

ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL

GARIOCH AREA COMMITTEE

COUNCIL CHAMBER, GORDON HOUSE, INVERURIE

ON 12 NOVEMBER 2019

Present: Councillors N Baillie, L Berry, M Ewenson (Chair), M Ford, V Harper (for items 5, part of 6, 8 and 10-12), R McKail, G Reid, I Walker and J Whyte

Apologies: Councillors D Aitchison, F Hood, S Leslie, D Lonchay, A McKelvie and H Smith,

Officers: M-J Cardno (Garioch Area Manager), J Joss, (Senior Solicitor), Lee Watson (Principal Engineer), Alistair Scotland (Civil Engineer (Consultant), R Goldring (Learning Estates Team Leader), J Cranna (Team Leader, Finance), M Hall (Strategy Manager, Transportation) M Fraser (Head Teacher, Premnay Primary School) and Alison Cumming (Area Committee Officer).

As the Chair and Vice Chair were unable to attend the meeting, the Area Manager sought nominations for a Councillor to chair the meeting.

Councillor McKail, seconded by Councillor Walker, moved that Councillor Ewenson be the Chair for the meeting.

As an amendment, Councillor Reid, seconded by Councillor Baillie moved that Councillor Ford be the Chair for the meeting.

The Committee voted:-

For the motion (5) Councillors Berry, Ewenson, McKail, Walker and Whyte

For the amendment (3) Councillors Baillie, Ford and Reid

Councillor Harper was absent from the division.

Therefore, the motion was carried and the Committee **agreed** to appoint Councillor Ewenson to take the Chair for the meeting.

The Chair confirmed that item 13 had been withdrawn by Officers prior to the start of the meeting.

1. DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

No interests were declared.

2. RESOLUTIONS

2A. EQUALITIES

In making decisions on the following items of business, the Committee **agreed**, in terms of Section 149 of the Equality Act, 2010:-

1. to have due regard to the need to:-

- (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation;
 - (b) advance equality of opportunity between those who share a protected characteristic and persons who do not share it; and
 - (c) foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
2. where an Equality Impact Assessment was provided, to consider its contents and take those into account when reaching its decision.

2B. EXEMPT ITEMS

The Committee **agreed** that, under Sections 50A (4) and (5) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, as amended, the public and media representatives be excluded from the meeting for certain items of business on account of the likely disclosure of exempt information of the classes described in the relevant Paragraphs of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

Item No.	Paragraph No.
12	4 and 6

3. MINUTE OF MEETING OF 8 OCTOBER 2019

In accordance with Standing Order 7.1.1, the Committee **agreed** that the Minute was a correct record of proceedings. The Minute was duly signed by the Councillor presiding over the meeting.

4. PEDESTRIAN CROSSING, BURN LANE, INVERURIE

A report by the Director of Infrastructure Services was circulated providing the Committee with options for the provision of a pedestrian crossing on Burn Lane, Inverurie

The Strategy Manager detailed the two options that had been identified for a pedestrian crossing on Burn Lane. He confirmed that option 1 was closest to the current desire line for pedestrians, but that it would result in the loss of the on-street parking in front of the shops. He said that option 2 was closer to the junction, would be a desire line from the railway station and would allow the parking in front of the shops to remain.

Councillors asked whether all of the parking would remain for Option 2 taking into account the zig zag lines leading up to the crossing. The Strategy Manager confirmed that there would be some loss of parking, but some spaces would remain. Members sought clarification about the assessment methods used and how desire lines were established. It was pointed out that the current desire lines may change with the railway improvements and the provision of the transport interchange, but it was also accepted that there was a relatively short distance between the two options proposed. Some Members expressed concerns about visibility for option 2 and suggested that the removal of parking may be positive, although others suggested that the removal of parking may increase traffic speeds in the area. The Strategy Manager explained that build outs would be used to control this.

The Committee **agreed** that option 1 be progressed in relation to the provision of a pedestrian crossing on Burn Lane, Inverurie

5. INSCH FLOOD PROTECTION STUDY – PREFERRED OPTION

A report by the Director of Infrastructure Services was circulated detailing the outcome of the Flood Study for Inch and identifying a preferred option to be put forward for national prioritisation in early 2020.

The Principal Engineer gave a presentation providing background information, highlighting the areas of concern and the proposed actions to address these issues through the preferred option. He confirmed that there was a strict timetable for the submission of flood schemes to the Scottish Government, but that there was no commitment to the funding of these schemes at this stage. He confirmed that assumptions had been made that the 80%/20% funding would remain for successful schemes.

Members recognised the amount of work done within the study and were supportive of the preferred option. They confirmed that the key areas of local concern had been addressed within the proposals. They highlighted the potential for a new build at the Hospital which was proposed for the garden ground at the hospital and asked how this might be affected. The Principal Engineer explained that as it was not on the ground that it would not have been taken into account in the current study. He pointed out that development should not go ahead if it was likely to flood, but also explained that if the scheme was successful in getting funding and the hospital plans were progressed further by that stage, it would be taken into account in the detailed design

The Committee **agreed** to recommend to Infrastructure Services Committee that option 5b be progressed as the preferred option for the Inch Flood Protection Study.

6. INVERURIE AND PORT ELPHINSTONE FLOOD PROTECTION STUDY – PREFERRED OPTION

A report by the Director of Infrastructure Services was circulated detailing outcome of the Flood Study for Inverurie and Port Elphinstone and identifying a preferred option to be put forward for national prioritisation in early 2020.

The Principal Engineer gave a presentation providing background information, highlighting the areas of concern and the proposed actions to address these issues through the preferred option. He confirmed that there was a strict timetable for the submission of flood schemes to the Scottish Government, but that there was no commitment to the funding of these schemes at this stage. He confirmed that assumptions had been made that the 80%/20% funding would remain for successful schemes.

Members sought clarification about the protection of residents on Oldmeldrum Road and the potential for the road to be raised. The Principal Engineer explained that the proposed flood protection embankments were in place to provide a much greater amount of storage on the floodplain which would remove the need for the road to be raised. Members asked if it was only grassed flood protection embankments that were being proposed. The Principal Engineer explained that grass flood protection embankments were the main provision, but that concrete walls were proposed where there was not enough space for flood protection embankments to be used (Canal View, Port Elphinstone). Members sought clarification that the proposals would not result in flooding being exacerbated in Kintore. The Officer confirmed that the proposal to increase storage would reduce the flow of water and would not cause issues further downstream. He confirmed that the impact of the proposals had been assessed all the way to Dyce. Members asked if the entrance to Riverside Park had been considered in the proposals. The Principal Engineer explained that, given that it would be around 10 years before works would be taking place, it would not stop works on the Park. He confirmed that the detailed design would be developed to take account of the situation at the time.

Members pointed out the historic importance of the canal and asked whether better maintenance of the canal would have a beneficial impact on flooding. The Principal Engineer said that keeping the channel clear would be beneficial for small flood events, but said that it would have little impact on significant flood events. Members requested that, given the historical nature of the canal, that every effort be made to protect it.

Thereafter, Committee **agreed** to:-

1. recommend to Infrastructure Services Committee that option 5b be progressed as the preferred option for the Inverurie and Port Elphinstone Flood Protection Study; and
2. comment to Infrastructure Services Committee that given the historical nature of the canal, that every effort be made to protect it.

7. LOCAL REVIEW BODY DECISION NOTICE - LOCH MEAUP, MOSS OF ROTHMAISE, MEIKLE WARTLE

A notice from the Local Review Body was circulated detailing the outcome of an appeal against refusal for the erection of a dwellinghouse at Loch Meaup, Moss of Rothmaise, Meikle Wartle, Inverurie.

Committee **agreed** to note the decision of the Local Review Body to partially agree with the determination of Officers and refuse Full Planning Permission for the erection of a dwellinghouse at Loch Meaup, Moss of Rothmaise, Meikle Wartle, Inverurie.

8. CONSULTATION REPORT ON THE REVIEW OF INVERURIE PRIMARY SCHOOL CATCHMENT AREAS

A report by the Director of Education and Children's Services was circulated presenting the formal consultation report for the review of Inverurie Primary School catchment areas following the statutory consultation period.

The Learning Estates Team Leader explained that the report was a follow up to the consultation on the rezoning of Inverurie Primary School catchments. She pointed out that the majority favoured option 2.

Members asked whether the consultation had been robust and whether the inclusion of suggested extensions had shifted the focus. The Officer accepted that the mention of extensions had caused some issues, but stressed that the process was seeking to make best use of the current provision without the need for extension given that no budget had been identified for any extensions. However, she was clear that the consultation was robust and every effort had been made to consult with not only current parents, but to reach out to nursery children families and midwives.

It was suggested that the provision of visuals and numbers concerned would have made it easier to understand the proposals. Members pointed out the small area of the town centre that remained zoned for Uryside and questioned whether these dwellings could also be zoned for Strathburn or Kellands leaving Uryside School for Uryside residents. There was a suggestion that the railway line could be used as the boundary for zoning to Uryside.

Members acknowledged that build out rates had slowed and highlighted concerns around the appropriateness of teaching spaces being used in Kellands. They pointed out the lack of a safe route to Kellands from the Westgate development and suggested that further discussion required to take place regarding these issues.

The Committee **agreed** to:-

1. defer consideration of the report to allow Ward Members to further discuss the proposals at a Ward Meeting; and
2. that the report should come to the 3 December meeting for further consideration.

9. EDUCATION SCOTLAND INSPECTION - PREMNAV PRIMARY SCHOOL

A report by the Director of Education and Children's Services was circulated presenting to the Committee with the outcome of an inspection by HMIE Scotland on Premnav Primary School

The Head Teacher gave details of the inspection and the outcomes and indicated that the inspection had been a positive process for the School. She confirmed that areas for improvement and development were contained within a school improvement plan. She acknowledged the work of staff and pupils that went into the inspection and confirmed that as the inspectors were confident in the School's capacity to improve, they did not require a further visit.

Members acknowledged the positive inspection outcomes and the work done by staff and pupils.

The Committee **agreed** to:-

1. note the contents of the report and congratulate staff and pupils on the positive outcomes;
2. endorse the Service's efforts in support of its schools in the Education Scotland Inspection and in the raising of standards of attainment and achievement in all aspects of school life; and
3. further reports on Education Scotland school inspections being presented.

10. STATEMENT OF OUTSTANDING BUSINESS

A report by the Director of Education and Children's Services was circulated presenting the outstanding business for Garioch Area Committee as at November 2019.

The Committee **agreed** to:-

1. note the content of the report; and
2. remove items 1 and 5 as completed actions.

11. CONSULTATION ON DRAFT COUNTER FRAUD STRATEGY

A report by the Director of Business Services was circulated presenting the draft Counter Fraud Strategy and seeking comments on its contents.

The Finance Team Leader explained that the previous policy was put in place in 1998 and pointed out that the nature and extend of fraud had changed since then. She said that the strategy was still not an exhaustive list, but that it covered most of the types of fraud known, although she stressed that these were constantly evolving. She confirmed that the proposed strategy was underpinned by the CIPFA code of practice.

Members welcomed the strategy and were surprised by the range of potential frauds, they sought clarification about which if these had been experienced in Aberdeenshire and to what degree. The Officer confirmed that their inclusion in the strategy did not mean that they had happened in Aberdeenshire. She said that she would circulate statistical information about fraud in Aberdeenshire if this information was available.

The Committee **agreed** to note and welcome the Draft Counter Fraud Strategy

12. ACT2 ABERDEENSHIRE CHARITIES TRUST APPLICATION

A report by the Director of Education and Children's Services was circulated asking Committee to consider an application for ACT2 funding from an Inverurie resident.

The Committee **agreed** to grant up to £500 to the party concerned towards a shed to house their mobility scooter.

13. WESTHILL PUBLIC CONVENIENCE

This report had been withdrawn prior to the start of the meeting

Councillor Presiding over meeting

Print Name

Signature

Date