

MINUTE of MEETING of the BATHGATE LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE held within WEBEX VIRTUAL MEETING ROOM, on 9 DECEMBER 2020.

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

Apologies – Councillor John McGinty

In attendance -

Marjory Mackie, Lead Officer, West Lothian Council  
Nairn Pearson, BID & Town Centre Manager, West Lothian Council  
Sergeant Keith Jack, Police Scotland  
Stuart McNiven, Local Authority Liaison Officer, Scottish Fire & Rescue Service  
Tony Fleming, Grounds Maintenance Manager, West Lothian Council  
Lorraine Donnelly, Housing Manager, West Lothian Council  
Ronnie McLeod, Bathgate Community Council  
Donald Stavert, Bathgate Community Council

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Cartmill declared a non-financial interest in agenda Item 13 as he was appointed by the council to Enterprising Bathgate and had promoted the upgrade of Hope Park Play Area. He was also an ex-officio member of Bathgate CC. He would withdraw from the meeting during consideration of the report.

Councillor Boyle declared an interest in agenda Item 13 in relation to Bathgate CC and Bathgate Community Development Trust. He was as a regular attendee at Bathgate CC meetings but had deliberately refrained from getting involved in any of the bids/projects to ensure he was able to take part in the discussion of the town centre applications at the LAC as an elected representative for Bathgate.

Councillor Kennedy declared a non-financial interest in agenda Item 13 as he was appointed by the council to Enterprising Bathgate. He was also an ex-officio member of Bathgate CC. He would withdraw from the meeting during consideration of the report.

2. MINUTE

The Committee approved the minute of its meeting held on 9 March 2020. The minute was thereafter signed by the Chair.

3. POLICE WARD REPORT

The Committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by PC Sinnet which provided an update on performance, activities and issues across the ward for the period to 28<sup>th</sup> October 2020.

The Committee was invited to note the report.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

4. FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE WARD Q1 REPORT

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by Station Manager McGuire, providing an update on activity across the ward to 30 June 2020.

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

Decision

To note the content of the report

5. FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE WARD Q2 REPORT

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by Station Manager McGuire, providing an update on activity across the ward to 30 June 2020.

Stuart McNiven, Local Liaison Officer, provided members with an overview of the challenges that the service had faced during the Covid-19 pandemic. He provided a verbal update on the work that was ongoing within the mandatory fire detection systems in homes and expected advice would be forthcoming from the Scottish Government in 2021.

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

Decision

To note the content of the report

6. SERVICE UPDATE – NETS, LAND & 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 February 2020 – 31 October 2020.

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.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

7. HOUSING, CUSTOMER AND BUILDING SERVICES UPDATE

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 1st April to 30th September 2020.

The committee was invited to note the service activity as details in the ward report for the period 1st April to 30th September 2020.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

8. PENSIONERS GROUPS CHRISTMAS FUND ALLOCATIONS 2020/21

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Planning, Economic Development & Regeneration advising of the final allocations that were made from the Pensioners' Groups Christmas Fund 2020-21 to groups in the Bathgate ward, Livingston-wide groups and West Lothian-wide groups.

The committee was asked to note the impact that COVID – 19 had on the application and allocation process regarding the fund and the additional option developed to provide a pre-prepared meal to groups who had indicated their interest.

It was recommended that committee notes:-

- (i) The effect of COVID-19 on the arrangements regarding the Pensioners' Groups Christmas Fund in 2020-21;
- (ii) The inclusion of a pre-prepared meal option; and
- (iii) Six groups would be supported through the Pensioners' Christmas Fund in 2020-21.

Decision

To note the content of the report.

9. WEST LOTHIAN RESPONSE TO COVID-19 -

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration

informing members of the work done to support communities across West Lothian and in the ward during the Covid-19 crisis.

It was recommended that the committee notes:-

1. The role and partnership work carried out between West Lothian Council and the third sector to support our communities through COVID-19;
2. The funding directed to support the third sector in its response;
3. The opportunities to build on this partnership working in the future; and
4. The work to support local business and employment support.

#### Decision

To note the content of the report

#### 10. TOWN CENTRE IMPROVEMENT FUND 2019/20: UPDATE ON PROJECTS

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration which updated members on progress in delivering the Town Centre Capital Projects funded via the Scottish Government Fund agreed by committee on 1 October 2019.

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

#### Decision

To note the content of the report

#### 11. SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT TOWN CENTRE FUND 2020/21: PROPOSED FUNDING AWARDS

The Clerk advised that Councillor Kennedy had left the meeting due to his earlier declaration of interest and the meeting was therefore inquorate. The Chair also removed himself from the meeting during this item.

As the committee was unable to consider the report, the Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration would refer a report on the recommendations for the Bathgate ward to the Council Executive for determination in December.

#### 12. WORKPLAN

A copy of the Workplan had been circulated for information.

Decision

To note the Workplan.