DATA LABEL: Public

Armadale and Blackridge Local Area Committee

West Lothian Civic Centre
Howden South Road
LIVINGSTON
EH54 6FF

24 February 2025

A physical meeting of the **Armadale and Blackridge Local Area Committee** of West Lothian Council will be held within the **Youth Lounge, Armadale Partnership Centre, Armadale** on **Wednesday 5 March 2025** at **9:30am**.

For Chief Executive

BUSINESS

Public Session

1. Apologies for Absence.

2. Declarations of Interest - Members must declare any interests they have in the items of business for consideration at the meeting, identifying the relevant agenda items and the nature of their interests.

3. Order of Business, including notice of urgent business, declarations of interest in any urgent business and consideration of reports for information.

   The Chair will invite members to identify any such reports they wish to have fully considered, which failing they will be taken as read and their recommendations approved.

4. Confirm Draft Minute of Meeting of Armadale and Blackridge Local Area Committee held on 29 October 2024 (herewith).

5. Fire and Rescue Service Ward Report - report by Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (herewith).

6. Police Ward Report - report by Police Scotland (herewith).

7. Housing, Customer and Building Services - report by Head of Housing, Customer and Building Services (herewith).

8. Service Update - NETS, Land and Countryside - report by Head of Operational Services (herewith).

9. Covid Recovery Project A&B18 - Update - report by Head of Operational Services (herewith).

10. Locality Planning - Armadale Update Report - report by Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration (herewith).

11. Timetable of Meetings 2025/26 - For Approval (herewith)

12. Workplan (herewith).

NOTE **For further information please contact Lorraine McGrorty on 01506 281609 or email lorraine.mcgrorty@westlothian.gov.uk**

CODE OF CONDUCT AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (2021)

This form is a reminder and an aid. It is not a substitute for understanding the Code of Conduct and guidance.

Interests must be declared at the meeting, in public.

Look at every item of business and consider if there is a connection.

If you see a connection, decide if it amounts to an interest by applying the objective test.

The objective test is whether or not a member of the public with knowledge of the relevant facts would reasonably regard your connection to a particular matter as being so significant that it would be considered as being likely to influence your discussion or decision-making.

If the connection does not amount to an interest then you have nothing to declare and no reason to withdraw.

If the connection amounts to an interest, declare it as soon as possible and leave the meeting when the agenda item comes up.

When you declare an interest, identify the agenda item and give enough information so that the public understands what it is and why you are declaring it.

Even if the connection does not amount to an interest you can make a statement about it for the purposes of transparency.

More detailed information is on the next page.

December 2024

Look at each item on the agenda, consider if there is a "connection", take advice if necessary from appropriate officers in plenty of time. A connection is any link between the item of business and:-

- you
- a person you are associated with (e.g., employer, business partner, domestic partner, family member)
- a body or organisation you are associated with (e.g., outside body, community group, charity)

Anything in your Register of Interests is a connection unless one of the following exceptions applies.

A connection does not exist where:-

- you are a council tax payer, a rate payer, or a council house tenant, including at budget-setting meetings
- services delivered to the public are being considered, including at budget-setting meetings
- councillors' remuneration, expenses, support services or pensions are being considered
- you are on an outside body through a council appointment or nomination unless it is for regulatory business or you have a personal conflict due to your connections, actions or legal obligations
- you hold a view in advance on a policy issue, have discussed that view, have expressed that view in public, or have asked for support for it

If you see a connection then you have to decide if it is an "interest" by applying the objective test. The objective test is whether or not a member of the public with knowledge of the relevant facts would reasonably regard your connection to a particular matter as being so significant that it would be considered as being likely to influence your discussion or decision-making.

If the connection amounts to an interest then:-

- declare the interest in enough detail that members of the public will understand what it is
- leave the meeting room (physical or online) when that item is being considered
- do not contact colleagues participating in the item of business

Even if decide your connection is not an interest you can voluntarily make a statement about it for the record and for the purposes of transparency.

The relevant documents are:-

- Councillors' Code of Conduct, part 5
- Standards Commission Guidance, paragraphs 129-166
- Advice note for councillors on how to declare interests

If you require assistance, contact:-

- **Lesley Montague, Interim Monitoring Officer and Governance Manager, 01506 281613, lesley.montague@westlothian.gov.uk**
- **Carol Johnston, Chief Solicitor and Depute Monitoring Officer, 01506 281626, carol.johnston@westlothian.gov.uk**
- **Committee Services Team, 01506 281604, 01506 281621 committee.services@westlothian.gov.uk**

December 2024

MINUTE of MEETING of the ARMADALE AND BLACKRIDGE LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE held within YOUTH LOUNGE, ARMADALE PARTNERSHIP CENTRE, ARMADALE, on 29 OCTOBER 2024.

Present - Councillors Andrew McGuire (Chair), Lynda Kenna and Susan Manion

In Attendance -

Elaine Cook, Lead Officer, West Lothian Council
Michelle Murray, Community Regeneration Officer, West Lothian Council
Sergeant Jamie Duthie, Police Scotland
Jim Robertson, Station Commander, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
Nicola Hughes, Estates Manager, West Lothian Council
Julie Cairns, Area Housing Manager, West Lothian Council
Simson Scott, Open Space and Cemeteries Manager, West Lothian Council
Jim Gribben, Chair, Armadale Shed
Jan Pateman, Secretary, Armadale Shed

1. OPENING REMARKS

The Chair extended a welcome to Councillor Manion to her first meeting of the committee following her recent election as a ward member.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

3. MINUTE

The committee confirmed the Minute of its meeting held on 17 September 2024 as a correct record. The Minute was thereafter signed by the Chair.

4A. LOCALITY PLANNING – ARMADALE UPDATE REPORT

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive (Education, Planning and Economic Development) providing an update on the progress of delivering the Locality Plan and linked community action plans in Armadale and related activity.

It was recommended that the committee:

1. note the update provided on delivery and development of Locality Plans and community action plans;

2. note the partnership Community Engagement session planned for 28 October;

3. note the range of activity being organised and delivered by

Armadale Management Committee at the Partnership Centre;

4. Confirm whether it supports the proposal set out in D2.2 for Operational Services to progress painting a bus clearway at the bus stop outside 11 Mill Road.

In considering the report, the Chair recalled his understanding of the reasons for the initiative being suggested by the late Councillor Borrowman. He believed that Councillor Borrowman had suggested that the bus stop be moved further down the hill to avoid clashes with passengers trying to get on and off buses, particularly around school drop off and pick up times. Members did not consider that painting a bus clearway would achieve the desired effect and requested that officers look again at the situation and present options to the committee for consideration.

Decision

(a) To note the terms of the report.

(b) To decline to approve recommendation 4 and request that officers l present alternative options to the committee for consideration.

4B. PRESENTATION - ARMADALE SHED

The committee received a very interesting verbal presentation from Jim Gribben (Chair) and Jan Pateman (Secretary) from the Armadale Shed. The presentation provided members with the history to the development of Men's Sheds which had started in Australia before spreading across the UK and Ireland. Jim advised that there were now 130 sheds open in Scotland with a further 65 being developed or proposed. He provided members with an overview to the creation of Armadale Shed and it then becoming as a registered charitable organisation. He explained that Armadale Shed was a community group open to all rather than being men only.

Jim then spoke of the devastating fire that had totally destroyed their workshop on 29th March 2023. Places for People had given an assurance that the building would be reinstated. He advised that the impact of the fire straight on the back of the pandemic, had impacted their membership numbers which they were working to reinstated. He spoke of the tremendous support from the group had received from the community. Two Armadale Academy pupils who had visited the Shed the week before the fire had set up a Go Fund me page and raised over £3000. Armadale Illuminations had also given a donation in excess of £2000. The new premises were officially opened on 2 September 2024 and the even had been a great success.

Members heard that there were some final touches to be carried out to the building before the end of the year and the Shed would then once again undertake commissions for local charities and schools. Jim advised

that the previous week, the Shed had begun to re-establish its connections with school. Two pupils from Armadale Academy would start attending the shed to given them work experience on the basics of joinery with a view to them securing apprenticeships.

Jim concluded his presentation by thanking Scottish Fire and Rescue Service for their gargantuan efforts to contain the fire, particularly given its location and restricted access.

On behalf of the committee, the Chair thanked Jim and Jan for attending and wished the Shed continued strength and success moving forward.

Decision

To note the terms of the verbal presentation and with the Shed every success for the future.

5. FIRE SERVICE WARD REPORT

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service updating on the activity within the Armadale and Blackridge Multi-Member Ward for the period up to 30 September 2024.

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

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

6. 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 September 2024.

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

Decision

To note the terms of the report;

7. 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 NETs, Land and Countryside Services teams for the period 1 July – 30 September 2024.

It was recommended that the committee:

1. note the work carried out to date and future planned work; and

2. advise of any areas that required further investigation or inclusion in future workplans.

Decision

To note the terms 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 Armadale and Blackridge ward for the period Quarter 2 – 1st July to 30 September 2024.

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 – 30 September 2024.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

9. PENSIONERS' CHRISTMAS FUND ALLOCATIONS 2024/25

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration informing members of the final allocations that were made from the Pensioners' Christmas Fund 2024/25 to groups in the Armadale and Blackridge Ward, Livingston-wide groups and West Lothian-wide groups.

It was recommended that committee notes:-

1. Four groups in Armadale and Blackridge Ward had been supported through the Pensioners' Christmas Fund 202/24;

2. The continued inclusion of the pre-prepared meal option.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

10. WORKPLAN

A workplan had been circulated for information.

Decision

To note the workplan.

Data Label: Public

West Lothian Council

ARMADALE AND BLACKRIDGE LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE

ARMADALE AND BLACKRIDGE MULTI-MEMBER WARD PERFORMANCE REPORT

REPORT BY SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To update the Armadale and Blackridge Local Area Committee on the activity within the Armadale and Blackridge Multi-Member Ward for the period up to 31st December 2024.

B. RECOMMENDATION

Committee members are invited to note and provide comment on the Armadale and Blackridge Multi-Member Ward Performance Report.

C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

I	**Council Values**	Being caring and compassionate; Open, honest and accountable, collaborative, inclusive and adaptive
II	**Policy and Legal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues, Health or Risk Assessment)**	Quarterly reports on the Multi-member Ward Operational Plans are being produced to ensure delivery of the Local Fire and Rescue Plan, which is a statutory requirement of the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012.
III	**Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers**	None.
IV	**Impact on performance and performance Indicators**	WL CPP SOA Performance indicators.
V	**Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement**	SOA1304_13 Number of deliberate fires per 100,000 population SOA1304_14 Number of accidental dwelling fires per 100,000 population.
VI	**Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)**	The council contributes to directly and in partnership to the delivery of the Ward Plan
VII	**Consideration at PDSP**	None
VIII	**Consultations**	West Lothian Citizen's Panel Survey, July 2014.

D. TERMS OF REPORT

D.1 Background

Quarterly reports on the Multi-Member Ward Operational Plans have been produced by SFRS to ensure delivery of the Local Fire and Rescue Plan for West Lothian 2021, which is a requirement under the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012, Section 41E.

D.2 Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) Armadale and Blackridge Multi-Member Ward Quarterly Report

Following the publication of the Armadale and Blackridge Multi-Member Ward Operational Plan, the Local Senior Officer for Falkirk and West Lothian has produced a Performance Report detailing activity against the key priorities.

The key priorities within the Armadale and Blackridge Ward area are as follows:

Continuous Priority
- Local Risk Management and Preparedness.

High Priority
- Reduction of Dwelling Fires
- Reduction in Fire Fatalities and Casualties
- Reduction of Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals

Medium Priority
- Reduction of Deliberate Fire Setting
- Reduction of Fires in Non-Domestic Property
- Reduction in Casualties from Non-Fire Emergencies. (excluding RTCs)
- Reduction in RTC Fatalities and Casualties.

E. CONCLUSION

The Armadale and Blackridge Multi-Member Ward Performance Report aligns to the key priorities of the Local Fire and Rescue Plan for West Lothian 2021, the West Lothian Strategic Assessment of Community Safety and continues with the excellent partnership working on Community Safety, which is evident in West Lothian.
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F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

None.

Jim Robertson
Station Commander, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
January 2025
Appendix 1 Armadale and Blackridge Multi-Member Ward Report

West Lothian Council Area

Ward Performance Report

Quarter 3 2024/25

Armadale and Blackridge Ward

DISCLAIMER

The figures included in this report are provisional and subject to change as a result of quality assurance and review. The statistics quoted are internal management information published in the interests of transparency and openness.

The Scottish government publishes Official Statistics each year which allow for comparisons to be made over longer periods of time.

Please ensure any external partners in receipt of these reports are aware of this.

Introduction

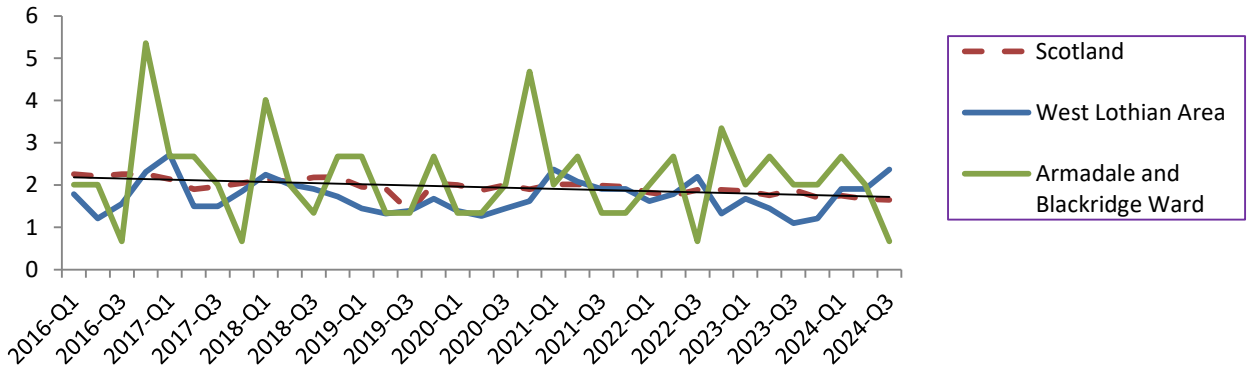
Welcome to the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Ward Performance Report. This performance report is designed to provide citizens, stakeholders and partners with information relating to ward based activity undertaken by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.

In addition to historical ward based activity, this performance report provides information on the historic activity in the West Lothian Council area and Scotland. To allow benchmarking to be undertaken, the units of measurement in the performance graphs in the report are based on incidents/events per head of population.

Whilst using historic statistical benchmarking data, consideration must be taken of the somewhat random nature of fire related incidents and events, and how this can pose difficulties in interpreting emerging patterns and trends. This is of specific relevance where ward level data is analysed due to the relatively small number of actual incidents/events that occur in ward areas.

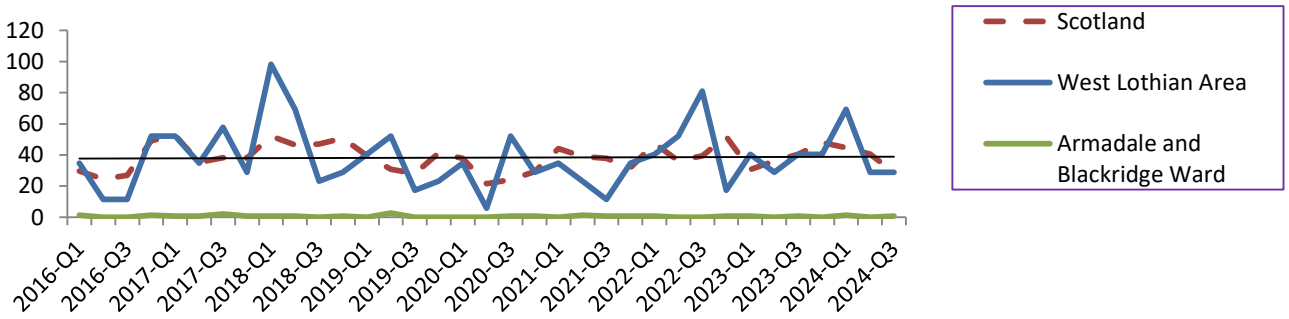
However, regardless of statistical anomalies, emerging patterns and trends in fire related incidents and events can assist the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service and Community Planning Partners plan and implement preventative intervention initiatives to target reducing fire related incidents and events.

Accidental Dwelling Fires Per 10,000 head of population



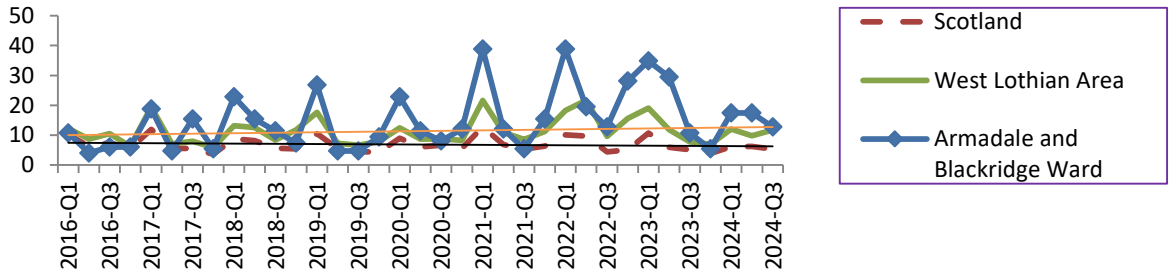
During the 2024-25 year to date reporting period SFRS have dealt with 1 accidental dwelling fires in comparison to 3 during 2023-24 year to date reporting period.

Fire Casualties and Fatalities Per 1,000,000 head of population



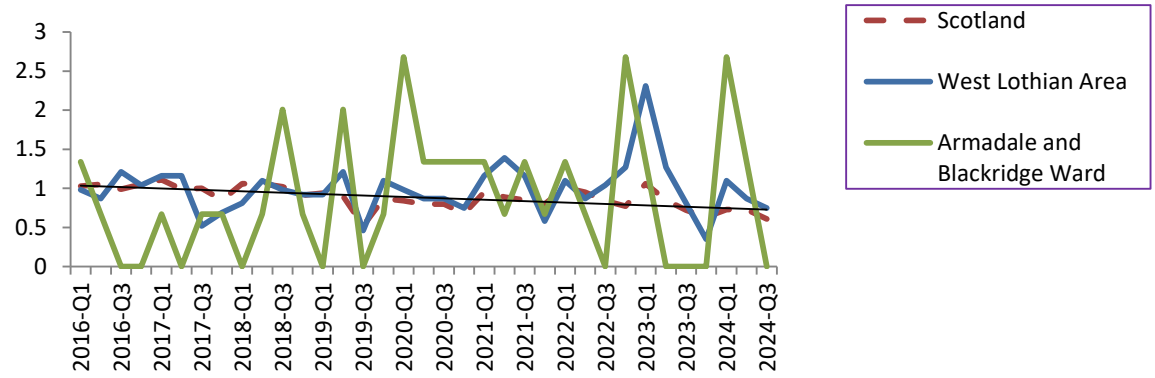
During the 2024-25 year to date reporting period SFRS have dealt with 1 Casualties and 0 Fatalities due to fire in comparison to 1 Casualties and 0 Fatalities during 2023-24 year to date reporting period.

Deliberate Fires Per 10,000 head of population



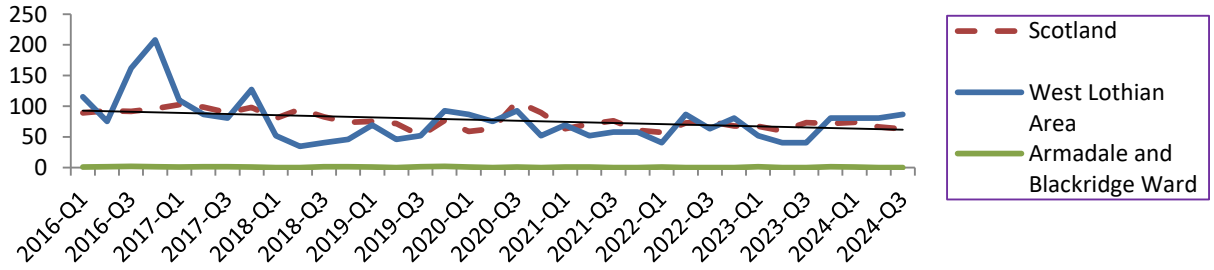
SFRS have dealt with 19 deliberate fire incidents during 2024-25 year to date reporting period in comparison to 16 during 2023-24 year to date reporting period.

Fires In Non Domestic Property Per 10,000 head of population



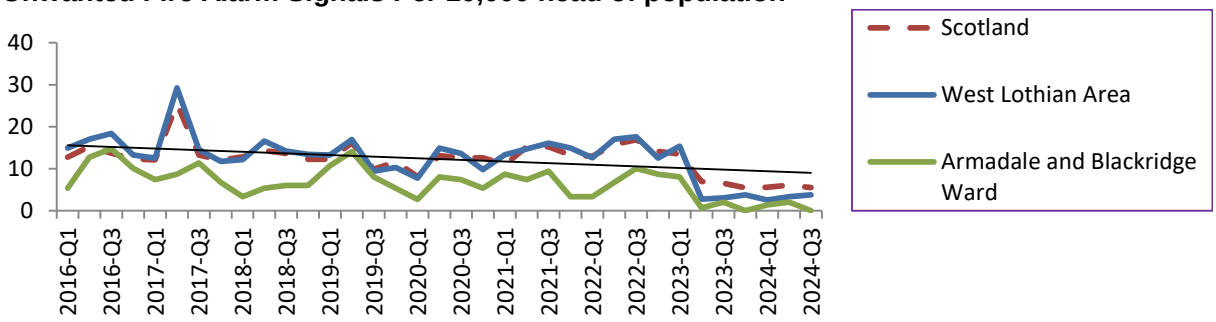
SFRS have dealt with 0 non domestic fire incidents during 2024-25 year to date reporting period in comparison to 0 during 2023-24 year to date reporting period

Special Services Casualties (excluding RTC's) Per 1,000,000 head of population



SFRS have dealt with 0 casualties from Special Services during 2024-25 year to date reporting period in comparison to 0 during 2023-24 year to date reporting period.

Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals Per 10,000 head of population

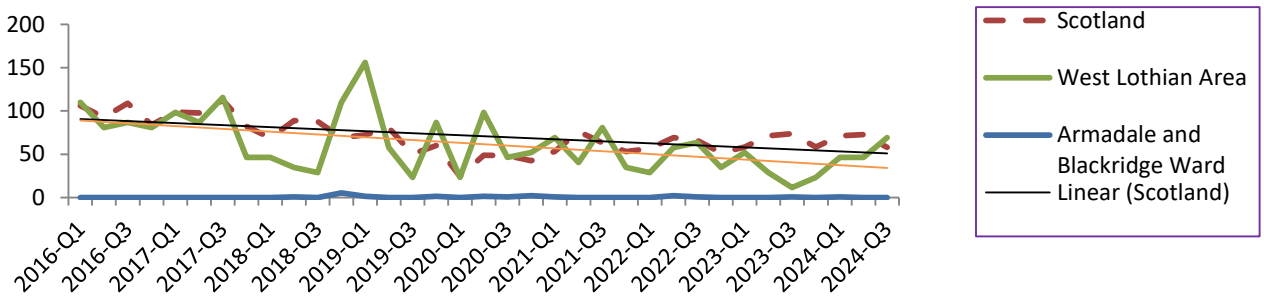


SFRS have dealt with 0 UFAS incidents during 2024-25 year to date reporting period in comparison to 3 during 2023-24 year to date reporting period.

Additional Comments

SFRS is committed to *'Working Together for a Safer Scotland'* and to engage with business partners to reduce demand from Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS).

RTC Casualties and Fatalities Per 1,000,000 head of population



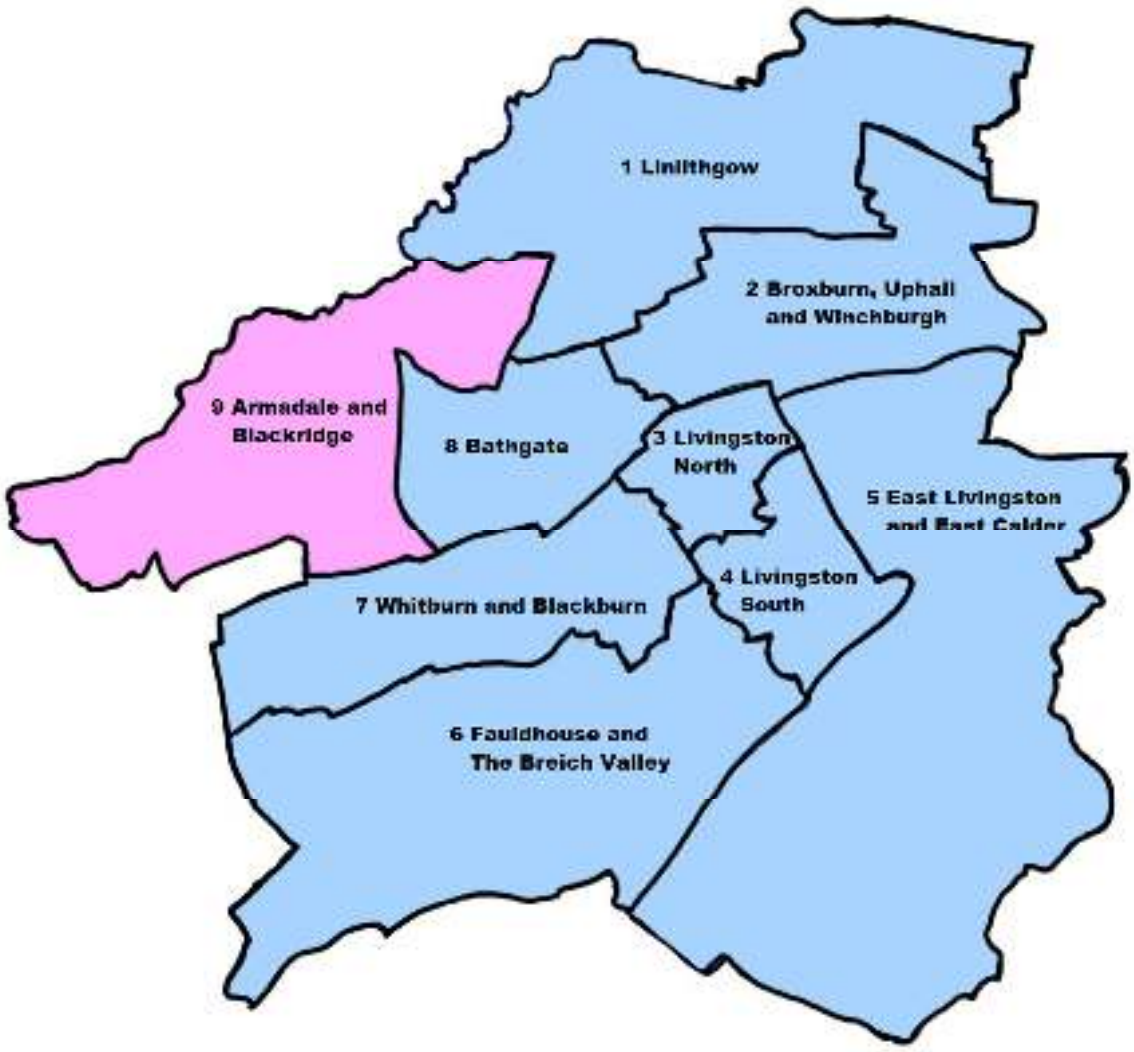
During the 2024-25 year to date reporting period SFRS have dealt with 0 Casualties and 0 Fatalities from RTCs in comparison to 1 Casualties and 0 Fatalities during 2023-24 year to date reporting period.

POLICE SCOTLAND
Keeping people safe
POILEAS ALBA

West Lothian Council

West Lothian Area Command

Lothian and Scottish Borders



Ward 9 Armadale & Blackridge Multi Member Ward Report

Quarter 3 – 2024/2025

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to provide the Local Area Committee with an update on performance, activities and issues across the Ward for the period up to 31st December 2024.

B. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Local Area Committee notes the content of the report.

C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

I	**Council Values**	Focusing on our customers' needs; being honest, open and accountable; making best use of our resources; and working in partnership
II	**Policy and Legal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues, Health or Risk Assessment)**	None.
III	**Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers**	None.
IV	**Impact on performance and performance Indicators**	Performance relative to the same period in 2021; set out in the report.
V	**Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement**	We live our lives free from crime, disorder and danger; we take pride in a strong, fair and inclusive society
VI	**Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)**	None.
VII	**Consideration at PDSP**	None.
VIII	**Other consultations**	None.

D. TERMS OF REPORT

Introduction:

This document is intended to provide a summary of the performance of West Lothian Area Command for the reporting period of Quarter 3 2024/2025. The report references the police priorities within the Local Police Plan for West Lothian 2023-2026, namely:

- Protecting The Most Vulnerable People
- Reducing Violence and Anti-Social Behaviour
- Reducing Acquisitive Crime
- Improving Road Safety
- Tackling Serious and Organised Crime

The data provided in this report is for information purposes to allow Partnership Members to conduct their scrutiny responsibilities.

Armadale and Blackridge Community Engagement Priorities:

- Violence, Disorder and Anti-Social Behaviour
- Substance Misuse
- Acquisitive Crime
- Road Safety

Armadale and Blackridge Community Officers

PS Jamie Duthie

PC Keir Freeman

PC Mark Kerr

PC Ross Walker

Executive Summary:

Officers in West Lothian have been focused to delivering, with our key partners, our Local Policing Priorities, and meeting our commitment to Keep People Safe.

Q3 - WLC School Holiday dates:

- October Holiday: 11/10/2024 – 21/08/2024
- Christmas Holidays: 20/12/2024 – 06/01/2025 (Q4)

- **Protecting the most vulnerable people**

  During Q3, local community officers along with specially training officers from our Domestic Abuse unit supported partners with the annual 16 days of action against violence towards women and girls' campaign throughout West Lothian. This included supporting a number of events hosted by partners where officers were able to support and offer advice to those in attendance.

  Also, during the campaign, a number of training/information sessions were delivered by local community officers supported by officers from our Domestic Abuse unit which included Sextortion, Consent and Bystander training being delivered to over 300 students who attend West Lothian and Oatridge Colleges. Sextortion inputs were also delivered by School Campus Officers within their respective schools. Licensees from within the ward were also invited to Bystander training which provides and guidance on how to be a 'active' Bystander in an effort to prevent sexual offences occurring with licensed premises.

The West Lothian PSYV group have also been working towards supporting their peers across the county during Q3. The volunteers were tasked with developing new ways on how to get prevention advice out to their peers which included content from 3rd sector organisations. The volunteers developed a mobile friendly e-newsletter during their weekly sessions that contained videos and podcasts which included material from the Sextortion campaign launched by Fearless. The e-newsletter was thereafter distributed to every secondary school within the ward who in turn delivered to all pupils within the school. The group will be working towards a 2nd edition of the e-newsletter during Q4.

Protecting the youngest residents within the ward was a particular focus of work for community officers with talks being conducted at: Westfield Primary covering topics of Crime prevention and how to keep yourself safe.

- **Reducing Violence and Anti-Social behaviour**

During the October and November months community and school link officers within the ward were heavily involved in Operation Torsion and preparations for Halloween and 'Bonfire' night and tackling the ASB historically involved in this. Officers carried out talks in schools – highlighting the dangers, consequences and legislation around setting fires and misuse of fireworks. In addition to the school talks a number of proactive and high visibility patrols were carried out on the run up to and during bonfire night itself.

Unfortunately, on Bonfire night, Police did receive a report of crews from the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service being targeted with stones whilst attending a fire in Blackridge. The crews were supported by local officers who in turn identified, arrested and charged a 15-year-old in regard to this incident. A report was sent to the relevant authorities.

Officers were thereafter heavily engaged in Operation Frankincense throughout December carrying out hi vis mobile and foot patrols around town centres within the ward, paying particular attention to pubs and other licensed premises and public spaces. With officers Regularly attending identified problem premises and ensuring they are meeting the minimum standard for the safety of patrons and the wider public.

Officers also carried out a number of high-visibility patrols in the Blackridge area over the course of the quarter, following reports of ASB, through these patrols and local enquiries officers identified one youth had been involved in throwing stones and therefore charged them with vandalism.

- **Reducing Acquisitive Crime**

In addition to the Anti-Social Behaviour element of Operation Frankincense, Officers also attended retail premises within the ward, issuing leaflets and crime prevention advice in relation to acquisitive crime given the traditional rise in acquisitive crimes such as robberies and shoplifting during the festive period.

in relation to the darker nights and a number of House Breakings in the whole of West Lothian and surrounding counties, local community officers increased messaging on Social Media and Neighbourhood Alert, about recent crimes and also prevention messages to ensure home owners were kept safe.

During Q3 two quad bikes were stolen from rural locations on the west side of the county. Crime prevention visits were conducted at the relevant premises and via the West Lothian Partnership Against Rural Crime, crime prevention advice was provided via relevant stakeholders to this living and working across the county, including those within the Armadale and Blackridge Wards. Acquisitive crime trends will continue to be monitored by local officers with advice and support regarding these crime types will continue to be shared via the partnership.

Local officers supported the Royal Bank of Scotland with their 'Empower Hour' sessions held in branch during Q3. Local officers supported the event alongside West Lothians Trading Standards,

Citizens Advice and Neighbourhood Watch Scotland where crime prevention advice was offered to customers in relation to doorstep, online and telephone scams.

We also had a weeklong social media and neighbourhood alert programme highlighting and providing support to those who fall victim to Romance Fraud.

- **Improving Road Safety**

Community Officers within the ward were again carrying out pro-active patrols in relation to illegal Off-road biking, this took the format of targeting known hotspots as well as engaging with suspected off-road bikers – issuing advice of the dangers and illegality of such actions, particularly to a group of youths found within the old brickworks at Armadale. This was further supported by targeted letter drops in a number of areas of Armadale and Blackridge, particularly: Avondale Crescent, with officers appealing for further information and promotion of anonymous reporting methods such as Crimestoppers.

Local officers continue to support and address speeding and parking complaints across the ward. Community officers have continued to carry out static speed checks as well as mobile patrols in relation to road traffic offences and during Q3

Community Officers have continued to support local primary schools in relation to the issues of inconsiderate parking, notably at school drop off and collection times.

Road safety inputs were also delivered to 100 students who attend Oatridge College, including to students who reside in the ward, during Q3. The input provides advice on how to navigate safely when using our road network as well as highlighting the risks of driving at excise speeds and the impact on victims should serious road traffic collisions occur.

- **Tackling Serious and Organised Crime**

Our local PCT have been carrying out extensive enquiries in relation to thefts of motor vehicles throughout the county and beyond, with these crimes being committed across divisional boundaries including in Lanarkshire. As a result of these enquiries a number of search warrants were enforced throughout November and December at multiple locations and multiple males were traced and arrested for these thefts and subsequently charged with multiple additional offences including: Dangerous Dogs, Fire-raising, Misuse of Drugs Act. Officers also recovered approximately £17,500 in cash and approximately 2Kg of Class C Drugs.

Officers involved in this investigation known as Operation Enzone are continuing their disruption work, both against this group itself and other nominals suspected to known to be involved in this type of crime. As a result, in addition to the above seizures, PCT Officers have seized a further £150,000 in cash and further 26Kg of Illegal drugs following enquiries in the county.

Ultimately all of these seizures and arrests represent a substantial disruption to organised crime in the local area and beyond.

Community Officers in the ward are also continually promoting use of anonymous reporting platforms, such as: Crimestoppers to the wider community and *Fearless* to 11-16 year olds in the local high schools. These platforms represent a significant tool in disrupting all sorts of criminal activity, such high volume/valuable vehicle thefts and supply of illicit substances. We would therefore urge all Community representatives to continue to promote these organisations to their constituents via 0800555111 or www.fearless.org

The Q3 ASB figure for the Armadale and Blackridge ward was 67 no. of calls. This includes all calls with an ASB tag. This includes Public Nuisance, Noise, Drinking in Public, Neighbour Dispute, ASBO and Damage calls. This figure will also include any youth calls, which are discussed at the weekly partnership TAC to enable capture of any youth ASB hotspots.

Armadale & Blackridge	**Q3 2023/24**	**Q3 2024/25**	**Change from LYTD**
Common Assault	144	86	-40.3%
Serious Assault (Incl FGM, Culpable & Reckless Conduct - causing injury)	3	6	100%
Housebreaking Dwelling	14	1	-92.9%
Housebreaking Non-dwelling	1	2	100.0%
Housebreaking other premises	4	2	-50.0%
Theft of Motor Vehicle	10	12	20.0%
Fireraising	11	11	-
Vandalism	117	79	-32.5%
Possession of Drugs	13	16	23.1%
Hate Aggravated Conduct (Incl stirring up hatred)	3	0	-100.0%
Driving Carelessly	8	10	25.0%
TOTAL NUMBER OF CRIMES RECORDED	**976**	**761**	**-22.0%**

DATA LABEL: PUBLIC

West Lothian Council

ARMADALE & BLACKRIDGE LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE

HOUSING, CUSTOMER AND BUILDING SERVICES

REPORT BY HEAD OF HOUSING, CUSTOMER AND BUILDING SERVICES

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To provide the Local Area Committee with an overview of the service activities within the Armadale & Blackridge Ward for the period Quarter 3 - 1st October – 31st December 2024.

B. RECOMMENDATION

The Local Area Committee is asked to note Housing, Customer and Building Services activity as detailed in the ward report for the period Quarter 3 - 1st October – 31st December 2024.

C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

I	**Council Values**	Being caring and compassionate; Open, honest and accountable, collaborative, inclusive and adaptive
II	**Policy and Legal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues, Health or Risk Assessment)**	Housing (Scotland) Act 2001 Housing (Scotland) Act 2010
III	**Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers**	None
IV	**Impact on performance and performance Indicators**	There is no impact
V	**Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement**	There are positive impacts on the following SOA indicators: SOA4 – we live in resilient, cohesive and safe communities SOA8 – we make the most effective use of resources by minimising our impact on the built and natural environment
VI	**Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)**	None
VII	**Consideration at PDSP**	Yes
VIII	**Other consultations**	N/A

D. TERMS OF REPORT

D.1 Housing Performance Information

The purpose of this report is to provide the Local Area Committee with an overview of the activities of Housing, Customer and Building Services, specific to the Armadale & Blackridge Ward. Tables 1 and 2 provide details on letting performance.

Table 1 - Property Void & Let Performance: Mainstream Tenancies

Void Period	Oct 2024	%	Nov 2024	%	Dec 2024	%	WL Target %
0-2 weeks	4	50%	3	30%	4	50%	55%
2-4 weeks	1	12.5%	3	30%	2	25%	30%
4+ weeks	3	37.5%	4	49%	2	25%	15%
Total Lets	**8**	**100%**	**10**	**100%**	**8**	**100%**	**100%**

Table 2 – Property Void & Let Performance: Temporary Tenancies

Void Period	Oct 2024	%	Nov 2024	%	Dec 2024	%	WL Target %
0-2 weeks	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	55%
2-4 weeks	1	33.3%	3	75%	0	0%	30%
4+ weeks	2	66.7%	1	25%	1	100%	15%
Total Lets	**3**	**100%**	**4**	**100%**	**1**	**100%**	**100%**

Delays in re-letting can occur for a variety of reasons. The type or location of the property, the completion of void work or the identification of additional works not visible during the initial inspection. Ensuring that vulnerable persons are appropriately supported through the viewing and sign up process can also add to timeframes. Some of our applicants have specific support requirements which require detailed planning and co-ordination by both social work and housing services prior to tenancy commencement. There were 25 policy voids in the Ward for this period as set out in Table 3 below.

Table 3 – Policy Voids

Void period	Number of properties	PV reasons
<4 weeks	1	1 - Electrical
4 – 12 weeks	0	N/A
13 – 26 weeks	4	1 H&S 3 - Upgrades
26 + weeks	20	1 – H&S 1 – Legal Issue 2 – Fire / Floods 2 – Wet rot

		2 – Capital Programme 2 – Buybacks 3 – Structural 3 – Decants 4 - Upgrades

D.2 Armadale & Blackridge - Financial Summary

For the Armadale & Blackridge ward the collection rate for the year to date in quarter 3 remains excellent at 96.6%. Armadale & Blackridge has collected £5,588,021 in income against a charge of £5,787,144.

West Lothian overall arrears is currently £4,484,906. Of this, the arrears position for Armadale & Blackridge quarter 3 is £551,112. This is an increase of £96,177 on last year.

Table 4 – Overall Position

We support our customers through key activities like:

- Initiating early communication with our tenants to prevent arrears and direct them towards resources and services that can help
- Regularly keeping tenants up-to-date about their account balance by utilising various channels of communication such as SMS, email, phone calls, and in-person visits
- Offering advice and guidance around Universal Credit, including reminding tenants of the importance of updating their online journal following any annual rent increase to ensure they do not accumulate arrears
- Supporting tenants when they apply for Discretionary Housing Payment (DHP) where there is a Universal Credit shortfall
- Referring tenants to services that can provide money and debt advice to prevent high arrears balances and maximise their income

Table 5 - Case Distribution

	2023/24 (WK40)				2024/25 (WK40)			
	Mainstream		UC		Mainstream		UC	
Arrears Banding	Balance	Cases	Balance	Cases	Balance	Cases	Balance	Cases
£0.01 to £199.99	£11,623	126	£14,857	129	£10,284	101	£16,026	160
£200.00 to £499.99	£15,379	50	£48,421	152	£17,204	54	£51,603	157
£500.00 to £999.99	£28,030	39	£49,467	71	£24,622	35	£69,244	100
£1000.00 to £1499.99	£14,323	12	£40,807	38	£23,990	19	£45,910	36
£1500.00 to £2249.99	£28,328	16	£35,417	19	£26,420	14	£67,217	36
£2250+	£51,315	13	£111,907	28	£55,540	16	£143,447	36
Group Total	£148,998	256	£305,937	437	£157,865	239	£393,447	527
Movement					(+) £8,866	(-) 17	(+) £87,511	(+) 90
Overall Total			£454,935	693			£551,112	766
Overall Movement							(+) £96,177	(+) 73

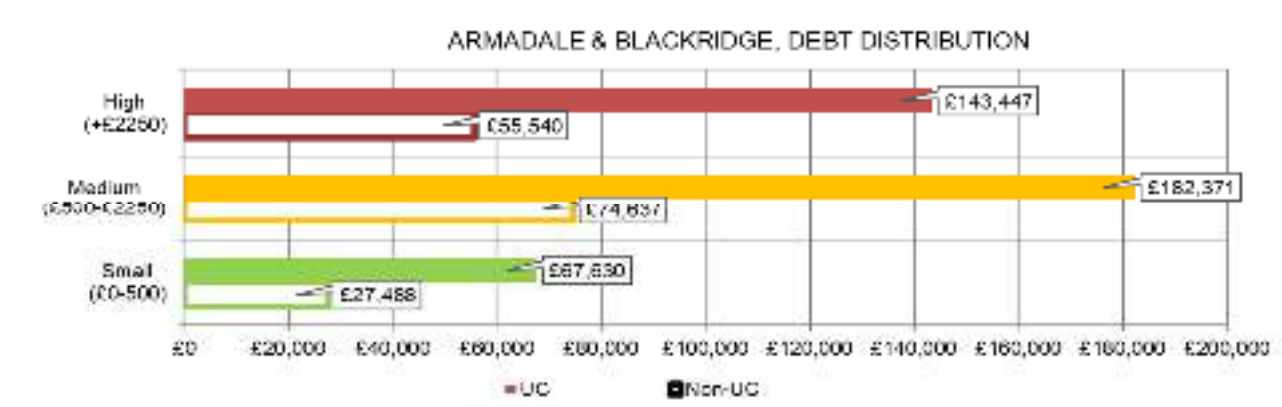
The total number of tenancies in arrears in this ward has changed, increasing by 73 since last year.

Low debt cases, which are managed through early intervention by our Housing Officers, have increased by 15 since last year. These cases (£500 or less), account for 61.62% of households and 17.26% of the debt.

High debt cases, which are managed through early intervention by our Housing Officers, have increased by 11 since last year. These cases (£2250+), account for 6.79% of households and 36.11% of the debt.

Of the households in arrears 31.2% are not in receipt of UC and 68.8% do receive UC. The number of households in arrears who do not receive UC changed by -17. The number who do changed by +90.

Table 6 – Debt Distribution

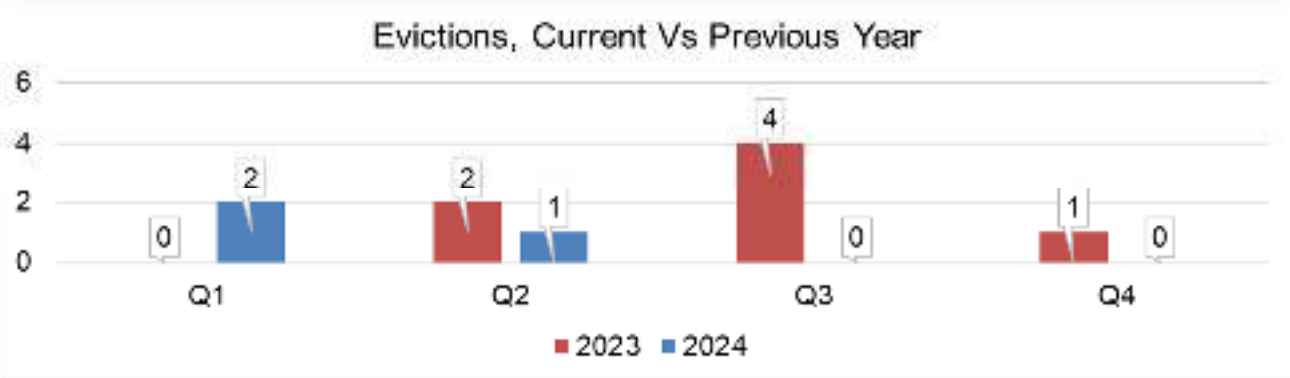


Sequestration & Eviction

Evictions and Sequestrations remain the options of last resort. Housing Operations has a commitment to ensuring that customers can have long lasting and secure tenancies through early intervention and support.

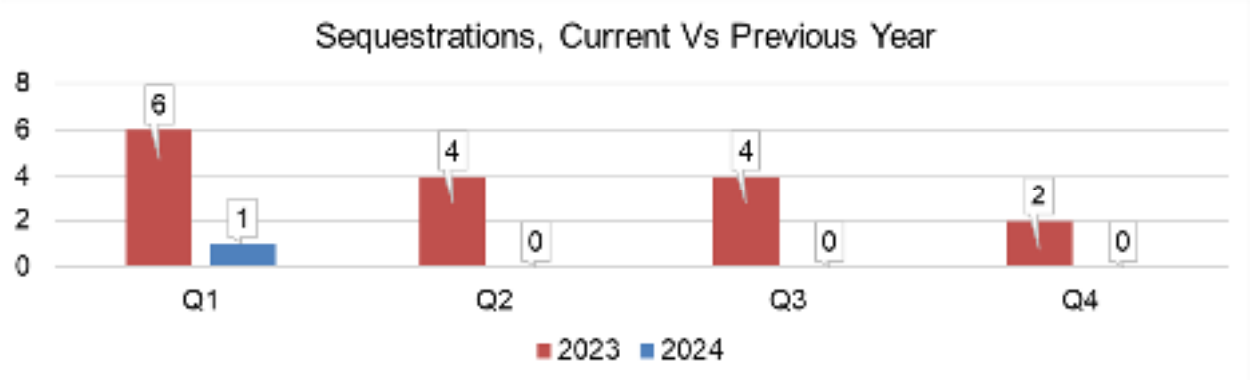
Outside of any eviction freezes, in normal arrears recovery years we sustain at least 99.75% of our tenancies evicting less than 0.25% of our tenants

Table 7 – Number of Evictions



There have been no evictions to date in Armadale & Blackridge in quarter 3.

Table 8 – Number of Sequestrations



There have been no sequestrations to date in Armadale & Blackridge in quarter 3.

D.3 Armadale Area Team Activity

Officers in the Housing team continue to work within the council's flexible / hybrid working arrangements, working from home, office and out in our communitites. The focus on rent arrears activity continues to be a weekly priority task for the team and officers continue to work with all our tenants in offering support, advice and assistance. Such assistance includes referrals for money and debt advice, benefit health checks, completion of income and expenditure to help set up a sustainable payment plan and where appropriate, assist with applications for Discretionary Housing Payments.

Officers provide advice and assistance in relation to housing options and assist applicants in maximising their housing points.

During quarter 3, officers have continued to work closely with colleagues in Building Services, engaging with tenants to ensure that health and safety work has been completed and all necessary compliance work is undertaken in tenancies to ensure that these meet legislative requirements.

Officers have been working to support a number of tenants in the area alongside colleagues from other service areas and agencies, dealing with a range tenancy management issues and providing assistance and support to help tenants sustain their tenancies. This can range from being involved in complex care management cases alongside colleagues in social policy to being involved in assisting to resolve neighbour disputes with Police Scotland and Safer Neighbourhood Team colleagues.

D.4 Capital Programme

New Build Completions 2024/25 - 0

Table 9 – New Build Completions

RSL New Build Activity	Site	No of units	Site Start	No. of Houses Handed Over	Site Completion
Places for People	Standhill North, Armadale	94	Sep-24	0	Nov-26

Table 10 – Local Capital Investment Programme

Street	Contract	Site Start	Update
Burns Avenue	Orlit Upgrade	November 2021 - September 2024	Work complete in 43 properties and all tenants have returned to their mainstream tenancy. One property has been delayed due to tenancy concerns. This will be completed when property is vacant. All properties, with the exception of 1, have been allocated.

D.5 Tenant Participation

Tenant Participation Local Area Committee Report Update
The Tenant Participation team continues to engage and collaborate with tenants across West Lothian to ensure their voices are heard and their input is valued in shaping housing services. Below is an update on our recent activities:

Rent Consultation - "Have Your Say on Rent"
We are currently consulting tenants on our rent proposals through the "Have Your Say on Rent" initiative. This consultation, which provides tenants with an opportunity to share their views, is open until 10th January 2025.

Tenant Participation Working Group
The Tenant Participation Working Group played a key role in the review of the West Lothian Landlord Report, which was published in October. Their insights and feedback have been instrumental in ensuring the report reflects the needs and concerns of tenants.

Editorial Panel and Thematic Tenant News
Tenants on the editorial panel have been actively working to develop a thematic tenants' newsletter, to be published annually. The first theme, focusing on financial support, has been agreed upon and will be featured in the Spring Edition. Tenants have been brainstorming key themes and information they want included, ensuring the newsletter is tenant-led and relevant.

Youth Engagement
We are pleased to report growing interest from younger tenants in tenant participation. Two young people, aged 18-22, have expressed an interest in joining the tenants' panel. Officers are collaborating with the panel to organise an information session about Tenant Participation to encourage further engagement.

A-Z Housing Campaign
Throughout the past year, tenants partnered with officers to develop an A-Z campaign designed to improve understanding of the various aspects of housing and service operations. This initiative resulted in a digital booklet shared with tenants via our Facebook page. Feedback on the campaign has been positive, highlighting its value as an educational resource.

Social Media Engagement
Our Facebook page continues to serve as a key platform for tenant communication and engagement. Membership has seen a slight increase, rising from 338 members to 340 members over the previous quarter, reflecting steady interest in tenant-focused updates and resources.

D.6 SNT Ward Information

The Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) officers continue to work across the nine multi member ward areas as an integral part of the Community Safety Unit, as part of their working remit to reduce noise and antisocial behaviour (ASB). Partnership working involves the local housing team, council officer within the SNT and officers from Police Scotland and the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service all working together to tackle antisocial behaviour. When necessary, the partners will liaise with voluntary organisations including West Lothian Youth Action Project, mental health advisory workers and private landlords in order to reduce antisocial behaviour.

SNT Flowchart of Incident enquiries and Cases:

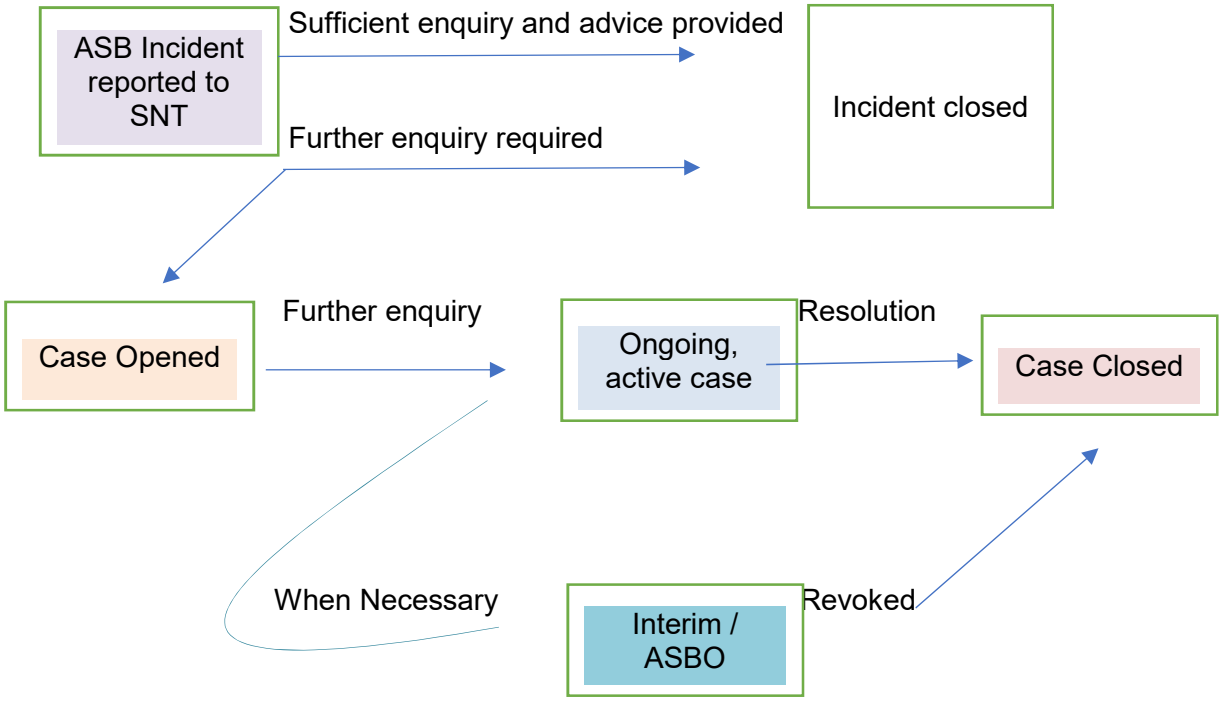


Table 11 – Armadale & Blackridge Ward Data

The following table sets out:

- details of the number of incidents reported. Not all incidents become a case.
- the number of new cases opened each month to allow for enquiry
- the overall number of active cases ongoing where enquiries are still being undertaken
- the number of cases resolved.

Cases and Incidents	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
Incidents reported to SNT	29	22	24	18	22	17	12	23	9
Number of new cases	1	0	2	0	3	2	2	2	0
Number of ongoing / active cases	1	0	1	1	4	4	3	5	0
Number of resolved cases	1	1	0	1	0	2	3	0	2

Table 12 - The following table provides an overview of the types of incidents that are being reported to the SNT. Some of these will go on to require a case to be opened for further enquiry and

investigation. There may a requirement for multi-agency working to reach a resolution for the complainer and to provide the correct support to parties involved.

Incident Categories	***Apr***	***May***	***Jun***	***Jul***	***Aug***	***Sep***	***Oct***	***Nov***	***Dec***
ASB Part 2 Complaint	13	10	14	12	11	11	7	7	7
ASB Part 5 Noise Complaint	8	6	8	4	8	6	4	12	2
Dog Barking	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ENV Health Complaint	4	2	2	0	0	0	1	1	0
Non ASB Noise Complaint	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0
SST Section 3 Tenancy Management	2	4	0	0	1	0	0	2	0
Youth Disorder	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unauthorised Encampment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CSU Patrol	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Housing Scotland Act 2001	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0
Grand Total	29	22	24	18	22	17	12	23	9

Table 13 - The following table provides numbers of Anti-social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs) that are current in ward and compared to all of West Lothian.

ASBO	***Q3***
Number of ASBO's current in ward	***1***
All of West Lothian	***5*** ***+ 1 Interim ASBO granted Dec 24 and awaiting execution of service (Not yet LIVE)***
Age of perpetrator	***All female perpetrators between 23 and 70 yrs old***

West Lothian Ward Data

Table 14 - The following table provides number of all active cases and total number of incidents for the whole of West Lothian.

West Lothian	***Apr***	***May***	***Jun***	***Jul***	***Aug***	***Sep***	***Oct***	***Nov***	***Dec***
Total Number of Active Cases	24	14	18	56	63	48	31	41	30
Total Number of Incidents	316	290	295	282	270	245	249	241	206

Table 15 - Outcomes
A summary of some of the outcomes that officers managed to achieve throughout the period for quarter 3 - October, November and December 2024, are detailed below:

Warnings Issued	• A first stage anti-social behaviour (ASB) warning and letter drop were carried out to a tenancy in Armadale following complaints of fighting and violent disturbances • A 2nd stage ASB warning was served following corroborated complaints of loud music • SNT received a report of a disturbance at a property with visitors drinking, being unruly, and one person exposing themselves. Police confirmed they had received corroborative reports and were investigating the incident. A first stage warning was served on the occupier of the property in person and consequences of further issues explained. No further incidents have been reported
Letter Drop	• A customer contacted the housing office with a video showing a disturbance outside her property. She stated this was a regular occurrence and was seeking rehousing due to this. A letter drop was completed in the area including to the alleged perpetrators house. No corroboration of complaint was gained from this but there have been no further reports received for several months. • SNT have opened a case after receiving complaints about issues with noise from a neighbour. A visit was carried out but the level of noise witnessed was at an acceptable level for the time of day. The ongoing issues were discussed with the tenant and a solution to the problem was agreed. A letter drop was carried out to determine if other neighbours were being affected and to encourage reporting. SNT officers will continue to monitor the situation

E. Conclusion

Officers continue to provide advice and assistance to customers on their housing options and ensuring that their housing need points are maximised. The team continue to provide support and assistance to new tenants moving into their tenancies both in mainstream and temporary accommodation.

Income management continues to be one of our main focuses of work to ensure customers are supported and that officers maintain good income collection.

Officers within the team have supported colleagues in Building Services ensuring that compliance work is completed within our tenancies.

Officers continue to communicate with tenants affected by capital programme work in Burns Avenue and arrange decants both on return to their mainstream tenancies and where work is commencing in their tenancies.

Joint working has continued with police colleagues and wider community safety partners in dealing with issues of anti-social behaviour.

F. Background References

None

Appendices/Attachments:

None

Contact Person: Lorraine Donnelly, Housing Manager
Email: lorraine.donnelly@westlothian.gov.uk
01506 284056 / 07767754008

Julie Whitelaw, Head of Housing Customer and Building Services
5th March 2025

DATA LABEL: PUBLIC

West Lothian Council

ARMADALE & BLACKRIDGE LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE

SERVICE UPDATE – NETS, LAND & COUNTRYSIDE

REPORT BY HEAD OF OPERATIONAL SERVICES

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To advise members of the recent activity of the NETs, Land & Countryside Services teams for the period 1 October 2024 – 31 December 2024.

B. RECOMMENDATION

Members are requested to note the content of the report.

C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

I	**Council Values**	Being caring and compassionate Open, honest and accountable Collaborative, inclusive and adaptive
II	**Policy and Legal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues, Health or Risk Assessment)**	None
III	**Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers**	None
IV	**Impact on performance and performance Indicators**	None
V	**Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement**	Relates to items 9 - We live our lives free from crime, disorder and danger & 12 – We value and enjoy our built environment and protect it and enhance it for future generations
VI	**Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)**	In line with available revenue and capital budgets
VII	**Consideration at PDSP**	None
VIII	**Other consultations**	None

D1 Terms of Report

The report covers the activity for the period 1 October 2024 – 31 December 2024.

D2 Grounds Maintenance Routine Works

The Grounds Maintenance squads started hedge cutting in October and this was completed in Mid-November.

Shrub bed maintenance started in early November and will continue until the end of March, early April.

NETs Teams are carrying out enquiries on a daily basis.

Grounds Maintenance Enquiries

In total there were eight grounds maintenance related enquiries received and dealt with during this reporting period.

	2024	2023
Ball Game Enquiries	1	0
Bench or Seat Enquiries	1	1
Bonfire Enquiries	0	1
Drainage Flooding Grass Areas	0	1
Emergency Tree Out Of Hours	0	1
Enforcement Officer Enquiries	1	0
Grass Cutting Enquiries	1	2
Grass Left On Paths or Roads	0	1
Grounds Property Vandalised	0	3
Ground Ownership Enquiries	1	0
Public Park Enquiries	0	3
Shrub Bed Overhanging Path	2	2
Shrub Beds Not Maintained	0	1
Weeds General Enquiries	1	0
Weeds on Paths or Roads	0	1
Total	8	17

D3 Garden Maintenance Scheme

The Garden Maintenance teams completed all hedge cutting tasks before the contract finished for the year on 31 October 2024.

Garden Maintenance Enquiries

In total there were three garden maintenance related enquiries received and dealt with during this reporting period.

	2024	2023
Garden Maintenance General Enquiries	1	4
Garden Maintenance Grass Not Cut	0	1
Garden Maintenance Hedge Cutting	1	0
Garden Maintenance Standard Of Cut	1	0
Total	3	5

D4 Cleaner Communities

Street Cleansing staff continue to deal with daily enquiries and carrying out routine works throughout the Ward with the NETs team dealing with removing fly tipping waste from Council ground.

Contractor has carried out the HGV sweeping of B Roads throughout West Lothian. We are currently working with the Councils Procurement Team to put in place a long-term contract to carry out HGV Road Sweeping of A, B, C and U roads. Our nine Compact Sweepers will continue to sweep all other areas.

The three cleansing teams continue to carry out works within towns/villages as required.

Officers and staff continue to work with volunteer's litter picking within the Ward including the uplift of rubbish they have collected.

Cleaner Communities Enquiries

In total 48 cleaner communities related enquiries were received and dealt with during this reporting period.

	2024	2023
Dead Animals	11	3
Dog Bin New Request For Bin	1	0
Dog Fouled Kids Play Area	0	1
Dog Fouling on Paths Roads	10	14
Education and Engagement	0	1
Glass on Paths or Open Spaces	0	1
Graffiti Racist or Offensive	1	0
Litter Bin Burnt Damaged	0	9
Litter Bin New Request For Bin	1	1
Litter General Enquiries	0	2
Litter Grass Open Space	0	1
Litter Paths Roads Verges	8	5
Needles Syringes Abandoned	0	1
Street Sweeping Enquiries	5	5
Trolleys Abandoned/ Dumped	3	0
Vehicle Abandoned	8	7
Total	48	51

Environmental Community Action

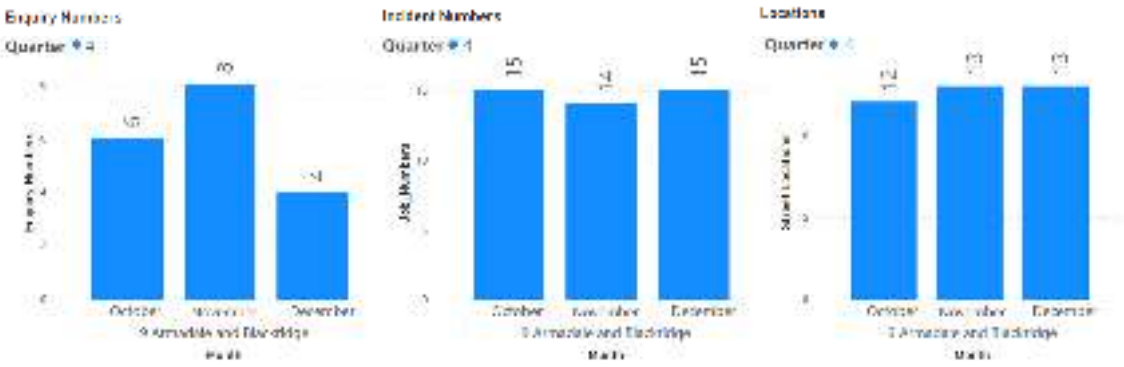
In dealing with abandoned vehicles, Officers have gained compliance from vehicle owners with said vehicles getting removed from public highways or getting taxed in most cases. Where appropriate, requests have been sent to WLC contractors for removal.

However, there are instances where vehicle owners are not compliant and result to moving their vehicles between streets. When presented with such tactics, officers have resulted to contacting the DVLA and VOSA for support. Officers have also had to advise members of the public that their vehicles with a SORN marker needs to be off public roads and kept in a private drive or inside a garage. This is a scenario that has occurred quite frequently of late.

Throughout West Lothian, officers continue to engage with volunteering groups, attend regeneration group meetings, liaise with both internal and external stakeholders like the WLPARC (West Lothian Partnership Against Rural Crime) and render the necessary assistance needed to encourage the exercise they currently perform.

Education and Engagement Officers have continued to carry out joint tasks with colleagues within Waste services to visit schools to make presentations and supply litter kits to pupils, students and teachers at various institutions in the area. They have also actioned enquiries and issue relevant Fixed Penalty Notices for fly tipping, dog fouling and littering were credible evidence is presented.

- **Armadale and Blackridge Flytipping**
- **Enquiry Numbers** – the number of enquiries received from the public
- **Incident Numbers** – the number of **Flytipping** incidents that the NETs team have attended and conducted an uplift. This can be more than the number of enquiries as these figures will include **Flytipping** uplifted by the Team that they have come across and recorded themselves
- **Locations** – number of different locations where **Flytipping** has been removed.



D5 Parks and Woodland

In total there were 11 Parks and Woodland related enquiry received during this reporting period.

	2024	2023
Tree Advice or Consultations	4	5
Tree Blocking Light	1	0
Tree Branches Overhanging	2	1
Tree Broken Damaged or Dead	0	1
Tree Dangerous or Unsafe	0	2
Tree Enquiries General	4	8
Tree Leaves Causing Problems	0	5
Tree Roots Causing Problems	0	1
Total	11	23

	2024	2023
Access Rights Way Core Paths	5	0
Christmas Tree Enquiries	1	0
Total	6	0

Ash Dieback

During this period for Ward 9 appointed contractors have undertaken ash dieback safety felling work along roadside sites on the B8084 and C10 around Armadale and Westfield.

Ranger Service Update

No. Rights Of Way / Core Path / Patrols carried out (hours)	5

The Ranger team led a morning of tree planting on Wednesday 30 October to finish off the felled compartment bordering Armadale Academy at Blackmoss Nature Park which was started back in March. Primary 6 pupils from Eastertoun Primary School joined in again to plant the remaining oak saplings.

Coinciding with the October school break (14 - 17 October) contractors were on site at Blackmoss Nature Park to deliver the re-planting stage of the environmental regeneration project the park.

A Ranger attended the Armadale Regeneration Community Engagement session at the Dale Hub on 28 October to discuss the environmental regeneration project led by GAT (Green Action Trust) at Blackmoss.

Ecology and Biodiversity

Projects:

- Forth Rivers Trust – NRF (Scottish Government Nature Restoration Fund) funding: Using the NRF allocation, work has now finished with approximately 0.6 hectares of interventions such as wetland creation, tree and plug planting and willow spilling. It also involved training nine volunteers within the wider community to identify and appropriately treat invasive non-native species and collectively, they treated approximately 6km of river habitat helping to improve biodiversity in the area. It's hoped that if funding is available a similar scheme will continue.

Strategy and Policy work:

- Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) – following the stakeholder consultation, the Plan is being revised and the final text is scheduled to be complete by the end of January 2025.

Advisory and Advocacy work:

- Planning – Officers continue to pro-actively respond to planning applications and, where necessary, to attend Development Management Committees.
- Ash Dieback Disease – the team continues to assist the Ash Dieback team, and inform contractors of potential ecological constraints associated with projected Ash Dieback works.

D6 Open Space and Cemeteries

Westrigg Park, Blackridge – The park upgrades have been completed.

Avondale Park, Armadale – The seat has been reinstalled.

Draft Open Space Plan 2025-34 Consultation – A proposed revision of the current Open Space Plan is available to view and make comment on at Open Space Plan - West Lothian Council Consultation is open until Thursday 6 March. Feedback will then be considered in anticipation of publication of a final version on the council's website by early summer.

Open Space Enquiries

There was one open space related enquiry received and dealt with during this reporting period.

	2024	2023
Childrens Play Enquiries	1	2
Play Area Property Vandalised	0	1
Total	1	3

Cemeteries Routine Works

Routine grass cutting and weed control tasks have been completed. Seasonal maintenance works and lair reinstatement and burial duties are ongoing across the cemetery estates.

Cemeteries Enquiries

There were 20 cemetery related enquiries received and dealt with during this reporting period.

	2024	2023
Cemeteries General Enquiries	3	6
Complaint Cemeteries & Burials	1	0
Family History Searches	0	2
Lair Enquiries	0	2
Memorial/ Headstone Works	7	10
New Interment Booking	7	6
Purchase of Interment Lair	2	6
Total	20	32

E CONCLUSION

Officers continue to deal with enquiries relating to fly tipping, littering, dog fouling, abandoned vehicles and general enquiries.

The Open Space Capital Programme is progressing as scheduled.

F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

Open Space Strategy

Capital Programme

Appendices/Attachments: none

Contact Person: Simon Scott, Whitehill Service Centre, Bathgate,

simon.scott@westlothian.gov.uk

David Maule

Interim Head of Operational Services

05 March 2025

DATA LABEL: PUBLIC

West Lothian Council

ARMADALE AND BLACKRIDGE LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE

COVID RECOVERY PROJECT A&B18 - UPDATE

REPORT BY HEAD OF OPERATIONAL SERVICES

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to update members on the project A&B18 seeking to relocate the bus stop on Mill Road, Armadale.

B. RECOMMENDATION

Members are requested to note the contents of the report.

C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

I	**Council Values**	Focusing on our customers' needs; being caring and compassionate, open, honest and accountable; collaborative inclusive and adaptive.
II	**Policy and Legal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues, Health or Risk Assessment)**	The council has a policy of supporting public transport services where resources permit. The Transport (Scotland) Act 1985 states that it is the duty of the council, in exercising their power, to conduct themselves as not to inhibit competition in the commercial market. Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, sections 50A to 50C and schedule 7A
III	**Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers**	None
IV	**Impact on performance and performance Indicators**	The council has a target PI for Public Transport of having 90% of residents with access to an hourly or better daytime service Monday to Saturday.
V	**Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement**	The local bus network contributes to a number of outcomes by connecting communities with services and employment.
VI	**Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)**	In line with available budgets.
VII	**Consideration at PDSP**	None
VIII	**Other consultations**	Roads and Transportation Services

D. TERMS OF REPORT

D.1 Background

As part of the Covid Recovery Projects, £2,000 was allocated to project A&B18 to move the bus stop outside 11 Mill Road further north in order to avoid congestion from Eastertoun.

An update report was presented to members of the Local Area Committee (LAC) on 29 October 2024 confirming that, following a site inspection, it was not possible to move the bus stop further north due to the proximity of the junction at Eastertoun Gardens.

The LAC requested that officers investigate the situation further and, where possible, present further options for consideration.

D.2 Relocation of Bus Stop

As previously stated, a site inspection was completed in liaison with Road Safety to explore options for relocating the bus stop on Mill Road.

When reviewing options for moving the stop north, both the lighting columns before and after the junction at Eastern Gardens were considered as a replacement location for the bus stop sign. The most immediate column was discounted as a viable option as it is directly adjacent to the southbound bus stop. Concern was raised that it could actually add to the congestion issues should two buses stop side by side blocking traffic. The column after the junction was also deemed as unsuitable given the proximity to the junction which would cause vehicle overhang when buses utilised the stop.

Options were also explored for moving the stop south however the bend in the road creates restrictions to visibility lines.

D.3 Bus Services on Mill Road

Since the inception of the project, there have been changes to the bus services within Armadale and specifically those serving Mill Road. Following the withdrawal of McGill's Eastern Scottish service from West Lothian, the service 25 which served Mill Road is no longer in operation. This means that there are currently no bus services operating North bound on Mill Road which removes the impact of the buses on congestion in the area.

Given the lack of available options for relocating the current bus stop and given that the stop is currently unserved by public transport, it is proposed that no further action is taken at this time. Should bus services commence within the area, officers will review the position.

E. CONCLUSION

Officers have explored options for relocating the bus stop at Mill Road however road safety issues have meant that a suitable location has not been identified. Commercial changes to bus services in the area has resulted in the northbound stop no longer being served by public transport therefore it is proposed that no further action is taken at this time. Officers will keep the stop in review should bus services commence in the area.

F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

None

Appendices: None

Contact Person: Nicola Gill Passenger Transport Manager, Tel: 01506 282317,
Email: nicola.gill@westlothian.gov.uk

David Maule

Interim Head of Operational Services

5 March 2025

DATA LABEL: PUBLIC

West Lothian Council

ARMADALE AND BLACKRIDGE LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE

LOCALITY PLANNING – ARMADALE UPDATE REPORT

REPORT BY HEAD OF HEAD OF PLANNING, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND REGENERATION

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To update the Committee on the progress of delivering the Locality Plan and linked community action plans in Armadale and related activity.

B. RECOMMENDATION

The Committee is asked to:

1. note the update on the locality planning meeting and projects in the area;
2. note the update from the partnership Community Engagement session that took place on the 28 October, along with the findings report in appendix one;
3. note the development of the Community Benefit Wish list; and
4. note that the Third Sector Community Support Fund is open for applications.

C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

I	**Council Values**	Caring and Compassionate; Open, Honest and Accountable; Collaborative, Inclusive and Adaptive.
II	**Policy and Legal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues, Health or Risk Assessment)**	Community Regeneration activity reinforces the Council commitment to community planning at a local level.
III	**Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers**	None
IV	**Impact on performance and performance Indicators**	Activity aligned to the performance indicators within the Community Planning Partnerships Local Outcome Improvement plan indicators.
V	**Relevance to Local Outcome Improvement Plan**	All.
VI	**Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)**	The refreshed Locality Plans will be delivered within existing resources
VII	**Consideration at PDSP**	None.
VIII	**Other consultations**	Community Planning Partners, local

community organisations, local residents and Council Services

D. TERMS OF THE REPORT

D.1 Background

The report updates the committee on the work of the Community Wealth Building Team and partners undertaking regeneration activity to support communities in areas of deprivation in West Lothian.

At the Committee meeting on 23 April 2024 the Locality Plan for Armadale was presented, one of six such plans in West Lothian that continue to focus on areas of highest deprivation in West Lothian based on the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD).

The refreshed Locality Plans ensure a local link to the Community Planning Local Outcome Improvement Plan and other relevant strategic plans. This aims to improve the link into key areas of activity with previously established local planning structures in key areas of deprivation. They build on the existing and developing activity, including local community identified actions.

D.2 Development and update on local actions and activity

D.2.1 Community Engagement Session

A partnership community engagement session was held in October 2024. The session was delivered from The Dale Hub and was led by the Community Regeneration Officer with support from Play Works Armadale, Public Health Scotland and Architecture and Design Scotland. The aim of the session was to gather information from local residents using the Place Standard with a Climate Lens along with activities linked to one of the four themes which was being examined. These themes looked at movement, spaces, community and facilities. A total number of 20 people were invited to attend the day with 16 people taking part. Lunch was provided along with information from services. The findings report from the event is attached as appendix one and highlights the main themes and issues that arose from the day. Actions on key issues identified are being explored further by the Armadale Regeneration Group to identify ways for these to be addressed and will help form actions within the Locality Plan for Armadale.

D.2.2 Armadale Regeneration Group (ARG) updates

The Armadale Regeneration Group (ARG) met in November 2024 with a range of partners attending in person and also virtually. There was no presentation at the November meeting, the group carried out some planning work on who to contact for future presentations with interested topics including cancer screening, children's dental health, barriers to moving around for people with visual impairments, Learning for Sustainability and findings from the Alcohol-Free Space pilot project delivered in Blackburn. Service updates were provided which included the delivery of the Game on Active programme which is a free provision in partnership with Armadale Thistle Football Club (ATFC) and the Coalfields Regeneration Trust (CRT) for P3 to P7 children. This runs every Thursday form 4-5pm and children can just turn up and play. A further partnership project that was developed is a 'walking football' initiative which was ran with ATFC, OPAL and CRT. This pilot was delivered on Thursday mornings from ATFC. The scheduled ARG meeting for January 2025 was cancelled due to illness therefore the next meeting will take place on 10 March at 3pm from the Dale Hub with an option for virtual attendance also.

D.2.3 Learning Locally

Learning Locally is a new pilot project being led by Architecture and Design Scotland that looks at Co-Designing Sustainable Learning Settings. They will work with three Primary Schools in Armadale: Armadale Primary School, St Anthony's and Eastertoun Primary School to explore how a local area can be a 'Sustainable learning setting" identifying ways to learn within a 10-minute walk of each school (including school grounds) focussing on climate adaptation and sustainability. The first activity planned for February is a Place Standard walkaround bringing together all three schools. There will be 9 children attending from each school along with teachers, who will be split into 3 groups with each group undertaking a route each. After the walkabout, the children will come back together to complete a Place Standard based on the findings and discussion from their walkabout. Information and findings from the Community Engagement event held last October will also be discussed to help interlink previous engagement and discussion.

D.3 Community Benefit Wish List

In December 2024 the Council Executive approved changes to the process for securing Community Benefits from the good and services purchased from the Council. The changes included the inclusion of a Community Benefits Wish List to enable local community organisations to benefit from the opportunities. From 1 February 2025 local suppliers can fulfil requests from local community groups that are placed on the Community Wish List as part of the delivery of community benefits aligned to the contract awarded.

The Community Wealth Building Team have been actively engaging with local key community organisations in the Ward to encourage and support them to develop items for the Community Benefit Wishlist. Request can be for broad range of things, including direct funding, professional support, donations of material, volunteer time and donation of good and services.

Community organisations are being asked to add their organisation to the lists and the identify work they would like support for that will bring additional community benefit. To do so they can complete the Community Benefit Wishlist Form online in the Council's webpage. All requests are being reviewed by the Community Wealth Building Team to ensure they are suitable and are then being placed on the live list. Once a wish has been fulfilled it will be removed from the list.

D.4 Third Sector Community Support Fund

The council's Third Sector Community Support Fund is now open for applications for the 2025/26 (period July 2025 to June 2026). The application deadline is 23 February 2025. Application forms and guidance are available on the council's website (Third Sector Community Support Fund - West Lothian Council).

One local organisation, Play Works Armadale currently receive an award from previous rounds of this fund. The Community Regeneration Officer for the ward has offered support for any applications that Play Works are looking to submit for this round, as well as being available to support applications from other eligible organisations in the ward who may be looking to apply.

The outcome of the process will be reported to the Economy, Community Empowerment and Wealth Building PDSP.

D.5 Delivery and Reporting

The plan remains a dynamic live document, with actions and activities being added and updated on an ongoing basis. Under the Locality Plan will remain the local Armadale Regeneration Group (ARG) action plan. This will contain key actions that will be undertaken to achieve the outcomes presented in the plan. Regular updates will continue to be brought to the Committee on local regeneration activity delivered in the ward aligned to the Locality Plan.

E CONCLUSION

The development of the Armadale Locality Plan and local community plans, and activities within it, provides the opportunity for local partners and community organisations to review, refresh and align activities in the area aimed at tackling inequalities locally. This has resulted in the development of a range of key priorities and actions that will support and address local challenges as well as support the shaping of service delivery aligned to community need.

F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

Local Outcomes Improvement Plan - West Lothian Council

West Lothian Council Committee Information - View Committee Document

Appendices/Attachments: One – Armadale Community Engagement Session Findings Report

Contact Persons:

Michelle Murray, Community Regeneration Officer, email: michelle.murray@westlothian.gov.uk

Douglas Grierson, Regeneration Team Leader, email: douglas.grierson@westlothian.gov.uk

Clare Stewart, Community Wealth Building Manager, email:

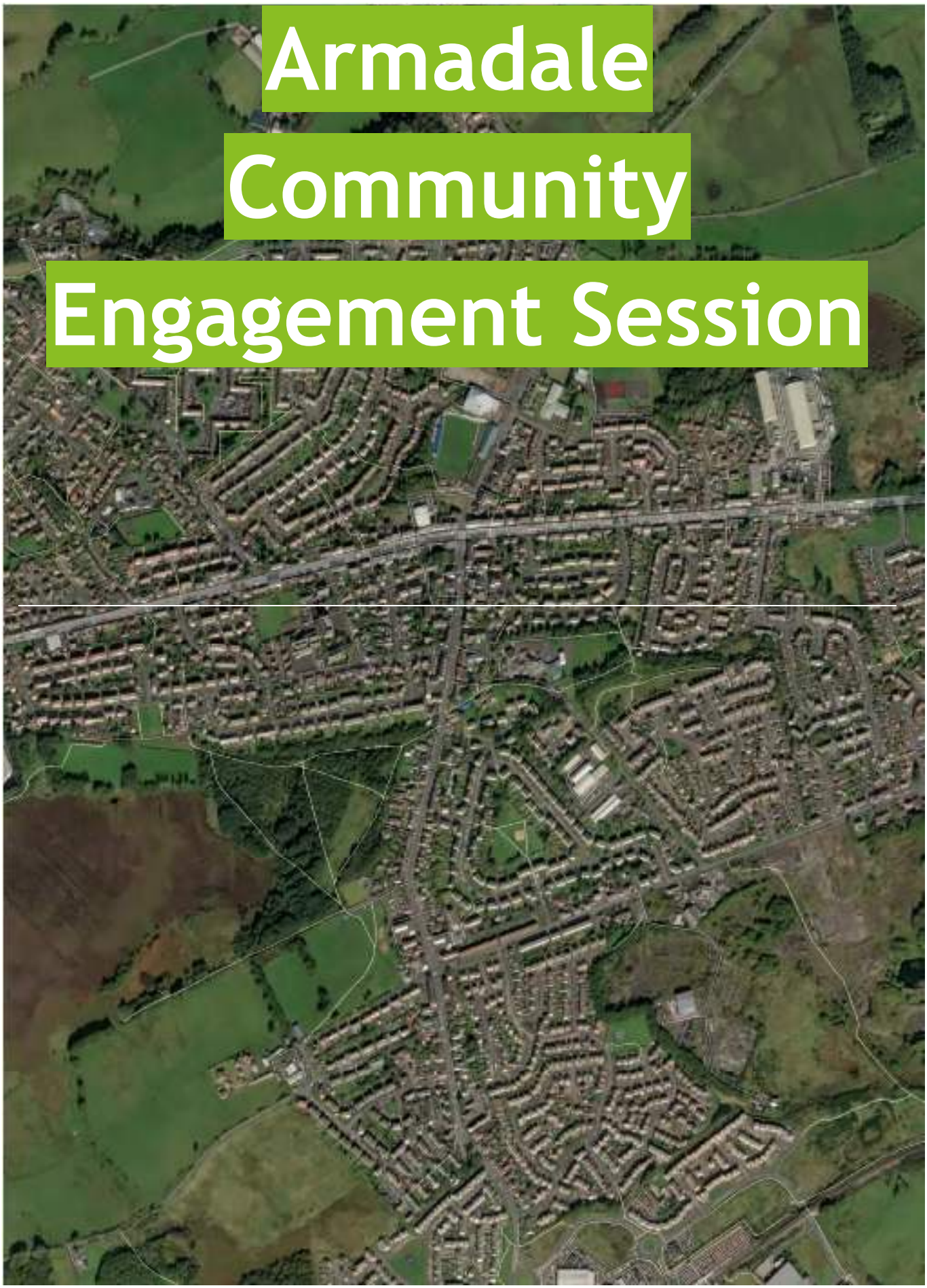
clare.stewart@westlothian.gov.uk

Craig McCorriston

Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration

5 March 2025

Armadale Community Engagement Session



West Lothian Council

Play Works

Architecture & Design Scotland

Public Health Scotland

Introduction

The Armadale Locality Plan (ALP) was developed and presented to the Local Area Committee in April 2024. The plan is one of six such plans in West Lothian that continue to focus on areas of highest deprivation in West Lothian based on the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD). The ALP links to the Community Planning Local Outcome Improvement Plan and other relevant strategic plans. This aims to improve the link into key areas of activity with previously established local planning structures in areas of deprivation. They build on the existing and developing activity, including locally identified actions from the community.

In order to find out what matters to the community and the issues that they face, extensive engagement was carried out with the community. The findings from the engagement helped to identify the priorities for the area along with providing a partnership action plan showing how the issues within the priorities would be addressed.

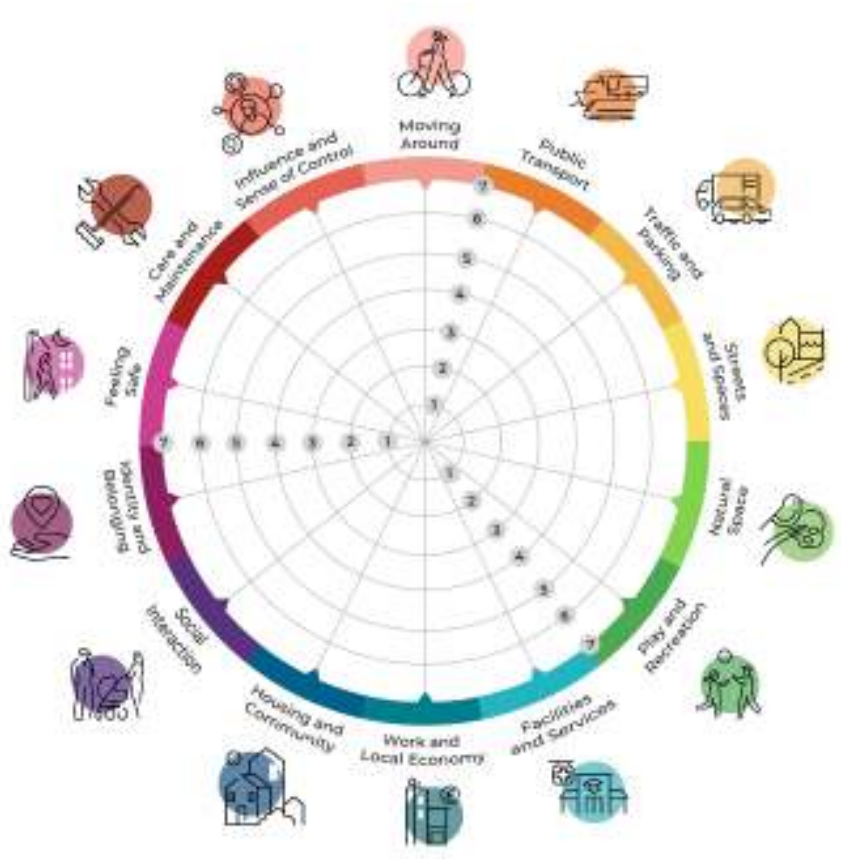
Due to the need to continue with engagement to ensure that the priorities identified were still relevant and to also engage with hard to reach groups/individuals a bespoke community engagement session was planned. This was held on 28 October in a community venue situated in the most deprived data zone in Armadale. This session was led by the Community Regeneration Officer with support from Play Works Armadale, Public Health Scotland and Architecture and Design Scotland. It was held over the full day utilising both the indoor and outdoor space at the venue. The pooling of resources from all partners allowed for a more collaborative approach to provide an engagement session that would not only benefit the community but also the services involved by the sharing of rich qualitative data to enable a stronger future planning. The day allowed the community to raise any concerns and ideas with services and allowed services to directly provide information to the community. The Place Standard with a Climate Lens was the tool used however it was delivered in unique way utilising group discussion during activities linked to the themes being delivered. There were four stations covering the following topics all part of the Place Standard:

- Station 1: Movement – how I get from one place to another with an activity on active travel
- Station 2: Spaces – where I go to and what I do
- Station 3: Community – how I care
- Station 4: Facilities – what I need to live well

Each station discussed issues linked to the topic while carrying out an activity again linked to the topic.

Method

The method for the engagement was a Place Standard with a Climate Lens (PSCL).



Topics on the wheel are:

Moving around

Public transport

Traffic & parking

Streets & spaces

Social interaction

Identify & belonging

Influence & sense of control

Natural space

Play & recreation

Facilities & services

Work & local economy

Housing & community

Feeling safe

Care & maintenance

- This was delivered in a work shop style with the Place Standard being divided into 4 stations:
    - **Station 1 - Movement - how I get from one place to another**
    - **Station 2 - Community - how I care**
    - **Station 3 - Spaces - where I go and what I do**
    - **Station 4 - Resources - what I need to live well**

  The stations were attended by small groups of attendees who moved around each station for discussion on an activity linked to the station title.
- The event took place in the Dale Hub on 28 October 2024 from 9am to 2.30pm
- A total number of 20 were invited to the event, with a total of 16 attending.

Demographics

Invites to local groups were sent out with the number able to attend due to capacity of the venue being capped at 20. Lunch was provided and a number of partners attended on the day to provide information to those attending.

The total attendance was:

- 16
- 5 were from the Mayfield area of Armadale. This area falls with the worst 5% of most deprived according to SIMD and is ranked 45 most deprived out of 6976.
- Others were all from Armadale, King Street, Station Road, Mount Pleasant and Cricketfields.
    - 20% male
    - Age 40-70 years
    - 80% female
    - Age 16 – 70 years

Red areas – bottom 20% most deprived with the one of the data zones being ranked 45th out of 6796 most deprived in Scotland

Findings

Movement - how I get from place to another

- Moving around
- Public transport
- Traffic and parking
- Streets and spaces

Main issues from session 1: **(Activity - Maps of walking/active travel)**

- lack of public transport
- public transport that wasn't joined up so timings to get from one to another do not align
- distance from the centre of town to the train station
- increase cost in fairs for the train
- traffic very congested around primary schools
- pavement parking an issue around the GP and pharmacy
- derelict sites – Old Brick Yard, Old Arnold Clarke site, Old Nursery, Old Library site
- some areas are no lit or lights are damaged/broken

Main positives from session 1 - Movement include:

- Good walking routes
- Paths are good for getting to places
- Benches on walking routes good
- Cycle paths are good and well maintained

What does this mean for the people who took part?

People being unable to travel for work that is outside of Armadale. Long waiting times for connecting buses.

Having to travel by car to other train stations that have better links/times and also cheaper fares. Longer journey times to destinations.

Danger to people walking on pavements, barriers to people being able walk freely in the town.

Danger to wheelchair users, pushchairs and children. Barriers to people being able to be physically active.

People feeling unsafe moving around their area due to unlit areas and derelict sites – also making feel depressed.

What could be done to overcome this?

To include specific projects aimed at reducing traffic congestion around school pick up such as a walking bus.

Explore ways of encouraging development of the main derelict sites.

Campaign to promote safer parking involving local businesses to help address inconsiderate parking outside their premises.

Community - how I care

- Social interaction
- Identity and belonging
- Influence and sense of control

(Activity - memory social game)

Main issues from session 2:

- Divide between Southdale and Armadale
- No community spirit like there used to be
- Newcomers not made to feel welcome
- Armadale a commuting town
- Not a lot of activities for people to do
- People can't act on climate locally
- No cafes where you can meet up with friends

Main positives from session 2 - Community include:

- Good community spirit
- Schools are working on climate

What does this mean for the people who took part?

Some feel that acting on climate change is a bigger issue that they cannot be involved in. Resulting is a feeling of having no control.

People feel that there is a divide between the new developments on the outskirts of the town with no integration. Resulting in a 'them and us' feeling.

Although some strong comments were made about no community spirit, others did feel that Armadale does indeed have a strong community spirit -this was an equal split among participants.

Although some participants felt there wasn't much to do in Armadale, local worker knowledge and mapping of activities in the area show a wide range of activities locally.

What could be done to overcome this?

Better communication on what activities are being delivered in the area with better promotion of these.

Projects aimed at integration to be looked at and planned to look at addressing the divide.

Work towards making Armadale a Climate Action Town by raising awareness locally of climate action that be done locally.

(Activity - planting and maps)

Spaces - where I go and what I do

- Natural space
- Play and recreation
- Facilities and services

Main issues from session 3:

- Issues with getting a GP appointment
- No preventative health programmes locally
- Only 1 dentist – so capacity issues
- Closure of the swimming pool and gym
- Parks are full of dog poo
- Town centre not great/looks dull/nothing to pull people into the town centre
- Empty shops/building on the main street need to let

Main positives from session 3 - Spaces include:

- Blackmoss – natural asset/lots of activity happening to improve it
- Good green space
- Free football at the Volley park/walking football starting
- Walking groups
- Good parks

What does this mean for the people who took part?

People reported issues with the online booking system and that they cannot get an appointment at all with a GP. Others reported that waiting times were very long resulting in some people getting discouraged from booking appointments. This could result in people not accessing the care they needed. People are unable to get access to a dentist this increases the risk of oral health related diseases including some cancers.

A reduction in leisure facilities and open spaces and parks with high levels of dog fouling within the town could have an impact of people's health and wellbeing and increase their risk of becoming physically inactive.

An unkept town centre could result in local people not wanting to shop locally resulting in businesses not being able to be sustainable.

What could be done to overcome this?

Work with the local GP practice to help to promote services and to address issues that some members of the community have.

Campaigns to support oral health and to raise awareness among the community.

Campaigns around the issues and risks of dog fouling, working with wardens to promote picking up after dogs.

Working with local businesses to increase the vibrancy of the town centre and to increase footfall.

Resources - what I need to live well

- Work and local economy
- Housing and community
- Feeling safe
- Care and maintenance

(Activity - Air fryer cooking - cinnamon swirls)

Main issues from session 4:

- People don't feel safe due to areas/paths being dark, derelict areas, police not responding to calls, gangs of young people
- Some people reported issues with houses, including empty properties in the area, modern homes having issues with black mould/condensation/slugs
- People unaware of projects aimed at reducing energy costs and being more climate friendly
- People felt that there are no jobs for young people in the town and no where for young people to get apprenticeships locally
- Takeaways, salons and hairdressers dominate the town businesses
- Commuter town

Main positives from session 4 - Resources include:

- Lots of local businesses in the town
- Business Gateway support good if you know where to find it
- Skills development from WLC
- Social media used positively to promote local businesses
- Some people are aware of energy efficiency for homes

What does this mean for the people who took part?

People not wanting to venture out when its dark due to feeling unsafe, this can also affect mental health. People falling ill due to poor condition of houses, damp/mould/drafts etc. Higher unemployment levels if young people are not able to gain local employment. High number of fast food takeaways can have an impact on obesity levels and unhealthy eating habits.

What could be done to overcome this?

Work with partners to identify key locations where paths/walkways are dark to explore if lighting can be used to address people's fears. Promotion of support that is available to young people for jobs/apprenticeships etc. Exploring setting up of a Town Centre Management Group. Campaigns to raise awareness on energy saving measures and climate action.

The event concluded with all groups coming together to have discussions on the key themes that came out of the workshops.

The group were then able to score topics using the Place Standard wheel. 1 - needing lots of improvements up to 7 - needing no improvements This tool allows for groups/practitioners to see where resource needs to be placed to investigate issues and to look at possible solutions

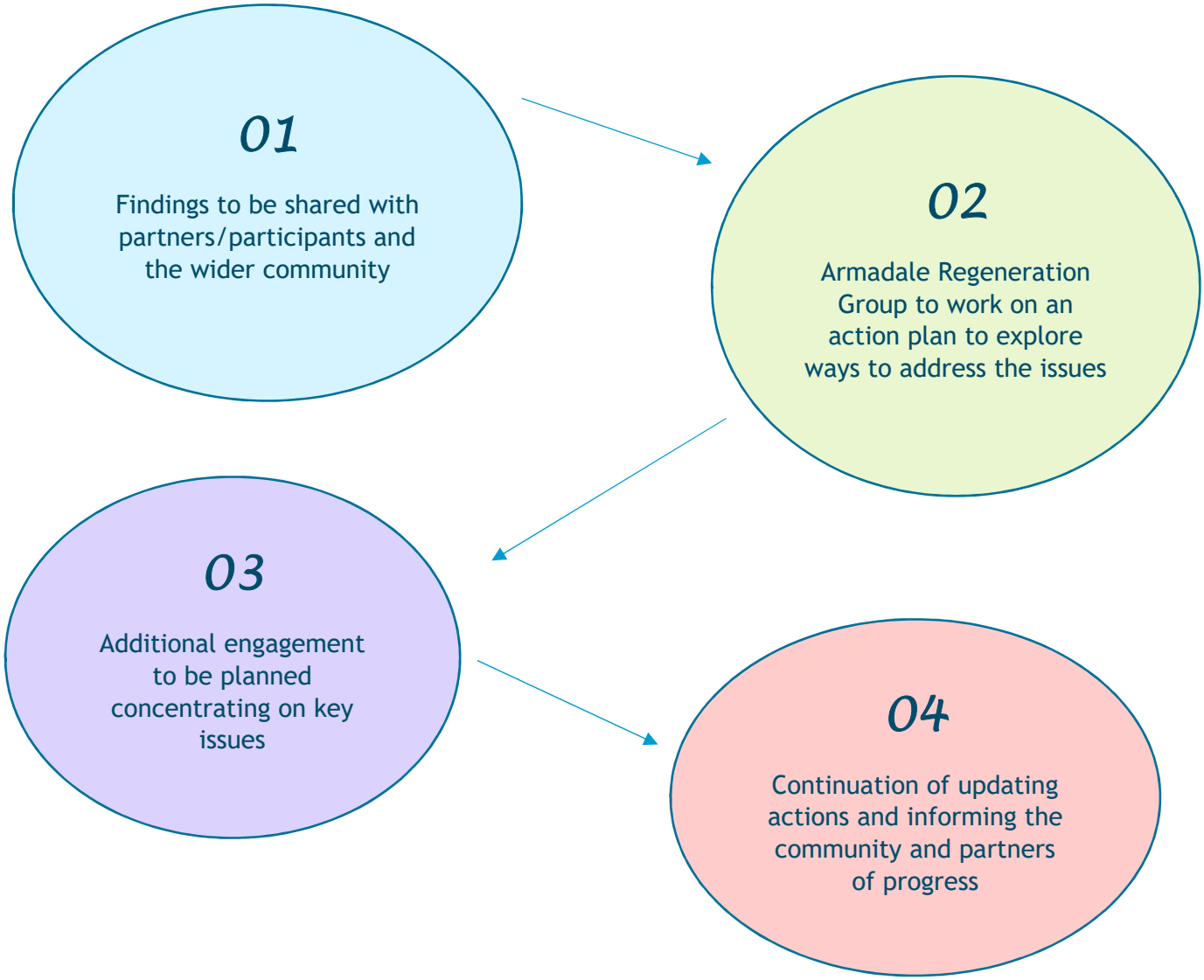
From the diagram you can see that the low scores were linked to the following:

- Influence & sense of control (1)
- Housing & community (1)
- Facilities & services (2)
- Work & local economy (2)
- Public transport (2)
- Care & maintenance (3)
- Traffic & Parking (3)
- Streets & spaces (4)

The following scored 5-6:

- Social interaction (5)
- Identity & belonging (5)
- Feeling safe (5)
- Moving around (5)
- Play & recreation (5)
- Natural space (6)

Next steps



Responses

- Responses and this report will be shared with the following:
    - West Lothian Council – Community Wealth Building Team and all partners involved in the planning and delivery of the event
    - Armadale Regeneration Group and its partners
    - Armadale Community Council
    - Armadale Local Area Committee
    - All participants via displays in the Dale Hub/Armadale Partnership Centre

Acknowledgments

The event was delivered in partnership with:

- West Lothian Councils Community Wealth Building Team
- Play Works Armadale – The Dale Hub
- Public Health Scotland
- Architecture and Design Scotland
- Special thanks to the participants

Policy Context Links

- Local Outcome Improvement Plan WLC_Local_Outcomes_Improvement_Plan_2023_-2033.pdf
- Armadale Locality Plan West Lothian Council Committee Information - View Committee Document
- National Planning Framework 4 National Planning Framework 4

DATA LABEL: Public

ARMADALE LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE

TIMETABLE OF MEETINGS 2025-2026

Reports to committee officer by 12 noon	Agenda Issue	Meeting Date	Venue
Tuesday 19 August 2025	Wednesday 20 August 2025	**Tuesday 26 August 2025**	TBC
Tuesday 7 October 2025	Wednesday 8 October 2025	**Tuesday 14 October 2025**	TBC
Tuesday 17 February 2026	Wednesday 18 February 2026	**Tuesday 24 February 2026**	TBC
Tuesday 19 May 2026	Wednesday 20 May 2026	**Tuesday 26 May 2026**	TBC

All meetings will be held at 9:30am unless otherwise advised

West Lothian Council

ARMADALE AND BLACKRIDGE LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE WORKPLAN 2024/25
MAY 2025 Local area Committee

	Issue	Purpose	Lead Officer	Date	Referral
1	Housing Report	Quarterly update on housing issues	Lorraine Donnelly	May 2025	No
2	Police/NRT Report	Quarterly update on Police/NRT activity	Sgt	May 2025	No
3	Nets, Land and Countryside Services	Quarterly update on Nets, Land and Countryside Services	Simon Soctt	May 2025	No
4	Scottish Fire & Rescue	To provide a quarterly update	Paul Harvey	May 2025	No
5	Locality Planning Report	Update on progress towards Armadale Regeneration Plan	Michelle Murray	May 2025	No
6	Work Plan	Provide an update on report dates due for the year	Michelle Murray	May 2025	No
7	Pensioners Christmas Fund	To advice the committee of the number of beneficiaries eligible within the ward	Michelle Murray	TBC	No
8	Anti-poverty Service	Provide and update on: Supporting routes into education, employment and training	Nahid Hanif	May 2025	No
9	St Kentigern's Academy	To provide an update on performance and activity	Head teacher	2025	No
10	Linlithgow Academy	To provide an update on performance and activity	Head teacher	TBC	No
11	Armadale Academy	To provide an update on performance and activity	Nicola Barker-Harrison	TBC	No