



Bathgate Local Area Committee

West Lothian Civic Centre
Howden South Road
LIVINGSTON
EH54 6FF

3 March 2020

A meeting of the **Bathgate Local Area Committee** of West Lothian Council will be held within the **Conference Room 14/15, Bathgate Partnership Centre, South Bridge Street, Bathgate** on **Monday 9 March 2020** 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 25 November 2019 (herewith).
5. Presentation - St. Kentigern's Academy - report by Andrew Sharkey, Head Teacher (herewith).
6. Police Ward Report - report by PC Iain Law (herewith).
7. Fire Service Ward Report - report by Station Manager McGuire (herewith).

DATA LABEL: Public

8. Housing, Customer and Building Services Update - report by Head of Housing, Customer and Building Services (herewith).
9. Service Update - NETS, Land & Countryside - report by Head of Operational Services (herewith).
10. Community Regeneration Update - report by Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration (herewith).
11. Town Centre Fund 2019/20 - report by Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration (herewith).
12. Proposed Timetable of Meetings 2020-2021 (herewith).
13. Workplan (herewith).

NOTE **For further information please contact Lorraine McGroarty on 01506 281609 or e-mail lorraine.mcgroarty@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 CONFERENCE ROOM 14/15, BATHGATE PARTNERSHIP CENTRE, SOUTH BRIDGE STREET, BATHGATE, on 25 NOVEMBER 2019.

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

Apologies – Councillor Harry Cartmill

In attendance -

Marjory Mackie, Lead Officer, West Lothian Council
Nairn Pearson, BID & Town Centre Manager, West Lothian Council
PC Nadia Munro, Police Scotland
PC Dale LeHardy, Police Scotland
Scott Williamson, Local Liaison Officer, Scottish Fire & Rescue Service
David Lees, Grounds Maintenance Manager, West Lothian Council
Lorraine Donnelly, Housing Manager, West Lothian Council
Elaine Nisbet, Anti-Poverty Manager, West Lothian Council
Ronnie McLeod, Bathgate Community Council
Donald Stavert, Bathgate Community Council

1. CHAIR

In the absence of the Chair, Vice-Chair Councillor Kennedy chaired the meeting.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

3. MINUTES

- (a) The Committee approved the minute of its meeting held on 19th August 2019. The minute was thereafter signed by the Chair.
- (b) The Committee approved the minute of its meeting held on 8th October 2019. The minute was thereafter signed by the Chair.

4. POLICE WARD REPORT

The Committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by PC Iain Law which provided an update on performance, activities and issues across the ward for the period July to September 2019. The report was presented by PC Munro.

Arising from the discussion on recent anti-social behaviour in the area of deprivation within the ward, PC Munro confirmed that Police Scotland would be willing to participate in a joint meeting with ward members and council services/partners in order to identify and co-ordinate actions that

were being taken to address anti-social behaviour. PC Munro undertook to provide ward members information on the number of schools within the ward who were participating in the Parksmart scheme.

The Committee was invited to note the report.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

5. FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE REPORT

The Committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) providing an update on the activity within Bathgate Multi-Member Ward for the period up to 30th September 2019 which was accompanied by an appendix containing tables which set out the number of recorded incidents in the ward against Scotland and West Lothian wide figures.

The Committee was asked to note the contents of the report.

The Local Fire Liaison Officer undertook to pass on members concerns about the condition of the former Dreadnought Hotel to the Tasking Co-ordination Group to establish whether an environmental audit could be carried out. The BIDS Manager would provide details on the building's owners to the Scottish Fire & Rescue Service.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

6. ANTI-POVERTY SERVICE UPDATE

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Finance and Property Services providing an update of the work undertaken by the Anti-Poverty Service from April 2019 to March 2020 with ward specific details set out in the appendix to the report.

The committee heard of the successful integration of Benefits and the Advice Shop along with details on other services to be incorporated into the Anti-Poverty Service before the end of the year which would ensure a streamlined support service for customers. Finally they heard of the planned priorities for 2019/20, all of which were on track.

The Committee was asked to note:-

1. The Anti-Poverty Service provision in the ward; and
2. The impact provision was having in terms of supporting the outcomes of the Community Planning Partnership's Anti-Poverty Strategy 2018 to 2023.

Decision

To note the contents 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 the ward for the period 1 July to 30 September 2019.

Discussions regarding the anti-social behaviour in the area of deprivation in the town continued and the Housing Manager confirmed that rear fencing of properties could be considered as a future capital programme as part of the joint discussions. She also indicated that Housing Services would be happy to receive information from other council services, such as planning, particularly where anti-social behaviour was alleged. She undertook to provide members with further information on the reduced budget projection for the capital programme works in Race Road and Glasgow Road.

The committee was invited to note the terms of the report.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

8. 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 August to 30 September 2019.

Members heard that the service had received a demonstration of a Glutton machine which could be used to scrape detritus, weeds, cigarette ends, etc. from pavements and pathways which was being considered for the future. The Cleaner Communities Manager agreed to feedback on various matters raised by members to the appropriate officers.

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.

9. TOWN CENTRE FUND 2019/20

The Committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Planning, Economic Development & Regeneration providing an updated on the progress of delivering the Town Centre Fund 2019/20 capital projects agreed by Council Executive on 22 October 2019.

The report recommended that the Committee:-

- (a) Notes that 7 projects had been agreed within the Bathgate ward;
- (b) Notes that council officers were working with the applicants to agree the final details and support the delivery of the projects; and
- (c) That further progress updates would be brought to the local area committee.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

10. PENSIONERS' GROUPS CHRISTMAS FUND ALLOCATIONS 2019

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration advising of the awards made from the Pensioners' Christmas Fund 2019 to groups in the Bathgate ward, Livingston-wide groups and West Lothian-wide groups.

Members heard that two groups had not applied for funding. Rosemount Jane Place Tenants Association had advised that it did not require funding in 2019 and Royal Scot Court Social Club was no longer constituted.

The report recommended that the committee notes that eight groups within the Bathgate ward had applied to the fund and had been supported.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

11. COMMUNITY REGENERATION UPDATE

The Committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration informing the committee of progress towards regeneration planning and other associated activities within the ward.

Members reported that catering equipment in the kitchen at Boghall Drop In Centre was no longer fit for the purposes of the services it was

delivering. The BIDS Manager undertook to liaise with Property Services to ascertain whether the council could assist with replacement equipment.

In response to questions from ward members, the BIDS Manager would provide members with the final version of the Locality Regeneration Plan that was due to go live on the new council website and ensure it was included on the workplan for the next meeting.

The committee was invited to note the report and advise of any areas that required further investigation.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

12. WORKPLAN

A copy of the Workplan had been circulated for information.

Decision

To note the Workplan subject to including an update on the Locality Regeneration Plan.



Bathgate

Local Area Committee

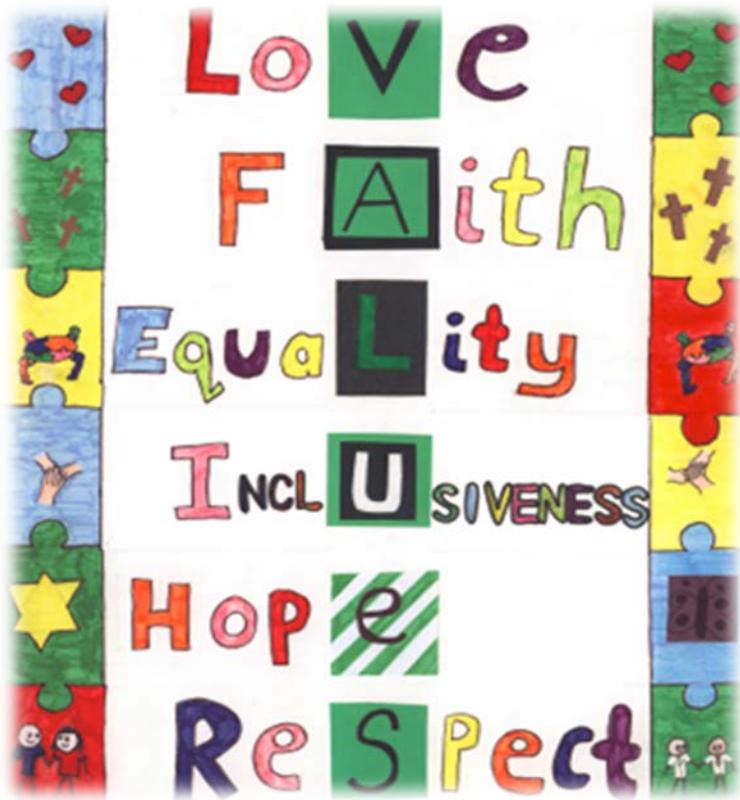
9th March 2020

Our Context

- ▶ One of two RC Secondary Schools in West Lothian
- ▶ 1262 students with 260 intake in S1
- ▶ 10 associated primary schools (but students from 28 in S1)
- ▶ 1150 young people travel to school on school buses
- ▶ Free Meal Uptake = 20% (up from 9.9% in 2009)
- ▶ Secondary School SIMD ranking = 3 (23% of Learners in Deciles 1&2)
- ▶ Nurture Base / Autism Resource / Learning Base / Health & Wellbeing Hub / Employability Hub



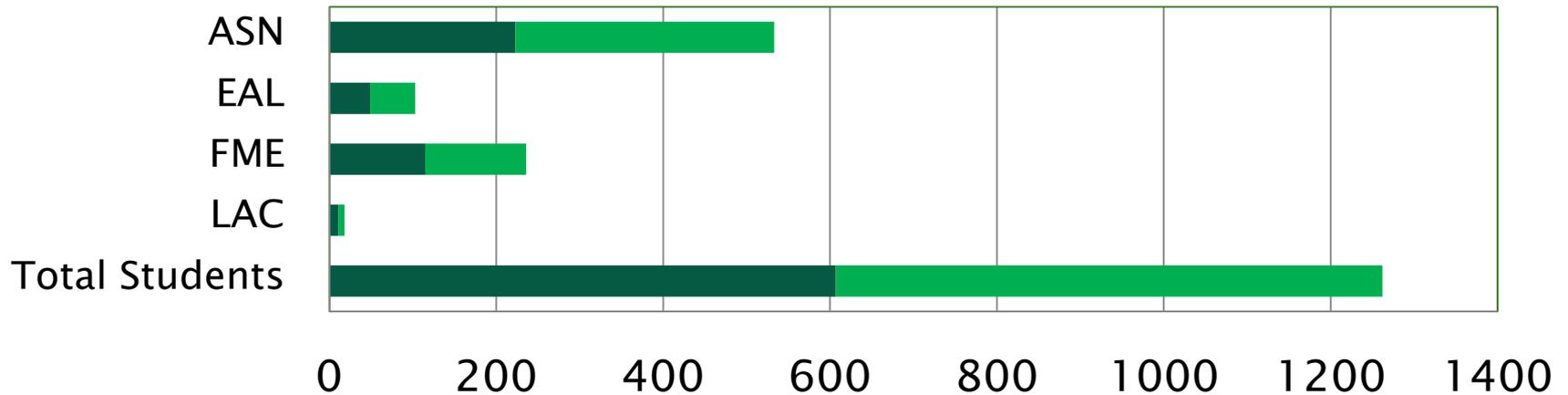
Our Vision and Values



We aspire to provide an education of the highest quality for all young people in our school community in order that they may achieve their fullest potential academically, personally and spiritually.



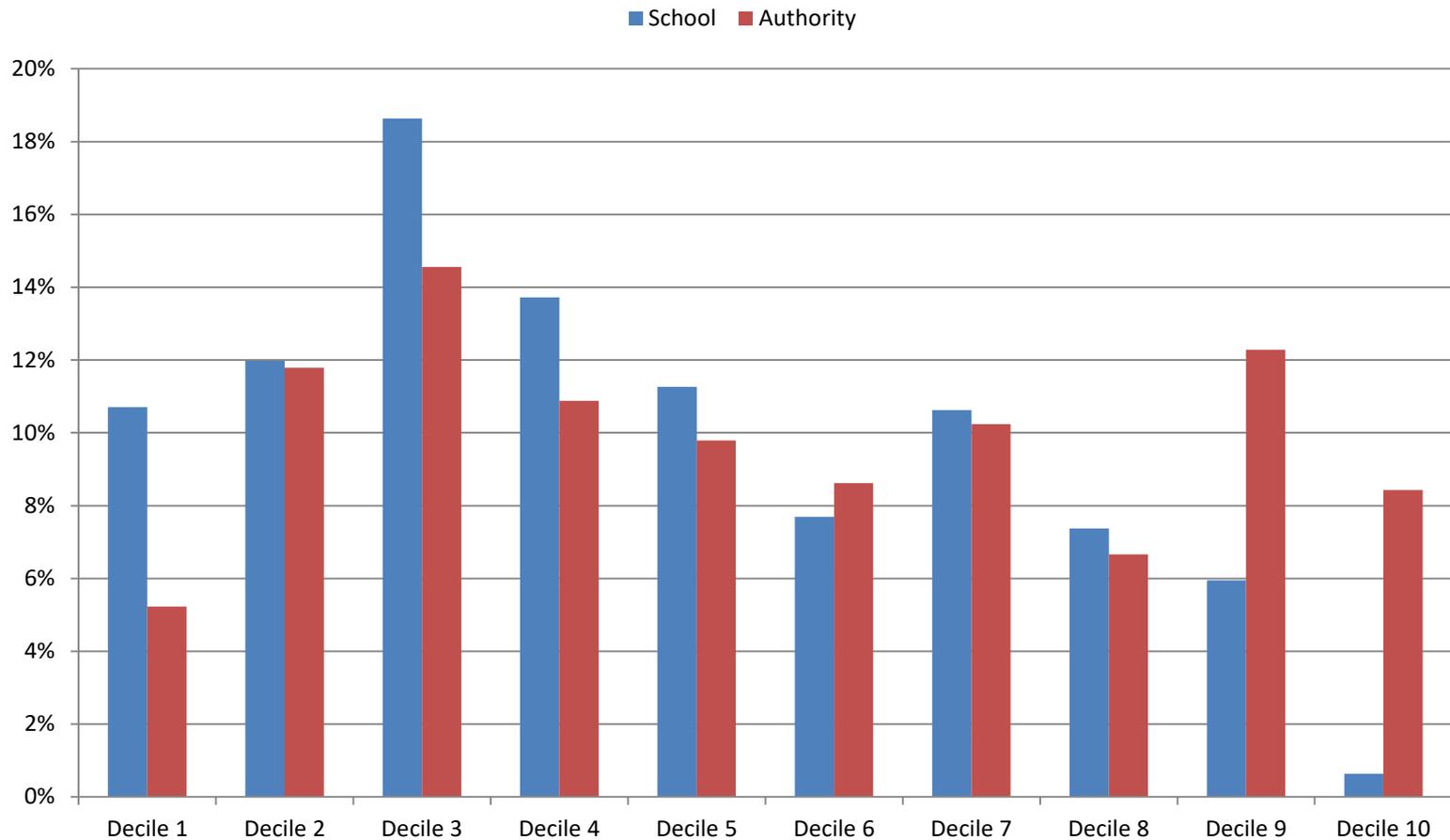
Our Learners (December 2019)



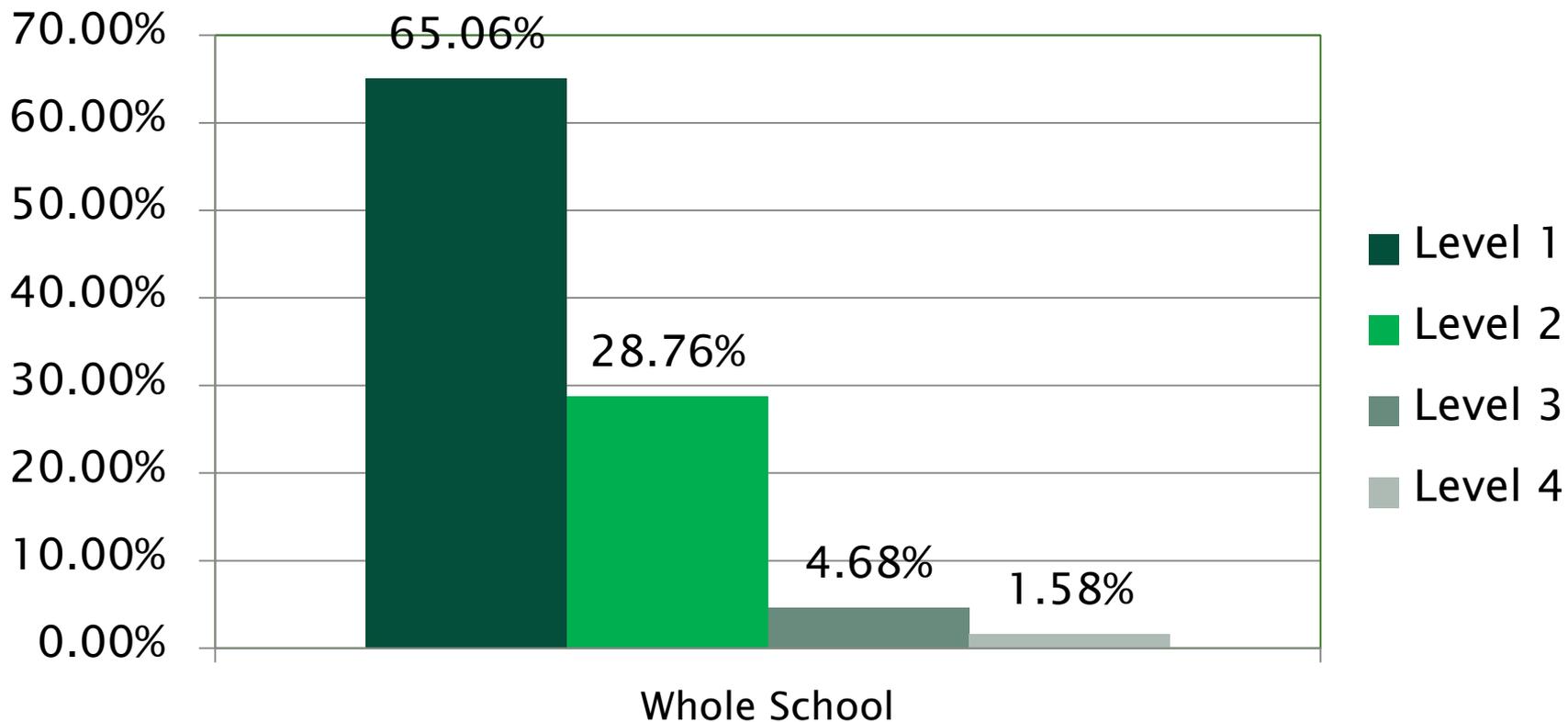
	Total Students	LAC	FME	EAL	ASN
Female	607	11	115	49	223
Male	655	7	121	54	310



Deprivation Profile – Decile



Continuum of Support Levels (December 2019)



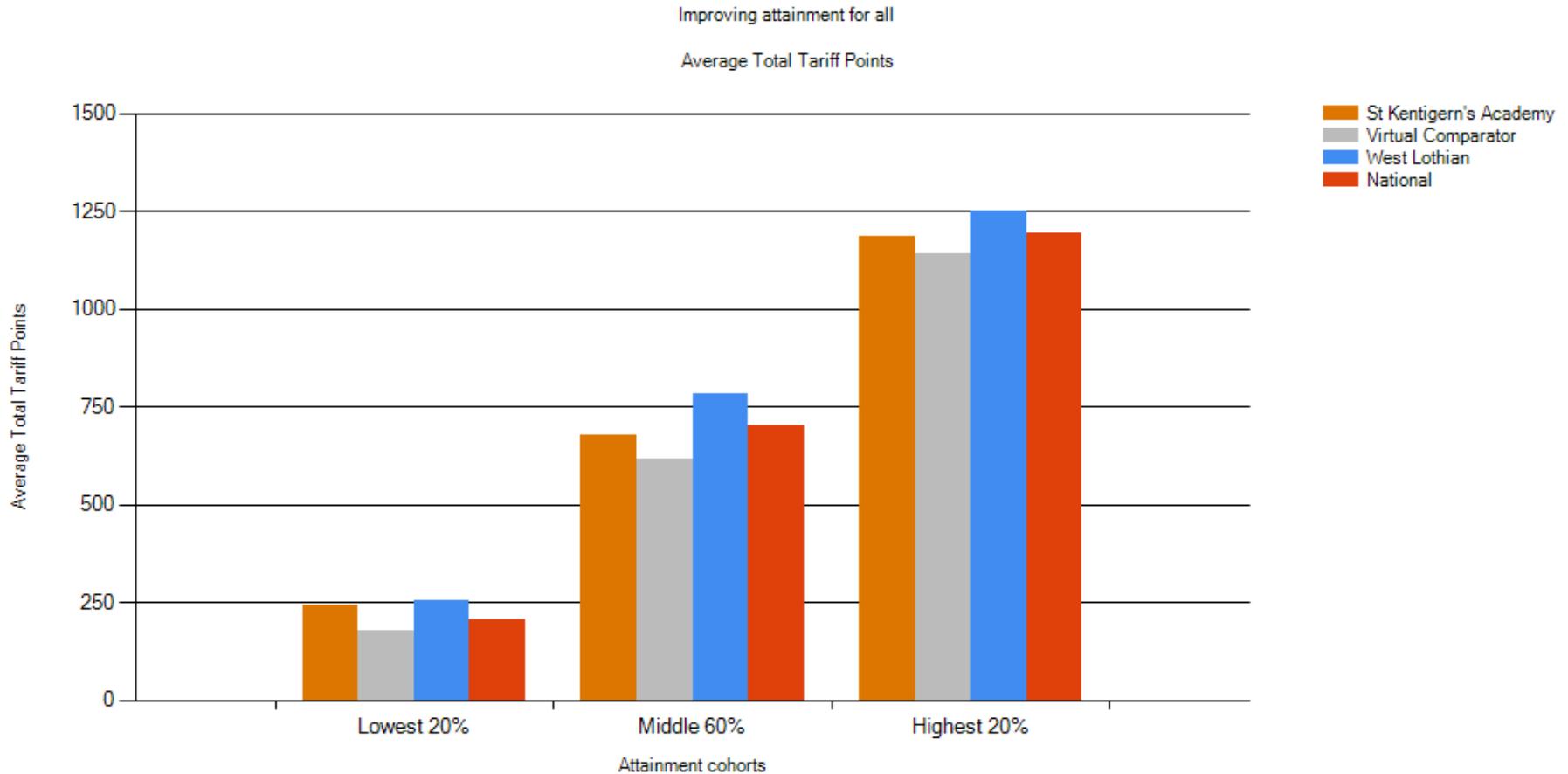
Our Senior Phase Exam Results

Year Group	Level	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2019 Virtual Comparator
S4	5 + @ Level 5	33	34	33	31	38	36	48	36	46.5	45	43
	5 + @ Level 4	76	76	82	78	85	87	89	90	87	80	73
	5 + @ Level 3	94	90	98	95	96	95	97	93	93	83	78
S5	5 + @ Level 6	12	15	7	8	17	13	12	24	21	33	16
	3 + @ Level 6	21	27	21	23	30	34	28	42	46	55	34
	1 + @ Level 6	37	42	44	48	47	54	54	68	69	71.5	56
S6	1 + @ Level 7	17	19	22	17	18	22	19	15	25	21	19
	5 + @ Level 6	32	25	26	25	26	29	30	30	40	41.5	30
	3 + @ Level 6	29	40.5	34	34	40	43	43	41.5	57	56	46
	1 + @ Level 6	43.5	54	50	53	59	57	60	57	73	73	62
	5+ @ Level 5	n/a		47	53	56	54	56	53	69	70.5	61

* All figures are shown as % of S4 cohort



St Kentigern's Academy Improving Attainment for All-S5

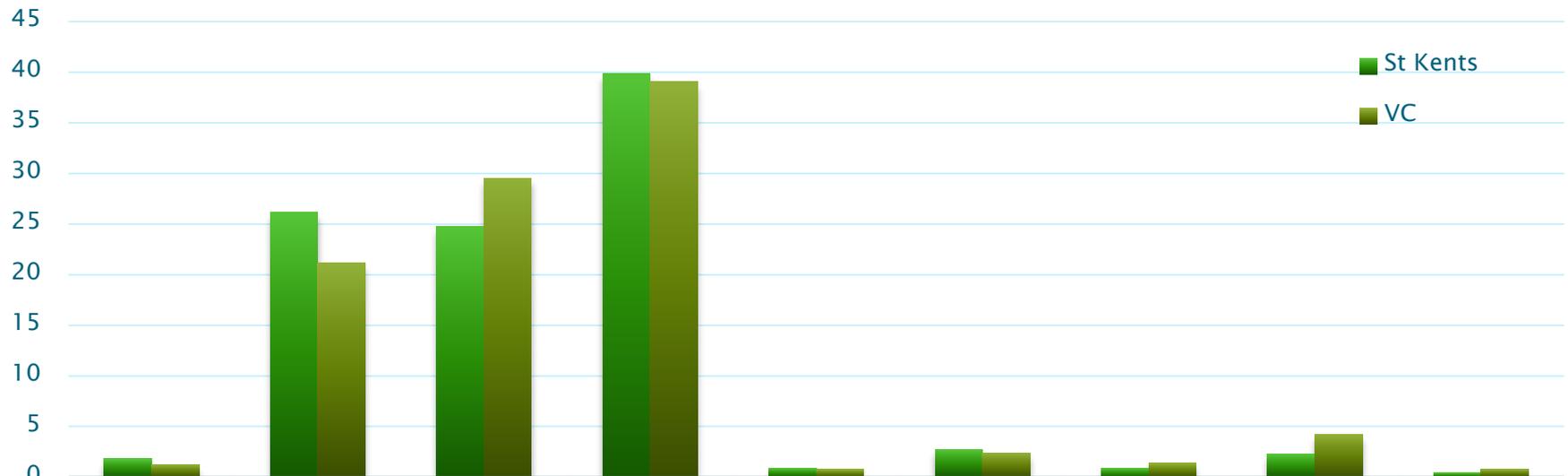


Other Items of Note

- ▶ **Days lost to exclusion in 2018 – 2019 stable on 2017 - 18 (*24% decrease on 16-17, 40% decrease on 15/16*)**
- ▶ **Attendance figures above West Lothian average**
- ▶ **Only West Lothian Secondary School involved in Scottish Attainment Challenge**
 - Additional Funding
 - Large Number of Successful Initiatives and Programmes
 - Innovative Practice and Quality Assurance Strategies Identified and Shared Nationally
- ▶ **Continuation of Very Strong Positive Destination Figures**



Leavers – School Leaver Destination Figures



	% Activity Agreement	% Employed	% Further Education	% Higher Education	% Not known	% Training	% Unemployed Not Seeking	% Unemployed Seeking	% Voluntary Work
St Kents	1.83	26.15	24.77	39.91	0.92	2.75	0.92	2.29	0.46
VC	1.24	21.15	29.54	39.04	0.8	2.39	1.38	4.22	0.8



Other Items of Note

▶ Ongoing National / International Recognition

- Rights Respecting Schools Level 2 (Gold)
- Girls into Computing / Cyber Security Initiatives
- Teacher of the Year Awards / Cyber Evangelist of the Year Award
- Gender Diversity Award
- National IT Champion of Champions
- Stellar Awards for Highest Attainment in S6 and Creative Arts Award
- GTCS Probationer of the Year Award
- Orbit Youth Council Representatives
- West Lothian Gymnastics Champions / National Finalists
- National Finalists in Scottish Community Drama Festival – 2 Categories



Other Items of Note

▶ **Ongoing National / International Recognition**

- Police Youth Volunteers Programme
- International Links
- Charity Work / Caritas Award
- Anti-Sectarian Initiatives
- Sporting Success

▶ **Strong Industry Partnerships**



Our Priorities for the Future

- ▶ This year our main School Improvement Plan priorities are
 - Raising Attainment for All
 - Improvements in Literacy & Numeracy
 - Improvements in all Children and Young Peoples Wellbeing
 - Improvement in Employability Skills and Sustained Positive Destinations

All of this underpinned by our Scottish Attainment Challenge plans and ensuring ongoing equity and equality for our learners





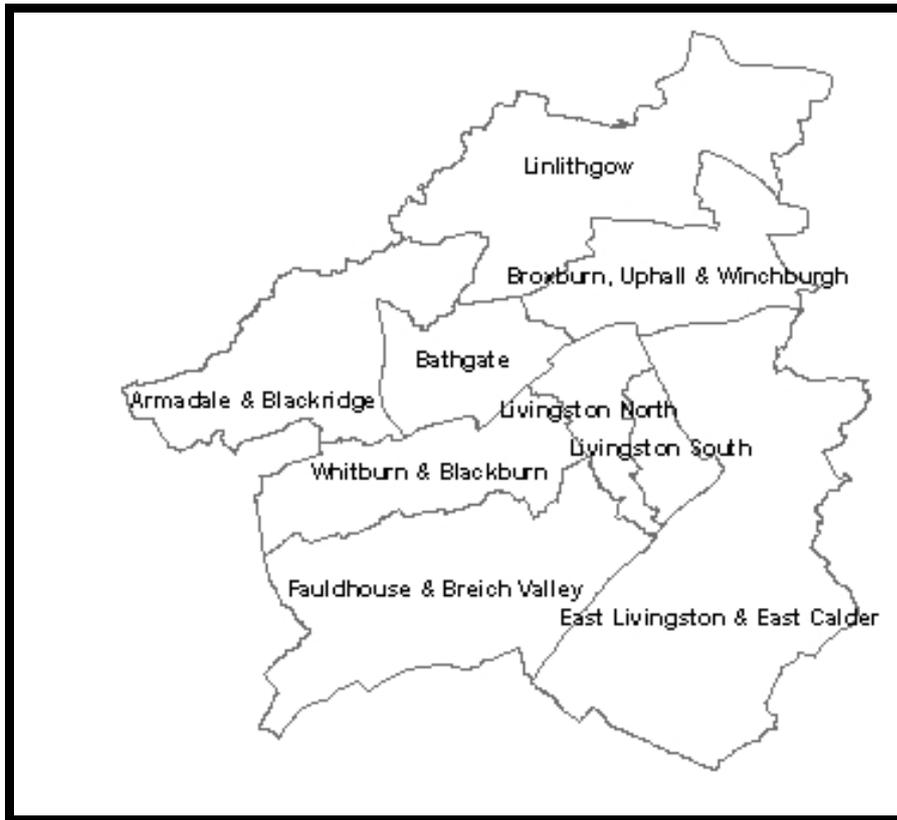


West Lothian Local Policing

Bathgate Ward Report for the Local Area Committee

Oct 2019 - Dec 2019

Report compiled by PC Iain Law



Our Vision

Sustained excellence in service and protection.

Our Purpose

To improve the safety and wellbeing of people, places and communities in Scotland.

Our Values

Integrity, Fairness and Respect.

National Policing Priorities

Violence, Disorder and Antisocial Behaviour	Protecting People at Risk Of Harm
Serious Organised Crime	Road Safety
Counter Terrorism	Acquisitive Crime

Theme as per West Lothian Local Outcomes Improvement Plan 2013 to 2023	Identified Police Priority	Short Term Police Outcome
Protecting People	Child protection	Children at risk are safer and less vulnerable
	Child sexual abuse & exploitation	Children at risk are safer and less vulnerable
	Missing persons	To reduce the instances and harm
	Sexual crimes	To reduce the harm
	Adults at risk	Adults at risk are safer and less vulnerable
	Financial harm including doorstep crime & fraud	To reduce the instances and harm
	Cyber crime	To reduce the harm
Reducing Antisocial Behaviour & Hate Crime	Antisocial behaviour & hate crime	To reduce the harm
Reducing Violence	Domestic abuse	To reduce the harm
	Crimes of violence	To reduce the harm caused by public and private space violence
Tackling Substance Misuse	Misuse drugs & alcohol	To reduce the harm
Reduce Home, Fire and Road Casualties	Road casualties	To reduce the instances and harm
Tackling Serious and Organised Crime and Counter Terrorism	Drugs, financial harm & fear	To reduce the harm
	Extremism & terrorism	To reduce the risk

PERFORMANCE

For full details, please use the below link to access the Police Scotland Internet site.

<http://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/our-performance/>

Protecting People

During the last quarter we initiated various operations to tackle seasonal challenges that occur within our community.

In November a significant amount of officers were deployed within hotspot areas to deter improper use and sale of fireworks. This had a positive impact with a lower than anticipated amount of calls received during that period.

For the festive period Operation Frankincense saw officers tasked daily to carry out high visibility foot patrols in the town centre and regularly visit our licensed premises. Officers also positively engaged with community events like the Christmas torch light parade and remembrance parades.

High profile shoplifters were also targeted in this period resulting on one nominal being remanded in custody for a time.

Within the ward locality officers have been routinely tasked with carrying out enquiries into the granting or renewing of air weapon, shotgun and firearms licences. These enquires ensure the continued safe use of all guns within the ward and ensure the person requesting to hold any such license is a suitable person. Should the suitability of a license holder be questioned, officers ensure the quick seizure of any weapons or ammunition, prior to a full enquiry being carried out into the continued suitability of that person.

Reducing Antisocial Behaviour & Hate Crime

Community officers have continued to carry out hi-visibility foot and mobile patrols in areas identified as being problematic for youth calls. Due to the time of year and school holidays there was an increase in youth activity but not of a level of concern. During the festive police operation in the town centre there were no reports of anti-social behaviour. A number of ASB fixed Penalty tickets were issued over the festive period.

Community Ward Officers continue to deal with neighbour disputes carrying out early intervention and prevention activities. Partnership working between West Lothian Council Safer Neighbourhood Officers and Housing officers continues, and a number of intervention visits, tenancy anti-social behaviour warnings have been carried out to problematic/repeat houses and locations in the area.

Members of the public are encouraged to report crimes and incidents of anti-social behaviour to the police to allow us to respond appropriately and gather information and intelligence. Letter drops have been carried out in areas with issues to promote this.

Reducing Violence

There has been an increase in licensed premises visits and routine inspections in the town centre and is considered best practice across West Lothian. The night time economy detail is now embedded in local Policing in West Lothian and was a main focus of the festive police operation plan.

Domestic violence continues to be a high priority and a dedicated enquiry team are successfully targeting prolific offenders.

The CCTV system in the town centre is fully operational and is monitored 24/7 assisting in keeping Bathgate a safe place to visit and socialise.

Tackling Substance Misuse

Officers have routinely patrolled areas within the ward highlighted by members of the public where alcohol or drug abuse may be occurring.

There have been several Misuse of Drugs Act warrants in the ward between October and December which resulted in person(s) reported to the procurator fiscal.

Officers have carried out weekly visits and inspections of licensed premises during the weekend night time economy hours to deter and disrupt the supply of drugs and ensure adherence to alcohol licensing standards and conditions.

Members of the public are always encouraged to report suspicious activity, so that police can continue to gather intelligence and disrupt those who deal and misuse controlled drugs.

Reduce Home, Fire and Road Casualties

Officers continue to act on information regarding illegal or inconsiderate driving in various areas throughout the ward, to monitor and where necessary issue tickets for speeding and/or other motoring offences.

The Police Facebook page and other social media is regularly updated with posts reminding drivers of the expected driving standards.

Locality officers have continued to sign post local Primary Schools to the Parksmart Scheme, on receiving information of complaints regarding inconsiderate parking. Officers will support the scheme and schools at a local level when appropriate

Tackling Serious and Organised Crime and Counter Terrorism

As previously mentioned several warrants were carried out and person involved in organised crime were specifically targeted.

Contacts

Locality Officers for the Bathgate ward are;
Sgt Keith Jack
PC Francis Sinnet
PC Iain Law

Details of your Community Policing Team can be found at:
<http://www.scotland.police.uk/your-community/the-lothians-and-scottish-borders/west-lothian>

Email: WestLothianCommunityWest@Scotland.pnn.police.uk
You can also follow us on Twitter: @WestLothPolice
Tel: 101



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 31st December 2019.

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 2019, 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 2019, 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

January 2020

Appendix 1 - Bathgate Multi-Member Ward Performance Report



SCOTTISH
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE
Working together for a safer Scotland

West Lothian Council Area

Ward Performance Report

Quarter 3 2019/20

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

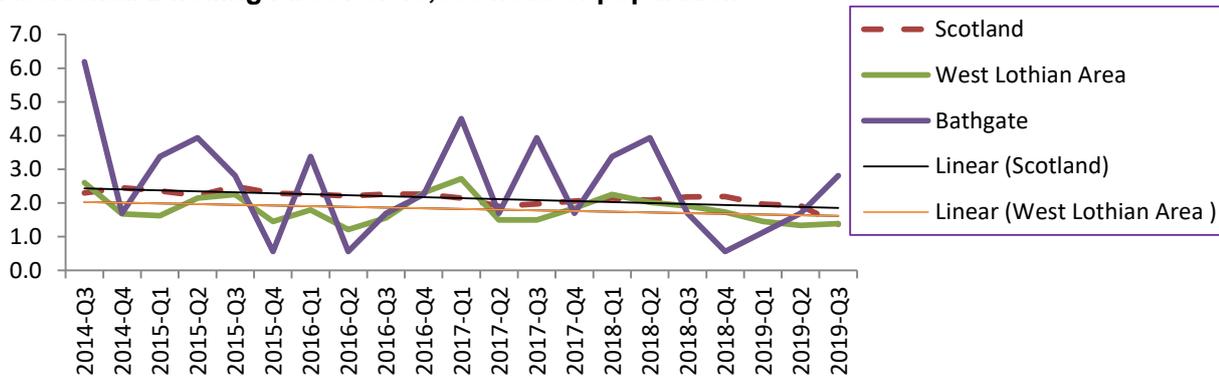
Welcome to the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Ward Performance Report. This performance report is designed to provide citizens, stakeholders and partners with information relating to ward based activity undertaken by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.

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.

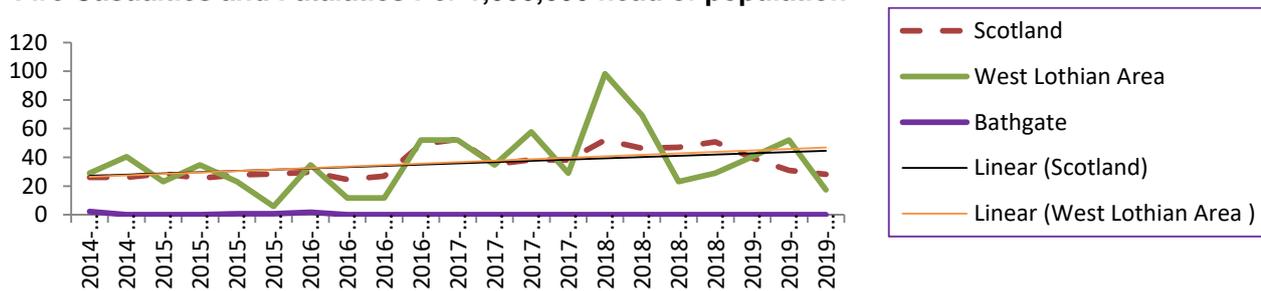
However, regardless of statistical anomalies, emerging patterns and trends in fire related incidents and events can assist the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service and Community Planning Partners plan and implement preventative intervention initiatives to target reducing fire related incidents and events.

Accidental Dwelling Fires Per 10,000 head of population



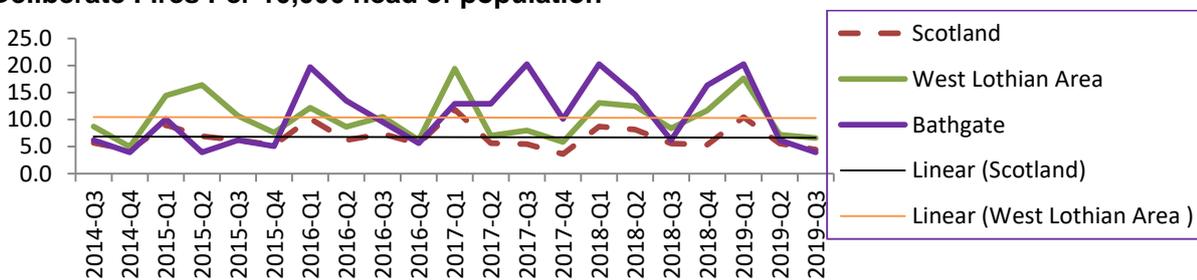
During the 2019-20 year to date reporting period SFRS have dealt with 5 accidental dwelling fires in comparison to 3 during 2018-19 year to date reporting period.

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



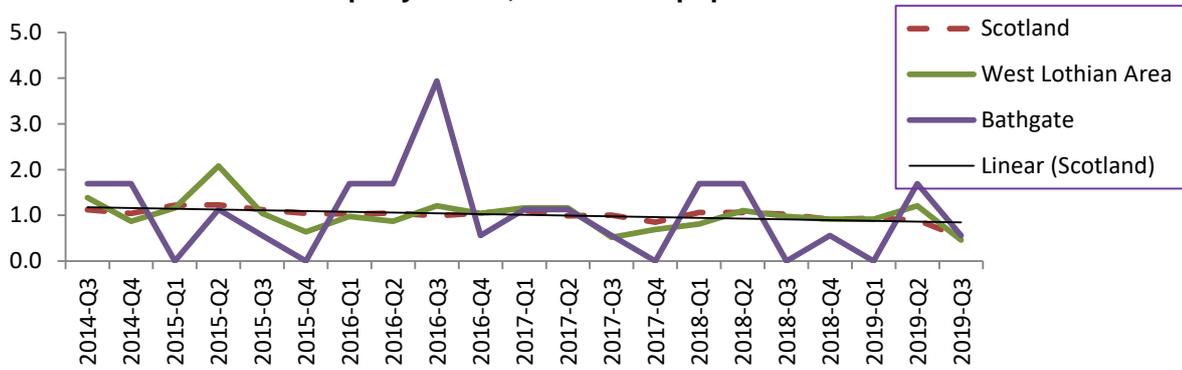
During the 2019-20 year to date reporting period SFRS have dealt with 1 Casualties and 0 Fatalities due to fire in comparison to 3 Casualties and 0 Fatalities during 2018-19 year to date reporting period.

Deliberate Fires Per 10,000 head of population



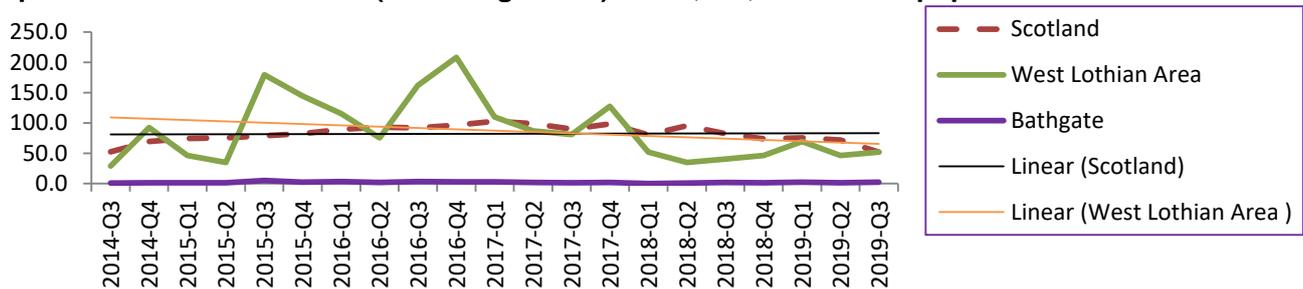
SFRS have dealt with 7 Deliberate fire incidents during 2019-20 year to date reporting period in comparison to 11 during 2018-19 year to date reporting period.

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



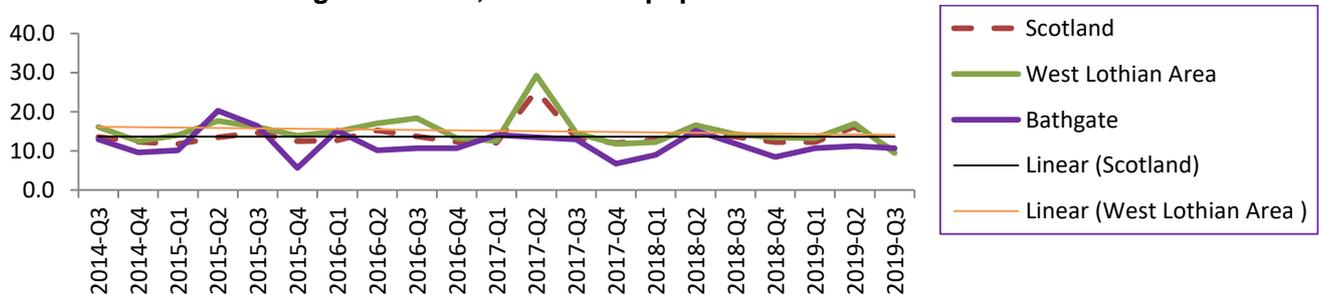
SFRS have dealt with 1 non domestic fires incident during 2019-20 year to date reporting period in comparison to 0 during 2018-19 year to date reporting period.

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



SFRS have dealt with 4 casualties from Special Services during 2019-20 year to date reporting period in comparison to 3 during 2018-19 year to date reporting period.

Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals Per 10,000 head of population

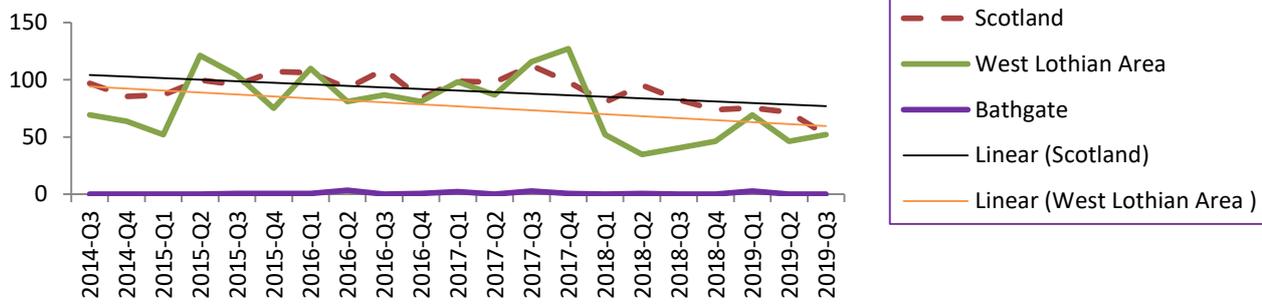


SFRS have dealt with 19 UFAS incidents during 2019-20 year to date reporting period in comparison to 21 during 2018-19 year to date reporting period.

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 2019-20 year to date reporting period SFRS have dealt with 0 Casualties or Fatalities from RTC's in comparison to 0 Casualties or Fatalities during 2018-19 year to date reporting period.



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 Service activity as detailed in the ward report for the period 1 October – 31 December 2019.

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 impact 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.

Property Void & Let Performance: Mainstream Tenancies

Void Period	Oct 2019	%	Nov 2019	%	Dec 2019	%	WL Target %
0-2 wks	8	29%	38	84%	16	70%	55%
2-4 wks	1	4%	0	0%	1	3%	30%
4+ wks	18	67%	7	16%	6	27%	15%
Total Lets	27	100%	45	100%	23	100%	100%

Property Void & Let Performance: Temporary Tenancies

Void Period	Oct 2019	%	Nov 2019	%	Dec 2019	%	WL Target %
0-2 wks	1	25%	3	50%	1	34%	80%
2-4 wks	0	0%	1	17%	1	33%	15%
4+ wks	3	75%	2	33%	1	33%	5%
Total Lets	4	100%	6	100%	3	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.

In the year to date there have been 173 mainstream tenancies and 58 temporary tenancies let by the Bathgate Team. There are currently 35 Policy Voids in the ward. Reasons include properties unable to let due Health & Safety reasons, asbestos removal, structural issues or being held for decant purposes due to remedial works.

D2 Rent Arrears

For the Bathgate ward the collection rate for the year to date in Q3 remains excellent at 97.4%. Bathgate has collected £5,827,259 of an overall rental charge of £5,981,498.

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 169 Universal Credit (UC) households. Since then the number of UC households has increased by 154.4%.

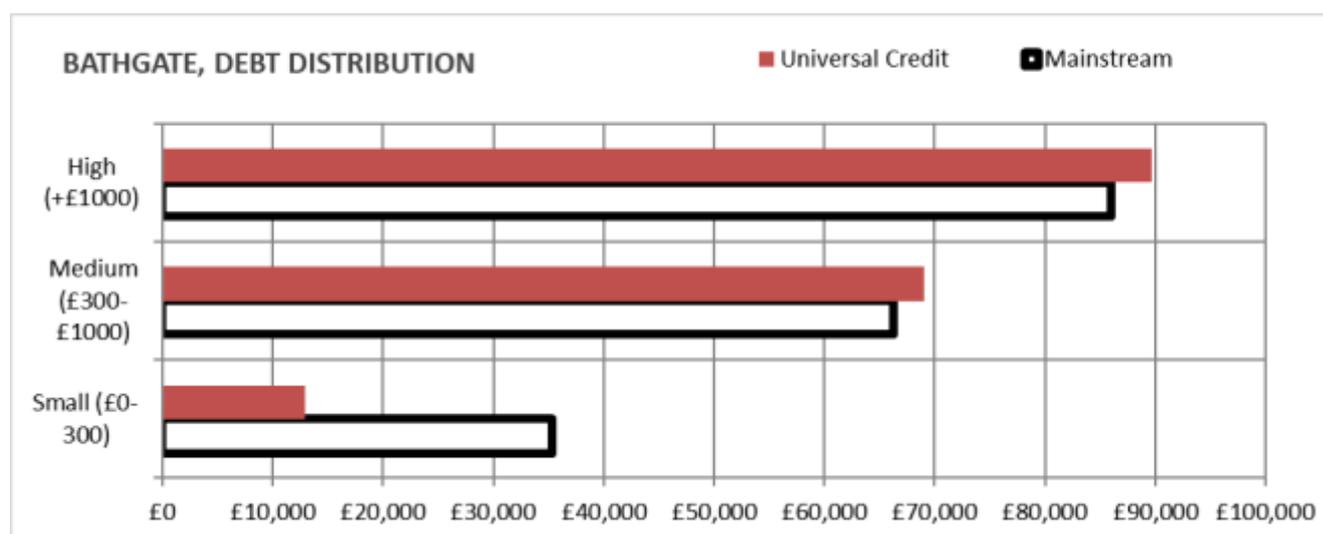
The number of tenancies in arrears in this ward has decreased by 9 since last year. Small debt cases (£300 or less), account for 54.3% of households.

There are 95 serious arrears cases (+£1000 in arrears). These cases are 12.9% of all households in arrears in this area, containing 48.9% of the debt.

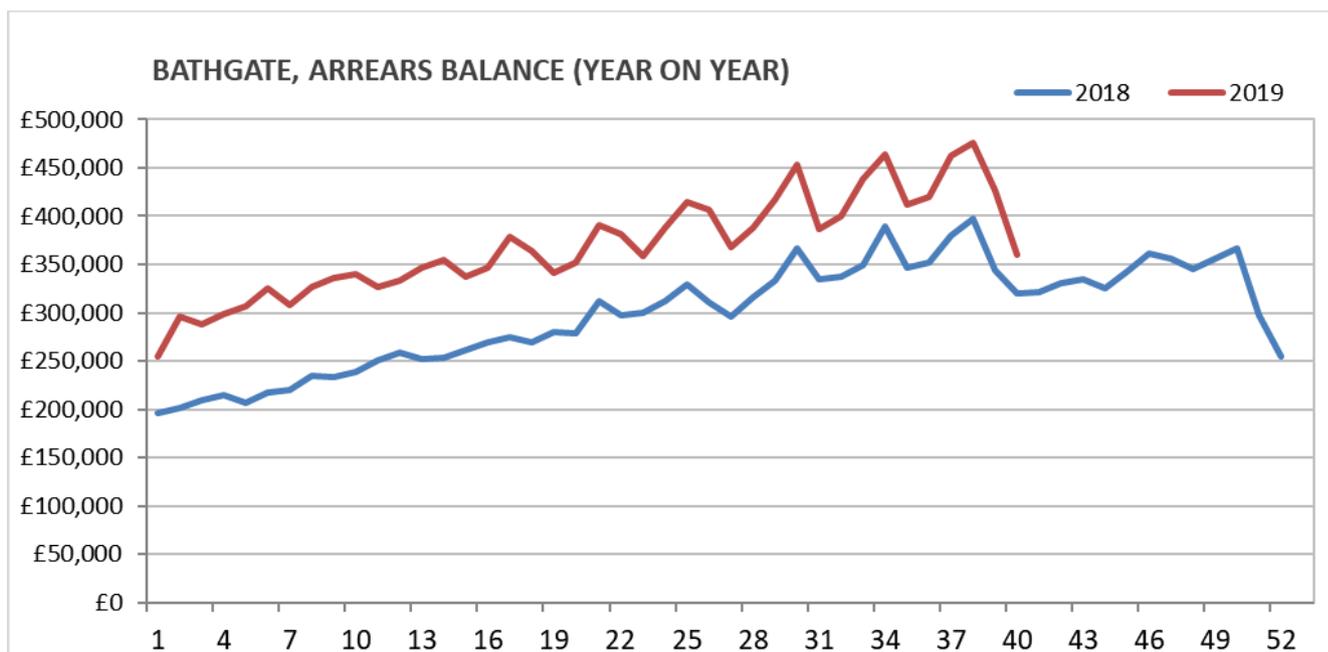
The arrears position for Bathgate Q3 is £359,375. This is an increase of £39,166 on last year's position. The West Lothian overall position is currently £2,982,863.

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 practice
- 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	2018/19 (WK40)				2019/20 (WK40)			
	Mainstream		UC		Mainstream		UC	
	Balance	#	Balance	#	Balance	#	Balance	#
£0.01 to £99.99	£8,462	191	£929	14	£6,114	152	£2,090	31
£100.00 to £299.99	£41,934	228	£5,100	27	£29,258	160	£10,800	56
£300.00 to £499.99	£23,781	61	£7,777	20	£22,269	58	£20,013	52
£500.00 to £749.99	£23,301	38	£13,868	22	£24,221	40	£25,614	41
£750.00 to £999.99	£21,506	25	£25,495	30	£19,818	23	£23,396	27
£1000.00 to £1999.99	£34,493	25	£56,157	41	£37,796	27	£57,099	41
£2000+	£20,875	7	£36,531	15	£48,250	14	£32,637	13
Group Total	£174,352	575	£145,857	169	£187,725	474	£171,650	261
Movement					(+) £13,373	(-) 101	(+) £25,793	(+) 92
Overall Total			£320,209	744			£359,375	735
Overall Movement							(+) £39,166	(-) 9



D3. Bathgate Area Team Activity

Officers in the team have a number of tenancies under supervision for issues such as child & adult protection, anti-social behaviour and poor tenancy conditions. Our officers' work with a range of services and agencies to ensure tenants and residents are fully supported, tenancies maintained and sustained as far as possible and appropriate action taken where necessary.

Rent arrears activity continues 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.

D4. Capital Programme and New Build Council Housing

Street	Works	Update
Balbardie Avenue & Crescent	New roof coverings	Complete. Snagging Only
Race Road and Glasgow Road	Roof & roughcast	90% Complete.

Local New Build Update

Site	No of units	Site Start	No. of Houses Handed Over	Site Completion
Wester Inch	86	July-17	40	December – 2019
Standhill	22	Jan -2020	0	Jan-2021

Council Executive in June gave approval to Guildiehaugh not being included in the current programme and agreed that alternative sites in Bathgate would be considered.

D5. Tenant Participation Update

The TP Team continue to engage with tenants at various forums and regular meetings which include, Housing Networks, Tenants Panel, Capital and Repairs Working Group and Editorial Panel.

Housing Networks

In the past few months, members of the Group were interested to learn about our Landlord Registration Service and updates on RRTP and Housing First. Members also carry out any consultation from the Scottish Government or other Tenant Organisations.

Danny Mullen Good Neighbour Awards

The ninth annual award ceremony was held in October with seven members of our communities being recognised for the thoughtfulness and helpfulness to others. Tenants were asked in the summer edition of Tenants News and through the Tenant facebook Group to nominate people they felt were 'Good Neighbours' before members of the Tenants Panel reviewed each application. Each nominee and those who put them forward were invited along to a lunch time event in the Civic Centre to be recognised for their efforts. They each received a bouquet of flowers and a framed certificate from Services for the Executive Councillor for Services to the Community, George Paul.

Tenant Led Inspection

Within this period, three tenant inspections were signed off as completed. Inspectors were given an update on each inspection carried out previously. These were inspections into New Build Council Houses, Safer Neighbourhood Team and the Housing Needs Service. Inspectors met in separate meetings with senior members of staff to discuss the recommendations and were satisfied with the action plans and to sign off each inspection. The Dampness and Condensation TLI has been reported back to senior managers and a date has been arranged to discuss the action plan early in the New Year.

Editorial Panel

This Group meet regularly to discuss changes in letters, leaflets and any written information intended for our tenants and customers. In the course of this three month panel, members reviewed letters from our Allocations section, the Tenants Satisfaction Survey, items of the Tenants Handbook and the second edition of Homeless News.

Tenant Satisfaction Survey

This biennial survey was prepared and sent out to every Council tenant in West Lothian giving them the chance to tell us what they think of the Services they receive from HCBS and help guide decisions that shape and improve Services.

D6. Safer Neighbourhood Team

The Safer Neighbourhood Teams (SNT's) continue to work in two teams across the nine multi member ward areas as an integral part of the Community Safety Unit. In all the wards, partnership working involves the local housing team, youth worker, council officer 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 partners from the voluntary organisations including Mental Health advisory workers and private landlords in order to reduce antisocial behaviour. The Safer Neighbourhood team of 7 Officers now work in two zones, the East and the West zones. All the officers now deal with noise nuisance calls as part of their working remit.

SNT have been busy conducting joint visits with Police Scotland officers, having discussion meetings with police officers, carrying out joint visits with Housing officers regarding day to day tenancy issues and ASB management issues. Examples of activity are as follows:

SNT carried out joint visits with Housing and mediation with Housing Officer in an ongoing case regarding access rights (Housing led). A Final Warning was served on a tenant in Bathgate and since then, the complaints have stopped.

Assisted an elderly tenant who had issues with noise within her new build property. During the visit, SNT were able to find the source of the noise which was a faulty extractor fan. Arrangements were made for this to be repaired / renewed.

Complaints regarding noise, partying and abusive/intimidating behaviour was received. An ASBO was sought and successfully granted. This was subsequently breached and the tenant bailed not to return to the street.

Complaint of loud parties was received and a Warning served on a perpetrator who admitted their antisocial behaviour. No further incidents reported.

SNT met with Community Police Officers and enquired into a complaint of noise and fighting. A letter drop was completed and a First Warning served. No further incidents have been reported.

E. CONCLUSION

To note the contents of the report.

F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

None

Appendices/Attachments: None

Contact Person: Kate.Ward@westlothian.gov.uk

Tel: 01506 283414

Date: 9th March, 2020



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 October 2019 – 31 December 2019.

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

To report on activity for period 1 October 2019 – 31 December 2019.

D2 Grounds Maintenance Routine Works

Hedge cutting operations were completed during November and December. The annual maintenance visit to shrub beds in the ward is scheduled to start around the first week in March.

As part of the commitment to minimise the use of Glyphosate used, we are now recording the amount used in each ward. 185 litres were applied in the Bathgate ward during 2019. This includes shrub beds, grass edges, hard landscaped areas and road channels.

The most recent LAMs score for the West area was 50, which remains less than the target of 67. This is likely to be due to the shrub beds not having been cleaned out when the areas were inspected.

Grounds Maintenance Enquiries

In total 17 ground maintenance related enquiries were received and dealt with during this reporting period in 2019.

	2019	2018
Ball Game Enquiries	0	1
Bench or Seat Enquiries	1	0
Burns or Watercourses	1	0
Drainage Flooding Grass Areas	1	0
Enforcement Officer Enquiries	0	1
Fencing Enquiries	2	1
Flower Bed or Bulb Displays	0	1
Grass Cutting Enquiries	1	1
Ground Ownership Enquiries	0	1
Grounds Property Vandalised	3	0
Hedge Cutting Enquiries	0	2
Public Park Enquiries	3	3
Shrub Bed Enquiries	0	1
Shrub Bed Overhanging Path	3	0
Shrub Beds Not Maintained	2	0
Sports Facility Enquiries	0	1
Weeds on Paths of Roads	0	1
Total	17	14

D3 Garden Maintenance Routine Works

The Garden Maintenance Scheme is scheduled to start on the 6th April this year.

Garden Maintenance Enquiries

In total there were three garden maintenance enquiries received and dealt with during this period in 2019.

	2019	2018
Garden Maintenance General Enquiries	0	3
Garden Maintenance Grass Not Cut	2	0
Garden Maintenance Hedge Cutting	1	2
Total	3	5

D4 Cleaner Communities Routine Works

Staff are continuing to deal with enquiries and carry out routine works to empty litter/dog waste bins, lift litter on footpaths, roads and open spaces throughout the ward with the NETs team dealing with fly tipping enquiries.

Over the period of the report resources will be directed towards dealing with leaf fall throughout West Lothian.

Recruitment of staff to fill vacancies within street cleansing has been carried out.

Cleaner Communities Enquiries

In total 84 cleaner communities enquiries were received and dealt with during this period in 2019.

	2019	2018
Dead Animals	4	4
Dog Fouled Grass/Open Space	1	4
Dog Fouling on Paths/ Roads	12	27
Dog No Fouling Sign Request	1	0
Dog Waste Bin New Request	0	2
Dog Waste Bin Overflowing	0	5
Glass on Paths or Open Spaces	6	3
Graffiti Racist or Offensive	0	2
Illegal Fly Tipping/Dumping	34	34
Litter Bin Burnt Damaged	1	0
Litter Bin Full Overflowing	3	2
Litter Bin New Request For Bin	0	1
Litter General Enquiries	1	1
Litter on Paths Roads Verges	6	9
Needles/Syringes Abandoned	1	1
Street Sweeping Enquiries	7	4
Trolleys Abandoned/Dumped	3	2
Vehicles Abandoned	4	15
Total	84	116

Fly Tipping Enquiries (January-December)

	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Illegal Fly Tipping/Dumping	136	131	148	154	123

Environmental Community Action

The team consists of one Senior Enforcement Officer and three Education/Engagement Officers. The Senior Enforcement Officers post has been filled as of 6th January 2020 by Solomon Ede.

The Cleaner Communities Environmental team have dealt with various environmental enquiries relating to enforcement, education and engagement during the period.

Abandoned/Nuisance vehicle enquiries have been received and where required vehicles have been removed from streets by gaining compliance following negotiation, verbal warnings, warning letters, official notices served, or WLC contractor removal.

Officers dealt with an increase in fly tipping reports received across the ward with 34 reports dealt with in this reporting period. This is the same figure for the same period last year.

The total number of fly tipping enquiries for the year for the ward has shown an increase from 2018 but there was a reduction in numbers for 2017 & 2018 compared to 2016. The wider picture does show a steady increase over the last five years for fly tipping throughout West Lothian.

The Education Officers have supported Community Clean Up events by supplying equipment and removal of waste. We are already receiving bookings for 2020.

Officers continue to attend local meetings and follow up and report back on any issues raised.

D5 Parks and Woodland

Parks and Woodland Enquiries

In total there were 14 Tree and Woodland related enquiries were received during this reporting period.

	2019	2018
Emergency Tree Out of Hours	1	0
Tree Blocking Light	0	1
Tree Branches Overhanging	1	4
Tree Dangerous or Unsafe	2	2
Tree Enquiries General	7	12
Trees in The Garden Scheme WLC	0	1
Tree Leaves Causing Problems	3	2
Total	14	22

Ranger Service Update

The Ranger Service has been at full capacity again this year with general school bookings and forest school sessions.

The Ranger Service and Parks and Woodlands Operatives attended Mountain Bike Trail Maintenance and Volunteer Co-ordinator training in November with Clive Forth.

The Ranger Service surveyed the condition of LW11 Right of Way, at Wester Tartraven.

A community clean-up of Little Boghead Nature Park has been held on Sunday 19th January (10am till 12pm).

D6 Open Space and Cemeteries

Open Space Capital Programme

Standhill Farm/Russell Road, Wester Inch, Bathgate. Works are complete. The new play area includes six unique items of play equipment and a small ball court.

Balbardie Park, Bathgate. The council will submit a sportscotland application for funding in spring 2020 for a bike track redesign/upgrade. The play area cableway has now been replaced and will be opened in spring 2020 (when grass is established).

Birniehill Play Area, Bathgate. Works to refurbish the play area are complete. Work included extending an existing tarmac path into the play area, replacing a swing, and washing and treating play equipment.

Meadow Park, Bathgate. Works to refurbish the play area and improve the wider park are in the design phase. Works will include, park furniture, repairs to fencing and gates, and a new cableway. Anticipated completion is late Summer or Autumn 2020. Works will take place after Gala Day and Highland Games. Plans to provide a new surfaced ball court have been dropped due to prohibitive costs associated with construction of a ball court in this wet area.

Blackburn Road Play Area, Bathgate. Works to refurbish the play area are planned for spring/summer 2020. Works will include replacing the multi-unit and roundabout, and refurbishing the existing swings.

Open Space Enquiries

There were nine Open Space enquiries for this reporting period in 2019.

	2019	2018
Children Play Enquiries	6	0
Complaint Childrens Play Areas	1	2
Glass or Litter in Play Areas	1	0
Safety Issues in Play Areas	1	0
Total	9	2

Cemeteries Routine Works

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

Cemeteries Enquires

There were 11 Cemeteries enquiries for this reporting period in 2019.

	2019	2018
Cemeteries General Enquiries	6	5
Family History Searches	1	0
Lair Enquiries	3	1
Lair Sunken or Uneven	1	1
Total	11	7

E CONCLUSION

The Garden Maintenance Scheme is scheduled to start on the 6th April.

The Cleaner Communities Environmental team have dealt with various environmental enquiries relating to enforcement, education and engagement during the period.

Works to refurbish the play area in Blackburn Road Play Area, Bathgate are planned for spring/summer 2020.

F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

Open Space Strategy

Capital Programme

Appendices/Attachments : none

Contact Person:

Tony Fleming, Whitehill Service Centre, 01506 284611, tony.fleming@westlothian.gov.uk

Jim Jack

Head of Operational Services

9 March 2020



BATHGATE LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE

COMMUNITY REGENERATION UPDATE

REPORT BY HEAD OF PLANNING, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & REGENERATION

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to inform and update the Local Area Committee of regeneration activities within the Bathgate ward.

B. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Local Area Committee members:

- note the report contents and activities within the ward; and
- advise of any areas that should require further investigation

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)	Economic development and community regeneration and partnership activity reinforces the Council's commitment to community planning at a local level.
III Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers	None
IV Impact on performance and performance Indicators	Performance indicators relating to the activity within the plans are captured within the set of Regeneration key performance indicators.
V Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement	We are better educated and have access to increased and better quality learning and employment opportunities. - We live in resilient, cohesive and safe communities. - We live longer, healthier lives and have reduced health inequalities. - We make the most efficient and effective use of resources by minimising our impact on the built and natural environment.

VI Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)	The activities set out are funded from existing budget and relevant external sources where applicable.
VII Consideration at PDSP	Annual updates on locality regeneration plans will be presented to the Community Planning Partnership.
VIII Other consultations	Bathgate regeneration partners and Community Planning Partnership Board.

D TERMS OF REPORT

D1 Background

A report was provided in late 2016 to the Local Area Committee outlining background to developing regeneration (locality) plans across West Lothian. There were thirteen regeneration areas identified utilising the data zones within the bottom 20% of the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation. Bathgate is one of these communities.

It has been agreed that the regeneration plans will be the local plans required by the Scottish Government as part of their Community Empowerment approach and reported through the Community Planning Partnership.

The first version of the plan was presented to the Local Area Committee in June 2019, identifying the relative priorities and actions for the area. Subsequent meetings in June and August 2019 looked at further local issues. The plan is a 'live' document for review on an ongoing basis; thereby allowing for flexibility to respond to changing local issues and actions as they should become identified by partners.

D2 Regeneration Planning in Bathgate

The Regeneration Planning group is scheduled to meet again at the end of March 2020, at which time it is to be proposed to review the initial actions, refine these and include any new ones identified by the group and look at the structure, for example, using Bathgate Town Centre Management Group for town centre related matters.

Recent regeneration activity includes:

- Following the last Local Area Committee officers organised a walk around Bathgate (Central) on Friday 31 January 2020. This focused on two predominantly residential areas to the north of town centre. This included the town centre officer, LAC Lead officer, officers, partners and local members. This was followed by a round table discussion afterwards, which identified a number of potential short-term actions and queries to investigate which will be incorporated into the plan.
- Following the Local Area Committee in June 2019, partners and officers led by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service established a short term working group to review and identify areas for proactive education around fire safety and waste bin provision. This has led to positive lessons and good practice that will continue to be adopted across the community.
- Services and partners are working together to address identified community safety and anti-social behaviour issues within parts of the ward.
- Linked to above and addressing some of the anti-social behaviour issues, Transportation colleagues have undertaken an installation programme of

new/replacement bus shelters along Whitburn Road and in Wester Inch. This has also included the removal of the damaged and unused bus shelter that was located at the King Street car park.

- The Town Centre Officer is working with Police Scotland and Roads colleagues in reviewing, raising awareness and education on parking/traffic issues within the town centre. This will be further considered in March 2020 through Bathgate Town Centre Management Group.
- Bathgate Community Development Trust has now been established and duly incorporated with Companies House. One of the early actions will be to secure a potential base/location for the Trust, something that officers are assisting with.
- Support is being provided to the local steering group formed to organise a focused programme of commemorative activities for VE Day 75 in May 2020. The group is meeting fortnightly.
- Fairtrade Fortnight (24 February to 8 March 2020) offers the specific chance to raise awareness of Fairtrade locally in Bathgate. There is a formal display within Bathgate Partnership Centre during the fortnight, highlighting what small steps can be taken to help to make a difference. For example, asking local shops and restaurants/cafes to stock and use Fairtrade products; and to re-consider your weekly shopping list to include Fairtrade goods.
- The Boghall Tenants and Residents Association met twice in early 2020. Whilst small in number, the group has re-formed with office bearers in place. The focus/remit will be on matters of importance to Boghall and the recent meeting noted concerns about winter ready policy, waste bin arrangements and community policing. The town centre officer is supporting the group with these matters. The next meeting will be in early April 2020.
- Meeting arranged with Becky Plunkett (Open Space) and Carol Campbell (Central Scotland Green Network Trust) to support a funding application to Sport Scotland (March 2020) being prepared for Balbardie Park. This would include phased park improvements and a new bike pump track facility

D3 Town Centre Fund 2019/20

The Local Area Committee will be aware that the £1.826 million Town Centre Capital Fund was launched in June 2019 covering 23 towns and communities (with populations of over 1,000) across West Lothian. Bathgate as one of those towns was allocated a budget sum of £161,674 by Council Executive.

Since the last reporting to the Local Area Committee in November 2019, the town centre officer has continued to liaise with and support the Bathgate project applicants in delivery of their projects. Further detailed information is contained in the separate 'Town Centre Fund 2019/20' report.

D4 Bathgate Partnership Centre

At the time of writing this report, Bathgate Partnership Centre has welcomed 62,888 customers during October, November and December 2019, averaging nearly 20,963 customers per month. There were 1,287 CIS transactions in October, 1065 in November and 694 in December 2019. There were 281 new borrowers/members within Simpson Library during the same period.

1,804 users over 65's participated in structured programmes, ranging from arts and craft classes to exercise classes. 737 children (aged under 5) participated in structured programmes such as the playgroup, Jumping Jacks, childminders and activities within the Simpson Library. There was on average 60 group lets per week during this reporting period, but this tends to drop during the Christmas and New year period. Summer Period. Some groups only started to return from middle of January 2020.

Bathgate Partnership Centre Payments Office dealt with 8673 payment transactions during the three month reporting period (£840.126), with the Self Service Payments Kiosk dealing with 369 transactions in the same three month period.

The Macmillan Cancer Information and Support Centre continue to support members of the West Lothian community through their drop in surgeries within Simpson Library and their Counselling Sessions within Bathgate Partnership Centre.

Simpson Library within Bathgate Partnership Centre has also taken part in Book Bug Classes during the reporting period, with 365 attendees at the book bug sessions. The book bug sessions continue to be very popular with babies and toddlers. The library participated in other various activities such as the Halloween story time for jumping beans and playgroup; a treasure hunt and a film/movie, each of which were very popular with over 48 children in attendance. The playgroup and childminders also held their annual festive party in December 2019.

Bathgate Partnership Centre holds a dignity box and school clothing bank collection for customers to donate items and to help themselves to any required items. Food bank donations are also accepted at the Bathgate Partnership Centre.

D5 Bathgate Town Centre

Bathgate Town Centre continues to act as the community focal point and 'hub' for local employment, services, amenities and investment. Bathgate town centre is subject to a quarterly occupancy survey, as one measure of its relative vitality and viability. The January 2020 survey noted 92.1% occupancy (vacancy rate at 7.9%) though it should be noted this does not take account of properties subject to refurbishment at any time of survey. This remains an improvement from the recent peak vacancy rate of 9% in January 2018. To provide some context, the National Town Centre Vacancy survey reported by Springboard (latest available at January 2020) noted the UK average vacancy rate at 9.8%, and Scotland at 10.7%.

The Town Centre Officer has continued to liaise with and meet with colleagues from Enterprising Bathgate (funding) and North Lanarkshire Council (monitoring), in relation to the continuation of the established arrangement and resourcing of the public space CCTV system in Bathgate town centre. Initial analysis of the monitoring reporting that is provided (e.g. incident figures alone) highlight the clear benefits that this CCTV provision generates for the community, as well as the significant reduction in policing time and resource as a direct impact. The CCTV system contributes greatly to the overall sense of improving community safety and crime prevention within Bathgate. This was noted in particular during the discussions at the recent Bathgate Pubwatch meeting (early February 2020) attended by the town centre officer.

D6 Boghall Drop-In Centre

There has continued to be a busy programme of local groups, classes and activities during the winter period, as well as serving as a base for partnership agencies to work locally for the benefit of the Bathgate and Boghall community. In the period since the last report in November 2019, highlights include:

- 'Little Monsters' has evolved to open up their activity to anyone in West Lothian (not limited to Boghall) to attend, for parents with their child under age 5.
- A 'toddlers' tea party' has started every Thursday for nursery pupils, with an average attendance of 10 children to date.
- The pilot B-youth drop-in (Friday) continues to increase in attendance, and will now operate as a regular club with registration.

- Youth clubs (for primary school aged children) also continue to run on a weekly basis (Monday) split across two separate clubs and time slots. This provides for a fun and engaging service to the community.
- The Christmas Dinner (free, registration) for over 50's took place in early December 2019 with 67 people attending. A similar free/registration Easter dinner has been advertised for 9 April 2020.
- Continue to work with partners to target food poverty in the community through collection and distribution (free) of surplus food to those in need. Volunteers are creating balanced meals for people to take away with them.
- Application was developed and submitted by BDIC to Modernisation and Improvement Fund, to fund a co-ordinator to support above work.
- Homework club is now run over three days to ensure that academic standards and greater quality are promoted.
- BDIC are shortly to advertise for a drama coach to deliver the theatre club, which will be a drama club for local children.
- Council's Access 2 Employment service continues to operate a weekly work club/drop in on a Tuesday afternoon.

E. CONCLUSION

It is recommended that the Local Area Committee note the content of this report, that the regeneration planning process is ongoing and the associated ward activities being carried out within Bathgate.

F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

West Lothian Regeneration Framework 2014-2034

Appendices/Attachments: None

Contact Person: Nairn Pearson, BID & Town Centre Manager, nairn.pearson@westlothian.gov.uk

Craig McCorrison, Head of Planning, Economic Development & Regeneration

9 March 2020



BATHGATE LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE

TOWN CENTRE FUND 2019/20

REPORT BY HEAD OF PLANNING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & REGENERATION

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to update the committee on the progress in delivering the Town Centre Fund 2019/20 capital projects agreed by the Council Executive on 22 October 2019.

B. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the local area committee:

1. note that 7 projects within the ward are being funded;
2. note that officers are continuing to work with the applicants to agree the final details to support the delivery of the projects;
3. that the Scottish Government has advised local authorities that they are extending the expenditure deadline for all projects to 31 March 2021 and the completion deadline for all projects to 30 September 2021; and
4. that further progress updates will be brought to the committee.

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)	To be assessed on an individual project basis but it is not anticipated that any proposals will require being the subject of specific assessments.
III Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers	The report sets out specific delegations to the Head of Planning, Economic Development & Regeneration.
IV Impact on performance and performance Indicators	None.
V Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement	Outcome 1 – We make West Lothian an attractive place to do business.

Outcome 10 – We live in well-designed, sustainable places where we are able to access the services we need.

Outcome 12 – We value and enjoy our built environment and protect it and enhance it for future generations.

VI	Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)	A total of £1.826 million will be available to the Town Centre Fund 2019/20.
VII	Consideration at PDSP	Not applicable.
VIII	Other consultations	Capital Asset Management Board

D. TERMS OF REPORT

D1 Background

In February 2019 the Scottish Government announced, as part of its budget, a new Town Centre Fund. The fund is a ring fenced capital allocation of £50 million for 2019/20. The fund is based on the Scotland's Town Partnership working definition of a town being a place with a population of 1,000 or more, which equates to 484 towns across Scotland, 23 for West Lothian. This allocation for West Lothian is £1.826 million.

Funding is aimed at addressing the core themes of the Scottish Government's Town Centre Action Plan 2013 and the Town Centre First Principle which requested that government, local authorities, the wider public sector, businesses and communities put the health of town centres at the heart of proportionate and best value decision making. It also encouraged a focus on delivering the best local outcomes regarding investment and de-investment decisions, alignment of policies, targeting of available resources to priority town centre sites, and encouraging vibrancy, equality and diversity. It committed to a collaborative approach which understands and underpins the long term plan for each town centre.

The themes of the Town Centre Action Plan include:

- **Town Centre Living** – footfall is key to achieving thriving, successful towns centre; and, the best footfall is residential for people who will use shops, services, and will care for its safety and security in the evenings
- **Vibrant Local Economies** – creating a supportive business environment including the involvement of Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) and other local partnerships
- **Enterprising Communities** – social enterprise, services, arts and events; and, community empowerment and community based activities which increase the health, wealth and wellbeing of town centres
- **Accessible Public Services** – creating and accessing public facilities and services, supported by economic, service and transport hubs
- **Digital Towns** – exploiting digital technology and promoting Wi-Fi infrastructure to enable access to information, data analytics, marketing opportunities, branding, and communication with the wider world

- **Proactive Planning** – land reform and supporting the creation of sustainable, low-carbon and connected places which promote natural and cultural assets, designed in partnership with local communities and key stakeholders.

D2 West Lothian Council's approach

The Council Executive agreed on 11 June 2019 that the funding detailed above should be allocated to all 23 communities with populations over 1,000 through a grant application process (see background reference below). The deadline for receipt of applications was set for 31 August 2019 to allow for decisions to be taken and projects delivered within the (then) stated delivery deadline of 31 March 2020.

The process agreed that decisions on the applications would be:

- a) Local Area Committee will consider applications from each community to the fund and have the authority to award funding in full or in part as they see fit up to the amount allocated to that community.
- b) After doing so, if there was a balance remaining of the aggregate amount allocated to the ward, Local Area Committee have the authority to apply that balance to applications for the ward area which have not already been funded at all or fully.
- c) After doing so, if a balance remains, Council Executive will decide how and where all remaining balances from Local Area Committee should be spent across the whole West Lothian council area.

D3 Bathgate – Update on Project Delivery

Officers are working with Bathgate applicants to ensure projects can be delivered within the timescales and an update on each is provided in Appendix 1. Projects can broadly be grouped around:

- Projects delivered directly by the applicant with Council advice available if required;
- Projects delivered by West Lothian Council on behalf of the applicant; and
- Projects where there is a mix of both.

Where the applicant is delivering the work funding has been transferred directly to them to deliver otherwise the funding is being held by West Lothian Council and transferred to the appropriate service delivering the work.

D4 Next Steps

All project applicants were advised that they had to be delivered, or contractually committed, by 31 March 2020. At the end of January 2020 progress of each project was reviewed to see if any projects would not go ahead and or where projects may have identified underspends.

However, the Scottish Government has since advised local authorities that they are extending the expenditure deadline for all projects to 31 March 2021, with the completion deadline for all projects to then be 30 September 2021. The Regeneration team have advised all funding recipients of this extension.

E. CONCLUSION

The Town Centre Fund 2019/20 offers significant additional capital funding to improve West Lothian's town centres. The projects in the Bathgate ward will deliver community identified projects that would not otherwise have been carried out. The timescales for delivering this work has made the application and assessment process challenging for both applicants and officers. The delivery of the agreed projects will be equally challenging as detailed in the report and will require ongoing monitoring to ensure delivery within the timescales.

F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

Council Executive, 11 June 2019

<https://coins.westlothian.gov.uk/coins/submissiondocuments.asp?submissionid=42684>

Bathgate Local Area Committee, 8 October 2019

<https://coins.westlothian.gov.uk/coins/submissiondocuments.asp?submissionid=43807>

Council Executive, 22 October 2019

<https://coins.westlothian.gov.uk/coins/submissiondocuments.asp?submissionid=43975>

Appendices/Attachments:

Appendix 1 – List of agreed projects in Bathgate ward

Contact Person: Alice Mitchell, Economic Development & Regeneration Manager
Email: alice.mitchell@westlothian.gov.uk Tel Nos: 01506 283079

Craig McCorriston
Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration

9 March 2020

Appendix 1 - Bathgate Ward Capital Projects - Town Centre Fund 2019/20

Application Code	Applicant (Group/Service)	Project Name	Town	Town Centre Fund Award (£)	Update
BAT01	Voluntary Sector Gateway West Lothian	Creation of Volunteering and Third Sector Hub	Bathgate	39,750	Applicant is leading on project. Contractors have been appointed and work commenced on refurbishment of the building. It is envisaged that the full works will be completed, with occupation, by end of March 2020.
BAT02	Visit West Lothian	Visitor Leaflet Display Rack	Bathgate	295	Applicant is leading on the project. Display item has been purchased. The display location within Bathgate town centre is being investigated.
BAT05	Rotary Club of Bathgate	Improving Bathgate Profile	Bathgate	6,300	Applicant is leading on project. Town centre officer has been liaising with and advising applicant. Applicant is progressing signage, its design and manufacture with preferred supplier; and currently procuring identified stall equipment. Advertisement/planning consent being prepared for signage.
BAT06	Reconnect Regal	Reconnect Regal Reface	Bathgate	45,580	Applicant is leading on project, with support from Town centre officer. Contractors and sub-contractors have been identified with costs provided. Final agreements are being put in place to allow instruction for works to be commenced. Listed building consent and planning permission will

					then be applied for by applicant. Applicant (leaseholder) is liaising with the Council's PM&D as the landlord.
BAT07	West Lothian Council (Economic Development & Regeneration and Operational Services)	Town Centre Tree Lighting	Bathgate	12,000	Applicant is leading on project. Council Lighting Team has installed electrical power supply sockets within location, to facilitate future lighting connection. Town centre officer is working with Lighting to finalise tender to appoint contractor to procure and implement the lighting features.
BAT09	Enterprising Bathgate Limited	Creating a Sense of Place	Bathgate	31,500	Applicant is leading on project. Town centre officer in regular contact with supporting role. Applicant has been working with selected contractors on individual components. Planning submitted for town gateway signs and decorative town centre archway. New street name plate designs agreed with Council Operational Services.
BAT13	Bathgate Community Council	Putting Bathgate on Map	Bathgate	26,249	Applicant is leading on this project. Town centre officer attended the BCC meeting 13/2/20. Progress is being made on developing individual project components. New town/town centre map boards will require the relevant planning permission.
			Bathgate Total	£161,674	

DATA LABEL: Public

BATHGATE LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE

TIMETABLE OF MEETINGS 2020-2021

Reports to committee officer by 12 noon	Agenda Issue	Meeting Date	Room
Tuesday 18 August 2020	Wednesday 19 August 2020	Monday 24 August 2020	TBC
Tuesday 17 November 2020	Wednesday 18 November 2020	Monday 23 November 2020	TBC
Tuesday 2 March 2021	Wednesday 3 March 2021	Monday 8 March 2021	TBC
Tuesday 8 June 2021	Wednesday 9 June 2021	Monday 14 June 2021	TBC
All meetings will be held at 10.00am in Bathgate Partnership Centre unless otherwise advised			

**BATHGATE LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE
WORKPLAN 2019/2020**

Item	Issue	Purpose	Lead Officer	Date	Referral
1.	St. Kentigern's Academy	Annual school update	Andrew Sharkey	March 2020	
2.	Police Scotland Report	Quarterly update on ward activities	PS Keith Jack and PC Iain Law	March 2020	
3.	Scottish Fire & Rescue Service Report	Quarterly update on ward activities	Lee Clark	March 2020	
4.	NETs Land and Countryside Service Report	Quarterly update on ward activities	Tony Fleming	March 2020	
5.	Housing Report	Quarterly update on ward activities	Kate Ward	March 2020	
6.	Community Regeneration Report	Quarterly update on ward activities	Nairn Pearson	March 2020	
7.	Town Centre Fund 2019/20	Progress Update	Nairn Pearson	March 2020	
8.	Bathgate LAC 2020/21 Timetable	Annual update	Committee Services	March 2020	
1.	Bathgate Academy	Annual school update	Grant Abbot	June 2020	
2.	Police Scotland Report	Quarterly update on ward activities	PS Keith Jack and PC Iain Law	June 2020	
3.	Scottish Fire & Rescue Service Report	Quarterly update on ward activities	Lee Clark	June 2020	
4.	NETs Land and Countryside Service Report	Quarterly update on ward activities	Tony Fleming	June 2020	
5.	Housing Report	Quarterly update on ward activities	Kate Ward	June 2020	
6.	Community Regeneration Report	Quarterly update on	Nairn Pearson	June 2020	

		ward activities			
7.	Town Centre Fund 2019/20	Progress Update	Nairn Pearson	June 2020	
1.	Police Scotland Report	Quarterly update on ward activities	PS Keith Jack and PC Iain Law	August 2020	
2.	Scottish Fire & Rescue Service Report	Quarterly update on ward activities	Lee Clark	August 2020	
3.	NETs Land and Countryside Service Report	Quarterly update on ward activities	Tony Fleming	August 2020	
4.	Housing Report	Quarterly update on ward activities	Kate Ward	August 2020	
5.	Community Regeneration Report	Quarterly update on ward activities	Nairn Pearson	August 2020	
6.	Town Centre Fund 2019/20	Progress Update	Nairn Pearson	August 2020	
1.	Police Scotland Report	Quarterly update on ward activities	PS Keith Jack and PC Iain Law	November 2020	
2.	Scottish Fire & Rescue Service Report	Quarterly update on ward activities	Lee Clark	November 2020	
3.	NETs Land and Countryside Service Report	Quarterly update on ward activities	Tony Fleming	November 2020	
4.	Housing Report	Quarterly update on ward activities	Kate Ward	November 2020	
5.	Community Regeneration Report	Quarterly update on ward activities	Nairn Pearson	November 2020	
6.	Town Centre Fund 2019/20	Progress Update	Nairn Pearson	November 2020	
7.	Pensioner Group Christmas Fund	Annual update	Nairn Pearson	November 2020	
8.	Anti-Poverty Ward Update	Annual Update	Elaine Nisbet/Christopher Nelson	November 2020	