. Approved funding of £20,000
B42	Complimented by signage to warn off a very few members of the public who feel a need to feed the pigeons and seagulls at the steelyard area contributing to the numerous stains on the ground.	Roads	N/A	Included in B11, subject to available budget.
B43	Additional litter bins throughout the town including use of smart bins	NETS	N/A	Consultation on litter bins requirements planned for Spring 2022. Sensors being used to determine need. SMART Bins have been identified in B6.

Ref	Proposal	Service Lead	Cost Estimate £	Comment
B44	Additional lighting to improve community safety	Roads	N/A	All street lighting is installed to the appropriate classification of BS EN 13201. Furthermore, the majority of Bathgate ward has already been upgraded to LED lanterns with any remaining due to be converted next financial year (22/23) as part of the capital programme. If the request relates to areas which are currently not lit, further information will be required.
B45	Removal of flyposting and unauthorised signage	Roads	N/A	Included in B11, subject to available budget.
B46	Removal of redundant signs and street clutter	Roads	N/A	Included in B11, subject to available budget.
B47	Cleaning of cycle track behind Tesco where people on the train have their first impression of Bathgate	NETS	N/A	Cleansing of cycle track is included in cyclical routine maintenance.
B48	Tree planting within the town	NETS	N/A	Can be added to B26. Locations would need to be identified and agreed.
B49	Upgrade of the path from Little Boghead (Robertson Avenue) to Meadow Park including lighting and path upgrade	Roads	Path 1 – Appendix 2 £155,000 Path 2 – Appendix 3 £220,000	Due to resource and contractor availability, it is unlikely that the Project will be delivered before 2022/23.
B50	The path from Mill Road to Glasgow Road by the river badly needs surface upgrading and lighting	Roads	150,000	Due to resource and contractor availability, it is unlikely that the Project will be delivered before 2022/23.
	Total		3,845,228	



Blue Line = Section of Footpath that was surfaced and had lighting installed in April/May

Red Line = Proposed Section of Footpath

100MM TO BE REMOVED FROM THE EXISTING FOOTPATH SURFACE

FULL FOOTPATH RECONSTRUCTION
230MM THICK

GEOTEXTILE TERRAM

150MM THICK TYPE-ONE
SUB-BASE

50MM THICK 20MM D.B.M
BINDER COURSE

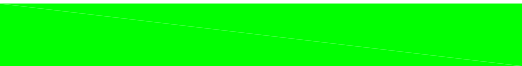
30MM THICK 10MM
ENRICHED ASPHALT CONCRETE
WEARING COURSE



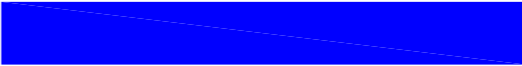
EXISTING WOODEN RAIL TO BE REMOVED
8X2 P.C.C FLAT TOP EDGING KERB
INSTALLED IN ITS PLACE WITH AN
UPSTANDING TO MEET NEW FOOTPATH
HEIGHT



TIE IN POINT WITH EXCISING FOOTPATH
& KERBS



REMOVE EXISTING FLAT TO KERB AT ENTRANCE
TO FOOTWAY ON DALLING AVENUE



LAY DOWN AREA FOR PLANT & MATERIALS



GENERAL NOTES:

- ALL WORKS TO BE COMPLETED TO THE SATISFACTION OF WEST LOTHIAN COUNCIL ROADS DEPARTMENT
- ALL WORKS TO BE CARRIED OUT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE D.O.T SPECIFICATION FOR HIGHWAY WORK LATEST EDITION

WEST LOTHIAN COUNCIL
OPERATIONAL SERVICES

West Lothian Council
WHITEHILL SERVICE CENTRE
WHITEHILL INDUSTRIAL ESTATE
BATHGATE EH48 2EP
TEL : 01506 284827

Projects
OPERATIONAL-SERVICES

DATE: June 2022
SCALE: NTS

DRAWN BY: Davy Higgins
CHECKED BY: Ronnie Fisher

Drg. No. LITTLE-BOGHEAD-PHASE-2-CONSTRUCTION

DATA LABEL:- LITTLE-BOGHEAD-FOOTPATH-PHASE-2

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Little Boghead Remote Footpath Bathgate Phase 2
Footpath Construction
7087438

100MM TO BE REMOVED FROM THE
EXISTING SURFACING

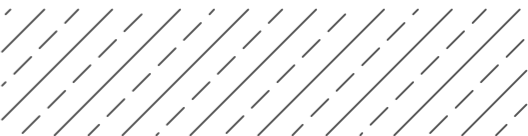
FULL FOOTPATH RECONSTRUCTION
230MM THICK

GEOTEXTILE TERRAM

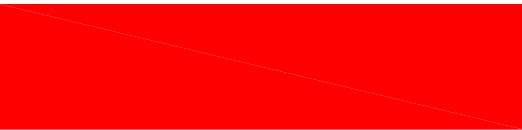
150MM THICK TYPE-ONE
SUB-BASE

50MM THICK 20MM D.B.M
BINDER COURSE

30MM THICK 10MM
ENRICHED ASPHALT CONCRETE
WEARING COURSE



8X2 P.C.C FLAT TOP
EDGING KERB



GENERAL NOTES:

1. ALL WORKS TO BE COMPLETED TO THE SATISFACTION OF WEST LOTHIAN COUNCIL ROADS DEPARTMENT
2. ALL WORKS TO BE CARRIED OUT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE D.O.T SPECIFICATION FOR HIGHWAY WORK LATEST EDITION

WEST LOTHIAN COUNCIL
OPERATIONAL SERVICES

West Lothian Council
WHITEHILL SERVICE CENTRE
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TEL : 01506 284827

Projects
OPERATIONAL-SERVICES

DATE: 14/02/22
SCALE: NTS

DRAWN BY: Davy Higgins
CHECKED BY: Brain McDowell

Drg. No. LITTLE-BOGHEAD-CIVILS-AND-SURFACING

DATA LABEL:- LITTLE-BOGHEAD-FOOTPATH-RECONSTRUCTION

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Little Boghead Remote Footpath Bathgate
Footpath Construction
7087438

DATA LABEL: PUBLIC



BATHGATE LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE

PENSIONERS GROUPS CHRISTMAS FUND ALLOCATIONS 2022-2023

REPORT BY THE DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE EDUCATION, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to inform the Local Area Committee of the final allocations that were made from the Pensioners' Groups Christmas Fund 2022-23 to groups in the Bathgate Ward, Livingston-wide groups and West Lothian-wide groups. The committee is asked to note that applicants were offered, as they were in 2020 and 2021, an additional option of a pre-prepared chilled meal as an alternative to a direct grant award.

B. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the committee notes:

1. Eight groups in Bathgate Ward were supported through the Pensioner's Christmas Fund 2022-23
2. The continued inclusion of a pre-prepared meal option

C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

I Council Values	Focusing on our customers' needs. Being honest, open and accountable. providing equality of opportunities; developing employees; making best use of our resources; working in partnership.
II Policy and Legal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues, Health or Risk Assessment)	The report does not raise any health or risk assessment issues. No strategic environmental assessment is required.
III Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers	The Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration Services has the delegated authority to make the final allocations and payments.
IV Impact on performance and performance Indicators	This will be reported against indicator EDR061_9b.1b; Number of community organisations funded or supported through funding managed or administered by Community Planning and Regeneration.
V Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement	Older people are able to live independently in the community with an improved quality of life.

VI Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)	£29,000 agreed by the Council with £2,167.96 awarded to groups in Bathgate Ward.
VII Consideration at PDSP	The Voluntary Organisations PDSP is updated annually.
VIII Other consultations	A similar report will be made to all Local Area Committees

D. TERMS OF THE REPORT

D.1 Background

Each year the Council approves the Pensioners' Groups Christmas Fund. In 2022-23 the total fund amounts to £29,000 which is allocated through an application process. Funding is paid out on the basis of a pro-rata allocation based on the beneficiary numbers identified by the applicants. In 2022-23 this will see 8 organisations representing 348 beneficiaries supported in the Bathgate Ward with an allocation of £6.53 per head.

D.2 Additional Meal Option 2022-2023

In 2020 and 2021, the council in partnership with the West Lothian Food Network, offered applicants the option of a pre-prepared chilled Christmas meal as an alternative to a direct grant award as a contribution towards the costs an event or activity, this option was offered again to applicants in 2022-2023. No applicants to the fund in the Bathgate Ward, Livingston Wide or West Lothian Wide requested the meal option in 2022-2023.

D.3 Applications 2022-2023

Officers contacted all previous recipients of the fund in Bathgate Ward, Livingston Wide and West Lothian Wide by email or post to ask if they were intending to provide a service this year and if so would they be interested in the provision of a pre-prepared chilled Christmas meal or would they prefer a direct grant payment.

Sixteen groups in total were contacted in Livingston South Ward, Livingston Wide and West Lothian Wide, fourteen of which applied to the fund and all of which requested the finance as opposed to the meal option.

As a result of this work:

Bathgate Ward

- Nine groups in Bathgate Ward were contacted and eight applied to the fund
- One group, Hanover Court Social Club, advised the council they had disbanded
- One new group, St Columba's Ladies Group, was added to the list
- All eight Bathgate Ward groups that applied to the fund requested the finance option (a grant payment)

Livingston Wide

- One Livingston Wide group was contacted and applied to the fund
- The group requested the finance option (a grant payment)

West Lothian Wide

- Six West Lothian Wide groups were contacted and five applied to the fund
- One group, West Lothian Financial Inclusion Network, declined to apply to the fund
- One new group, Carers of West Lothian, was added to the West Lothian Wide list
- The additional group requested a grant payment
- In all, five West Lothian Wide groups applied to the fund and all requested the finance option (a grant payment)

All applicants to the fund were supported.

As in previous years the fund is divided equally by the total number of beneficiaries of the fund, which in 2022-23 saw £6.53 per head allocated to recipients in the Bathgate Ward, Livingston Wide and West Lothian Wide.

Appendix 1 shows the overall breakdown of amounts awarded to groups by ward, Livingston Wide and West Lothian Wide.

Letters and e-mails were sent to groups advising them of the amount of funding they were to receive in a grant payment. Payments were made directly to the bank accounts of groups using the BACs payment method.

E CONCLUSION

The report asks the committee to note the allocation of the Pensioners' Groups Christmas Fund in 2022-2023 and the continued inclusion of the pre-prepared chilled meal option this year.

The report advises of the allocations that were made from the Pensioners' Groups Christmas Fund 2022-2023 to groups in the Bathgate Ward, Livingston Wide and West Lothian Wide.

Letters and e-mails were issued to groups advising them of the amount of funding they were to receive in a grant payment. Payments were made directly to the bank accounts of groups using the BACs payment method.

A satisfaction survey will be conducted with applicants in February 2023.

F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

None.

Appendices/Attachments: Appendix 1 Pensioners Groups Christmas Fund Allocations 2022-23

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Elaine Cook

Deputy Chief Executive Education, Planning and Economic Development

14 November 2022

BATHGATE LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE**PENSIONERS' GROUPS CHRISTMAS FUND ALLOCATIONS 2022-2023****REPORT BY THE DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE EDUCATION, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Appendix 1: 2022-2023 Allocations to groups in the Bathgate Ward, Livingston-wide groups and West Lothian-wide groups.

Bathgate Ward Organisations

Group	Provision	Number of Beneficiaries	Amount Awarded
Acredale House	Grant Payment	34	£222.02
Bathgate Stroke Support Group	Grant Payment	21	£137.13
Carron Court Tenants Group	Grant Payment	32	£208.96
Norvell Lodge Social Club	Grant Payment	29	£189.37
Rosemount Jane Place Tenants Association	Grant Payment	60	£391.80
Royal British Legion Scotland Bathgate Branch Club	Grant Payment	140	£914.20
St Marys & St Columba's 60s Club	Grant Payment	16	£104.48
Totals		332	£2,167.96

Livingston-Wide Organisations

Group	Provision	Number of Beneficiaries	Amount Awarded
Braid Health and Wellbeing (formerly Braid House)	Grant Payment	73	£476.69
Total		73	£476.69

West Lothian-Wide Organisations

Group	Provision	Number of Beneficiaries	Amount Awarded
Boghall Drop-In Centre	Grant Payment	120	£783.60
Carers of West Lothian	Grant Payment	30	£195.90
Society of St Vincent De Paul (Whitburn Conference)	Grant Payment	120	£783.60
SPARK (formerly Craigshill Good Neighbour Network)	Grant Payment	40	£261.20
West Lothian 50+ Network	Grant Payment	443	£2,892.79
Total		753	£4,917.09

Notes: Nine groups in Bathgate Ward were contacted and invited to apply to the fund. Eight groups applied to the fund. One group had disbanded. One new group was added to the list. One Livingston Wide group was contacted and applied to the fund. Six West Lothian Wide groups were contacted and five applied to the fund. One group declined funding. One new group was added to the list.

DATA LABEL: PUBLIC



BATHGATE LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE

REPORT ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND REGENERATION ACTIVITY

REPORT BY DEPUTE CHIEF EXECUTIVE EDUCATION, PLANNING, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of the economic development, regeneration and local partners activities within the Bathgate ward during the reporting period.

B. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Local Area Committee notes the report.

C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

I	Council Values	Focusing on our customers' needs; being honest, open and accountable; providing equality of opportunities; developing employees; making best use of our resources; working in partnership
II	Policy and Legal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues, Health or Risk Assessment)	Appropriate assessment will be carried out as deemed required.
III	Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers	None
IV	Impact on performance and performance Indicators	None
V	Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement	This supports the delivery of the Single Outcome Agreement and other plans, in particular the Economic Recovery Plan.
VI	Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)	There are various sources of funding that support many of these activities.
VII	Consideration at PDSP	None
VIII	Other consultations	None

D. TERMS OF REPORT

D.1 Background

The report updates the committee on the work of the Economic Development and the Community Wealth Building Team and its partners to support communities in Bathgate, one of 13 areas covered by the local plans required by the Scottish Government as part of their Community Empowerment approach and reported through the Community Planning Partnership.

These areas were identified as priority areas due to being within the bottom 20% of data zones in the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation.

D.2 Jim Walker (Bathgate) Partnership Centre

The Jim Walker Partnership Centre is open to customers with some services still operating an appointment system such as the Customer Information Services, Registration and the Advice Shop. Footfall from August 2022 to end of September 2022 was 13,526.

Customer Information Services continue to operate an appointment system dealing U22 applications, blue badge applications, council tax enquiries, housing enquiries, waste management enquiries and many more council related enquiries.

Simpson Library is fully open offering customers the opportunity to sit and read a newspaper or book, along with browsing for books or using the public access PCs or using the library for study time. Customers can download the Cloud App within the library, allowing them to issue and return books via their mobile phone. Bookbug sessions are running twice a month. Class visits are taking place from local primary schools and schools are keen on participating in library activities with various clubs running such as Jigsaw Club, Calming and Colouring Club, Lego Club and a new book group as well. Posters advertising clubs are online and on notice boards within the centre.

Self-service days are in operation from 8.30am-8pm (Wednesday) and 9-10am (Saturday) where customers can use the self-service terminal for issuing and returning books. Photocopying or customer printing can be done by staff. Digital Resources are still available to customers.

The Bathgate payment office remains open for customers to continue to make payments to rent and council tax accounts. From 1 August 2022 to 30 September 2022, 3,669 payment transactions were made and £455,627 in income taken.

Staff continue to pay out Scottish Welfare Fund – Crisis Grant Payments and are now paying out Social Policy Payments for Social Policy clients. Ukrainian Refugee Payments also continue to be made.

Bathgate Community Centre is fully open with most groups returning along with some new groups, drama group on a Sunday morning. Bathgate Playgroup continue to provide morning sessions to under 3-year old from Monday to Friday. Simply Play after school club returned after the summer school holidays and operate on Monday to Friday afternoon.

Bathgate Registration Office continue to offer an appointment system for customers, this is only for customers to sign/pick up registration certificates. Other Registration Services are continuing to be done over the phone.

The Advice Shop are continuing to offer their services over the phone and have introduced MacMillan Cancer appointments and PIP/DLA. MacMillan Cancer also offer their appointments within the Macmillan Hub within Simpson Library Bathgate on a Wednesday.

Adult Learning are now operating classes within the Partnership Centre, some take place during the day and some are in the evening

The tender period closed for the existing vacant café facility within the centre at the end of August 2022. Property Services advised there has been interest noted from parties in running it, although as yet await any further confirmation.

D.3 Boghall Drop in Centre

The Centre continues to provide support to the local community in Boghall. Activities during the reporting period have included the following summarised clubs and sessions, all undertaken since last update in August 2022:

- Tuesday Club - p1-3 (numbers are steady around 12 per week: ideally increasing it)
- Wednesday Club - p4-7 (capped at 30 by staff levels and size of building).
- Friday Club - secondary age (steady attendance between 10 and 18 per week).
- Biscuit and Bingo - A new bingo group for the elderly (weekly numbers of 10).
- Dalguise PGL – 32 children and youths visited for free in October, thanks to fundraising through events and Kiltwalk.
- Halloween disco, guising times and Halloween parties in October 2022.
- Monster sessions (messy play, story time and music, and puppet show)
- Cooking workshop during October 2022.

The Centre is considering providing for a community based local facility (often referred to as a 'warm spaces') initially on a Friday, where residents can drop in for safe companionship, a chat, and perhaps some light refreshments available.

Looking ahead to the rest of the year there are activities planned for the community:

- Tree of Hope and Remembrance Day poppy display in November 2022
- Elf Academy (arts and crafts workshops)- for primary kids - Tuesdays in November 2022
- Pensioner's Festive Dinner (3 course meal) on Saturday 3 December 2022.
- Christmas Parties, four age group session, from 13 - 16 December 2022.
- Christmas Fayre, Breakfast with Santa and Santa's Grotto (on 10 December 2022).

Following a period of cessation, local residents from Boghall met twice back in early 2020, with support of Boghall Drop-In Centre staff and the Town Centre Manager. The objective then was to look to re-invigorate the Boghall Residents and Tenants Association, with purpose to discuss key local issues impacting the wider Boghall community. Unfortunately, the pandemic stopped momentum. More recently there

D4.

has been interest expressed about group restart, in particular in context of a large residential development proposal situated within Boghall.

Access 2 Employment six month update

Access2employment provides employability support to residents throughout West Lothian, via a presence in local Partnership Centres, DWP offices and community initiatives, such as Community Fridge's, schools and Health Hubs across West Lothian. Support is provided to residents who are both unemployed or who are in employment and seeking to improve their employment situation due to uncertain employment, low pay or limited hours worked impacting on them financially and making it hard to make ends meet, or those whose skills are under-utilised.

Support is provided one to one consultation's with clients and through the provision of a range of courses including one day specific courses to 6-week personal development and employability courses, Women n2 Work and Men n2 Work.

A2E's Employment Adviser's offer tailored support to assist clients achieve their individual goals, with the ultimate aim of securing sustainable employment, improved household financial security and upskilling opportunities.

From 1st April 2022 – 30TH Sept 2022, the service registered 419 new clients, 50 from the Bathgate Ward, with 229 progressing into a positive destination, 31 from Bathgate Ward. This support has been mostly been provided remotely during the year due to the pandemic, however employment advisers are now delivering a hybrid service in line with client needs, with 22/23 delivery being a mix of face to face and online.

The service delivered 8 online workshops, including 1 face to face Women N2 Work course and 3 Wellbeing Workshops. In total 61 residents attending workshops. In 21/22 the service supported Connecting Scotland by securing over 200 Chromebooks and internet connections to give to unemployment clients seeking work that currently did not have any digital connectivity.

The service continues to provide a weekly Vacancy Bulletin, promoting information on the latest local vacancies for West Lothian job seekers. The Vacancy Bulletin is emailed out to on average 1200 clients and 200 stakeholders and partners weekly and is widely shared. It is estimated that 1500 individuals view the Vacancy Bulletin weekly.

Since Oct 21, with funding from the Scottish Government Long Term Unemployed provision, A2E have supported over 50 individuals aged over 25 and who have not worked for more than one year to secure employment. This support builds on a range of targeted interventions currently available which includes dedicated support for young people to assist them progress towards employment and support for parents. During 2021/22 the team introduced two additional services to support parents who are currently unemployed or in work but in insecure employment and an intense family support programme based within Social Policy. This provision seeks to address the identified need for a whole family intervention approach to combat the complex issues the families that are engaging have presented with.

D5

Business Gateway six month update

Council's Business Gateway team provides confidential and impartial support to residents looking to start-up in business, local firms, new and existing 3rd sector organisations and our major employers. All engagement with Business Gateway is

client-led. Support is provided to individual clients and business owners/decision makers.

Business Gateway supports a diverse portfolio of existing and new start social enterprises in West Lothian. Support is tailored to the needs of individual organisations. The support includes advice in areas such as business planning, finance raising, grant and loan applications, property, community benefit leases, asset transfers, income generation, governance and sustainability. In addition, social enterprises are signposted to the wider network of support programs available both locally and nationally. Business Gateway also work closely with the West Lothian Social Enterprise Network to ensure network members receive the business support they need.

The key outcomes for the team include helping residents to start their own business, enabling local firms to grow in a sustainable and inclusive manner and providing a single point of contact for our strategic employers.

The vision and commitment of local people to start their own business, especially in such challenging economic circumstances since 2020, is commendable. Across West Lothian, the Business Gateway team supported 325 new start firms in 2021/22. These businesses created 407 new jobs. The main business sectors are personal, professional and local services. Around 20% of all early stage firms go on to take premises, employ staff and grow the scale of the business. New starts are worth over £10.5 million to the local economy every year.

The Business Gateway team also includes advisers who deal with existing, growing and relocating firms to West Lothian. The advisers provided direct support to 811 local firms in the financial year to end of March 2022. This included 41 social enterprises, 20 of whom operate across West Lothian. Our priority sectors include Life Sciences, Manufacturing, Engineering, Construction and enabling technologies. West Lothian firms engaged with us around new premises, new markets, recruiting/training, working capital, Research & Development, export regulation, digital marketing and carbon reduction projects. All against a background of macro-economic challenges including fears of recession, weaker value of sterling, rising inflation and interest rate pressures.

Council's Business Gateway advisers support firms who have combined annual sales in excess of £1.41 Billion per annum. While these businesses employ over 12,000 staff, this represents 15% of total jobs in West Lothian. However, the supported firms account for more than 30% of the annual gross value add (GVA) of the West Lothian economy.

As part of Council's long-term commitment to retain and attract the best businesses, and to grow our value-added sectors, a commercially-focused website, [Why West Lothian? - Invest in West Lothian](#) has been developed to highlight the range of support available for our local firms. It also promotes West Lothian as an inward/mobile investment destination. Our key inward investment partner is Scottish Enterprise (SE). We have built close and productive links with SE over the years. Their ongoing strategic investment in key firms has helped strengthen the West Lothian economy. Feedback from stakeholders is positive with work on-going to ensure the website remains credible, relevant and compelling. The site is responsive and details the range of support for our local firms, highlighting assistance with energy costs, options for low-carbon heating, managing cashflow and also help which is sector-specific [Find Business Support Launches: Cost of Doing Business Section \(investinwestlothian.com\)](#)

In the 6 months to September 2022, a further 20 new start businesses have been established in the Ward with the team's support. This is a healthy level of starts, especially in a strong jobs market with many vacancies. Over the same timescale, the Business Gateway team assisted 67 existing firms in the Ward who between them employ 730 staff and have sales of more than £268 million.

West Lothian	Bathgate & Boghall Ward
April – Sept 2022	April – Sept 2022
New Business Starts 134	New Business Starts 20
Existing Businesses Supported 363	Existing Businesses Supported 67

D6

In summarising the work of Business Gateway, it is not all about sales and wider economic impacts. The business advisers have the trust of local people, working with them to find solutions often in complex economic circumstances. The Bathgate Local Area Committee is asked to note the team's ongoing contribution to a sustained and inclusive economic recovery.

Bathgate Town Centre

Bathgate town centre acts as a community focal point for local services, amenities and employment. The town centre is subject to a quarterly occupancy survey as one measure of its relative vitality and viability. At the time of reporting (October 2022) the occupancy level was around 92% (vacancy 8%). To provide context this remains favourable to national averages of 10% and above, published by Springboard, and is improvement from a Bathgate recent peak vacancy level of 9% in July 2019.

D7

The Council facilitated Bathgate Town Centre Management Group resumed in person meetings in August 2022, having ceased face to face meetings in March 2020, due to pandemic. The group continues to meet on a regular basis, usually ten times per annum, and acts as a forum to discuss town centre related issues and to identify potential improvement projects and initiatives.

Bathgate Together

Two further meetings of the Bathgate Together group (formerly Project Collaboration) have been held in the Reconnect Regal Theatre in August and October 2022.

Whilst initiated in the early stages by the Council's Town Centre Manager, Bathgate Community Council have coordinated the follow-on meetings. These have been relatively well attended by a range of groups and representatives, including the elected ward members and Town Centre Manager. This approach has led to positive information sharing amongst local groups and wider discussion on possible actions ahead to improve the town and community.

D8

The most recent meeting was held 26 October provided a forum to discuss the findings of the 'Crazy Eight' exercise, where people had been asked to list their ideas and thoughts on what they would like to see improved or amenities provided for wider community benefit. The next meeting will take place in January 2023.

Bathgate Hills Venture Group

The first 'Bathgate Hills Storytelling Day' was held on 9 October as a joint collaboration between the Bathgate Hill Venture Group and various local partners

including Reconnect Regal, Napiers the Herbalist, Bathgate Youth Band, Bennie Museum, Danceworld and Bathgate Academy.

The storytelling competition far exceeded expectation, by attracting 460 school pupils with amazing stories and art work. These were initially displayed in Linlithgow Burgh Halls and a suitable display location in Bathgate is being identified.

Balbardie Primary School (P7s) did especially well in designing covers for each of their stories as well as being really creative in the tales they told. Scott Fleming (Bathgate children's author) is to visit the school as a prize (free of charge), to share tips and inspire a generation of writers.

The herbalist/foraging walk sold out within 24 hours and proved popular even on a cold wet day (limited to 20). The storytelling afternoon, hosted by Libby McArthur attracted 50 people (target numbers). The evening performance was attended by around 100 people and featured the Reconnect Regal Panto actors, Bathgate Youth Band and Danceworld.

- D9** The group is being supported by the Town Centre Manager and Housing Strategy & Development colleagues to progress forward with their project proposals to deliver environmental enhancements at the Chapel Well Garden at Marjoribanks Street, Bathgate. This work is being funded following a successful application through the Council's Tenant Environmental Improvement programme for 2022/23. The scope of work has been agreed and is out for tender with works being proposed to commence from January 2023.

Party in the Park

Friends of Kirkton Park once again this year successfully delivered the annual Party in the Park event, held at Kirkton Park, Bathgate, on its traditional first Sunday of September. This was the first event since 2019, and the pandemic, and the tenth anniversary of this well attended and valued local extravaganza in Bathgate. It is estimated that there were around 2,000 visitors throughout the day's programme, mostly family based.

- D10** The committee is reviewing the future of this long-standing event, as sponsorship, fundraising and committee numbers are all becoming difficult to secure. The event costs around £12,000 per annum to host, and with significant increases in costs this last year, the position is challenging. Over the years, the numbers attending has generally been upwards, but an outdoor event in Autumn is always dependent on the weather.

Town Centre Manager has supported the Committee group through additional event promotion and linked connections to other local organisations that could support or participate on the day.

African Women's Network

The West Lothian African Women's Network, established in May 2021, held an open day of celebration in Bathgate town centre on 24 September 2022. The main aim was towards building stronger communities through integrating and celebrating African and Scottish cultures. The displays included African and Scottish crafts, arts, food and dance/entertainment

- D11** It was hugely a successful event with a good turnout where the community had the opportunity to interact, connect and celebrate together. The event was made possible

through fundraising, including National Lottery Community Fund support. It is estimated that about 350 people in total attended.

The Town Centre Manager provided the group with practical guidance around the hosting of the event and supported the promotion/awareness of the activities to wider community.

Bathgate Twinning Association

The Bathgate Twinning Association convened an open meeting in October, held at Reconnect Regal on 23 October 2022, inviting all Bathgate organisations.

- D12** Approximately 20 local groups were represented at this fair, which was intended to offer local groups the opportunity to meet, network and raise awareness of what is going on in the community.

Town Centre Manager assisted them in helping to publicise/communicate the event locally. It is anticipated that this will become an annual gathering in Autumn each year for the local community and organisations.

Trash Panda CIC

Trash Panda CIC is a social enterprise based in the arts and mental health. They are currently in the process of securing the former Farmfoods building in Bathgate town centre, and applying for change of use planning permission, to enable them to establish an arts and wellbeing hub.

- E.** The organisation is focused upon primarily sound engineering for bands and equipment hire for gigs and events, whereby the profits generated are invested into a free support service. This provides for free 1-1 support for anyone in the local community. Trash Panda work with local bands and on the support side have helped over 120 people.

The new hub will in time host; state of the art rehearsal rooms, music teaching spaces and the wellbeing hub which will be utilised for youth groups, yoga classes and more activities. The Town Centre Manager has been in contact with the organisation to offer initial advice on local assistance that is available to help guide and support the proposal going forward.

CONCLUSION

Bathgate Local Area Committee is asked to note the activities taking place across Bathgate ward by the Council's Economic Development, Community Wealth Building Team and local partners.

F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

None

Appendices/Attachments: None

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Elaine Cook, Depute Chief Executive, Education, Planning, Economic Development

Date of Meeting: 14 November 2022

BATHGATE LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE Workplan November 2022

	Agenda Item	Purpose	Lead Officer	Date
1	Police Scotland ward update	Quarterly Update	Sgt Michael Harte	All meetings
2	Scottish Fire and Rescue Service ward update	Quarterly Update	Paul Harvey	All meetings
3	Housing ward update	Quarterly Update	Graeme McKee	All meetings
4	NETs Land and Countryside Services ward update	Quarterly Update	Pat McArdle	All meetings
5	Economic Development and Regeneration ward update	Quarterly Update	Dougie Grierson	All meetings
6	General Services Capital Programme - Bathgate Update	Annual Update	Donald Forrest/Carol Johnston	August 2023
7	Place Based Investment Programme, Town Centre Capital Fund 2022/23	Update report	Dougie Grierson	As required
8	COVID 19 Local Recovery and Renewal Fund update	Update report	Carol Johnston	As required.
9	Anti-Poverty Service Update	Annual Update	Christopher Nelson	November 2023
10	Pensioners Xmas Allocation	Annual update	TBC	November 2023