



West Lothian  
Council

**ARMADALE AND BLACKRIDGE LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE**

**COMMUNITY REGENERATION – WARD ACTION PLAN 2012-13 FINAL REPORT AND  
WARD ACTION PLAN 2013-15**

**REPORT BY HEAD OF AREA SERVICES**

**A. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

This report informs the Local Area Committee of key achievements relating to Regeneration and Employability activity in 2012-13. The paper also outlines the ward action plan which sets out further initiatives for 2013-15.

**B. RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the committee note the contents of the report, specifically the planned activity for 2013-15.

**C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS**

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>I Council Values</b>   | Focusing on our customers' needs; making best use of our resources; and working in partnership.  |
| <b>II Policy and Legal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues, Health or Risk Assessment)</b> | Community regeneration reinforces the council's commitment to community planning at a local level.   |
| <b>III Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers</b>   | None.  |
| <b>IV Impact on performance and performance Indicators</b>  | Performance indicators relating to the activity within the plans are captured within the set of Regeneration and Employability key performance indicators.                                 |
| <b>V Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement</b>  | Regeneration and Employability initiatives reinforce a number of aims of the Single Outcome Agreement specifically those aimed at employability and tackling inequalities in West Lothian. |
| <b>VI Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)</b>  | The 2013-15 action plan can be delivered from existing approved budgets.   |
| <b>VII Consideration at PDSP</b>  | None.  |

## **VIII Other consultations**

Consultation has been undertaken with the partners referred to within this report.

### **D. TERMS OF REPORT**

#### **D.1 Background**

The Regeneration and Employability team delivers a range of services to support some of our most disadvantaged communities and individuals, with a particular emphasis on engaging with people to build personal and community capacity. The team comprises three component parts:

- Regeneration
- Support to the voluntary sector
- Employability

The service produces annual local action plans for the nine multi member wards. The plans outline the activities to be delivered that meet the regeneration needs of the individual areas. The key activities within the action plans focus on:

- Developing the capacity of individuals and community based projects and initiatives to assist regeneration in the most disadvantaged communities.
- Delivering targeted, specialist campaigns, interventions and support to improve health, employability and the environment in these communities.

#### **D.2 Ward Action Plan 2012-13**

Appendix one contains the completed ward action plan for 2012-13. The plan shows Regeneration, Employability and partner activity across the Armadale and Blackridge ward area.

The plan has been updated to show progress against the targets set.

Significant achievements include:

- £52,000 funding has been awarded to support Mayfield community garden activities and development.
- Employability provision within the ward has resulted in 109 new registrations with 59% of clients progressing onto positive destinations.
- Blackridge Work Club was successfully piloted on a Friday afternoon, delivered by Access2employment at the Craig Inn Centre. Delivery has increased to two afternoons per week.
- The 'Together 4 Health' and the 'Do More Drink Less' projects delivered a successful Christmas Event with a health theme encouraging families to be physically active over the festive season with a torch light walk around Watson Park. They also delivered a ladies day at Mayfield Community House giving the opportunity to experience Head Massage, Qigong and Henna tattoos whilst raising awareness of the effects of alcohol.

- Over 2110 people used the 'Youth Space'. Two graffiti art project were delivered through the 'Youth Space'.
- The usage of the Community Sports Hub Increased by 275% and registered Community Sports Clubs increased from 9 to 31. All clubs have shown increases in membership ranging from 20% to 145%.

### **D.3 Ward Action Plan 2013-15**

Appendix two contains the ward action plan for 2013-15. The plan shows Regeneration, Employability and partner activity across the Armadale and Blackridge ward area. The plan has been designed to show what the various services will be working together to achieve over the coming year, what outcomes they are working towards and how they will measure progress against these.

The plan does not include 'core' or mainstream work in the area so, for instance, details of all the youth provision available in the area is not contained within this plan.

The main priority themes for the ward in 2013-15 will be:

- Young people and Antisocial Behaviour
- Employability and Financial Inclusion
- Community Development
- Health and the Environment

Examples of key planned activities for 2013-15 are:

| Action  | Target  |
|---|---|
| Support the development and continued delivery of Armadale Employability Group.                             | Growth of employability group and continued support of existing provision across the ward.  |
| Support projects across the ward.   | Provide continued support to projects throughout the ward including Mayfield House, Youth Space and Community Sports Hub.   |
| Continued delivery of Do More, Drink Less project in Armadale.  | Develop activities which encourage and support young people to make healthy lifestyle choices. Specific activity will include establishing working group, planning and delivering events to allow young people to have positive experiences of an alcohol free environment. |
| Support environmental improvements within the ward.   | Carry out environmental visual audits within the ward and work with partners to deliver improvements where need identified.   |
| Support the delivery of events aimed at increasing knowledge and tackling inequalities throughout the ward. | Support events including Armadale Run for Fun, Money Week and Do More Drink Less.   |

#### **D.4 Reporting**

Progress on the plans will be reported back to the Local Area Committee at six monthly intervals. At this point progress and achievement to date will be reported on in line with the planned performance indicator.

Any significant new local developments and initiatives will be added to the plans, as appropriate.

#### **E. CONCLUSION**

This report reflects achievement against planned activity from Regeneration and Employability and partners in 2012-13. A new ward plan has been developed for 2013-15, and is aimed at making a significant contribution to improving the quality of life of the citizens in the Armadale and Blackridge ward.

An update report will be presented to the Local Area Committee in November 2013 and at six monthly intervals thereafter.

#### **F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES**

None.

Appendices/Attachments: Two

Appendix One: Armadale and Blackridge Completed Ward Action Plan 2012-13

Appendix Two: Armadale and Blackridge Ward Action Plan 2013-15

Contact Person; Douglas Benson, Community Regeneration Officer, Armadale and Blackridge, Tel 01506 281970, email [douglas.benson@westlothian.gov.uk](mailto:douglas.benson@westlothian.gov.uk)

Steve Field, Head of Area Services

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