

MINUTE of MEETING of the COMMUNITY SAFETY BOARD held within COUNCIL CHAMBERS, WEST LOTHIAN CIVIC CENTRE, LIVINGSTON, EH54 6FF, on 28 APRIL 2025.

Present – Councillors Lawrence Fitzpatrick (Chair), Tom Conn (substituting for Councillor Susan Manion) and Craig Meek; and Julie Whitelaw (Head of Housing, Customer and Building Services, West Lothian Council), Alison Smith (Senior Manager, Housing, Customer and Building Services, West Lothian Council), Yvonne Beresford (Policy and Performance Officer, West Lothian Council), Malcolm Craig (Trading Standards Manager, West Lothian Council), Edward Kenna (Local Senior Officer, Scottish Fire & Rescue Service) and Elaine Arthur-Kerr (Local Area Commander for West Lothian, Police Scotland)

Apologies – Councillors Susan Manion and Andrew Miller

1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

2 MINUTES

The Board approved the Minute of its Meeting held on 29 January 2025. The Minute was thereafter signed by the Chair.

3 PERFORMANCE REPORT 2024/25

The Board considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the West Lothian Community Safety Partnership which provided an update on performance for Quarter 3 2024/25 (October 2024 to December 2024), for the indicators and actions that supported the Community Safety Strategic Plan 2022–2025.

Appendix 1 to the report provided an update on performance in each of the seven indicators that supported the delivery of the Community Safety Plan. Appendix 2 to the report provided an update on progress against the delivery of the actions which supported the delivery of the Outcomes in the Community Safety Plan.

The Board was asked to note the updated performance in relation to performance indicators for the Community Safety Partnership.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

4 ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & TRADING STANDARDS

The board considered a presentation (copies of which had been circulated) by the West Lothian Council Trading Standards Manager on Environmental Health and Trading Standards.

The presentation provided an overview of the trading standards in relation to community safety priorities. It listed the responsibilities of the trading standards and environmental health team responsibilities, provided information and further details on services and interventions provided by the team and elaborated on processes such as addressing vape issues, product safety and fireworks sales. The team worked in collaboration with Police to address scams as well as engaging with businesses to ensure they thrive. Finally, it was noted that the team has acquired Trusted Trader status.

Following the presentation, officers responded to a number of questions from members relating to highlighting the dangers of vaping to children, recent test purchases and current Trusted Trader Fees. It was also noted that rogue traders could be prosecuted, depending on the nature of the offence. The need for improved fireworks legislation to protect pets was also discussed. In response to a question, the difference between dangerous and out of control dogs was clarified and the difficulty of typing breeds of dog was highlighted. Finally, officers undertook to provide more information on bluetongue disease in the area.

Decision

To note the presentation on Environmental Health and Trading Standards.

5 COMMUNITY SAFETY BOARD DATES FOR 2025/26

The Board considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) which setting out the draft dates for meetings of the Board for the period October 2025 to January 2026. The report proposed that meetings of the Board take place on the following dates which would allow the confirmation of dates for meetings of the Safer Community Strategic Planning Group:

- Monday 13 October 2025 10–12noon
- Tuesday 27 January 2026 2–4pm

The Board was asked to approve the draft dates for its meetings for the period October 2025 to January 2026.

Decision

To approve the terms of the report.