

MINUTE of MEETING of the COMMUNITY SAFETY BOARD of WEST Lothian COUNCIL held within COUNCIL CHAMBERS, WEST Lothian CIVIC CENTRE, HOWDEN SOUTH ROAD, LIVINGSTON, EH54 6FF, on 25 SEPTEMBER 2012.

Present – Councillors Anne McMillan (Elected Member - Representative), Cathy Muldoon (Elected Member - Representative), John McGinty, (Chair), John Hill (Depute Chief Executive – Housing Building and Construction Services, West Lothian Council) Jim Forrest (CHCP Director), Siobhan Mullen (Senior Manager – Housing Construction and Building Services – West Lothian Council), Inspector Graham Jones (Lothian & Borders Police), Tom Kane (Lothian & Borders Fire and Rescue Board).

Apologies – Councillor Frank Anderson (Elected Member - Representative), Peter Johnston (Elected Member - Representative), Graham Hope (Chief Executive, West Lothian Council), Inspector Jeanette McDiarmid (Lothian & Borders Police)

In Attendance – Lorraine Gillies (Programme Manager, West Lothian Council)

1. MINUTE

The Board approved the Minute of its meeting held on 26 June 2012 as a correct record.

2. COMMUNITY SAFETY QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE REPORT

The Board considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) from the Strategic Steering Group providing information drawn from Covalent to show the performance of the Community Safety Unit against agreed performance indicators.

Actual performance was shown against targets and trend charts were produced with commentary to explain the performance results.

Decision

To note the report and the information drawn from Covalent to demonstrate performance by the Community Safety Unit for the final quarter of 2011/2012.

3. VANDALISM REPORT

The Board considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Community Safety Strategic Steering Group providing information in relation to vandalism.

The aim of the report was to facilitate informed decision making by the West Lothian Community Safety Partnership and to provide a greater understanding of established and emerging trends, priority locations and other high-risk issues.

The profile was based on eight months worth of data from the police crime recording system UNIFI to provide a current picture of vandalism. Data from the past three years had been used to provide an overall trend to show the scale of vandalism within West Lothian.

The report went on to advise that in total there had been 1418 vandalisms this year. It was also shown that there was a clear division between vandalisms that were linked to young people and those linked to older persons, the night economy and neighbourhood disputes.

Vandalisms occurred throughout the county with the highest volume of crime in Whitburn and Blackburn and Bathgate wards. It was also clear that Friday and Saturday evenings were the peak times for vandalisms to occur with peak times on a Friday between 22.00hrs and 0100hrs.

In conclusion the report advised that vandalism continued to be a high volume crime which impacted on a large number of residents of West Lothian.

Decision

To note the report.

4. POLICE AND FIRE REFORM (SCOTLAND) ACT 2012

The Board considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Community Safety Strategic Steering Group providing an update on what the Police and Fire Reform would mean.

The Police and Fire Reform Act 2012 proposed that the Local Police Commander and the Local Senior Fire Officer were each responsible for producing a Local Plan for submission to the Local Authority for approval. They were both required to consult others as appropriate and to have due regard to the national Strategic Police/Fire Plans. The Police and Fire Reform Act also stated that these Local Plans were to be reviewed and replaced every three years.

Lothian & Borders Police and Fire and Rescue Service in West Lothian were already committed to close working, collaboration and the development of innovative joint planning and working arrangements with local partners through the community planning process.

Under a single Scottish Fire Service and Fire and Rescue Service the vast majority of services would continue to be delivered locally and there would be clear focus and effort to continue the work carried out on community engagement in order to respond directly to local problems.

The report went on to outline the responsibilities of the Local Police Commander and Local Senior Fire Officer. It was advised that the implications for the delivery of the Local Plans were unknown at this time.

Decision

To note the update on the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012

5. PROACTIVE PARTNERSHIP ACTIVITIES:a) Community Planning Partnership – Strategic Assessment

The Board considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Community Safety Strategic Steering Group providing an update on the Community Planning Strategic Assessment (SA) which had been agreed by the Community Planning Partnership (CPP).

The report advised that the Community Planning Strategic Assessment would help to identify, assess and prioritise what was important for West Lothian's communities and would enable the setting of achievable outcomes for the next Single Outcome Agreement and the re-writing of the Community Plan.

The following steps were agreed by the Community Planning Steering Group:-

1. A priority setting day on 24 September to determine a long-list of priorities and a single core theme based on the evidence within the strategic assessment.
2. A discussion by the Community Planning Partnership Steering Group to choose a shortlist of priorities from the long-list and approve the core theme.
3. Approval sought from the Community Planning Partnership Board on the priorities and core theme.
4. Public consultation on the priorities and core theme.

The report went on to advise that a partner analyst was currently assisting Community Planning Officers. The priority decision making would take place with representatives from each partner agency ensuring an even split across the various sections of community planning.

The report concluded that once the priorities had been identified the community and user consultation would be undertaken and the development of the Single Outcome Agreement and Community Plan would be redrafted into a single document.

Decision

To note the contents of the report.

b) Fireworks 2012

The Board considered a verbal report by Tom Kane providing an update on measures that had been put in place to deal with fireworks. The Board was advised that several initiatives were in place including fire officers targeting schools to educate and advise on the dangers of fireworks. Premises selling fireworks would also be subject to visits by fire officers to provide advice on storage and sales.

The Board was also advised that there would be a Joint Agency meeting to plan strategies and there would be a press release on 3 October 2012.

Decision

To note the verbal update.

c) Festive Activities – Operation Festoon

The Board considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Community Safety Strategic Steering Group informing of “Operation Festoon” involving Police and a range of enforcement/non enforcement partners.

The report advised that in the weeks leading up to Christmas and New Year there was traditionally an increase in street disorder, retail crime, shoplifting, fraud, domestic violence, youth disorder and road traffic offences. A range of preventative measures coupled with increased police patrols and pro-activity from partners, both high profile and covert could impact upon crime rates, street disorder and the general demand on police and other resources.

It was therefore the intention of Operation Festoon to prevent crime, promote community safety, maximise media opportunities and deliver a fully integrated partnership approach by focussing predominately on the following :-

- Domestic Violence
- Night Time Economy
- Antisocial Behaviour
- Crimes of Violence
- Road Safety
- Drugs
- Warrants Initiatives

- Licensing Issues
- Acquisitive Crime
- Vulnerable Premises checks

In conjunction with the Divisional Community Safety Unit and associated partners, distribution of crime prevention material would take place over the operational period which would include information to members of the public, householders and retailers. Preventative media messages would also be disseminated during various dates of the operation in conjunction with key partners.

In conclusion the report advised that the Police lead, Operation Festoon was a partnership initiative aimed at making West Lothian a safer place over the festive season.

Decision

The Board acknowledged the planned festive activity, Operation Festoon.

6. PRIVATE SESSION

The Board resolved in terms of Clauses 6 and 7 of Part 3 of the Board's Administration Arrangements to consider the next item of business in private as it contained restricted information.

7. ANPR

The Board considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Community Safety Steering Group providing a background summary, and resource implications in respect of ANPR.

The report advised that full consultation had taken place and that a full update would be provided to the Partnership Tasking and Co-ordination Group.

Decision

To note the contents of the report.