

MINUTE of MEETING of the WHITBURN AND BLACKBURN LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE held within SEAFIELD COMMUNITY CENTRE, SEAFIELD, on 5 DECEMBER 2022.

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

Apologies – Councillor Kirsteen Sullivan

In attendance -

Marjory Mackie, Lead Officer, West Lothian Council

Scott McKillop, Community Regeneration Officer, West Lothian Council

Robert Meechan, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

PS Mike Harte, Police Scotland

Graeme McKee, Housing Manager, West Lothian Council

Christopher Nelson, Income Maximisation Manager, West Lothian Council

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

2. MINUTE

The committee approved the Minute of its meeting held on 26 September 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 providing an update on performance, activities and issues across the ward for the period up to 1 October 2022.

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

Decision

1. To note the content of the report;
2. To request that following the weekly TAC meetings the Lead Officer ensure that local ward members be suitably briefed on any pertinent issues that were arising in the ward even if the response was “nil”;
3. To request that all future Police Ward reports contain comparator data similar to past report; and

4. FIRE SERVICE WARD REPORT

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service updating on the activity within the ward for the period up to 30 September 2022.

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

Decision

To note the contents of the report.

5. HOUSING, CUSTOMER AND BUILDING SERVICES

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Housing, Customer and Building Services providing an overview of the service activities within the ward.

It was recommended that the committee note Housing, Customer and Building Service activity as detailed in the ward report for the period Quarter 2, 1 July to 30 September 2022.

Decision

1. To note the content of the report;
2. To request that officers' provide local ward members with details of the number of people in the ward, on a community-by-community basis, who were on universal credit; and
3. To request that officer's provide further information to local ward members on the cases and incidents reported by the Safer Neighbourhood Team as summarised in Table 1 of the report (page 7)

6. SERVICE UPDATE - NETS, LAND & COUNTRYSIDE

As no officer was present from the service area, the committee agreed to continue the item of business to the next scheduled meeting. Therefore, the report was not discussed.

7. ANTI-POVERTY SERVICE UPDATE

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by Head of Finance and Property Services informing of the work undertaken by the Anti-Poverty Services from April 2021 to March 2022.

It was recommended that the committee notes:

1. The Anti-Poverty Service provision in the ward; and
2. The impact provision was having in terms of supporting the outcomes of the Community Planning Partnership's Anti-Poverty Strategy 2018-21.

Decision

1. To note the terms of the report; and
2. To request that officer's provide local ward members with examples of the leaflets that were distributed throughout communities advising of the assistance that was available via the Advice Shop

8. COMMUNITY REGENERATION UPDATE

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

It was recommended that the committee notes updates on :-

1. Regeneration activity in both Blackburn and Whitburn including recent engagement undertaken around locality planning and the West Lothian Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP);
2. Whitburn town centre matters including the planned heritage trail for the town
3. Progress with the opening of Whitburn Partnership Centre including the public art installation;
4. Progress with establishing a management committee for the community wing in Greenrigg Primary School; and
5. Business Gateway and access2employment activity.

Decision

1. To note the content of the report; and
2. To request that the Community Regeneration Officer provide local ward members with examples of the art work that would be installed in the new Whitburn Partnership Centre

9. PENSIONERS' GROUPS CHRISTMAS FUND ALLOCATIONS 2022-23

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive, Education, Planning and Economic Development advising of the final allocations made from the Pensioners' Groups Christmas Fund 2022-23 to groups in the Whitburn and Blackburn Ward, Livingston-wide groups and West Lothian-wide groups. The report asked committee 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.

It was recommended that the committee notes:

1. Three groups in the Whitburn and Blackburn ward would be supported through the Pensioners' Christmas Fund 2022-23; and
2. The continued inclusion of a pre-prepared meal option.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

10. WORKPLAN

A workplan had been circulated for information.

Decision

To note the workplan.