



Bathgate Local Area Committee

West Lothian Civic Centre
Howden South Road
LIVINGSTON
EH54 6FF

17 August 2021

A meeting of the **Bathgate Local Area Committee** of West Lothian Council will be held within the **Virtual Meeting Room** on **Monday 23 August 2021** at **10:00am**.

For Chief Executive

BUSINESS

Public Session

1. Apologies for Absence.
2. Declarations of Interest - Members should declare any financial and non-financial interests they have in the items of business for consideration at the meeting, identifying the relevant agenda item and the nature of their interest
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 the Committee held on 14 June 2021 (herewith).
5. Police Ward Report - report by Police Scotland (herewith).
6. Fire Service Ward Report - report by Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (herewith).
7. Housing, Customer and Building Services Update - report by Head of Housing, Customer and Building Services (herewith).

DATA LABEL: Public

8. General Services Capital Programme Update for Bathgate - report by Head of Finance and Property Services (herewith).
9. Bathgate Water Regeneration Project - report by Head of Operational Services (herewith).
10. Service Update - NETS, Land & Countryside - report by Head of Operational Services (herewith).
11. Community Regneration Ward Update - report by Head of Planning, Economic Development & Regeneration (herewith).
12. Workplan (herewith).

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

CODE OF CONDUCT AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

This form is to help members. It is not a substitute for declaring interests at the meeting.

Members should look at every item and consider if they have an interest. If members have an interest they must consider if they have to declare it. If members declare an interest they must consider if they have to withdraw.

NAME	MEETING	DATE

AGENDA ITEM NO.	FINANCIAL (F) OR NON-FINANCIAL INTEREST (NF)	DETAIL ON THE REASON FOR YOUR DECLARATION (e.g. I am Chairperson of the Association)	REMAIN OR WITHDRAW

The objective test is whether a member of the public, with knowledge of the relevant facts, would reasonably regard the interest as so significant that it is likely to prejudice your discussion or decision making in your role as a councillor.

Other key terminology appears on the reverse.

If you require assistance, please ask as early as possible. Contact Julie Whitelaw, Monitoring Officer, 01506 281626, julie.whitelaw@westlothian.gov.uk, James Millar, Governance Manager, 01506 281695, james.millar@westlothian.gov.uk, Carol Johnston, Chief Solicitor, 01506 281626, carol.johnston@westlothian.gov.uk, Committee Services Team, 01506 281604, 01506 281621 committee.services@westlothian.gov.uk

SUMMARY OF KEY TERMINOLOGY FROM REVISED CODE

The objective test

“...whether a member of the public, with knowledge of the relevant facts, would reasonably regard the interest as so significant that it is likely to prejudice your discussion or decision making in your role as a councillor”

The General Exclusions

- As a council tax payer or rate payer or in relation to the council's public services which are offered to the public generally, as a recipient or non-recipient of those services
- In relation to setting the council tax.
- In relation to matters affecting councillors' remuneration, allowances, expenses, support services and pension.
- As a council house tenant, unless the matter is solely or mainly about your own tenancy, or you are in arrears of rent.

Particular Dispensations

- As a member of an outside body, either appointed by the council or later approved by the council
- Specific dispensation granted by Standards Commission
- Applies to positions on certain other public bodies (IJB, SEStran, City Region Deal)
- Allows participation, usually requires declaration but not always
- Does not apply to quasi-judicial or regulatory business

The Specific Exclusions

- As a member of an outside body, either appointed by the council or later approved by the council
- The position must be registered by you
- Not all outside bodies are covered and you should take advice if you are in any doubt.
- Allows participation, always requires declaration
- Does not apply to quasi-judicial or regulatory business

Categories of “other persons” for financial and non-financial interests of other people

- Spouse, a civil partner or a cohabitee
- Close relative, close friend or close associate
- Employer or a partner in a firm
- A body (or subsidiary or parent of a body) in which you are a remunerated member or director
- Someone from whom you have received a registrable gift or registrable hospitality
- Someone from whom you have received registrable election expenses

MINUTE of MEETING of the BATHGATE LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE held within WEBEX VIRTUAL MEETING ROOM, on 14 JUNE 2021.

Present – Councillors Harry Cartmill (Chair), Willie Boyle, Charles Kennedy and John McGinty

In Attendance -

Marjory Mackie, Lead Officer, West Lothian Council

Nairn Pearson, BID & Town Centre Manager, West Lothian Council

Sergeant Iain Wells, Police Scotland

Robert Meechan, Local Authority Liaison Officer, Scottish Fire & Rescue Service

Lorraine Donnelly, Housing Manager, West Lothian Council

Donald Stavert, Bathgate Community Council

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

2. ORDER OF BUSINESS

The Chair ruled in terms of Standing Order 11 that committee would consider Agenda Item 6 (Fire Service Performance Report) immediately following consideration of the Minute as Police Scotland colleagues had encountered some technical issues getting connected to the meeting.

3. MINUTE

The committee confirmed the Minute of its meeting held on 8 March 2021.

4. FIRE SERVICE WARD REPORT

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by Scottish Fire & Rescue Service providing an update on activity across the ward to 31 March 2021.

The committee was asked to note the content of the report.

Decision

To note the content of the report

5. POLICE WARD REPORT

The Committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by Police Scotland which provided an update on performance, activities and issues across the ward for the period to 28 March 2021.

The Committee was invited to note the report.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

6. HOUSING, CUSTOMER AND BUILDING SERVICES

The Committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Housing, Customer and Building Services providing an overview of the service activities within Bathgate ward for the period 1 January to 31 March 2021.

The committee was invited to note the service activity as details in the ward report for the period 1 January to 31 March 2021.

Decision

1. To note the terms of the report; and
2. To record a note of thanks to all the staff for a rent collection rate of 99% for the ward.

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 NET's, Land and Countryside teams for the period 1 January to 31 March 2021.

It was recommended that the Committee:

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

It was noted by committee that an officer from the service area was not in attendance. Therefore committee agreed that any questions from members would be reported back to the service by the Committee Clerk and officers would be asked to respond direct to members.

Decision

1. To note the terms of the report;
2. To note that a representative from the service area was not in attendance any that any questions would be fed back to officers via the Committee Clerk; and
3. To ask if the Head of Operational Services could confirm with local

ward members what health and safety risk and assessments were carried out with regards to the volunteer litter pickers working on grass verges and along busy roads.

8. COMMUNITY REGENERATION WARD UPDATE

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration which provided an update on regeneration and related partners activities within the Bathgate ward.

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

Decision

1. To note the content of the report; and
2. To ask that the Community Regeneration Officer confirm with local ward members the current ownership status of the land at Wester Inch.

9. WORKPLAN

A copy of the Workplan had been circulated for information.

Decision

To note the Workplan.

OFFICIAL



**POLICE
SCOTLAND**

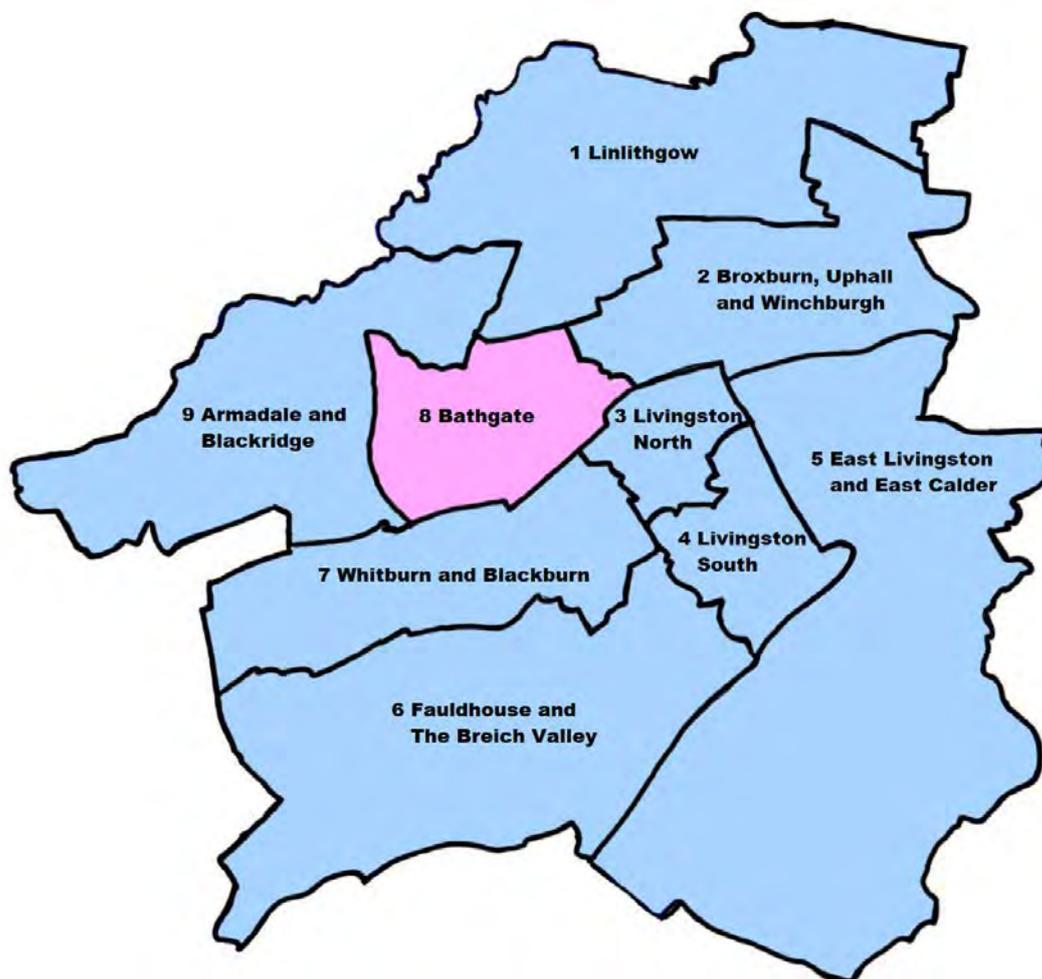
Keeping people safe

POILEAS ALBA



West Lothian Area Command

Lothian and Scottish Borders



Ward 8 Bathgate Multi Member Ward Report

Quarter 1 – 2021/2022

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

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 4th July 2021.

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 2020 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 1 2021/2022. The report references the police priorities within the Local Police Plan for West Lothian 2020-2023, 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.

Bathgate Community Engagement Priorities:

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

Bathgate Community Officers

PC Sean Henderson

PC Francis Sinnet

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.

- **Protecting the most vulnerable people**

Domestic abuse crimes is an area of focus in terms of providing confidence to report, undertaking professional investigations, providing victim support, pursuing perpetrators and managing offenders. By the end of Q1, there had been a decrease in domestic incidents reported to the police compared to Q1 in 20/21 and of those reported incidents there has been an increase in recorded domestic crimes. Many of these are historical incidents which have been identified by detectives engaging with victims, identifying previous partners and follow up enquiries to identify previously unreported crimes.

During Q1, Medics Against Violence, in partnership with Police provided three online ASC (Ask Support Care) online training sessions to major employers within West Lothian in conjunction with DAPDG. Further "train the trainer" sessions are planned which will see over 100 members of the public with raised awareness of ASC.

As has been described in previous papers, our officers have had cause to deal with an increasing number of people who have been experiencing mental health crisis. With thanks to our partners in NHS Lothian, since 2020 we agreed protocols allowing operational officers to access the Acute Care and Support Team (ACAST) in West Lothian, a Mental Health Community Triage System. The ACAST system frees up capacity at A&E/Out of Hours,

whilst ensuring that those people who met the criteria, receive the most appropriate support at source. During Q1, ACAST was utilised 52 times by officers.

Under Public Protection Unit (PPU) leadership we have established an implementation group to deliver the Herbert Protocol to Care homes, NHS and 3rd sector. During Q1, this protocol was successfully implemented on Monday 31st May to coincide with Dementia week.

Local officers continue to engage with vulnerable looked after young people within Care Establishments in an effort influence positive change and outcomes for them.

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

Recent patterns relating to Anti-Social Behaviour continue. The “traditional” key crimes within ASB – Vandalism and Fireraising - continue to fall, following the 5 year long downward trend. At the conclusion of Q1, the figure for overall ASB incidents decreased significantly compared to Q1 2020/21.

Neighbour disputes and Covid related complaints are included in the ASB figures with persons working from home, low tolerance levels and reports of possible breaches to the regulations. West Lothian officers continue to engage with the public and utilise the 4 E’s – Engage, Explain, Encourage and Enforce with an overall good compliance level.

With the relaxing of Covid regulations, the police are again focusing on the night time economy, working with the licensed trade to minimise the impact of any ASB or violence in local communities.

During Q1, School Campus Officers delivered inputs to S1 and S2 pupils regarding both substance misuse and ASB, emphasising the link between the two and the long term effects on individuals, their families and the wider communities.

Unfortunately during the reporting period there was a murder in the ward area with the perpetrator quickly arrested and remanded in custody. This investigation is being led by the national Major Investigation Team (MIT) and there is no concerns for wider community safety.

Following previous reports of ASB in the Boghall area and co-ordinated response through the Community Safety Partnership, there has been a reduction in incidents reported to Police and SFRS.

There are still ongoing complaints regarding the illegal use of off-road bikes across the West Lothian area. The police have provided additional patrols in affected areas, utilised social media to highlight the problem and request information from local communities as to who is involved.

- **Reducing Acquisitive Crime**

Dealing with Acquisitive Crime to protect communities remains a priority with the number of reported crimes of dishonesty decreasing on the previous year. This includes a significant decrease in overall vehicle crime which can be attributed to investigations by local and national officers with multiple persons being charged.

The Covid lockdown has led to more people being at home and apparently spending time online. This is aligned to a rise in crimes of Fraud with the vast majority of these incidents related to online or telephone crimes. Victims are of all ages and we continue to use social media and other methods to support preventions messages and national campaigns.

During Q1, our Prevention and Intervention Officer conducted 5 Crime Prevention Surveys to victims of crime.

Community officers have recently re-established connections with The Neighbourhood Watch Scheme. This allows trained officers to send communication in relation to crime prevention and/or local issues to members of the public who have signed up for the service. To date, West Lothian has nearly 1400 members signed up to this service. Work is ongoing to recruit more partner agencies to be involved as administrators.

<http://www.neighbourhoodwatchscotland.co.uk/>

- **Improving Road Safety**

Road safety is a priority for the police and local authority. Officers in West Lothian work in partnership with the council to address road safety issues and educate the public to prevent incidents from occurring.

During Q1, Roads Policing officers continued with Local and National Campaigns including The Vulnerable Road Users Campaign, Seatbelt Campaigns as well as National Days of Speeding. This resulted in 645 persons being reported in relation to offences including dangerous driving, disqualified driving, no insurance etc.

Between April and June 2021, officers undertook multiple proactive speed checks across West Lothian, resulting in 88 offences being detected. There were also 123 warnings provided in relation to driver behaviour.

As the main arterial routes return to pre-Covid volumes, Road Policing Officers will continue to prioritise sites which represent the greatest risk and in the interests of casualty reduction.

As schools returned to a more "normal" way of learning, our Prevention and Intervention officer supplied several West Lothian Schools information to promote the local authority led PARK SMART scheme with the aim of encouraging parents and care-givers to make sure they park sensibly and increase the safety of everyone in the area.

Following the fatal collision near Torphichen, two persons have been arrested and interviewed and the family updated. Further enquiries are ongoing in relation to the incident.

- **Tackling Serious and Organised Crime**

West Lothian officers continue to disrupt organised crime group by targeting drugs supply offences, gathering intelligence and generate enforcement activity.

During Q1, 39 Misuse of Drugs Warrants were obtained for execution with 35 Supply, Production and Cultivation offences libelled. This included the police receiving intelligence in relation to a sophisticated Cannabis Cultivation within West Lothian with an approximate value in excess of £86,000. After a full investigation, two persons have been reported to COPFS for related offences.

We continue to developed drugs intelligence from the local community. Drugs enforcement requires information from sources to build a picture and fill in the pieces of the jigsaw and the use of community intelligence in this cannot be underestimated.

Reporting Period April 2021 – June 2021			
Bathgate	Recorded		
Crime Type	YTD	LYTD	% Diff
Robbery	3	2	+50.0%
Serious Assault	8	3	+166.6%
Sexual Crimes	27	7	+285.7%
Housebreaking dwelling	4	5	-20.0%
Housebreaking non-dwelling (sheds/garages)	0	4	-100.0%
Housebreaking Other Premises	3	6	-50.0%
Theft of motor vehicle	5	11	-54.5%
Theft from motor vehicle (OLP)	8	0	-
Vandalism	59	49	+20.4%
Total drugs supply	4	4	-
Possession of Drugs	27	12	+125.0%
Common Assault	84	58	+44.8%
Common Assault - emergency worker	9	9	-
Total Crimes and Other Offences	725	561	+29.2%

Through local engagement we will continue to work with communities and partners to deliver a quality service which responds to their needs.

Together we can increase community resilience and prevent crime.

Data Label: Public



West Lothian
Council

BATHGATE LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE

BATHGATE MULTI-MEMBER WARD PERFORMANCE REPORT

REPORT BY SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To update the Bathgate Local Area Committee on the activity within Bathgate Multi-Member Ward for the period up to 30th June 2021.

B. RECOMMENDATION

That Committee Members are invited to note and provide comment on the Bathgate Multi-member Ward Performance Report.

C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

I Council Values	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Being honest, open and accountable• Focusing on our customers' needs• Making best use of our resources• Working in partnership
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 2018, which is a requirement under the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012, Section 41E.

D.2 Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS Bathgate Multi-member Ward Quarterly Report

Following the publication of the Bathgate 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 seven key priorities within the Bathgate 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 Special Services (excluding RTC's)
- Reduction in RTC Fatalities and Casualties

E. CONCLUSION

The Bathgate Multi-member Ward Performance Report aligns to the key priorities of the Local Fire and Rescue Plan for West Lothian 2018, the West Lothian Strategic Assessment of Community Safety and continues with the excellent partnership working on Community Safety, which is evident in West Lothian.

F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

None.

Gordon McGuire

Station Manager, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

August 2021

Appendix 1 - Bathgate Multi-Member Ward Performance Report



West Lothian Council Area

Ward Performance Report

Quarter 1 2021

Bathgate

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.

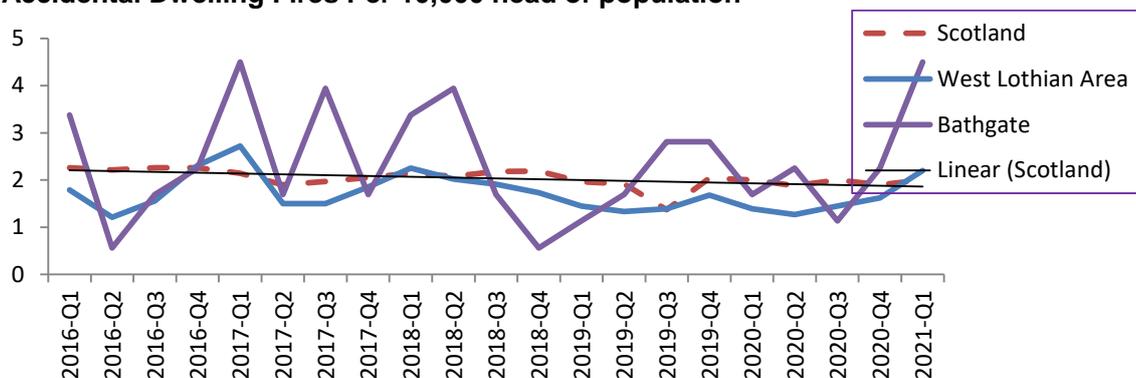
In addition to historical ward based activity, this performance report provides information on the historic activity in the West Lothian Council area and Scotland. To allow benchmarking to be undertaken, the units of measurement in the performance graphs in the report are based on incidents/events per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

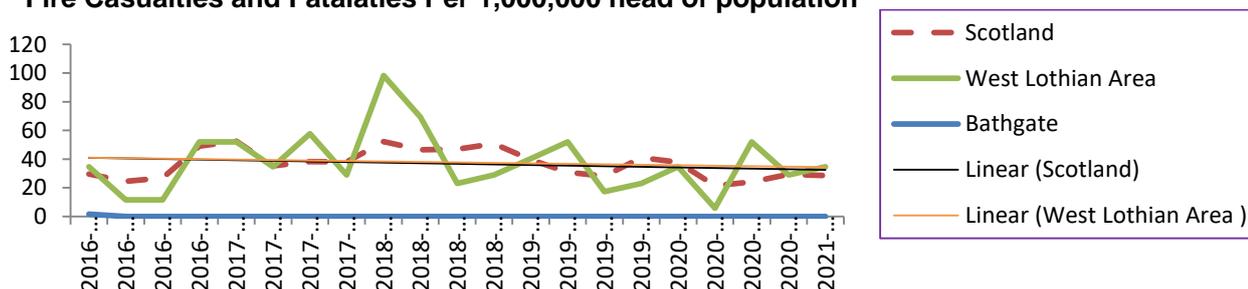
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Accidental Dwelling Fires Per 10,000 head of population



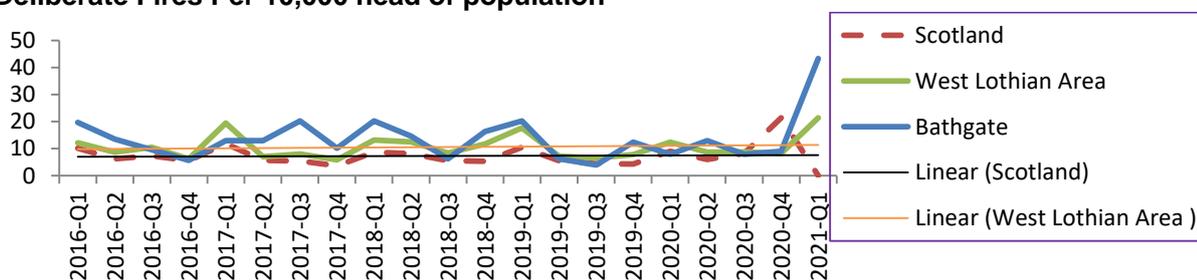
During the 2021-22 year to date reporting period SFRS have dealt with 8 accidental dwelling fires in comparison to 3 during 2020-21 year to date reporting period.

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



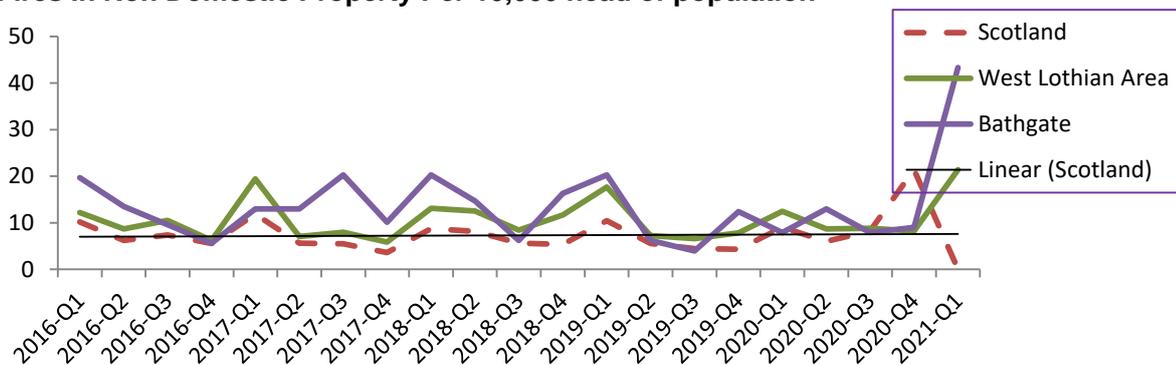
During the 2021-22 year to date reporting period SFRS have dealt with 1 Casualty and 0 Fatalities due to fire in comparison to 2 Casualties and 0 Fatalities during 2020-21 year to date reporting period.

Deliberate Fires Per 10,000 head of population



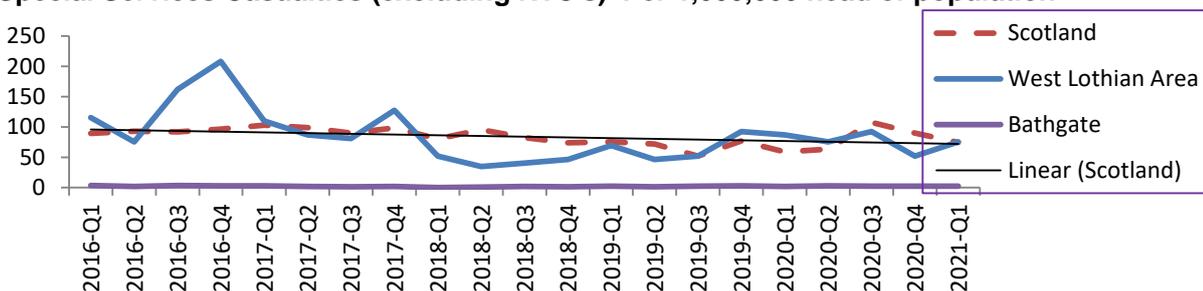
SFRS have dealt with 77 Deliberate fire incidents during 2021-22 year to date reporting period in comparison to 14 during 2020-21 year to date reporting period.

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



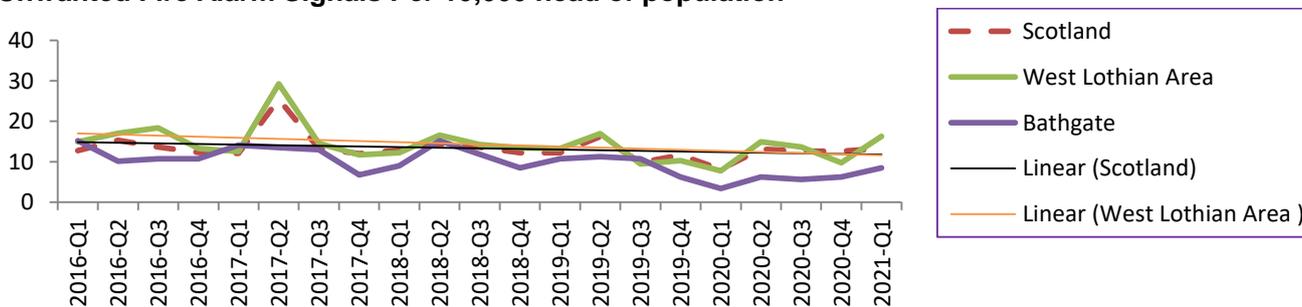
SFRS have dealt with 0 non domestic fire incidents during 2021-22 year to date reporting period in comparison to 3 during 2020-21 year to date reporting period.

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



SFRS have dealt with 4 casualties from Special Services during 2021-22 year to date reporting period in comparison to 3 during 2020-21 year to date reporting period.

Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals Per 10,000 head of population

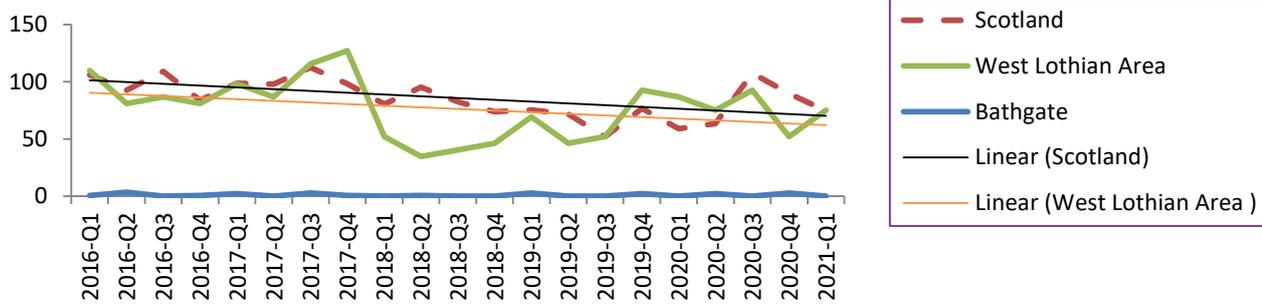


SFRS have dealt with 15 UFAS incidents during 2021-22 year to date reporting period in comparison to 6 during 2020-21 year to date reporting period.

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 2021-22 year to date reporting period SFRS have dealt with 0 Casualties and 0 Fatalities from RTC's in comparison to 0 Casualties and 0 Fatalities during 2020-21 year to date reporting period.

DATA LABEL: PUBLIC



BATHGATE LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE

HOUSING, CUSTOMER AND BUILDING SERVICES UPDATE

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 Bathgate ward.

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 1 – 1st April to 30th June 2021.

C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

I Council Values	Focusing on our customers' needs. Being honest, open and accountable. Providing equality of opportunities. Making best use of our resources. Working in partnership.
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

D1. 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 Bathgate Ward.

To ensure that our properties are being re-let and that we were meeting our duty under homeless legislation, the Housing Team has continued throughout the Covid19 pandemic to prioritise resources to complete the letting process for both temporary and mainstream properties.

Property Void & Let Performance: Mainstream Tenancies

Void Period	April 2021	%	May 2021	%	June 2021	%	WL Target %
0-2 wks	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	55%
2-4 wks	0	0%	8	47.1%	0	0%	30%
4+ wks	6	100%	9	52.9%	8	100%	15%
Total Lets	6	100%	17	100%	8	100%	100%

Property Void & Let Performance: Temporary Tenancies

Void Period	April 2021	%	May 2021	%	June 2021	%	WL Target %
0-2 wks	1	14.3%	2	28.6%	1	11.1%	80%
2-4 wks	1	14.3%	2	28.6%	6	66.7%	15%
4+ wks	5	71.4%	3	42.9%	2	22.2%	5%
Total Lets	7	100%	7	100%	9	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 12 policy voids in the ward for this period, 2 more than the last reporting period.

Void period	Number of properties	PV reasons
<4 weeks	1	1 – Bathroom replacement
4 – 12 weeks	3	2 – Held for Legal Purposes 1 – Replacement flooring throughout
13 – 16 weeks	4	1 – H&S issues 1 – Asbestos removal 1 – Bathroom upgrade 1 – Major repair works
26+ weeks	4	2 - Health & Care Committee, surplus to long term requirements 1 - Being used as a decant 1 - Woodworm / K&B replacement

D2 Rent Arrears

For the Bathgate ward the collection rate for the YTD in Q1 remains excellent at 97.5%. Bathgate has collected £2,260,387 vs a charge of £2,317,953.

The overall increased arrears in comparison to last year are as a result of Full-Service Universal Credit being introduced in West Lothian from May 2018, along with other Welfare Benefit reforms and the current economic climate.

In the same week last year Bathgate ward had 53 Universal Credit (UC) households. Since then the number of UC households has increased by 528.3%.

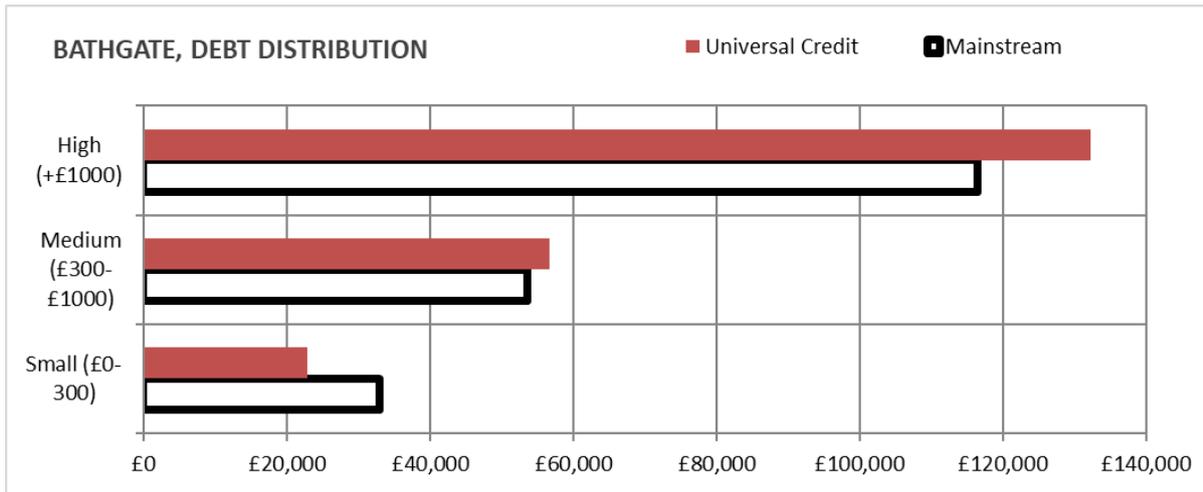
The number of tenancies in arrears in this ward has increased by 22 since last year. Small debt cases (£300 or less), account for 61.8% of households.

There are 101 serious arrears cases (+£1000 in arrears). These cases are 12.5% of all households in arrears in this area, containing 59.9% of the debt.

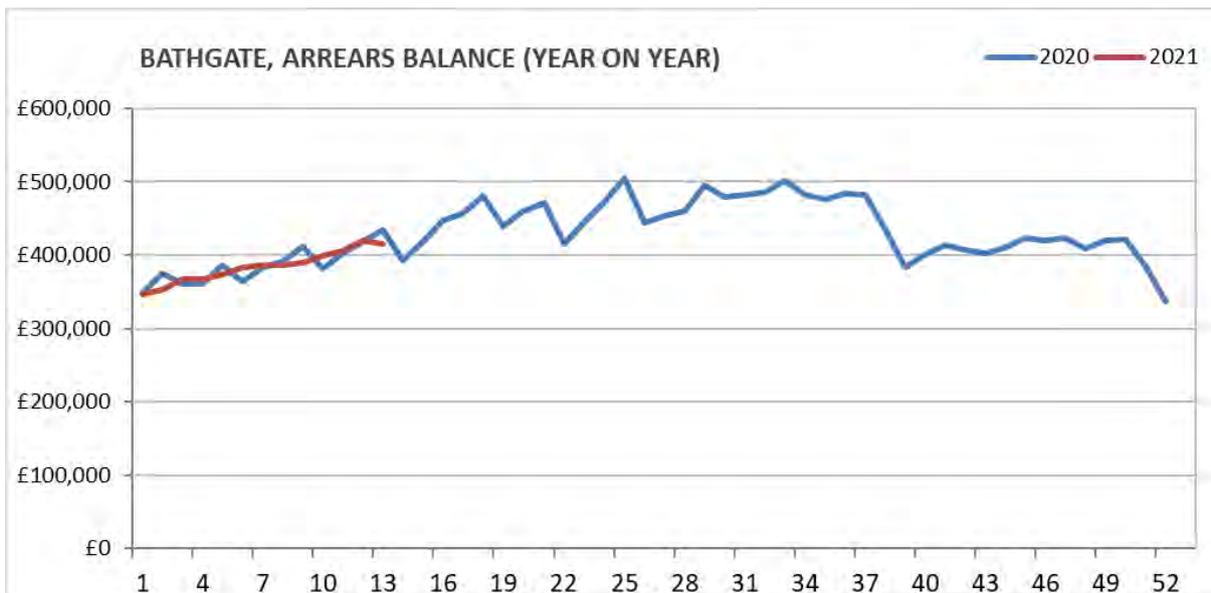
The arrears position for Bathgate Q1 is £414,943. This is a decrease of -£19,550 on last year's position. The West Lothian overall position is currently £3,488,182.

During the course of this year we plan to focus on the following:

- Making best use of resources by considering communicating more with customers through SMS, email and telephone
- Benchmarking with other local authorities to ensure we identify and consider implementing any best practise
- Performance Monitoring and Reporting will be reviewed and where appropriate, streamlined to ensure information is meaningful and robust to assist with improving rent arrears due
- Promote alternative payment methods, particularly the Tenant's Self-Service Portal



Arrears Banding	2020/21 (WK13)				2021/22 (WK13)			
	Mainstream		UC		Mainstream		UC	
	Balance	Cases	Balance	Cases	Balance	Cases	Balance	Cases
£0.01 to £99.99	£10,853	221	£2,958	48	£11,333	209	£3,988	68
£100.00 to £299.99	£20,522	117	£15,128	80	£21,687	124	£18,900	100
£300.00 to £499.99	£20,108	52	£27,211	69	£17,616	46	£21,154	56
£500.00 to £749.99	£24,051	39	£28,228	46	£22,119	37	£23,652	40
£750.00 to £999.99	£18,795	22	£28,694	33	£13,914	16	£11,927	14
£1000.00 to £1999.99	£48,502	37	£66,889	46	£34,203	24	£39,454	30
£2000+	£53,865	17	£68,690	25	£82,218	22	£92,776	25
Group Total	£196,696	505	£237,798	347	£203,091	478	£211,852	333
Movement					(+) £6,395	(-) 27	(-) £25,945	(-) 14
Overall Total			£434,493	852			£414,943	811
Overall Movement							(-) £19,550	(-) 41



D3. Bathgate Area Team Activity

Officers in the team continue to work from home as a result of Covid 19 lockdown measures, to safeguard staff and tenants. However, essential housing management tasks are being prioritised and Duty Officers ensure that these are being completed timeously in accordance with health and safety measures, risk assessments and safe operating procedures. This has been a challenging time for the service and we have worked with our Health & Safety advisor and Trade Unions to ensure we have safe operating systems, risk assessments and personal protection equipment so that we are safe guarding our staff whilst undertaking key essential tasks at this time.

The focus on rent arrears activity has continued to be a weekly priority task for the team and will continue to work with all our tenants in offering the 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 have also been doing targetted work to encourage tenants to update their universal credit journals as many have not updated their housing costs in April 2021 following the rent increase meaning they are losing out on money they are entitled to.

D4. Capital Programme and New Build Council Housing

Local New Build Update

WLC New build completions - 141

WLC New Build Activity	Site	No of units	Site Start	No. of Houses Handed Over	Site Completion
WLC	Standhill	22	Jan-20	0	Sept-21
WLC	Hopetoun Street (Conversion of former Newlands House)	4	Apr-21	0	Dec-21
WLC	Marjoribanks Street	6	TBC	0	TBC
WLC	Mid Street	5	TBC	0	TBC
RSL Build Activity	Site	No of units	Site Start	No. of Houses Handed Over	Site Completion
West Lothian Housing Partnership	Jarvey Street	42	Mar-17	0	Dec-21

Street	Works	Update
Race Road and Glasgow Road	Roof & roughcast	Minor works to complete

D5. Tenant Participation Update

The TP Team continued to carry out the schedule of meetings with tenants using online resources to ensure TP continues in all aspects of service delivery.

Tenants Panel

Tenant members continued to take part in monthly meetings with senior managers and the Head of Service, discussing service improvements and developments as well as receiving updates from each service area on implementing the changes imposed by the pandemic, to deliver services and changes to working protocols.

Performance and Financial Scrutiny,

Panel members given opportunity to question information on spend, budgets, performance targets and results over this period.

Capital & Repairs Working Group (CAR's)

Discuss major improvement works, update on the various projects being carried out and share benchmark information. Updated on the developments of Community Choices and the progress with the Street Environmental Improvement Projects as well as the Capital Programme work being carried out to date. The Repairs Manager gave members a presentation on the importance of Gas and Heating Servicing which the group really appreciated and felt it gave them confidence in the way the service was carried out for the benefit of tenants' safety.

Tenant Participation Development Working Group (TPDWG)

The group have been reviewing the current TP Strategy with an emphasis on digital engagement and inclusion. Members were introduced to the new CX Team who explained their role in improving service delivery for the customer and how they will enhance the work of TP by engaging with customers and encouraging them to share their views on the services they have received. They will also promote traditional tenant participation, with the aim of encouraging more active participation.

Editorial Panel

With the use of Adobe Reader, members are now able to review publications and propose changes online prior to meeting. This was carried out with them in June 2021 with the Summer edition of Tenants News and other leaflets and surveys including the online portal survey and the Assisted Decoration Scheme Leaflet.

Tenant Led Inspection Sign Off - Dampness and Condensation

In June, our tenant inspectors met with Building Services to review the inspection they carried out on Dampness and Condensation; the report highlighted 14 recommendations that required to be actioned. The Repairs Manager had also taken the inspectors report further and added to the recommendations with two additional actions to enhance and further improve the service by recovering initial financial outlay on materials and ensuring performance is monitored regularly and effectively. Tenant inspectors were delighted with the outcome of this inspection into Dampness and Condensation and expressed their gratitude to the service for their commitment in taking all recommendations onboard. They felt this showed how valuable Tenant Led Inspections are to HCBS.

TP Facebook Group

The TP team continue to see a steady number of tenants following posts on the TP Facebook Group page. The team post useful information from various sources such as Scottish Government, NHS and the Council's corporate websites as well as consultation matters and queries from tenants.

New Build Planning & Progress Meeting

Housing, Strategy and Development continue to meet on a regular basis with the members of the Tenants Panel to provide an update on the progress and planning of current and future new build sites, the acquisition of houses and update on ongoing development of stock. The Panel members meet six monthly for updates on all these projects.

Learning & Development Sessions for customers

Tenants and service users continue to meet online to hear about various topics in our Learning and Development sessions. These sessions give an insight into the process and development and allow members a strong foundation to carry out scrutiny work going forward. In the past few months senior managers and staff have given presentations on topics such as

- Tendering and Procurement process for New Build
- Illegal Money Lending
- The Local Housing Strategy and Housing Asset Management Plan
- Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan and
- Universal Credit and Arrears.

D6. Safer Neighbourhood Team

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. The working remit of the team is to engage with customers and work with partner services and agencies to reduce noise and antisocial behaviour (ASB) within our communities.

During the Covid19 restrictions, officers have been working a blended model carrying out some home working as well as office and community-based work for enquiries and to engage with customers. From home, officers have been providing a telephone service to complainers and alleged perpetrators as well as corresponding with written letters and e-mails. They have provided advice and assistance, telephone mediation, issued warning letters where there was evidence to do so and continue with our partnership working.

Partnership working involves the local housing team, council officers with 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 colleagues from the voluntary organisations including West Lothian Youth Action Project, Mental Health advisory workers and private landlords in order to reduce antisocial behaviour and support members of our community who have been affected.

Outcomes

The outcomes that officers have achieved throughout the period of Quarter 1 – April, May and June 2021 are detailed below:

Warnings	A first warning was issued due to neighbour complaints of noise nuisance, harassment and hate crime. Police are aware of the situation and suitable advice has been given.
	A joint visit with Police Scotland to issue first warning about loud music was conducted after a section 54 was issued by Police Scotland – no incidents have been received since the warning was issued.
	Concerned calls were received from tenants over a weekend full of incidents. Discussion with Police Scotland was held and information shared, severity of incidents led to agreement among services for a final warning to be issued.
	A warning has been issued after Police Scotland shared information during Community Safety Partnership meetings of a call they had attended involving severe noise nuisance and similarly, a first warning was issued after Police Scotland information confirmed neighbours reports of ongoing noise nuisance.
	Reports received of issues with a tenant in the Bathgate area, mostly noise related. A letter drop completed and the first, second and final warnings were served. No further incidents have been reported.
	A second warning was issued after several complaints from neighbours stating noise nuisance and problems were arising from visitors to the property.
Joint Visits	A joint visit with a Community Housing Officer was conducted to enable enquiries
Letter Drops	There have been several instances where SNT officers have had to carry out letter drops to see if other tenants have complaints or can corroborate complaints received in order to proceed with enquiries.
	A letter drop was completed after information was shared with Environmental Health due to pest control within the neighbourhood. The customer was happy with actions taken and advice given.
Referrals	SNT are willing to assist members of the public where possible. When enquiries come to SNT and the complaint is not deemed as Antisocial Behaviour as described by the Law and the powers for SNT to act and assist the public do not cover the issues in the complaint, then the enquiries and complaints remain outstanding. The SNT Officers are then able to assist with providing advice where people can go to get the correct response and assistance required or if they are able to, SNT officers will refer the complainer to another agency/service who can assist them. There have been several of these type of enquiries throughout June and SNT have assisted where possible.

Bathgate Ward Data

Table 1: The following tables set out details of the number of new cases opened each month, overall number of active cases; number of cases resolved. Not all incidents become a case and officers will open a case where further investigations are necessary.

<i>Cases and Incidents</i>	<i>Apr</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>Jun</i>	<i>Jul</i>	<i>Aug</i>	<i>Sep</i>	<i>Oct</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>Dec</i>	<i>Jan</i>	<i>Feb</i>	<i>Mar</i>
Incidents Reported to SNT	105	59	105									
Number of new cases	6	5	10									
Number of Active Cases	12	10	23									
Number of resolved cases	0	5	6									

Table 2: The following table provides an overview of the types of incidents that are being reported to the SNT.

Incident Types	<i>Apr</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>Jun</i>	<i>Jul</i>	<i>Aug</i>	<i>Sep</i>	<i>Oct</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>Dec</i>	<i>Jan</i>	<i>Feb</i>	<i>Mar</i>
ASB Part 2 Complaint	66	31	61									
ASB Part 5 Noise Complaint	25	17	34									
Dog Barking	0	0	0									
ENV Health Complaint	0	5	1									
Non ASB Noise Complaint	7	1	4									
SST Section 3 Tenancy Management	6	5	5									
Youth Disorder	1	0	0									
Unauthorised Encampment	0	0	0									
Grand Total	105	59	105									

Table 3: The following table provides numbers of ASBO that are current in ward and compared to all of West Lothian.

ASBO	Q1											
Number of ASBO's current	2											
All of West Lothian	12											

Table 4: The following table provides number of all active cases and total number of incidents for West Lothian

West Lothian	<i>Apr</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>Jun</i>	<i>Jul</i>	<i>Aug</i>	<i>Sep</i>	<i>Oct</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>Dec</i>	<i>Jan</i>	<i>Feb</i>	<i>Mar</i>
Total Number of Active Cases	73	72	121									
Total Number of Incidents	484	402	456									

E. CONCLUSION

Housing staff are now well adapted to working from home and have embraced new ways of working and continued to support vulnerable customers in our communities. In addition, officers have continued to provide advice and support on a range of issues such as anti-social behaviour, moving into new homes and financial issues.

Officers have continued to work with colleagues in other service areas to ensure that service delivery has continued as far as possible.

F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

None

Appendices/Attachments:

None

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Marjorie Mackie
Interim Head of Housing, Customer and Building Services
23rd August 2021

DATA LABEL: PUBLIC



BATHGATE LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE

GENERAL SERVICES CAPITAL PROGRAMME UPDATE FOR BATHGATE

REPORT BY HEAD OF FINANCE AND PROPERTY SERVICES

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To provide the Bathgate Local Area Committee (LAC) with an update on general services capital investment in the ward during 2020/21 and planned investment for the seven year period 2021/22 to 2027/28.

B. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the LAC notes:

1. The progress made in delivering the approved general services capital programme within the Bathgate ward in 2020/21;
2. The approved capital projects planned for the ward in 2021/22 to 2027/28;
3. That detailed allocations of block budgets for the period 2023/24 to 2027/28 to specific projects attributable to individual wards will not be undertaken until 2022;
4. Progress in delivery of the 2021/22 programme will be reported to Council Executive following detailed budget monitoring exercises during the course of the year;
5. An updated capital investment programme will be presented to Council for approval in February 2022.

C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

I Council Values	Focusing on customers' needs, being honest, open and accountable, making the best use of our resources and working in partnership.
II Policy and Legal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues, Health or Risk Assessment)	<p>The council's General Services Capital programme is managed within the stringent requirements set out in the updated Prudential Code.</p> <p>The integrated approach to asset management and capital planning complies with the provisions of the Prudential Code and with Best Value requirements in the 2003 Local Government (Scotland) Act.</p>
III Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers	None.
IV Impact on performance	Effective capital implementation and asset

V	and performance Indicators Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement	management is vital to supporting corporate and service performance. Effective prioritisation of capital resources will be essential to achieve key outcomes over the coming nine years.
VI	Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)	General services capital investment in the Bathgate ward during 2020/21 was £2.230 million. Approved investment for 2021/22 to 2027/28 is £7.156 million.
VII	Consideration at PDSP	The process for the development of the asset management strategy and capital investment programme was considered by Partnership and Resources PDSP on 5 February 2021. Asset Lead Officers provide annual asset performance reports to relevant Policy Development and Scrutiny Panels (PDSPs).
VIII	Other consultations	Asset Lead Officers and Capital Project Managers.

D. TERMS OF REPORT

D.1 Background

West Lothian Council agreed a ten year asset management and capital investment plan for 2018/19 to 2027/28 on 13 February 2018. As part of the ten year capital plan, it was agreed that officers would report annually to local area committees on the progress on capital investment in their ward.

Following approval of the original ten year plan in 2018, the plan was updated on 19 February 2019. An updated plan, incorporating the final outturn position from 2020/21, was considered and approved by Council Executive on 22 June 2021. The future planned investment from 2021/22 to 2027/28 included in this report is based on the updated programme agreed in June 2021.

D.2 Capital Investment in Bathgate Ward in 2020/21

The overall general services capital investment expenditure for 2020/21 was £56.182 million compared to the approved budget of £51.409 million. Overall there was net accelerated spend of £4.773 million in the programme. As spend was 109.3% of budget, this demonstrates continued progress in delivering the council's capital investment plans.

For 2020/21 identifiable investment in the Bathgate ward was £2.230 million against a budget of £2.712 million. Full details of all budgets and expenditure for the ward are provided in Appendix 1, however the total investment by asset category is as follows:

Table 1: Investment in Bathgate Ward in 2020/21 by Asset Category

Asset	Budget £'000	Final Outturn £'000	Variance £'000
Property	1,083	1,136	52
Roads and Related Assets	1,479	984	(495)
Open Space	150	110	(40)
Total	2,712	2,230	(483)

In summary the key elements of the investment in the ward during 2020/21 were:

Property Assets

The total expenditure for the Bathgate ward was £1.136 million under the Property category. This can be largely attributed to the completion of the new St Mary's Nursery School which opened in April 2021 despite challenges placed upon the construction sector as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. The delivery of the nursery is part of the early learning and childcare expansion which sees all three to four year olds entitled to 1,140 hours of free childcare.

Roads and Related Assets

The total expenditure for the Bathgate ward was £924,000 under the Roads category. Various repairs and improvements have been made to the area including surfacing works along Boghall Drive. Bathgate Branch Railway Bridge underwent repairs to the support structures, steel and deck as well as a repaint of beams resulting in a spend of £239,000 whilst £183,000 was spent carrying out concrete beam repairs on the underside of Guildiehaugh Railway Bridge. In addition, £60,000 of town centres improvements schemes were identified through consultation with local community groups of Bathgate. Further improvements to the ward are expected in due course as design works have commenced on the Bathgate Water Regeneration Project.

Open Space Assets

The total expenditure for the Bathgate ward was £110,000 under the Open Space category. This comprises mostly of works completed on childrens play areas. New play equipment was installed at Meadow Park, Glasgow Road along with repairs to the gate and fence. New installations and upgrades to equipment were also made at Wester Inch Pond as well as Blackburn Road.

D.3 Agreed Capital Investment in Bathgate Ward 2021/22 to 2027/28

The updated capital investment programme 2021/22 to 2027/28 approved on 22 June 2021 included identifiable investment of £4.218 million in Bathgate over the seven year period. Full details of the planned investment in the ward are provided in Appendix 2 for information. The main areas of investment in the ward include:

Property Assets

There is £3.357 million identified in the capital programme between 2021/22 and 2027/28 under the Property category within the Bathgate ward. The focus of

investment in the coming years will be on planned improvements to the learning estate, in particular the roof of the 1960's extension at Balbardie Primary School. Stabilisation works and a full roof replacement will be undertaken to manage and remove the area which was constructed using Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC). As a consequence, other planned improvements at the schools, including upgrades to heating and the improvement of infant toilets, have been reprogrammed to 2022/23.

Roads and Related Assets

There is £3.357 million identified in the capital programme between 2021/22 and 2027/28 under Roads related assets for schemes within the Bathgate Ward.

£676,000 in total will be directed to roads and footway capital maintenance schemes. The main projects include £303,000 of surfacing works on Edinburgh Road from Guildiehaugh roundabout to Bathgate railway station to be delivered within this financial year with £100,000 of further works leading up to Boghall roundabout and £202,000 up to Standhill Road scheduled for 2022/23. Surfacing works at Hillhouse Avenue and Balbardie Avenue are also programmed for 2023/24 and 2024/25 respectively. In addition, there will be £55,000 expenditure for replacement of street lighting on Easton Road, programmed for 2021/22.

An ambitious £5.5 million project to regenerate the Bathgate Water and the surrounding area from Wester Inch to Glasgow Road, is being developed and will include active travel links in to Bathgate town centre. £1.988 million external funding has been identified by SEPA through the Water Environment Fund with other funding being sought through Sustrans and National Lottery Heritage Fund.

A further £516,000 of improvements are expected on bridges, with the main schemes identified as the completion of the concrete beam repairs on the underside of Guildiehaugh Railway Bridge, totalling £337,000, as well as £150,000 waterproofing of the bridge deck on Guildiehaugh Railway Bridge which has been programmed for 2023/24.

The Bathgate community have also identified a further £122,000 of Town Centre Funded projects that will be delivered over the course of 2021/22 and 2022/23.

Open Space Assets

There is £254,000 identified in the capital programme between 2021/22 and 2027/28 under the Open Space category within the Bathgate ward.

The rotten timber retainer will be removed at Balbardie Play Park along with replacing the basket swing and existing multi-units in Autumn 2021. Funding has been awarded for the construction of the pumptrack in Balbardie Park from SUEZ Community Trust and Sportscotland. The track will be located next to the skatepark, in place of the ballcourt. The project will be managed in partnership with Green Action Trust. A contractor for the works has been formally appointed and discussions have begun regarding the floodlighting. Work is scheduled to begin in September 2021, and will take approximately one month. Replacement of the sand toddler play area and other surface upgrades at Kirkhill Play Area will also be complete by Summer 2021.

In addition to the named investment identified above and in Appendix 2, there are a number of council corporate and block budgets which will result in spend in the ward however this investment cannot be separately identified. Also, currently block budgets for property, roads and open space, which are predominately planned improvements and maintenance works, have only been allocated to specific projects up to 2022/23. The block budgets for 2023/24 to 2027/28 will be allocated to specific projects, which can be attributed to wards, in advance of the next five years. This means that apart from large projects, most capital investment will be allocated to specific wards for 2023/24 to 2027/28.

D.4 Future Updates on the Approved Capital Investment Programme

In line with the established reporting arrangements for capital budget monitoring, reports on progress of the 2021/22 approved programme will continue to be presented to Council Executive following detailed monitoring at months four, six and nine. Any material changes to the delivery of projects will be highlighted in these reports.

Although the council has an approved capital investment programme to 2027/28, the annual refresh and update of the approved programme will be presented to Council for consideration in early 2022. This is in line with the council's agreed financial planning principles that revenue, capital and treasury plans should continue to be considered and agreed at the same Council meeting.

E. CONCLUSION

This report fulfils the requirement to report to LACs on the progress of capital investment in their ward in the preceding year and to highlight planned capital investment over the period 2021/22 to 2027/28. Monitoring reports on the delivery of the overall general services capital investment programme during 2021/22 will continue to be presented to Council Executive. In addition, an updated capital investment programme will be presented to West Lothian Council for consideration in February 2022, in line with existing budgeting arrangements.

F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

Asset Management Strategy and General Services Capital Investment Programme 2021/22 to 2027/28 – Report by Head of Finance and Property Services to West Lothian Council on 23 February 2021

General Services Capital Investment Strategy 2021/22 to 2027/28 – Update – Report by Head of Finance and Property Services to Council Executive on 22 June 2021

Appendices/Attachments:

Appendix 1 – 2020/21 General Services Capital Investment in Bathgate Ward

Appendix 2 – Approved Capital Investment in Bathgate Ward 2021/22 to 2027/28

Contact Person: Kirsty West, Accountant
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Donald Forrest
Head of Finance and Property Services
23 August 2021

2020/21 GENERAL SERVICES CAPITAL PROGRAMME EXPENDITURE - Bathgate

Project	2020/21 Budget £'000	2020/21 Outturn £'000	2020/21 Variance £'000
PROPERTY ASSETS			
Primary Schools			
Balbardie PS, Bathgate - heating pipework upgrade	2	1	(1)
St Mary's PS, Bathgate - electrical upgrade	0	0	0
Primary Schools - Total	0	0	(1)
School General and Estate Wide Planned Improvements			
School Toilet Improvements - Balbardie PS, Bathgate (Infant)	10	15	5
School General and Estate Wide Planned Improvements - Total	10	15	5
Social Policy Planned Improvements			
Jane Place - Render and External Works	80	20	(60)
Social Policy Planned Improvements - Total	80	20	(60)
Partnership Centres Planned Improvements			
Bathgate Partnership Centre - minor works	65	58	(7)
Partnership Centres Planned Improvements - Total	65	58	(7)
Operational Offices Planned Improvements			
St David House, Bathgate - window replacement	0	0	0
Operational Offices Planned Improvements - Total	0	0	0
Schools General Projects			
ELC - Simpson PS, Bathgate - new production kitchen	0	(4)	(4)
ELC St Columba PS - Outdoor	0	4	4
ELC St Mary's PS New Build	819	1,036	217
ELC - St Marys PS BGT Kitchen	59	0	(59)
Boghall Primary School - Nursery Extension	0	0	0
Schools General Projects - Total	878	1,036	158
Operational Buildings Projects			
Whitehill Service Centre	50	7	(43)
Operational Buildings Projects - Total	50	7	(43)

2020/21 GENERAL SERVICES CAPITAL PROGRAMME EXPENDITURE - Bathgate

Project	2020/21 Budget £'000	2020/21 Outturn £'000	2020/21 Variance £'000
TOTAL PROPERTY ASSETS	1,083	1,136	52
ROADS AND RELATED ASSETS			
B Class Roads - Backlog and Lifecycle Investment			
B792 - Ballencrief Toll to Torphichen	20	24	4
B792 - Slackend, Torphichen	15	10	(5)
B Class Roads - Backlog and Lifecycle Investment - Total	35	34	(1)
U Class Roads - Backlog and Lifecycle Investment			
Boghall Drive Boghall	0	0	0
Boghall Drive Boghall	90	101	11
Edinburgh Road Bathgate	0	7	7
U Class Roads - Backlog and Lifecycle Investment - Total	90	108	18
Adopted Footways - Backlog and Lifecycle Investment			
Balmuir Road, Bathgate	7	0	(7)
Gideon Street, Bathgate	11	11	0
Whitehill Industrial Estate, Bathgate	26	25	(1)
Adopted Footways - Backlog and Lifecycle Investment - Total	44	36	(8)
Non Adopted Footways - Backlog and Lifecycle Investment			
School Playgrounds - Bathgate West Nursery School	17	17	0
Non Adopted Footways - Backlog and Lifecycle Investment - Total	17	17	0
Flood Prevention and Drainage			
Bathgate Watercourse Restoration	42	26	(16)
Flood Prevention and Drainage - Total	42	26	(16)
Road Lighting			
Whitburn Road, Bathgate	130	88	(42)
Road Lighting - Total	130	88	(42)
Adopted and Non Adopted Bridges - Backlog and Lifecycle Investment			
Bathgate Branch Railway Bridge	330	239	(91)

2020/21 GENERAL SERVICES CAPITAL PROGRAMME EXPENDITURE - Bathgate

Project	2020/21 Budget £'000	2020/21 Outturn £'000	2020/21 Variance £'000
Slackend Armco Culvert	0	0	0
Easter Inch Bridge Parapets	129	133	4
Guildiehaugh Railway Bridge Bathgate	520	183	(337)
Adopted and Non Adopted Bridges - Backlog and Lifecycle Investment - Total	979	555	(424)
Town Centres and Villages			
Bathgate Town Centre	0	3	3
Town Centre Fund - Bathgate	12	0	(12)
TCF(2) - BATHGATE	59	57	(2)
Town Centres - Total	71	60	(11)
TOTAL ROADS AND RELATED ASSETS	1,479	984	(495)

2020/21 GENERAL SERVICES CAPITAL PROGRAMME EXPENDITURE - Bathgate

Project	2020/21 Budget £'000	2020/21 Outturn £'000	2020/21 Variance £'000
OPEN SPACE ASSETS			
Open Space and Sports Facility Planned Improvements			
Balbardie Park of Peace Bathgate	0	5	5
Marchwood Cres Park Bathgate	20	0	(20)
Meadow Park, Bathgate	35	36	1
Standhill Local Park, Bathgate	0	0	0
Open Space and Sports Facility Planned Improvements - Total	55	41	(14)
Children's Play Areas			
Balbardie Park Play Area, Bathgate	15	0	(15)
Blackburn Road Play Park, Bathgate	25	20	(5)
Wester Inch Play Areas	55	49	(6)
Children's Play Areas - Total	95	69	(26)
TOTAL OPEN SPACE ASSETS	150	110	(40)
TOTAL - BATHGATE	2,712	2,230	(483)

2021/22 TO 2027/28 GENERAL SERVICES CAPITAL PROGRAMME - Bathgate

	Budget 2021/22 £'000	Budget 2022/23 £'000	Budget 2023/24 £'000	Budget 2024/25 £'000	Budget 2025/26 £'000	Budget 2026/27 £'000	Budget 2027/28 £'000	Total Budget £'000
PROPERTY ASSETS								
Primary Schools Planned Improvements								
Balbardie PS, Bathgate - heating pipework upgrade	0	100	0	0	0	0	0	100
Balbardie PS, Bathgate - roof stabilisation works	550	1,350	0	0	0	0	0	1,900
St Mary's PS, Bathgate - electrical upgrade	0	45	0	0	0	0	0	45
Primary Schools Planned Improvements - Total	550	1,495	0	0	0	0	0	2,045
School General Planned Improvements								
School Toilet Improvements - Balbardie PS, Bathgate (Infant)	0	185	0	0	0	0	0	185
School General Planned Improvements - Total	0	185	0	0	0	0	0	185
School Estate Wide Planned Improvements								
Roof Replacement & Repair - Balbardie PS, Bathgate	0	0	140	0	0	0	0	140
School Estate Wide Planned Improvements - Total	0	0	140	0	0	0	0	140
Partnership Centres Planned Improvements								
Bathgate Partnership Centre - minor works	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Partnership Centres Planned Improvements - Total	0	0						
General Statutory Compliance & Miscellaneous Planned Improvements								
Regal Theatre, Bathgate	0	50	0	0	0	0	0	50
General Statutory Compliance & Miscellaneous Planned Improvements - Total	0	50	0	0	0	0	0	50
Schools General Projects								
Early Learning and Childcare - St Marys PS, Bathgate - new build	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Early Learning and Childcare - St Mary's PS, Bathgate - production kitchen upgrade	50	0	0	0	0	0	0	50
Schools General Projects - Total	50	0	0	0	0	0	0	50
Operational Buildings & Depot Modernisation								
Corporate Property Modernisation Strategy	25	300	180	180	180	80	80	1,025
Whitehill Service Centre	50	0	0	0	0	0	0	50
Operational Buildings & Depot Modernisation - Total	75	300	180	180	180	80	80	1,075
TOTAL PROPERTY ASSETS	675	2,030	320	180	180	80	80	3,545

ROADS AND RELATED ASSETS

2021/22 TO 2027/28 GENERAL SERVICES CAPITAL PROGRAMME - Bathgate

Budget 2021/22 £'000	Budget 2022/23 £'000	Budget 2023/24 £'000	Budget 2024/25 £'000	Budget 2025/26 £'000	Budget 2026/27 £'000	Budget 2027/28 £'000	Total Budget £'000
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2021/22 TO 2027/28 GENERAL SERVICES CAPITAL PROGRAMME - Bathgate

	Budget 2021/22 £'000	Budget 2022/23 £'000	Budget 2023/24 £'000	Budget 2024/25 £'000	Budget 2025/26 £'000	Budget 2026/27 £'000	Budget 2027/28 £'000	Total Budget £'000
C Class Roads - Backlog and Lifecycle Investment								
C14 - Nether Hillhouse	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
C Class Roads - Backlog and Lifecycle Investment - Total	0	0						
U Class Roads - Backlog and Lifecycle Investment								
Balbardie Avenue, Bathgate (79 - 95)	0	0	0	27	0	0	0	27
Boghall Drive, Boghall	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Edinburgh Road, Bathgate - Station to Guildiehaugh	303	0	0	0	0	0	0	303
Edinburgh Road, Bathgate - Guildiehaugh to Boghall Roundabout	0	100	0	0	0	0	0	100
Hillhouse Avenue, Bathgate	0	0	37	0	0	0	0	37
U23 - Standhill Road, Bathgate	0	202	0	0	0	0	0	202
U Class Roads - Backlog and Lifecycle Investment - Total	303	302	37	27	0	0	0	669
Adopted Footways - Backlog and Lifecycle Investment								
Balmuir Road, Bathgate	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	7
Whitehill Industrial Estate, Bathgate		0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Adopted Footways - Backlog and Lifecycle Investment - Total	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	7
Flood Prevention and Drainage								
Bathgate Watercourse Restoration	50	646	646	646	0	0	0	1,988
Flood Prevention and Drainage - Total	50	646	646	646	0	0	0	1,988
Road Lighting								
Easton Road, Bathgate	0	55	0	0	0	0	0	55
Road Lighting - Total	0	55	0	0	0	0	0	55
Bridges								
Bathgate Branch Railway Bridge	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Easter Inch Bridge Parapets	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	25
Guildiehaugh Railway Bridge, Bathgate - waterproofing	0	0	150	0	0	0	0	150
Guildyhaugh Railway Bridge, Bathgate	337	0	0	0	0	0	0	337
Slackend Armco Culvert	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Bridges - Total	366	0	150	0	0	0	0	516

2021/22 TO 2027/28 GENERAL SERVICES CAPITAL PROGRAMME - Bathgate

	Budget 2021/22 £'000	Budget 2022/23 £'000	Budget 2023/24 £'000	Budget 2024/25 £'000	Budget 2025/26 £'000	Budget 2026/27 £'000	Budget 2027/28 £'000	Total Budget £'000
Town Centres and Villages								
Town Centre Fund - Bathgate	52	55	0	0	0	0	0	107
Town Centre Fund 2 - Bathgate	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	13
Bathgate Town Centre	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Town Centres and Villages - Total	67	55	0	0	0	0	0	122
TOTAL ROADS AND RELATED ASSETS	793	1,058	833	673	0	0	0	3,357
OPEN SPACE ASSETS								
Open Space and Sports Facility Planned Improvements								
Balbardie Park of Peace, Bathgate	65	40	0	0	0	0	0	105
Birniehill Crescent Grass, Bathgate	7	0	30	0	0	0	0	37
Marchwood Crescent Park, Bathgate	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Meadow Park, Bathgate	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Windyknowe Park, Bathgate	0	50	0	0	0	0	0	50
Open Space and Sports Facility Planned Improvements - Total	72	90	30	0	0	0	0	192
Children's Play Areas								
Balbardie Park Play Area, Bathgate	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	15
Blackburn Road Play Park, Bathgate	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hope Park Gardens, Bathgate	0	20	0	0	0	0	0	20
Westerinch Play Areas, Bathgate	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
Children's Play Areas - Total	21	20	0	0	0	0	0	41
Land Decontamination								
Boghall Quarry - land decontamination	0	21	0	0	0	0	0	21
Land Decontamination - Total	0	21	0	0	0	0	0	21
TOTAL OPEN SPACE ASSETS	93	131	30	0	0	0	0	254
TOTAL - BATHGATE	1,561	3,219	1,183	853	180	80	80	7,156

DATA LABEL: PUBLIC



BATHGATE LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE

BATHGATE WATER REGENERATION PROJECT

REPORT BY HEAD OF OPERATIONAL SERVICES

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to inform the Local Area Committee (LAC) of the progress of the project to regenerate the Bathgate Water and improve the environment in the surrounding area.

B. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the LAC notes the report and supports the proposal:

- for the funding of the project;
- for the formation of Bathgate Water partnership and project board; and
- to take a report to the next meeting of Environment PDSP.

C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

I Council Values	Focusing on our customers' needs, making best use of our resources and working in partnership.
II Policy and Legal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues, Health or Risk Assessment)	A full strategic environmental assessment will be undertaken as the project develops.
III Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers	None
IV Impact on performance and performance Indicators	None
V Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement	The project will contribute to the protection and enhancement of the built and natural environment.
VI Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)	The project will be funded by the Scottish Government's Water Environment Fund (WEF) administered by SEPA and through Sustrans (Scotland) 'Places for Everyone' programme, subject to their programme processes. A National Lottery Heritage Fund bid is also to be prepared and submitted shortly.
VII Consideration at PDSP	None

VIII Other consultations As detailed in the report.

D. TERMS OF REPORT

D.1 Background

The Bathgate Water Regeneration Project was initially part of the RiverLife project that included the removal of barriers to fish passage on the Almond. The progress of the RiverLife project has been reported to Council Executive on a number of occasions; see background papers for detail.

A design proposal for the Bathgate Water Regeneration Project was submitted for planning approval in January 2017. However, this proposal failed to satisfy flood risk management and planning requirements and was withdrawn.

In December 2017, SEPA stated that they were unable to continue to fund the project as it was, so the scope of the project was reviewed and a more holistic approach was adopted to provide multiple environmental benefits. These included:

- enhancing the quality of the watercourses that flow through the area;
- planting native species to attract and support wildlife;
- improving the management of flood water that will also enhance biodiversity; and
- providing a path network that will encourage active travel by creating an environment that the community will enjoy travelling to and through.

The delay in preparing the new scope and progressing the concept design for the project resulted in the project going beyond the timeline for funding from the National Heritage Lottery Fund. The project was then removed from the overall RiverLife project.

With the project having being re-scoped and a concept design carried out, funding to progress the design has now been secured and the project has been re-energised.

D.2 Project Location

The project is located between a 144-hectare Wester Inch housing development and Bathgate Town Centre and between Blackburn Road and Glasgow Road. The area of the site has been impacted over the years by industries that have come and gone; from mining, to the ironworks and finally truck manufacturing.

The Bog Burn flows through the heart of Bathgate but for large sections of its length it is hidden from view and inaccessible to the community. The watercourse has been heavily degraded over the years through human intervention and no longer supports the aquatic life it could.

D.3 Vision

The vision for the Bathgate Water Regeneration Project is to work with local people to create a large, high-quality, accessible and wildlife-rich nature park on former industrial land, regenerating the rivers that run through the town, creating new direct connections between Blackburn, Wester Inch and the historic town centre and its transport hubs. It is hoped that this will help inject new life into the town centre, galvanise the town's newfound role as a thriving suburb and provide a natural space where wildlife can prosper and people enjoy.

D.4 Working in Partnership

A partnership group was created under the RiverLife project that included the Council, the Scottish Environment Protection Agency and Forth Rivers Trust. The re-scope of the project attracted additional interest in the form of which saw Sustrans (Scotland) and Green Action Trust. It is, therefore, intended that a specific Bathgate Water partnership be formed through a partnership agreement from these parties with the Council taking on the lead partner role and partners providing financial funding, knowledge and expertise.

It is also intended that a Project Board will be convened to provide direction, leadership and support.

D.5 Funding

Funding for the re-scoped project will come from the Scottish Government's Water Environment Fund administered by the Scottish Environment Protection Agency, and Places for Everyone funding through Sustrans (Scotland), subject to their programme processes.

The Water Environment Fund is used to create a better environment for wildlife and people by restoring damaged river corridors, to enhance the ecological value of the river and improve public amenity and well-being, including the reduction of flood risk.

Places for Everyone funding aims to create a safe, healthy and enjoyable environment that will encourage active travel and access for all by incorporating equality of opportunity in public space.

The holistic approach to the project enables these two funds to complement each other and will ensure the partnership vision is achieved.

Currently, an expression of interest is being prepared to seek funding through the National Lottery Heritage Fund, to enhance the overall outcome and maximise the benefits of its delivery. Other sources of funding may be sought during the term of the project.

D.6 Community Engagement

Community engagement was carried out by consultants in the early stages of the project, to get views how the project could be delivered. This engagement highlighted the communities' desire for improvements to benefit the natural environment and encourage active travel.

A representative from Forth Rivers Trust met with councillors and community council members in December 2018, to discuss what the main constraints were on the community enjoying and benefiting from the space.

Further online engagement was carried out during 2020 on the re-scoped design to reconnect with the community and identify any changes in views from the early engagements. Over 700 responses were received.

A masterplan is now being developed that will put the community at its heart by focusing on its aspirations. It will also include river restoration, community stewardship, sustainable travel and larger urban-rural green networks.

Further engagement with the community will take place throughout the development of the project.

E. CONCLUSION

The Bathgate Water Regeneration project is an exciting and much need environmental project. The successful delivery of the project will:

- Restore the Bog Burn, making it a functional part of the landscape and environment again. Making it more accessible to the local community and improving its ability to support a range of functions from helping manage surface water run off to supporting a wider variety of local wildlife.
- Create better-quality amenity and green space, with improved pathways and walking routes.

F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

Council Executive on 10 March 2015 – Bathgate Water Restoration Project

Council Executive on 11 October 2016 – RiverLife: Almond and Avon Programme

Council Executive on 13 November 2018 – RiverLife: Almond and Avon Programme

Appendices/Attachments: None

Contact Person: Ronald Fisher, Design Engineering Manager, Tel: 01506 284597

Jim Jack
Head of Operational Services
23 August 2021

DATA LABEL: PUBLIC



BATHGATE 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 NET's, Land & Countryside Services teams for the period 1 April 2021 – 30 June 2021.

B. RECOMMENDATION

The Local Area Committee is asked to:

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

C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

I Council Values	Focusing on our customers' needs; making best use of our resources; 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	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 April 2021 – 30 June 2021.

D2 Grounds Maintenance Routine Works

The service has successfully completed seven grass cutting cycles of the open spaces and eight grass cutting cycles of the sports pitches.

The first cycle of weed spraying for shrub beds, grass edges, hard standing area has been completed and staff are currently working their way through the roadside kerbs.

Enquires are ongoing and prioritised on a daily basis.

Grounds Maintenance Enquiries

In total 59 ground maintenance related enquiries were received and dealt with during this reporting period in 2021.

	2021	2020
Allotment Enquiries	0	1
Ball Game Enquiries	0	1
Burns or Watercourses	1	0
Complaint Grounds Maintenance	1	1
Drainage Flooding Grass Areas	1	0
Enforcement Officer Enquiries	1	0
Fencing Enquiries	4	2
Grass Area Damaged	1	2
Grass Cutting Enquiries	11	12
Grass Cutting Missed Not Cut	2	1
Grass Highway Verges	1	0
Ground Ownership Enquiries	1	1
Grounds Property Vandalised	5	3
Hedge Cutting Enquiries	3	2
Public Park Enquiries	6	3
Shrub Bed Enquiries	7	0
Shrub Bed Overhanging Path	10	3
Shrub Beds Not Maintained	0	1
Weeds General Enquiries	4	1
Total	59	34

Garden Maintenance Routine Works

Garden Maintenance is on target with six cuts being completed.

Garden Maintenance Enquiries

In total there were 52 garden maintenance enquiries received and dealt with during this period in 2021.

	2021	2020
Garden Maintenance Change of Address	1	0
Garden Maintenance General Enquiries	20	7
Garden Maintenance Grass Not Cut	30	2
Garden Maintenance Hedge Cutting	1	0
Garden Maintenance No Longer Required	0	1
Garden Maintenance Standard Of Cut	0	1
Total	52	11

D4 Cleaner Communities Routine Works

The Street Cleansing Teams have been reduced in size to comply with social distancing guidelines over the period 1 April – 30 June.

There has also been a further reduction due to self-isolating procedures by some operatives.

During this period staff have continued to empty street litter and dog waste bins on a regular basis and carry out routine works in the area. Also, litter picking footpaths/ open spaces and road verges and dealing with enquiries as they arise. The street orderly has also continued with their duties over the period clearing litter and emptying litter bins in and around the town centre.

The compact mechanical street sweeper has continued to sweep footpaths and kerb edges and we have two HGV sweepers that are used to clean roads and channels during this time.

Resources have been redirected when required during this period to deal with leaf fall.

We continue to have lots of volunteer's litter picking in the Ward and we have assisted with the uplift of bags and debris that have been collected.

More funding has also been secured by the NETs team to assist in hiring additional resources to help reduce the pressures of uplifting extra bags collected by the volunteers across the County.

Cleaner Communities Enquiries

In total 137 cleaner communities enquiries were received and dealt with during this period in 2021.

	2021	2020
Complaint Street Cleansing	1	0
Dead Animals	10	5
Dog Bin New Request for Bin	2	2
Dog Bin Overflowing	0	1
Dog Fouled Grass Open Space	0	1
Dog Fouling on Paths Roads	8	4
Dog No Fouling Sign Request	2	0

Fly Tipping Dumping	57	71
Glass on Paths or Open Spaces	2	1
Graffiti Non-Offensive	2	0
Graffiti Racist or Offensive	7	3
Litter Bin Burnt Damaged	3	0
Litter Bin New Request For Bin	3	0
Litter Bin Overflowing	0	3
Litter General Enquiries	4	4
Litter Grass Open Space	1	1
Litter Paths Roads Verges	8	21
Needles/Syringes Abandoned	0	5
Street Sweeping Enquiries	6	1
Trolleys Abandoned/Dumped	2	4
Vehicles Abandoned	19	8
Total	137	135

Fly Tipping Enquiries (January-December)

	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Illegal Fly Tipping/Dumping	201	161	149	151	154

Environmental Community Action

The Education, Engagement and Enforcement team have continued to deal with enquiries as they are logged following COVID-19 guidance.

The team engaged with members of the public within the area as they assisted with Community participation survey for Grounds maintenance.

There was also a new Tikspac station installed in Seafield area and stencilling carried out along Almond path and Meadow park.

In dealing with abandoned vehicles, Officers have gained compliance from vehicle owners with said vehicles getting removed from the streets and where appropriate, requests have been sent to WLC contractors for removal.

Throughout West Lothian, officers continue to engage with volunteering groups, attend regeneration group meetings and render the necessary assistance needed to encourage the exercise they currently perform.

There has been an increase in the amount of equipment supplied to facilitate litter picking volunteers, which has increased in line with activity.

There has been no Fixed Penalty Notices issued in Ward 8 for the period of 1 April 2021 – 30 June 2021. For the same period in 2020, there were also no Fixed Penalty Notices issued within the Ward.

Costs for fly tipping for the period 1 April 2021 – 30 June 2021

Fly tipping is covered by the NETs teams who also carry out other non-routine works for Grounds. We are unable to split costs over specific ward areas or from the other works they carry out, but can give the yearly cost for the NETs teams with an estimate of their time spent on fly tipping which we currently estimate as 75% of their time. For 2020 the estimate was 80% of their time.

Weights for fly tipping brought into the transfer station are provided as a weekly total Monday – Sunday.

Fly tipping costs:

1 April 2021 – 30 June 2021	82.1 tonnes
Cost of disposal including costs for NETs team/vehicles	£54,101.44
Contractor removal of fly tipping	£0.00
Removal of asbestos	£0.00
TOTAL	£54,101.44

The number of enquiries received between 1 April 2021 – 30 June 2021 for the Ward was 57 out of 784 enquiries for the whole of West Lothian equating to 7.3% of fly tipping enquiries relating to Ward 8.

Percentage wise this would equate to an approximate cost for the Ward of £3,933.39 for disposal of fly tipping between 1 April 2021 and 30 June 2021 including cost for Staff/vehicles. (This does not include the removal of asbestos by the Councils asbestos team).

Costs for fly tipping for the period 1 April 2020 – 30 June 2020

1 April 2020 – 30 June 2020	83.19 tonne
Cost of disposal including estimated costs for NETs team/vehicles	£54,819.71
Contractor removal of fly tipping	£0.00
Removal of asbestos	£0.00
TOTAL	£54,819.71

The number of enquiries received between 1 April 2020 – 30 June 2020 for the Ward was 71 out of 685 enquiries for the whole of West Lothian equating to 10.4% of fly tipping enquiries relating to Ward 8.

Percentage wise this would equate to an approximate cost for the ward of £5,682.04 for disposal of fly tipping between 1 April 2020 and 30 June 2020 including cost for Staff/vehicles. (This does not include the removal of asbestos by the Councils asbestos team).

D5 Parks and Woodland

Parks and Woodland Enquiries

In total there were 21 Tree and Woodland related enquiries were received during this reporting period.

	2021	2020
Tree Advice or Consultations	3	0
Tree Affecting Public Utility	1	0
Tree Blocking Light	2	0
Tree Branches Overhanging	5	4
Tree Broken Damaged or Dead	0	1
Tree Dangerous or Unsafe	0	1
Tree Enquiries General	8	16
Tree Felling Work Unauthorised	1	0
Tree Roots Causing Problems	1	0
Total	21	22

	2021	2020
Access Rights Way Core Paths	2	0
Country Park Forestry or Woods	0	1
Country Park General Enquiries	2	0
Ranger Service General Enquiry	1	0
Total	5	1

Ranger Service Update

No. Rights of Way / Core Path / Patrols carried out (hours)	2
No. Access Enquiries	1

The Ranger Service were successful in our application to NatureScot's "Better Places Green Recovery Fund". They have awarded us a grant to employ two assistant rangers (we had applied for four) and two assistant operatives. These four seasonal staff will be employed from the first week of July until October, and will help with the increased visitor numbers expected over the next few months at the country parks and other hotspots around the county.

We made a subsequent application to NatureScot's "Better Places Green Recovery Fund" for infrastructure / facility upgrades to help accommodate the rise in visitor numbers we are currently experiencing at the country parks, but have not yet heard the outcome.

Applications have also been submitted, and we are waiting to hear if successful in receiving NatureScot Improving Public Access funding for Calderwood SSSI and Witchcraig Woods to upgrade and improve a number of routes within these sites.

We have commented on a number of planning applications, submitting comments on the access/biodiversity implications of proposed developments. Several joint site visits were made with Planning Services.

As we emerge from the grip of Covid 19 we continue to receive and process applications for events (mostly orienteering) across our sites at Polkemmet, Beecraigs and Dechmont Law. We have also received a small handful of enquiries from schools regarding outdoor education provision. Given current restrictions and the increased workload in terms of access and visitor management, we are not expecting to be able to offer this service this side of the summer break. This will be reassessed before the autumn term.

The Ranger Service met with Corporate Services to investigate whether there is a more user-friendly way of hosting information on WLC website for all the Parks & Woodlands sites so that visitors can easily find a greenspace near them for recreation etc. This was originally conceived of at the height of Covid as a way of spreading visitor numbers around the district to help reduce pressures on the country parks.

Rangers attended an online mediation training course organised by Scottish Outdoor Access Network (SOAN) and hosted by Scottish Mediation to help them mediate and manage conflicts arising from access issues.

The Ranger Service put out two 'Responsible Access' posts on the Council Facebook page in advance of the good weather weekends, and both were well received, with a massive online reach of around 60,000 users per post.

Access

East Kirkton Quarry was patrolled and paths assessed/scored. There was some evidence of antisocial behaviour but otherwise it all looked okay. We litter-picked the site, but we could do with going back to give the outer woodlands a thorough clean.

An enquiry was received regarding litter and vandalism on site at Little Boghead but were happy to note that a number of people from the local community/West Lothian Litter Pickers came and cleared the litter and fixed the broken interpretation panel before we were able to attend on site.

D6 Open Space and Cemeteries

Balbardie Park Play Area, Bathgate. Rotten timber retainer will be removed, basket swing will be replaced, and existing multi-units will be refurbished or replaced in Autumn 2021.

Balbardie Park - Funding has been awarded for the construction of the pumptrack in Balbardie Park, from two external funders: SUEZ (£30,670) and sportscotland (£45,433). Together with £60,000 from council Capital funds and Developer Contributions, the total budget for the pumptrack is £136,103. The track will be located next to the skatepark, in place of the ballcourt. The project will be managed in partnership with Green Action Trust. Velosolutions UK has been formally appointed as the track designer/builder and discussions have begun regarding the floodlighting. Work is scheduled to begin in September 2021, and will take approximately one month. A digital image of the proposed track can be viewed on the council webpage: www.westlothian.gov.uk/parkinfo

Kirkton Park Play Area, Bathgate. Replacement of sand toddler/junior play area and other surface upgrades will be complete in Summer 2021. Replacement toddler/junior play area will have increased inclusive value.

Wester Inch Pond Play Area, Bathgate. Additional seating overlooking play area and ponds has been installed.

Open Space Enquiries

There were 11 Open Space enquiries for this reporting period in 2021.

	2021	2020
Childrens Play Enquiries	9	3
Glass or Litter In Play Areas	1	0
Play Area Property Vandalised	0	1
Safety Issues In Play Areas	1	2
Total	11	6

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 Enquires

There were 111 Cemeteries enquiries for this reporting period in 2021.

	2021	2020
Bench Donations	1	0
Cemeteries General Enquiries	11	5
Complaint Cemeteries & Burials	1	0
Lair Enquiries	5	2
Lair Sunken or Uneven	1	1
Memorial/ Headstone Works	46	22
New Interment Booking	23	47
Purchase of Interment Lair	23	16
Total	111	93

E CONCLUSION

The Education, Engagement and Enforcement team have continued to deal with enquiries as they are logged following COVID-19 guidance.

The Open Space Capital Programme is progressing as scheduled.

F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

Open Space Strategy

Capital Programme

Appendices/Attachments: none

Contact Person:

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Jim Jack

Head of Operational Services

23 August 2021

DATA LABEL: PUBLIC



BATHGATE LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE

COMMUNITY REGENERATION WARD UPDATE

REPORT BY HEAD OF PLANNING, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND REGENERATION

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to provide the Local Area Committee with an overview of the regeneration and local partners activities within the Bathgate ward.

B. RECOMMENDATION

The Local Area Committee is asked to note Economic Development and Regeneration activity as detailed in this ward report.

C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

I Council Values	Focusing on our customers' needs. Being honest, open and accountable. Providing equality of opportunities. Making best use of our resources. Working in partnership.
II Policy and Legal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues, Health or Risk Assessment)	Appropriate assessments will be carried out as re
III Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers	None
IV Impact on performance and performance Indicators	There is no impact. Performance indicators relating to this activity are captured within the community regeneration key performance indicators.
V Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement	There are positive impacts on the following SOA indicators: SOA1 – we make West Lothian an attractive place to do business 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

SOA10 – we live in well-designed, sustainable places where we are able to access services we need.

SOA12 – we value and enjoy our built environment and protect it and enhance it for future generations.

VI Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)

The activities set out are funded from existing budgets and relevant external sources.

£1.826 million is to be made available through the Town Centre Fund 2019-20 and £658,000 from the Town Centre Fund 2020-21.

Bathgate ward has been allocated a share of this overall budget, representing £161,674 in 2019-20 and additional £59,124 in 2020-21.

VII Consideration at PDSP

Not applicable

VIII Other Consultations

None

D TERMS OF THE REPORT

D.1 Background

This report updates the Elected Members on the work of the Community Planning and Regeneration Team and its local partners to support communities within the Bathgate ward, as one of 13 areas covered by the local plans required by the Scottish Government as part of their Community Empowerment approach and reported through the Community Planning Partnership.

The Bathgate areas were identified as priority areas due to being within the least prosperous 20% of data zones in the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation.

D.2. Locality Regeneration Planning in Bathgate

Since March 2020 the focus of regeneration and related activity within the Bathgate ward has been to support the local community and business during the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. Although many restrictions have recently been eased by the Scottish Government (in early August 2021), considerable time, support and guidance has continued to be extended to assist those local groups in achieving implementation of their town centre capital projects within Bathgate.

With these projects nearing completion in Autumn, the Bathgate Locality Regeneration Partners Group is to reconvene in August 2021 to discuss current activity and updating the local plan, and to consider future group structure, meetings and planning.

D.2. Bathgate Town Centre

The Council facilitated Bathgate Town Centre Management Group has meet on a monthly basis by means of virtual discussion since August 2020, having ceased face to face meetings in March 2020 due to COVID restrictions. The group met most recently in early August 2021. The group discuss town centre related matters and seek to develop projects, that will utilise the Council's Town Centre Improvement Fund. This forms part of Council's 5-year capital expenditure programme running to 2022/23.

The agreed focus in coming months is on identifying potential new capital projects and improvements for implementation, with a potential reference being to the approved Bathgate Public Realm Design Guide and the more recent Review documentation prepared by Council officers and considered at the Council's Development and Transport PDSP in December 2020. The outcome of this was to seek public views on the suggested updates to the respective action plans and town centre public realm improvements. Responses to this consultation (see link) which is being undertaken by Planning Services, are invited by 24 September 2021.

https://app.surveyhero.com/s/West_Lothian_Traditional_Town_Centres_Public_Realm_Consultation_Survey

Bathgate town centre acts as a community focal point for local services, amenities and employment. The town centre is subject to a quarterly occupancy survey as one measure of its relative vitality and viability. In July 2021, the vacancy rate of 7.8%, was noted, although this does not take account of properties subject to refurbishment at the time of survey. The figures have also taken account of any COVID-19 temporary restrictions that may remain in force at that time of survey. To provide some context this is an improvement from the Bathgate recent peak vacancy of 9% in July 2019.

There is currently an online Bathgate town centre user/community survey being carried out, with views sought until end of September 2021. The main purpose of this survey is to gauge local feedback and perceptions of Bathgate town centre and from there what potential improvements or additional services people would like to see provided. The survey can be accessed at <https://www.surveyhero.com/s/23062001>

Bathgate town centre traders and local businesses continue to be eligible to apply for capital grant assistance through the shop front improvement scheme. This supports with costs associated with making external property frontage improvements. Since inception of the current operational scheme (September 2020) there have been 5 grant awards made and paid in full. There remains continuing interest from new and existing businesses in this supporting initiative which is being promoted across Council services with clients and business as appropriate. The scheme is funded through the budgetary allocation made from Council's Bathgate Town Centre Improvement Fund, which forms part of the Council's capital programme (as above).

The local elected members will be familiar from previous reports made to Committee, that officers from Community Planning and Regeneration have been, and continue to actively support local community groups to deliver a number of Scottish Government funded town centre capital projects. This involves the 12 projects within Bathgate (7 in 2019/20 and 5 in 2020/21), where 2 projects have now been completed in entirety.

At the time of reporting, all remaining projects have each been contracted (within the prescribed timeline of 31 March 2021) and officers continue to support and advise local

groups to ensure projects are completed timeously by the end of September 2021. At that stage final reporting will be prepared by Council officers, with project monitoring input for local groups, for submission to the Scottish Government. It is intended to provide a further report on project completions to the Local Area Committee when it meets in November 2021.

D.3. Enterprising Bathgate

At the June 2021 meeting, it was advised that Enterprising Bathgate, the Bathgate Business Improvement District (BID) had been supported by Economic Development and Regeneration in making their application to Scotland's Towns Partnership through the third phase of COVID-19 funding under the BID Recovery and Development Fund.

The application was successful and the BID company has secured approx. £10,000 to help support local businesses through their economic recovery to March 2022. The planned work to be funded will comprise local marketing and promotional activities that encourage and consolidate a 'shop local' message.

D.4 Bathgate Partnership Centre

At the time of writing this report, Bathgate Partnership Centre is starting to re-open to the wider Bathgate community albeit on a restricted and appointment system.

The payment office remains open for customers to continue to make payments to their rent and council tax, although it was encouraged that customers used other methods to make payments: for example, either online or over the telephone. In the period from 1 May 2021 to 30 June 2021, 3,542 transactions made equating to £374,578.47 in income collected.

West Lothian Libraries have been operating a click and collect/phone and collect service for customers. Simpson Library has offered customers an appointments system, allowing customers to book an appointment to browse or book a public access PC. Since 19 July 2021, Simpson Library has opened to customers without need to book appointments for browsing but an occupancy rule still applied per hour. Customer do need to book appointments to access the public access pcs within the Library.

The Simpson Library had 26 new borrowers in May 2021 and 32 in June 2021. New Members continue to have an option to join a library completing online memberships. During the summer Simpson Library s running an online Treasure Hunt for the local community to take part in. They are also running the Summer Reading Challenge digitally the same as they did last year due to COVID restrictions.

Bathgate Community Centre within Bathgate Partnership Centre continue to open offering a restricted service to user groups, including the Bathgate playgroup providing morning sessions to under 3 years old, Monday to Friday. Yoga and the Badminton Ladies have returned to weekly sessions, and other new groups have been introduced e.g. Baby Massage, Street League and Panda Ceramics (children craft workshops).

The Advice Shop continue to offer their services over the phone and will introduce their MacMillan Cancer appointments on a Wednesday in August. This was a drop-in service but will start off as an appointment only service due to COVID restrictions.

The Bathgate Registration Office continues to offer an appointment system for customers, to allow them to sign/pick up registration certificates only: with all other registration services being completed over the telephone. There has been a slight

increase in weddings taking place in Bathgate Partnership Centre and some have taken place in the back garden.

As reported, the Bathgate Partnership Centre had previously been utilised as a COVID asymptomatic testing centre in April 2021. This was approved by the Management Committee of the Bathgate Community Centre. This has again returned running from 19 July to 8 August 2021.

D.5. Reconnect Regal Theatre

As reported in June 2021, officers from Economic Development and Regeneration have continued to work with Reconnect, in relation to their plans for redevelopment and upgrade of the theatre facilities. As advised, and following the decision at Council Executive in June 2021, Council officers in collaboration with Reconnect submitted a Stage 1 application to Scottish Government's Regeneration Capital Grant Fund. This seeks support to deliver a range of significant building improvements. Officers are also working with Reconnect to explore other future funding opportunities, including the UK Government Community Ownership Fund in 2021/22, as well as the Place Based Investment Programme (PBIP) in 2021/22 and beyond.

D.6. Boghall Drop In Centre

The Local Area Committee was updated in June 2021 on the continuing wide range of socially distanced services and support provided by the Boghall Drop In Centre (BDIC), in the period since the start of the COVID pandemic. This update focuses upon the services provided at the centre during the busy summer holiday period.

BDIC had looked to take full advantage of reduction of restrictions in youth provisions, with delivery of a full summer school holiday programme making opportunities for children and young people. This ran 29 June-6 August, with capacity for 40 children registered each day. This worked around arts & crafts, sports, baking, design and other child led activities. Following dialogue between officers in Economic Development and Regeneration, and Community Arts, there was also Body Percussion and Peruvian Drumming sessions for free from Infectious Grooves.

Breakfast Club (28 June to 13 August) - free for any age with 18 in regular attendance. This is designed around helping families with an extra hour childcare. Those registered for activities usually come at 9am and stay until club at 10am. Many families have taken advantage of this with cereal, toast, chocolate waffles, pancakes available.

Cooking with the Chef - or originally proposed Great Boghall menu. This was designed to work across age groups with professional chefs, although there was no uptake in the teenage or adult provision. In light of feedback, a week cooking workshop (10-2pm) for under 9 years olds was additionally held (9-13 August) where children could learn new recipes, cooking skills and techniques.

Boghall BIG Camp Out (16 July) - welcomed family camping across the weekend, with competitions to win tents (21) and family breakfast packs (15). A total of 127 requested goody bags were made available for children across West Lothian.

Drama Workshop (9-13 August) aimed at 5-14 year olds were provided to encourage learning of new skills and to increase confidence in the young people involved.

The Boghall Fun Day had been proposed for 15 August, but then rescheduled for 22 August, weather permitting. This was open to all BDIC members (due to COVID) with a selection of fun activities for children of all ages and their parents.

D.7. Employability Support

Local elected members will recall that an update was provided at June 2021 meeting on the employability support offered to West Lothian residents by the Council's Access2Employment team during the year 2020/21. It is proposed to provide a regular update to the Local Area Committee every 6 months, and therefore the next meeting scheduled for November 2021 will include reporting on employability support activities over the period of the first two quarters of 2021/22.

In advance of that update, it is reiterated that a community leaflet has been designed by the Access2employment team to highlight their work, how they are working, how to get in contact with them and the type of support they are offering. This is intended to be shared through local networks to promote the service, promote its new way of working and reach those that might not be aware of the service and its support.

D.8. Business Gateway Support

The Business Gateway team is part of the Economic Development & Regeneration service. Business Gateway provides confidential and impartial support to residents looking to start-up in business, local firms, new and existing third sector organisations and our major employers. All engagement with the service is client-led. Support is provided to individual clients and business owners/decision makers. Business Gateway also work closely with the West Lothian Social Enterprise Network to ensure network members receive the business support they need.

The team's key outcomes include helping residents to start their own business, enabling local firms to grow in a sustainable and inclusive manner and providing a single point of contact for our strategic employers.

At the onset of the COVID pandemic, the Business Gateway team moved seamlessly to remote working. Clients were supported via video calls, web-based platforms, emails and telephone. The team responded to client needs by providing extra support in the evenings and weekends. Economic challenge has always been considered as a driver of new start businesses. In the year to March 2021, more than 260 new businesses started trading with help from Council's Business Gateway advisers. The vision and commitment of local people to start their own business, especially in such challenging circumstances, is remarkable. The advisers delivered the range of start-up services to clients remotely. In terms of productivity, over 260 starts were achieved from only 352 initial meetings. This shows a determination to progress on the part of the customers; and it shows enhanced customer focus on the part of the advisers. These new start firms have created over 315 new jobs. The main business sectors are personal, professional and local services. 20% of all early stage firms go on to take premises, employ staff and grow the scale of the business. New starts are worth over £9.55 million to the local economy every year.

The Business Gateway team also includes advisers who deal with existing, growing and relocating firms to West Lothian. The advisers have dealt with 1,300 firms to March 2021. In previous years, that figure would have been closer to 450 firms. Our priority sectors include Life Sciences, Manufacturing, Engineering, Construction and enabling technologies. Of the 1,300 businesses who engaged with us, almost 900 were understandably focused solely on COVID issues.

It is testament to their resilience and entrepreneurialism that 425 firms were also exploring issues around premises, new markets, working capital, Research & Development, export regulation, digital marketing and carbon reduction projects. Council's Business Gateway advisers support firms who have combined annual sales

in excess of £1.41 billion per annum. And while these firms employ over 8,300 staff, it is only 11% of total jobs in West Lothian. However, these firms account for more than 30% of the annual gross value add (GVA) of the West Lothian economy.

Over January/February 2021, the Scottish Government awarded West Lothian Council £3.51 million to support businesses through a Discretionary Fund. We deployed the funds in a targeted and proportionate manner. There was a smaller award of £5,000 to the 515 businesses who had not received any other COVID-19 response funds. This cohort is characterised by sole traders and/or firms without premises. In addition, there was a higher one-off award of £15,000 - £30,000 to 54 larger firms. This cohort is characterised as firms who have suffered lost sales/cashflow/profits but who may not have been required to close or restrict their operations. They will help drive economic recovery in West Lothian. They represent some of our best sectors including aerospace, engineering, renewables, food & drink, technology, manufacturing, construction and software development. This cohort of firms prioritised for the higher level of grant has combined sales of £253 million per annum. They employ over 2,200 staff, the majority of who are local residents. These firms are committing to recovery based on a number of indicators including reskilling/upskilling, improved productivity, environmental sustainability, low carbon and social inclusion.

In the three months to the end of June 2021, the Business Gateway team helped 60 new businesses to start trading, of which we helped 9 new start-ups in the Bathgate ward. Over the same timescale, the team engaged with 260 established firms. This included 38 social enterprises, in particular the West Lothian Community Food Hub and the West Lothian Mental Health Forum. There were 42 commercial firms and 4 social enterprises supported in the Bathgate ward.

In summarising the work to date of the Business Gateway team, it is not all about sales and wider economic impacts. The advisers have the trust of local people, some of whom pre-COVID had stable and established businesses. The pandemic has damaged the economic wellbeing of some local firms. Business Gateway advisers try to find solutions in complex circumstances. This is sometimes when businesses cannot see a viable way forward. For their empathy and compassion in dealing with our local firms, the Local Area Committee is asked to note the team's ongoing contribution to a sustained and inclusive economic recovery.

D.9. Other Ward Activity

Economic Development and Regeneration officers have been working alongside volunteers from Bathgate in Bloom, and more latterly the Bathgate Hills Venture Project on implementing floral enhancements and displays across the town centre. The Venture project are now developing ideas for the possible creation of a sensory garden area component, additional landscaped seating and better interpretation display (with QR codes), to help raise awareness of and increase usage of this attractive and peaceful location by the community.

There has been a local roll out of additional COVID Vaccination Clinic provision in Bathgate, during August to encourage uptake of the vaccination. Regeneration officers have been working in partnership with NHS locally to identify priority areas and assist in leaflet distribution within the community. At time of writing, Boghall Drop In Centre will host a clinic on 18 August 2021 between 9am and 4pm.

E. CONCLUSION

Elected Members are asked to note the range of activities taking place across the Bathgate ward, by the Council's Economic Development and Regeneration service and local partners, and in particular work to help improve our local communities.

F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

None

Appendices/Attachments:
None

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Craig McCorrison
Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration

Date: 23 August 2021

BATHGATE LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE

	Agenda Item	Purpose	Lead Officer	Date
1	Police Scotland Report	Quarterly update	Sgt Keith Jack	August 2021
2	Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Report	Quarterly update	Paul Harvey	August 2021
3	Housing Ward Report	Quarterly update	Kate Ward/Lorraine Donnelly	August 2021
4	NETS Land and Countryside Services Ward Update	Quarterly update	Tony Fleming	August 2021
5	Community Regeneration Ward Update	Quarterly update	Nairn Pearson	August 2021
6	Bathgate Water Regeneration Update	Project update	Ronnie Fisher	August 2021
7	General Services Capital Programme Update	Annual update	Kirsty West	August 2021
8	Workplan	Update on forward reports	Nairn Pearson	August 2021
1	Police Scotland Report	Quarterly update	Sgt Keith Jack	November 2021
2	Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Report	Quarterly update	Paul Harvey/Gordon McCaig	November 2021
3	Housing Ward Report	Quarterly update	Kate Ward	November 2021
4	NETS Land and Countryside Services Ward Update	Quarterly update	Tony Fleming	November 2021
5	Community Regeneration Ward Update	Quarterly update	Nairn Pearson	November 2021
6	Bathgate Secondary School Presentation	Annual update	Headteachers	November 2021

7	Anti-Poverty Service Ward Update	Annual update	Elaine Nisbet/ Christopher Nelson	November 2021
8	Pensioners Christmas Fund Allocations	Annual update	Nairn Pearson	November 2021
9	Workplan	Update on forward reports	Nairn Pearson	November 2021