



Dear Member

Larkhall Local Housing Forum

Date: Tuesday 24 September 2019  
Time: 4.00 p.m.  
Venue: Larkhall Academy, Broomhill Road, Larkhall, ML9 1QN

#### Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Youth Engagement Sessions in Conjunction with Senior Pupils of the Academy
3. Refreshments
4. Date of Next Meeting - Tuesday 29 October 2019 at Larkhall Academy

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## Larkhall Housing Forum Meeting

Working in association with Housing and Technical Resources

Tuesday 27 August 2019

The Lounge, Larkhall Community Centre, Montgomery Street, Larkhall

Note of meeting held in the Lounge, Larkhall Community Centre, Montgomery Street, Larkhall

### Present

C Graham	South Lanarkshire Council
A Muir	South Lanarkshire Council
M Murray	LATRA
R Murray	LATRA
J Wilson	NTRA
PC A Weir	Police Scotland
PC S Lawrie	Police Scotland
Councillor P Craig	South Lanarkshire Council
Councillor A Carmichael	South Lanarkshire Council
Councillor J Burns	South Lanarkshire Council
Councillor I Dorman	South Lanarkshire Council
M Gilfillan	OPOP
J Gilfillan	STA
A Jackson	MTRA

### Apologies

R Lewis	
J Ross	MTRA
S Connor	SLTDSP

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### 1. Introductions and Welcome

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- 1.1 C Graham welcomed everyone to the meeting. Introductions were made.
- 1.2 J Wilson thanked the group for kind thoughts and cards following the loss of his wife.

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### 2. Previous Minute

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- 2.1 Agreed

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### 3. Police Update

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- 3.1 The use of quad bikes diminished following installation of bollards at Hawick Crescent. The issue has, however, moved to Hareleeshill. Police are working to identify culprits.

- 3.2 Operation Forward ongoing – number of warrants obtained and drugs recovered in Larkhall area.
- 3.3 No significant youth disorder over summer months.

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#### 4. Post Summer Catch Up

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- 4.1 It was agreed that the agenda for the forum was full until the end of the year. New agenda items will be agreed.
- 4.2 Suggestions for future meetings include Environmental Health, Mark McManus Big Survey, Gypsy/Traveller Community

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#### 5. Customer Involvement Update

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- 5.1 A Muir advised that Customer Scrutiny Group are underway with their scrutiny exercise into Access to Homelessness Information/Advice in South Lanarkshire. The exercise is an online desk top audit of the council's website to evaluate how easy is it to find relevant information/advice in terms of accessibility, navigation and content for those who are homeless or threatened with homelessness.
- 5.2 This scrutiny exercise naturally follows on from the Scottish Housing Regulator's review of all 32 Scottish local authorities' websites focusing on online information available to those who are homeless or threatened with homelessness. A report from the exercise with findings and recommendations will be presented to the council on 9 September, 2019.
- 5.3 In relation to Refusal of Offers representatives from the CSG presented their findings and recommendations to the council's Resource Management Team on 15<sup>th</sup> August, 2019. Following this the council met with the CSG on 19<sup>th</sup> August, 2019 to present their feedback and draft action plan.
- 5.4 As part of the Customer Scrutiny Framework and before the CSG move on to the next service area to scrutinise they review the previous exercises and take stock of the lessons learned. Customers and staff involved in the scrutiny activities attended the "Scrutiny Taking Stock' session" today.
- 5.5 The Project Monitoring Group (PMG) met with the Council independently to review and delivery of the TIS contract. The Project is happy to report that the appraisal feedback was excellent from both the tenant representatives and additionally South Lanarkshire Council. The PMG have since been working with the Project to identify and agree the priorities for year 2 of the contract and develop a draft workplan.
- 5.6 R Murray updated on the Repairs Sub Group and advised that staff were using Bodycams and this was helping to reduce the number of assaults taking place on council staff.

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#### 6. Housing Update

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- 6.1 C Graham updated group on youth engagement progress.
- 6.2 The steering group met 24 July 2019 and plans are progressing well. Two sessions arranged, both to take place in Larkhall Academy. The group agreed that these sessions would form the basis of the next 2 Forum meetings.

- 6.3 C Graham confirmed that the MSYP will lead both sessions. First session will be around raising awareness of Housing Services and what is involved in running / managing a house. The second session is around how youths wish to engage and have their voices heard moving forward.
- 6.4 Analysis will be done and feedback presented to the group at November's meeting.

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7. AOCB

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- 7.1 Councillor Carmichael advised that he would find out when gutters due to be cleaned in Netherburn area from T Reid, Property Services and relay back to J Wilson.
- 7.2 R Murray reported a fridge dumped in Millburn Place. C Graham will ask Housing Officer to investigate.
- 7.3 Councillor Craig reported on the success of the "Big Survey" recently carried out in Larkhall. 89% of residents advised they were happy / very happy living in Larkhall. Councillor Craig also highlighted the very positive comments around the work of Housing Services. M McManus will be invited to a future meeting to provide update.
- 7.4 Discussion took place around the installation of a bench at Robert Smillie. M Gilfillan highlighted a pilot which has taken place down south. The pilot aims to reduce loneliness and chat benches were an effective part of the pilot. After some debate the group agreed to install the bench. C Graham to organise.
- 7.5 Councillors provided reassurance that the path leading from Larkhall Academy will remain open.

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8. Date of Next Meeting

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Tuesday 24 September 2019 at 4pm in Larkhall Academy, Broomhill Road, Larkhall