

MINUTE of MEETING of the COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP BOARD of WEST Lothian Council held within COUNCIL CHAMBERS, WEST Lothian Civic Centre, on 15 FEBRUARY 2016.

Present –

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| Councillor Cathy Muldoon (Chair) | West Lothian Council |
| Councillor John McGinty | West Lothian Council |
| Councillor Tony Boyle | West Lothian Council |
| Councillor Tom Conn | West Lothian Council |
| Councillor David Tait | West Lothian Council |
| Graham Hope, Chief Executive | West Lothian Council |
| Eddie Ritchie | Scottish Fire & Rescue |
| Sandy Milne | Voluntary Sector Gateway WL |
| Gill Imery | Police Scotland |
| Alison McCallum | NHS Lothian |
| Lindsay Seywright | West Lothian College |
| Grant McDougall | Skills Development Scotland |

In Attendance –

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| Lorraine Gillies | West Lothian Council |
| Graeme Struthers | West Lothian Council |
| Jim Forrest | West Lothian Council |
| Steve Field | West Lothian Council |
| Alistair Shaw | West Lothian Council |
| Joanna Anderson | West Lothian Council |

Apologies -

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| Mhairi Harrington | West Lothian College |
| Douglas Westwater | Voluntary Sector Gateway WL |
| Julie McDowell | NHS Lothian |
| Martin Riach | Scottish Fire & Rescue |
| Gary Laing | Scottish Fire & Rescue |

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Agenda Item 13 (Community Justice Transition Plan) – Councillor Tony Boyle declared a non-financial interest in that he was a council appointed member of the Criminal Justice Authority.

2. MINUTE

The Board confirmed the Minute of its meeting held on 16 November 2015. The Minute was thereafter signed by the Chair.

3. MINUTE OF MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY PLANNING STEERING GROUP HELD ON 1 FEBRUARY 2016

The Board noted the Minute of the Community Planning Steering Group held on 1 February 2016.

4. MINUTES OF THEMATIC FORUMS -

- a) The Board noted the Minute of the Community Safety Board held on 21 September 2015;
- b) The Board noted the Minute of the West Lothian Economic Forum meetings, held on 9 September and 2 December 2015; and
- c) The Board noted the Minute of the Climate Change and Sustainability Working Group held on 21 January 2016.

5. SOA PERFORMANCE REPORTING -

- a) The Board noted the High Level Indicators report;
- b) The Board noted the Health and Wellbeing Thematic Report;
- c) The Board noted the SOA Exceptions Report; and
- d) The Board noted the Summary Dashboard.

6. OPERATION WHITECROSS - PRESENTATION BY CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT, GILLIAN IMERY, POLICE SCOTLAND

The Board were provided with an overview of Operation Whitecross by Chief Superintendent Gill Imery who explained that the current Operational Policing Model which had been implemented across J Division on 4 March 2015 had been subject of a six month review in September 2015. The introduction of the model had led to a re-distribution of the resources across Response and Community roles.

The Chief Superintendent explained that the review team led by Inspector O'Connor had initially carried out an internal review in the form of staff surveys and workshops and then externally by engaging with partners in each of the local authority areas including the holding of workshops involving elected members and representatives of the community.

The review found that there was a need for change to the current policing model to meet demand and objectives. Therefore on 23 November 2015 the Divisional Commander instructed that an implementation team (Operation Whitecross) consider the recommendations of the review and decide which of those were suitable for implementation in a New Policing Model for J Division.

Based on the findings of the review and the engagement process there was a desire to rebalance the ratio of Response and Community Officers. This provided an opportunity to ensure that Response Officers dealt with incidents arising daily and reduced the abstraction of Community Officers from their core role, allowing them to support an increased focus on public engagement and the prevention of crime and anti-social behaviour.

Additionally Response Hubs would be increased from two to four, allowing for a greater distribution of officers across the county thus affording a greater presence in the community and more efficient call attendance.

The presentation continued by noting that it was recognised that the existing and previous model had presented challenges in meeting call demand and facilitating such community focussed activities but it was hoped that the proposed model would allow for more consistent police participation in local forums, such as Community Council meetings, and a renewed drive to have Community Officers focus on creating sustainable solutions to local issues.

The presentation continued by providing details of similar models that had been successfully operating in both East and Mid Lothian noting that for West Lothian the new model would allow for the creation of two distinct Community Action Teams, one in the east and the other in west and which would create significant opportunities for police officers and the WLC Neighbourhood Response teams to work even more closely together.

Finally the presentation explained that the three School Link Officers operating in West Lothian would be increased to six in recognition of the excellent work carried out in prevention and diversionary tactics.

The presentation concluded by advising that as part of the continued engagement and review process a letter would be sent out to all elected members seeking opinions on the effectiveness of the change. This would be then followed up after a period of 10 months with a similar letter and this would allow Police Scotland to assess the viability of the new policing model over a period of time.

Decision

1. To note the contents of the presentation; and
2. Welcomed the opportunity to participate in the review of the new policing model that was being introduced across West Lothian.

7. FAULDHOUSE CHARETTE

The Board considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Community Planning Development Manager advising of the successful application to the Scottish Government's Charrette Mainstreaming Programme 2015-16 to carry out a charrette in Fauldhouse.

The Board were advised that an application had been submitted to the Scottish Government's Charrette Mainstreaming Programme 2015-16 for funding to deliver a charrette in Fauldhouse. The Scottish Government had recently advised that the application had been successful.

The first town centre charrette had been carried out in Whitburn in March

2015 and by delivering a charrette in Fauldhouse the Community Planning Partnership would have an opportunity to test the knowledge and experience gained in Whitburn.

The charrette exercise for Fauldhouse would take place in Spring 2016 and from this a masterplan would be produced for Fauldhouse.

Whilst physical regeneration would be one focus of the charrette there would also be an opportunity to focus on a number of other key issues which had been identified. These included below average health outcomes for Fauldhouse residents, poor levels of satisfaction with Fauldhouse as a place to live and improving the village's economic position.

Community Planning partners would be involved to ensure that the emerging designs and other outputs from the process aligned to the agreed wider priorities of partners.

Key timescales for the project were detailed in the report.

Consultation had already taken place with Planning and Economic Development, Finance and Estates and the Fauldhouse Community Development Trust. Further consultation would also take place with the community and partners throughout the project.

It was recommended that the Board note :-

1. That a successful application had been made to the Scottish Government allowing a second charrette to be carried out in West Lothian;
2. The timescales for delivery of the project; and
3. That progress would be forwarded to Fauldhouse and the Breich Valley Local Area Committee and the Community Planning Partnership Board.

Decision

To note the contents of the report.

8. VOLUNTARY SECTOR GATEWAY WEST LOTHIAN - UPDATE

The Board considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Chair of the Voluntary Sector Gateway providing an update on circumstances in relation to the West Lothian Third Sector Interface (TSI) with the Community Planning Partnership (CPP) which was provided by the Voluntary Sector Gateway West Lothian.

The role of the TSI was to provide an effective single point access for support and advice for the third sector within a local area. It was expected that the TSI would provide a strong and cohesive conduit between the third sector and the local authority and the Community Planning

Partnership and was well managed, governed and effective.

The TSI operating in West Lothian was the Voluntary Sector Gateway West Lothian and who were a member of the CPP. The Voluntary Sector Gateway received funding from the Scottish Government Third Sector Unit, West Lothian Council and from external funders.

Concerns had been raised by senior officers of the council in relation to the operation of the Voluntary Sector Gateway and an update report on that matter was presented to the CPP Board at its meeting on 16 November 2015.

On the 14 December 2015 the Voluntary Sector Gateway held an AGM which was well attended by representatives of the third sector, members and community planning partners. During that meeting a number of concerns were raised including a review which had been carried out by the Scottish Government. Particular concerns were also raised with regards to the annual accounts for 2014-15 and the current financial position and the accounts were not accepted or approved by the membership.

During the election process for the board all of the present Board of Directors stood down. Therefore under the stewardship of an independent solicitor the membership elected four members to act as a new Board of Directors for the Voluntary Sector Gateway West Lothian. Within days of this action a further three members were co-opted onto the Board.

Since this time a number of actions had taken place and these were summarised in the report and included a review of all policies and procedures, engagement with West Lothian Council internal audit to undertake a detailed 4 year financial audit of the organisation and significantly amended and signed off the accounts.

The next steps to be taken by the organisation were as follows :-

- Member and sector open meeting on 10 February 2016;
- Secure funding from Scottish Government for an external change manager;
- Recruit CEO;
- Research and write strategic action plan for 2016-17; and
- Secure funding arrangements for the next 12 months.

The report concluded that there was now a new interim board for the third sector interface in West Lothian and that the Scottish Government and the council were working with the new board to support development of a new fit for purpose organisation which fulfilled its funded objectives.

It was recommended that the Board :-

1. Note the significant changes made to the Voluntary Sector

Gateway West Lothian;

2. Note the progress made by in the interim board; and
3. Consider how their organisation could support the continued development of the third sector interface.

Decision

To note the contents of the report

9. DRAFT CPP WORKPLAN 2016

The Board considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Community Planning Development Manager providing a copy of the CPP Workplan, a copy of which was attached to the report.

The workplan had been developed in order to prioritise and schedule discussion at Community Planning Steering Group and Community Planning Board meetings in 2016.

Having a workplan in place would provide partners with an opportunity to suggest agenda items and allow the CPP to plan ahead to ensure all relevant items were discussed. The draft workplan incorporated upcoming strategies, plans, consultations and items for discussion at each of the CPP Steering Group and Board meetings scheduled for 2016.

Partners were invited to contribute agenda items to the CPP workplan and Board members were encouraged to provide appropriate additional items for inclusion.

It was recommended that Board Members consider any additional agenda items to be included in the workplan by 26 February 2016.

Decision

1. To note the contents of the draft workplan; and
2. To note the deadline of 26 February 2016 for the inclusion of any additional items for inclusion on the workplan.

10. EARLY YEARS AND EARLY INTERVENTION CHANGE FUND

The Board considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Social Policy providing an update on the activities and progress within the Early Years and Early Intervention Change Fund and the 2014-15 annual return to Scottish Government.

The Board were advised that the Early Years and Early Intervention Change Fund supported a portfolio of projects which had a key focus on the following :-

- Early Intervention
- Evidence based working
- Preventative approaches
- Tackling social inequalities; and
- Effective management of change

Attached to the report was a copy of the annual return for 2014-15 that had been made to the Scottish Government providing progress and spend information on ongoing activities funded by the Change Fund as well as the broader activity in the Community Planning partnership.

The report also provided a summary of the implications for the relevant Single Outcome performance measures.

The Board were asked to note the 2014-15 return to the Early Years task Force.

Decision

To note the contents of the report

11. COMMUNITY JUSTICE TRANSITION PLAN

The Board considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Social Policy providing an update on the Community Justice Redesign Transition Plan noting the continuing consultation and reporting to a range of committees and boards which had resulted in the preparation and submission of the formal Transition Report to the Scottish Government, a copy of which was attached to the report.

The Transition Plan had to be submitted to the Scottish Government by 31 January 2016. The final version of the report was signed off by the Leader of the Council in his role as Chair of the Community Safety Board and by the Chair of the Community Planning Partnership.

The Transition Report was primarily intended to outline the steps that had already been taken and would be taken in the next few months to implement the redesign in West Lothian. It focussed strongly on governance rather than on the achievement of specified outcomes; these would be addressed during the transitional year through the production of separate and more detailed plans, which would be submitted to the Scottish Government.

Consultation to date had involved the full range of justice and planning partners, carried out both directly with staff delivering services and in a range of cross-organisational groups. The Community Justice Redesign Implementation Group was also considering ways of both increasing public awareness of the organisational changes and encourage

community participation in the hope that community representatives would be able to attend a formal launch event being considered for June 2016.

The Board was asked to note the content of the Transition Plan

Decision

To note the contents of the report.