

MINUTE of MEETING of the BATHGATE LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE held within CONFERENCE ROOM 14/15, BATHGATE PARTNERSHIP CENTRE, SOUTH BRIDGE STREET, BATHGATE, on 6 MARCH 2023.

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

Apologies – Councillor Tony Pearson

In attendance -

Carol Johnston, Lead Officer, West Lothian Council  
Dougie Grierson, Community Regeneration Team Leader, West Lothian Council  
Sergeant Mike Harte, Police Scotland  
Paul Harvey, Local Authority Liaison Officer, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service  
Pat McArdle, Acting Grounds Maintenance Manager, West Lothian Council  
Graeme McKee, Housing Manager, West Lothian Council  
Graeme Ross, Repairs Manager, West Lothian Council  
Gordon Brown, Roads & Transportation Manager, West Lothian Council  
Ronnie Fisher, Design Engineer Manager, West Lothian Council  
Fraser Keast, Engineer, West Lothian Council  
Ronnie McLeod, Bathgate Community Council

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

2. MINUTES -

- (a) The committee approved the Minute of its Meeting held on 14 November 2022. The Minute was thereafter signed by the Chair.
- (b) The committee the Minute of its Special Meeting held on 6 February 2023. 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 31 December 2022.

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

Decision

To note the contents 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 31 December 2022.

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

#### Decision

To note the contents 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 3 - 1 October to 31 December 2022.

The committee received a verbal overview from the Repairs Manager on the 3 main issues that had been identified that were causing delays in letting property voids. The committee suggested that an article should be included in Bulletin to illustrate the variety of reasons for delays in re-letting properties. The committee agreed to support proposed action by officers to write to Chief Executives of Utility Companies to try to speed up the void process, as recently reported to a meeting of Whitburn & Blackburn Local Area Committee.

The committee was invited to note the service activity as detailed in the ward report for the period 1 October to 31 December 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 October to 31 December 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. SPACES FOR PEOPLE CONSULTATION

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by Head of Operational Services consulting with members in accordance with the amendment approved by Council on 22 November 2022. The approved amendment provided an opportunity for the committee to provide feedback on whether the council's remaining temporary Spaces for People measures should be permanently retained or removed.

It was recommended that the committee:

1. Notes the contents of the report and provides any appropriate feedback on the remaining temporary Spaces for People measures contained within the report; and
2. Notes that officers would report back to a future meeting of the Environment and Sustainability PDSP with any feedback received.

### Decision

To note the terms of the report.

## 8. BATHGATE FLOODING ISSUES

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Operational Services informing members of flooding experienced throughout Bathgate on 30 December 2022 and of the work being carried out to manage flood risk.

It was recommended that the committee notes the report and actions taken to mitigate flood risk in Bathgate.

### Decision

To note the terms of the report.

## 9. REPORT ON LOCAL PLANNING AND PARTNERSHIP 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

10. TIMETABLE OF MEETINGS 2023/24

The committee considered the proposed timetable of meetings for the period August 2023 to June 2024 (copies of which had been circulated).

Decision

To approve the timetable of meetings.

11. WORKPLAN

A copy of the workplan had been circulated for information.

Decision

To note the workplan.