

MINUTES TO INCLUDE IN COINS

ES PDSP

Councillor Tony Pearson was absent due to leave authorised under the Leave Scheme for Elected Members

1 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest made.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

2 **MINUTES**

The panel approved the minute of its meeting held on 26 March 2024. The Chair thereafter signed the minute.

3 **ECOLOGY & BIODIVERSITY ACCESS TO NATURE**

The panel considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Operational Services providing information relating to a proposed pilot project which would see the creation of planted areas within school grounds as an education resource. The pilot project would help meet targets for learning for sustainability and benefit biodiversity and climate action plans.

It was recommended that the panel:

1. Consider and comment on the contents of the report and appendix to help address learning for sustainability within WLC schools; and
2. Note that officers would provide a further update as the project progressed.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

4 ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION AND PREVENTION (AIP) CASUALTY REDUCTION PROGRAMME 2024/25

The panel considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Operational Services seeking approval for the list of proposed prioritised casualty reduction schemes for the 2024/25 programme.

It was recommended that the panel should note and consider the following recommendation which was intended to be submitted to the Council Executive for approval:

It is recommended that the Council Executive approves the list of prioritised casualty reduction schemes for implementation in 2024/25. It is also recommended that the Council Executive approves the funding of the 'West Drive' initiative run by Police Scotland via the expected Road Safety Improvement Fund allocation.

Decision

1. To note the terms of the report.
2. To agree that the report be forwarded to a future meeting of Council Executive for approval.

5 COMMUNITY RECYCLING CENTRES PERFORMANCE

The panel considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Operational Services providing the latest performance information across the council's five Community Recycling Centres (CRC's) following the revision to operational practices implemented on 2 October 2023.

It was recommended that the panel:

1. Note the performance information for the period 2 October 2023 to 30 April 2024; and
2. Note that across the five community recycling centres, 191,395 bookings had been made from 2 October 2023 to 30 April 2024 accounting for 87% of the available booking capacity across the seven-month period.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

6 PRESENTATION OF COMMERCIAL WASTE BINS

The panel considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Operational Services providing information regarding how other councils managed the storage and presentation of commercial waste bins on their adopted footpaths and roads.

It was recommended that the panel note the terms of the report.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

7 APSE SCOTLAND STRIVING FOR EXCELLENCE AWARDS - FLEET SERVICES

The panel considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Operational Services advising members of the results of the APSE Scotland Striving for Excellence Awards 2024.

It was recommended that the panel note that West Lothian Council's Fleet Services team had been awarded the Gold award at the APSE Scotland Striving for Excellence Awards.

The Chair and panel members congratulated the team on winning the Gold award at the APSE Scotland Striving for Excellence Awards.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

8 TRANSPORT SCOTLAND FAIR FARES REVIEW 2024

The panel considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Operational Services advising members of the Scottish Government's Fair Fares Review.

It was recommended that the panel note the outcome of the review.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

9 OPERATIONAL SERVICES SERVICE IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2023/26 – ANNUAL UPDATE 2023/24

The panel considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Operational Services providing the annual update on the Service Improvement Plan 2023/24 to 2025/26 for Operational Services. The update covered the period 2023/24.

It was recommended that the panel note the progress in the Service Improvement Plan in 2023/24.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

10 PERFORMANCE REPORT – FULL YEAR 2023-2024

The panel considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Operational Services advising of the current levels of performance for all indicators which were the responsibility of the Environment & Sustainability Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel.

It was recommended that the panel note the performance information and determine if further action or enquiry was necessary for any of the indicators mentioned within the report.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

11 ANNUAL ADAPTATION ACTION PLAN ANNUAL REPORT

The panel considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration presenting the second annual report on progress against the Adaptation Action Plan.

It was recommended that panel considers and comment on the contents of the report and performance update on progress against the Adaptation Action Plan actions.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

12 QUARTERLY CLIMATE CHANGE UPDATE

The panel considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration presenting the latest quarterly climate change update and to provide an update on work undertaken to meet the actions in the Climate Change Strategy.

It was recommended that the panel:

1. Note the content of the report; and
2. Note the attached quarterly performance update on progress against Climate Change Strategy actions.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

13 WINCHBURGH RAILWAY STATION

The panel considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration providing an update following the recent multi-agency meeting with the Scottish Government, Transport Scotland, Winchburgh Developments Ltd and Network Rail per the instruction from a meeting of West Lothian Council.

It was recommended that the panel note the update.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

14 WORKPLAN

A workplan had been circulated for information

Decision

To note the workplan, subject to the addition of an update on the brown bin system implementation and permits.

15 CLOSING REMARKS

The Chair and members thanked Jim Jack for his help and efforts throughout his career at the council and as Lead Officer for the Environment and Sustainability PDSP and wished him well in his retirement.

A – Kirsteen Sullivan, Anne McMillan sub; Craig Meek, Lawrence Fitzpatrick sub; Tony Pearson

Dol none

OOB as per the agenda

Mins – ok

5 Callum McLaren

AA – disapp to note deans and st kents not included; how soon bf consider the other schools to come on bd? – pilot scheme wait see how progresses. Proposed all HS included, through ed services. 7 sites proposed.

AA – are schools reminded to take on bd the project themselves, can cl help them w this despite not pt of pilot scheme. can be looked at w agreement w Ed Services.

To note suggestion for other schools to join the project, which could be done in agreement with Education Services.

DC – purchase of scientific equip 3k, elaborate? – previous of passive acoustic monitor, backholds. See what better f engagement of pupils. Feedback of schools.

CD park on our doorstep filled w trees f biodiversity, why not the two schools on edge of mcarthy park? – see above, use of 7 sites. Not all schools will have the same asset.

LF – similar to DC b Sinclair and winchb ac share facilities. Jamieson hs back bellsquary and .. equality, why not in all these schools feed into both denominational and non-d. same trees. – we considered this, pt of the decision was by ed services. Reason existing ptship bet those schools. Would need discussions w schools.

V Smith – emphasis on trees, lots of biodiv in plants around us, why emphasis on woodland? – woodland trust provides schools trees f free. Established method, get carbon benefits through trees, also trees beneficial f pollinating. Future benefits.

TC – ed services id where the pilot scheme instead of Ops services – yes.

C

DC applaud the team, question this proj, overcomplicating things. We have beautiful parks.

6 G Brown

AA – p3 close estimated levels... underspend... investigate down list; possibility if underspend that some smaller scale projects can be id'd by local members? – if

underspend will be small, looking at targeting initiatives on transp scot safe roads project. Op to hand pick service schemes through road safety framewk.

DC – st Andrews drive uphill, expand? – four slight accidents, installing central island to split traffic. I believe it is in the scheme. **To provide drawing to specify the exact location of project at St Andrews Drive.**

P3 underspend, how prioritise sites further down the list. **Updates will be provided in due course.**

7 D Maule

LF left here

AA attempt to follow up on no shows to establish reasons? – have ctct info from all bookings, 7% no shows, benchmarking currently w other cls shows not unusual, want measures to reduce it, looking at avail data, how to use some automation to allow us to gather more info. wk in progress.

DC availability brox and linl lower, make sense to increase hours at brox and linl? – opening hours are agreed by CE last oct, reasons f capacity at each site. **To provide further explanation on how the throughput at each CRC site is calculated.**

AA D5 accuracy, how long veh has been in site, increase in slots available when analyse this info? – may be one of the benefits, w caveat that is potentially a benefit, having the npr avail gives us more accurate data on duration of each visit.

8 J Jack

TC D2 time slots, different authority from Edi/Gla, restrict presentation times to tighter timescale and to reflect times shops are open? – pt of what we want to discuss w other councils, issues, smaller cls, consider factors eg we don't offer commercial waste collection unlike other cls.

TC enforcement issue, ensure pres times are kept. Situation going fwd decriminalise pkgng, - fair pt, will be some element of cross subsidy if achievable.

C

AA – not always businesses causing the prob but cls. In edi cl owned bins cause the prob.

9 J Jack

AA – what vehicles come under fleet – 1k vehicles rd sweeper, hbv, small cars, vans, pickup trucks.

Congrats

VS – redesign, summary of what you did? – no of different items, streamlined mgt structure, also restru technicians and how service. More accountability.

C

Congrats to team, officers interview by exam panel, show change in fleet. Recognise changes.

The Chair and panel members congratulated the team on winning the the Gold award at the APSE Scotland Striving for Excellence Awards.

10. K Muirhead

AA p34 option 3, expand eligibility rail scotrail, where rail clear alternative to bus... impact on but ntwk. They would never consider any concession bc it would hurt the buses. Ok f edi and Glasgow, but in wl, not understandw sg claims to make pub trspt accessible; anything we can do to improve funding received f pub trspt. – TC outwith wl remit. – KM don't have full answers re rationale, paper provides links to background docs. Re service delivery we provide pub trspt re local bus services.

C

TC – In any discussions w SG ministers we are always told to wait f fairs fare review. Peak service trains extended. Disparity needs to be addressed, mst ppl in wl need access to buses. Disapp w fairs fare reviw, no indication re any support re bus rail integrated service in wl. Need support f activities of cl and communities that need pub trspt.

DC – under 22s travel, nat travel card over 60s.
TC no point f concess travel when no routes.

AA p37 SG clear no intent to expand coverage.

11 JJ

DC p4 objective 1 in perf targets, increase in potholes, semi permanent repairs. Huge pothole in uphall main street was repaired semi-p, same again, wasting money? What kind of money ? – cant give exact figure. Asset mgt plan, tight periods risk of potholes, if pothole in high risk location have to act in 24hrs, not pos to act f long term repair. Problematic in the winter, repair needed on quicker basis on highly trafficked areas. Prob of usin materials on temp basis. assess risk, review and then permanent fix. To note request for information on the financial cost of semi-permanent road repairs.

Cost per pupil f transport, include transport from tenancies to school? – total f mainstream trsp not include homeless tenancies.

AA – p7 action under impl pking strategy, decirm pking everyone in wl desperate to get. Anything not been rpt so far, possibility to have implementation date? – GB – in pking str a lot of interventions high risk 3 yr prd, we are now in yr 1. Considering nxt stage, we need fin investment to take it fwd and engage specialist help. Progressing as per pking str as approved by CE.

12 JJ

13 P Rogers

AMM – p2 D2 Scottins nat adaptaion action plan, many costs associated w adaptation come from core budget, detail of costs? – around services already delivering, maintenance, costs associated, adaptation to climate change. Day to day business. More common adaptatoins generally assoc w day to day business.

14 P Rogers

Typo? 15.12

15 C MC

AA – who has not completed the business plan or design? – not sure. Need f bus plan came through condition f planning consent f houses at winch. Condition related to railway station. Station could not progressed until wk had been done. Some time later cl discharged that condition on basis of satisfactory wk. will have to be discussed further w mtg w stakeholders later this mth.

AA – developer willing to part fund station, is ther funding from wl or transp scotl? – no funding from wlc, developer id'd contribution both financial and in kind eg car park. Still funding gap, no conclusion currently as to how it will be met.

AMM – p3 para3, more info – for sig capital proj you would have sb promoting, and lead delivery of proj. not neces the funder of the project. Ordinarily f delivery the promoter would be transp scot.

AMM transp scot seem to be a fit as promoter; any talks w netwk rail until funding? – mtg w minister was a publisher mtg. ntwk rail present, w the developer.

C

DC possibility of funding from edi city. 1M that winch dev positioned, better spent on train station.

PP – after all these yrs, appears no wk on business plan or design of train station; instead prioritisation of..

TC – remember this was a private developer. Issues w plan permissions, reason edi-gla project. Those resp f nat trspt comments, not progressed otherwise. Not a cl project. Trying to facilitate discussions. We are nt a rail provider.

Closing remarks

The Chair thanked Jim Jack for his assistance to the Chair as executive Councillor, to the members and the panel and wished him well in his retirement.

Add Update on brown bin system impementation and permits.