

MINUTE of MEETING of the LIVINGSTON SOUTH LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE held within COUNCIL CHAMBERS, WEST LoTHIAN CIVIC CENTRE, LIVINGSTON, on 2 NOVEMBER 2023.

Present – Councillors Lawrence Fitzpatrick (Chair), Peter Heggie and Maria MacAulay

Apologies – Councillor Moira McKee Shemilt

In Attendance

Greg Welsh, Lead Officer, West Lothian Council

Scott McKillop, Community Regeneration Officer, West Lothian Council

Sergeant Lee Brodie, Police Scotland

James Robertson, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

Nicola Hughes, Area Housing Manager, West Lothian Council

David Lees, Operational Services, West Lothian Council

Mrs Lisamaria Purdie, Head Teacher, West Lothian Council

Mrs Claire Roy, Acting Depute Head Teachers, West Lothian Council

Diane Loughlin, Chair, Livingston Village Community Council

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

2. MINUTE

The committee confirmed the Minute of its meeting held on 7 September 2023. The Minute was thereafter signed by the Chair.

3. PRESENTATION – ST. NINIAN'S PRIMARY SCHOOL.

The committee received an illuminating presentation from Abubakr, Dylan, Maddison and Thea (P7 House Captains), the Head Teacher and Acting Depute Head Teacher of St. Ninian's Primary School (copies of which had been circulated) covering key areas from the very positive report that had been published following the Education Scotland (HMI) inspection in May 2023.

The pupils spoke enthusiastically about the school's values and they ways it ensured all children felt included. The school had been rated excellent in Leading Change and the Head Teacher explained the important of pupil participation in all decision making change. For Learning, Teaching and Assessment, the school had been rated very good with the inspector noting that children were highly engaged and motivated to do their best in classes.

Moving on, the Head Teacher expanded on the strong sense of community focussed on love and appreciation of the uniqueness of every individual which had led to an excellent rating for Wellbeing, Equality and Inclusion. Attainment and Achievement had received a very good rating acknowledging children's wide and varied successes and achievements

were celebrated regularly in a variety of ways depending on the views of the child. The presentation concluded with information on the schools plans to further improve.

On behalf of the committee the Chair thanked the head teacher for her enlightening and uplifting presentation.

Decision

To note the terms of the report

4. POLICE WARD REPORT - REPORT BY POLICE SCOTLAND (HEREWITH)

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 30th September 2023.

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

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

5. FIRE SERVICE UPDATE

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service on the activity within the Livingston South Multi-Member Ward for the period up to 30 September 2023.

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

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

6. SERVICE UPDATE - NETS, LAND AND COUNTRYSIDE

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Operational Services advising members of the recent activity of the NET's, Land & Countryside Services teams for the period 1 July to 30 September 2023.

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

To note the terms of the report.

7. ANTI-POVERTY SERVICE UPDATE

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Finance and Property Services informing members of the work undertaken by the Anti-Poverty Service from April 2022 to March 2023 and highlighting the targeted interventions to support people within the Livingston South Ward.

It was recommended that the committee note:-

1. The Anti-Poverty Service provision in the ward; and
2. The impact provision was having in terms of supporting the outcomes of the Community Planning Partnership's Tackling Poverty Strategy 2023-2028.

Decision

To note the contents of the report.

8. 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 Livingston South Ward.

It was recommended that the committee note Housing, Customer and Building Service activity as detailed in the ward report for the period Quarter 2 – 1 July 2023 to 30 September 2023.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

9. REPORT ON PROGRESS OF LOCALITY PLANNING

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive (Education, Planning and Economic Development) providing information on locality planning within the ward.

It was recommended that the committee note updates on:

1. The progress of locality planning and its associated activities in Dedridge and Ladywell; and
2. The recent funding awards to, and activity of, key community

organisations within those communities.

In response to a question, the Community Regeneration Officer would seek to provide timescales or progress plan to the next meeting on the application for heritage status for Livingston Skate Park.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

10. PENSIONERS' CHRISTMAS FUND ALLOCATIONS 2023

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive (Education, Planning and Economic Development) providing information on the final allocations made from the Pensioners' Christmas Fund 2023/24 to groups in the Livingston South Ward, Livingston-wide groups and West Lothian-wide groups. As in previous years, applicants had been offered the option of a pre-prepared chilled Christmas meal as an alternative to a direct grant award.

It was recommended that the committee notes:-

1. Four groups in Livingston South Ward had been supported through the Pensioners' Christmas Fund 2023/24; and
2. The continued inclusion of a pre-prepared meal option.

Arising from a query by the Chair of Livingston Village Community Council, the Community Regeneration Officer undertook to ensure the community council was added to the list of beneficiaries to receive funding.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

11. WORKPLAN

A workplan had been circulated for information.

Decision

To note the workplan.