

MINUTE of MEETING of the PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE held within COUNCIL CHAMBERS, WEST LOTHIAN CIVIC CENTRE, LIVINGSTON, on 14 NOVEMBER 2022.

Present – Councillors Peter Heggie (Chair), Stuart Borrowman, Carl John, Maria MacAulay

Absent – Danny Logue

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

2. MINUTES

The committee confirmed the Minute of its meeting held on held on 05 September 2022 as a correct record. The Minute was thereafter signed by the Chair

3. SERVICE PERFORMANCE AND WLAM OUTCOME REPORT – HOUSING STRATEGY AND DEVELOPMENT

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive providing an overview of a service assessment from the West Lothian Assessment Model process (2022/25). Also provided was a summary of recommendations from the officer-led scrutiny panel that had been identified for action and were to be delivered by the service.

The report was accompanied by a presentation which included; a service overview, service priorities for 2022/25, key achievements and milestones and a service performance scorecard. The service expanded on the content of the presentation before the committee were given the opportunity to ask questions and provide comment.

During discussion, the requirement for private landlords to complete registration was highlighted and it was asked if the percentage of those who had registered was available. Committee were informed that a proactive approach was taken in this regard and further information would be obtained with members updated accordingly.

It was recommended that the committee:

1. note the outcome from the WLAM and Review Panel process;
2. note the recommendations for improvement; and
3. agree any other recommendations that may have improved the performance of the service.

Decision

1. To note the contents of the report and service presentation; and
2. To note officers undertook to provide committee members with information regarding private landlords and their completion of required registration.

4. CORPORATE STRATEGY ANNUAL UPDATE - IMPROVEMENT STRATEGY 2018/2023

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Corporate Services providing a review of the Improvement Strategy 2018/23, including progress against the planned actions and an overview of the performance to date. The review covered the period 2021/22.

Performance Indicator P:PIS111_9b.1c (Percentage of business improvement recommendations completed), noted on page two of appendix one to the report, was discussed and officers asked what plans were in place to achieve the targets set. In response, the committee were advised that services were required to devote resource to undertake the improvement activities and performance had been lower due to resourcing issues during the pandemic. It was noted, however, that services had since increased activity in this area.

It was recommended that the committee:

1. note the performance against the outcomes;
2. note the progress made in implementing the key activities and actions; and
3. agree any recommendations for improvement.

Decision

To note the contents of the report.

5. LOCAL GOVERNMENT BENCHMARKING FRAMEWORK

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive providing high-level comparative analysis of the 2020/21 performance of the council in the Local Government Benchmarking Framework (LGBF), against previous years and the performance of the other 31 local authorities. The report advised that the LGBF was the main benchmarking framework for local government in Scotland.

Further detail was sought, with regard to where West Lothian was positioned within the ranking tables, for both Tackling Climate Change

and Environmental Services. It was explained that, as Tackling Climate Change was a new category, with limited information, it would be difficult to provide a definition of how well West Lothian had performed. However, this would be closely monitored over the coming years. With regard to Environmental Services, this category predominantly measured waste recycling rates and associated costs, overall community cleanliness and roads, with measures such as road condition surveys and the costs per kilometre of maintenance. West Lothian tended to be competitive in these categories although, for this year, some of the satisfaction indicators had not been available.

In response to a question on whether representatives worked collegiately with partners, in order to share best practice, the committee was informed that one of the key aims of the LGBF was to increase the sharing of knowledge and learning across local authorities. Some categories had shared benchmarking and it was part of the Improvement Services Improvement Plan to increase such opportunities in order to gain greater value from the dataset contained within the LGBF.

The Adult Social Care and Financial Stability categories were then highlighted and it was asked what could be done to move these forward. Officers advised that Adult Social Care had previously had a special report to this committee and there had been a considerable increase in performance in 2021, in what was acknowledged to have been a challenging year for social care services. The category was being closely monitored corporately in order to ensure the levels of improvement expected were achieved. For the benefit of those members new to the committee, the special report would be circulated for their information. Moving on to Financial Sustainability, officers advised this was a relatively new category, part of which measured financial reserves. As an authority, West Lothian had not carried a high level of reserves, as it sought to make the best use of resources, although this would lead to a lower ranking compared to those authorities who carried higher levels of reserves.

It was recommended that the committee note the council's comparative performance in the LGBF 2020/21.

Decision

1. To note the contents of the report; and
2. To note officers would circulate to members the special Adult Social Care report previously reported to this committee.

6. WORKPLAN (HEREWITH)

A workplan had been circulated for information.

Decision

To note the workplan.

