

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 27 JUNE 2013.

Present – Councillors John McGinty (Chair), Anne McMillan and Cathy Muldoon; Graham Hope (Chief Executive, WLC), Graeme Struthers (Acting Depute Chief Executive, WLC), Alistair Shaw (Head of Housing, Construction & Building Services, WLC), Yvonne Beresford (Housing, WLC), Siobhan Mullen (Housing, WLC), Carol Bebbington (substituting for Jim Forrest), Lorraine Gillies (Community Planning, WLC), Audrey Park (Addiewell Prison), Chief Inspector Steven Elliot (Police Service Scotland), Gary Laing (Area Commander, Scottish Fire & Rescue Service), David Lockhart (Group Manager, Scottish Fire & Rescue Service)

Apologies – Councillor Frank Anderson; Jim Gallacher (Voluntary Sector Gateway West Lothian)

Absent – Councillor Peter Johnston

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

No declarations were made.

2. MINUTE

The Board approved the Minute of its meeting held on 10 April 2013.

3. COMMUNITY SAFETY QUARTERLY STRATEGIC PERFORMANCE UPDATE

The Board considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) providing information from Covalent showing Community Safety Performance Indicators for the year to date.

Chief Inspector Steven Elliot then provided an explanation of those performance indicators that concerned Anti Social Behaviour, Road Safety and Violence.

Area Commander Gary Laing then provided an explanation of those performance indicators that concerned Fires and Road Safety.

Following the presentations a discussion ensued with regards to future reporting arrangements of performance indicators to the Community Safety Board as it was considered that some data could be excluded but new performance indicators included, for example data relating to Addiewell Prison and those leaving prison with “no fixed abode”. Data concerning community offending and re-offending would also be a welcome addition to future reports.

Decision

1. To note the terms of the report and current levels of performance

for Community Safety; and

2. Agreed that the Chief Executive would liaise with the Chair of the Community Safety Board, in the first instance, to clarify future reporting arrangements to the Board and which was to include data related to offending, re-offending and those prisoners of no fixed abode.

#### 4. REDUCING VIOLENCE

The Board considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the West Lothian Community Safety Strategic Steering Group providing information on the partnership work that was being undertaken to prevent and tackle violence in West Lothian primarily associated with public space and the night time economy and to gain support for the tactics being deployed.

The Board were advised that violent crime impacted on all members of society and was not limited by age, sex or ethnic origin. The excessive consumption of alcohol could often increase the likelihood of both perpetrating and being a victim of a violent crime

Therefore there was a continuing commitment to delivering tangible outcomes via well established multi agency strategies. These strategies focussed on the problems caused by alcohol and drugs across all communities and tackled town centre violence and disorder through a policy of early intervention and joint work alongside partners. The partnership working on policing the night time economy included :-

- Dedicated night time economy police departments (high viz patrols);
- Taxi marshals;
- Public space CCTV;
- Street pastors;
- Pub Watch;
- SIA enforcement activity;
- Campaign against Violence Days; and
- Offender and location Management

In the future it was intended that there would be further partnership work undertaken to reduce violence associated more directly with social deprivation and in private space. This could involve the development of a Multi Agency Tasking & Co-ordinating Group (MATAG) which would focus solely on violence. This would involve the creation and maintenance of a structured partnership programme to manage and target high tariff violent offenders and would allow for the consideration of a number of tactical

options to combat those who posed the greatest threat, risk and harm to communities.

#### Decision

1. Noted the terms of the report; and
2. Noted the update with regards to the formation of the Multi Agency Tasking and Co-ordinating Group (MATAG) and welcomed further updates on its progress to future meetings of the Board.

### 5. MAKING OUR ROADS SAFER

The Board considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the West Lothian Community Safety Steering Group advising of the partnership working that was being undertaken to prevent and tackle speeding and inappropriate driving behaviour throughout West Lothian.

The proposed initiative would provide local Community Officers with the ability to respond to community concerns rather than relying on specifically trained Road Policing Officers. The programme would cover all ward areas within West Lothian, with 8 out of 9 wards having Road Safety as a priority in their area. The primary objective of the programme would be to reassure the public that their concerns about road safety were being taken seriously and acted upon via a multi agency approach incorporating community engagement, education, engineering, enforcement, where appropriate, and evaluation.

The project would focus on targeting offenders throughout West Lothian on an almost daily basis and would be supported by inputs to secondary school children, community councils and relevant groups in the areas.

It was anticipated that the proposed action would have a big impact on public perception and community engagement, recognising the issues affecting them locally.

In conclusion the initiative was considered to be a long term intervention that would be fluid and could be utilised and concentrated in areas of concern as determined through analysis or issues raised by partners or the community.

#### Decision

Noted the terms of the report.

### 6. REDUCING DELIBERATE FIRE RAISING - IMPROVING COMMUNITY WELL BEING

The Council Executive considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the West Lothian Community Safety Steering Group advising of the partnership work that was being undertaken to prevent and tackle wheelie bin fires in Boghall, Bathgate and Ladywell, Livingston.

The Board were advised that across West Lothian, deliberate fires had accounted for 1.4% of all reported crime in the past three years, with Boghall and Ladywell identified as hotspot locations. In Boghall 4.2% of all crime was deliberate fire related with over half of these fires involving wheelie bins being deliberately ignited. Deliberate fires accounted for 2.3% of all crime in Ladywell which was considerably higher than the West Lothian average of 1.4%.

Therefore a multi agency working group consisting of Police Scotland, Scottish Fire & Rescue Service, West Lothian Council Housing & Building Services, Waste Services and Community Regeneration was created and met to identify and take forward a range of options to trial and develop a lasting plan to tackle the problem. Short term solutions have been deployed, consisting of the area being leafleted regarding ongoing problems with wheelie bin fires and the installation of dummy CCTV cameras.

In addition wheelie bin locks (blue bins only) were to be fitted within the two areas of Boghall and Ladywell. The trial was planned to run for one year to gather sufficient data to inform any long-term strategy. The Joint Partnership Analysts would record all incidents throughout the year (from both the Fire & Rescue Service and the Police Service) to demonstrate any significant change for evaluation purposes.

The resources implications for the proposal were minimal for the trial period and each agency would be absorbing this within existing demand.

A progress on the trial would be reported to a future meeting of the Board.

#### Decision

1. Noted the terms of the report;
2. Noted that progress on the trial would be reported to future meeting of the Board;
3. Noted that the Council would have to monitor the effects of the locks on the blue wheelie bins to ensure that it did not have a negative affect on recycling targets in these two areas.

#### 7. BENEFITS TO THE FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE FROM PARTNERSHIP TASKING & CO-ORDINATING

The Board considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the West Lothian Community Safety Steering Group advising of the benefits to the Fire & Rescue Service from being a member of the West Lothian Community Safety Unit Tasking and Co-ordinating process.

The Board were advised that the Fire & Rescue Service considered the following fire related incidents as antisocial behaviour:- deliberate fire setting, malicious fire alarms, misuse of fire hydrants and violence towards fire and rescue employees. In West Lothian the Community

Safety Unit Tasking and Co-ordinating daily and monthly processes had become an integral part of the prevention strategy in relation to these types of events. As a result fire related antisocial behaviour had declined over the past few years in West Lothian through partners proactively identifying shared problems and targeting problem areas.

The report continued to advise that the Home Safety Visit Programme delivered by the Fire & Rescue Service had delivered significant reductions in accidental dwelling fires and associated casualties and fatalities, since it was introduced in the early 2000's. Again the Community Safety Unit Daily Tasking and Co-ordinating process allowed the Fire & Rescue Service to be informed of households that may be considered as being "more at risk from fire" and subsequently home fire safety advice and smoke detection could be offered in a targeted approach.

In conclusion the West Lothian Community Safety Unit Tasking and Co-ordinating processes were essential to the delivery of fire and rescue preventative activity.

#### Decision

Noted the terms of the report.

#### 8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Board noted that the next meeting would be held on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2013 at 2.00pm.