

MINUTE of MEETING of the LIVINGSTON NORTH LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE held within COUNCIL CHAMBERS, WEST LOTHIAN CIVIC CENTRE, LIVINGSTON, on 1 SEPTEMBER 2023.

Present – Councillors Anne McMillan (Chair), Alison Adamson, Robert De Bold, Andrew Miller

In Attendance

Jim Jack – Lead Officer

PC Ewan Hannay – Police Scotland

James Robertson – Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

Scott McKillop – Community Regeneration Officer, West Lothian Council

Simon Scott – Open Space and Cemeteries Manager, West Lothian Council

Sandy Ross – Housing Manager, West Lothian Council

Tracy Tonner – Accountant, West Lothian Council

Stevie Egan – Eliburn Community Council

Julie Henderson – Knightsridge Community Council

Diane Loughlin – Livingston Village Community Council

1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Agenda Item 10 – Locality Planning Update

Councillor Andrew Miller stated that he was a Board member on the Vennie but would participate in the item of business.

2 MINUTES

The committee approved the minute of its meeting held on 23 June 2023. The Chair thereafter signed the minute.

3 POLICE WARD REPORT

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by Police Scotland providing an update on performance, activities and issues across the ward for the period up to 30 June 2023.

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

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

4 SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE WARD REPORT

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service providing an update on the activity within the ward for the period up to 30 June 2023.

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

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

5 SERVICE UPDATE - OPERATIONAL SERVICES

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Operational Services

Members raised a number of issues, including: grass maintenance, path clearing, operation and security of solar compactor bins, tree belt maintenance, lighting on footpaths, incorrect signage, vandalism of road signs and the open space capital programme.

It was recommended that the committee:

1. Note the work carried out by the service within the local area; and
2. Advise of any areas that require further information or investigation.

Decision

1. To note the terms of the report.
2. To request that the Open Space and Cemeteries Manager seek information on the following and update ward members accordingly:
 - Final grass maintenance for the year.
 - Solar compactor bins operation and security.
 - Tree belt maintenance.
 - Lighting of footpaths.
 - Signage.
 - Path cleaning prioritisation.
 - Public reporting of overgrown paths.
 - Road signs vandalism.
 - The open space capital programme.

6 HOUSING, CUSTOMER AND BUILDING SERVICES

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 ward.

It was recommended that the committee note Housing, Customer and Building Service activity as detailed in the ward report for the period Quarter 1: 1 April 2023 – 30 June 2023.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

7 GENERAL SERVICES CAPITAL PROGRAMME UPDATE

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Finance and Property Services providing an update on general services capital investment in the ward during 2022/23 and planned investment for the five-year period 2023/24 to 2027/28 as part of the new ten-year capital programme.

It was recommended that the committee note:

1. The progress made in delivering the approved general services capital programme within the Livingston North ward in 2022/23;
2. The approved capital projects planned for the ward in 2023/24 to 2027/28;
3. That detailed allocations of block budgets for the period 2028/29 to 2032/33 to specific projects attributable to individual wards would be undertaken on a rolling basis as part of the annual update;
4. That progress in delivery of the 2023/24 programme would be reported to Council Executive following detailed budget monitoring exercises during the course of the year; and
5. That an updated capital investment programme would be presented to Council for approval in early 2024.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

8 LOCALITY PLANNING UPDATE

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration informing members of progress on locality planning and other activities within the ward.

It was recommended that the committee note updates on:

1. Locality planning in Deans, Carmondean and Knightsridge including a report on progress since the first meeting of the services group;
2. Carmondean Library;
3. The Vennie and the arrangements regarding its council funding;

4. Changes to Post Office provision within the ward; and
5. Dechmont Law path improvements and Deans North Road Street Lighting project.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

9 WORKPLAN

A workplan had been circulated for information.

Decision

To note the workplan, subject to the addition of the following to appropriate meetings:

- Presentations from schools;
- A presentation from the Vennie; and
- An update on the regeneration of deprived areas.