

MINUTE of MEETING of the ECONOMY, COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT AND WEALTH BUILDING POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY PANEL held within COUNCIL CHAMBERS, WEST LOTHIAN CIVIC CENTRE, LIVINGSTON, EH54 6FF, on 14 NOVEMBER 2023.

Present – Councillors Kirsteen Sullivan (Chair), Tom Conn, Stuart Borrowman, Peter Heggie, Andrew Miller, Cathy Muldoon; and Sally Pattle

In attendance – Alan McCloskey (West Lothian Voluntary Sector Gateway Representative) and Donald Stavert (Joint Forum of Community Councils Representative)

## 1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Agenda Item 9 (Place Based Investment Programme) - Councillor Miller stated that he was a Trustee of Almond Valley Heritage Centre but would participate in the item of business

Agenda Item 9 (Place Based Investment Programme) - Councillor Sullivan stated that she had been supportive of the Scottish Co-Operative Discovery Centre project but would participate in the item of business

Agenda Item 9 (Place Based Investment Programme) - Councillor Conn stated that he was a Trustee of the Low Port Centre so would not participate in the item of business

Agenda Item 9 (Place Based Investment Programme) - Donald Stavert (Joint Forum CC Representative) stated that he had been involved in one of the applications so would not participate in the item of business

## 2. MINUTE

The Panel approved the Minute of its meeting held on 12 September 2023. The Minute was thereafter signed by the Chair.

## 3. BUSINESS SUPPORT UPDATE

The Panel considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration advising on the performance of Business Gateway in the 6 months to 30 September 2023 and the support provided to local businesses across West Lothian.

The Panel was asked to note the updates on the range of impacts made by the Business Gateway team, launch of the Invest website, progress of the Jobs Task Force, and closer working with the university sector.

### Decision

To note the content of the report

#### 4. VOLUNTARY SECTOR GATEWAY WEST LOTHIAN UPDATE

The Panel considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive providing an update on activity of the Voluntary Sector Gateway West Lothian in providing an effective single point of access for support and advice and representing the interests of voluntary and community groups within West Lothian.

It was recommended that the Panel: -

1. Considers and notes the overview provided by the Voluntary Sector Gateway West Lothian in Appendix one and;
2. Notes the work carried out to support and represent the interests of voluntary and community groups within West Lothian.

##### Decision

1. To note the content of the report
2. To note that updates on future funding streams for the Food Network would continue to be provided in Voluntary Sector Gateway West Lothian reports.

#### 5. AGE FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES

The Panel considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration advising of work that the Development Planning and Environment were undertaking to deliver age friendly communities.

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

##### Decision

To note the content of the report

#### 6. STRATEGIC REVIEW OF TOWN CENTRES - UPDATE

The Panel considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration to outline the further work that had been carried out by the Town Centre Management officers in relation to the previously agreed strategic town centre review exercise.

It was recommended that the Panel notes the findings of the engagement, and the proposed options for recommendations on actions and outcomes

##### Decision

To note the content of the report

7. PLACED BASED INVESTMENT PROGRAMME - UPDATE ON COMMUNITY WEALTH BUILDING CAPITAL PROJECTS

The Panel considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive providing information on the projects that were successful in securing Place Based Investment funding in 2023/24 and an update on the projects that received funding in 2022/23.

It was recommended that the Panel: -

1. Notes the number of applications received for capital projects over £100,000 contained within appendix one
2. Notes the six projects that were awarded funding in 2023/24 from the £600,000 of funding available
3. Notes the update in Community Choices; and;
4. Notes the update on projects awarded funding in 2022/23.

Decision

To note the content of the report

8. WORKPLAN

A workplan had been circulated for information.

The Chair advised that with regards to an earlier request, at agenda item 8 – Strategic Review of Town Centres, with regards to a report back to the Panel exploring better connectivity between Local Area Committee's and Town Centre Management Groups the Lead Officer would be asked to make preliminary enquiries as the subject matter possibly sat within the remit of the Corporate Policy and Resources Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel instead.

Decision

1. To note the content of the workplan.
2. To note that the Lead Officer would make initial enquiries as to which PDSP a report on better connectivity between Local Area Committee's and Town Centre Management Groups should be reported.