

ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL

GARIOCH AREA COMMITTEE

GORDON HOUSE, INVERURIE ON 31 MAY 2016

Present: Councillors F Hood (Chair), R Cowling, N Cullinane, M Ford, A Grant (for items 1-5), S Lonchay (for items 1-13), R McKail (for items 1-12), P Oddie, H Vernal (for items 1-9) and I Walker.

Apologies: Councillors D Aitchison, A Allan, M Kitts-Hayes, and B Stuart.

Officers: MJ Cardno (Banff and Buchan Area Manager), S Munro, (Solicitor), P Finch (Principal Engineer), G Steel (Principal Engineer), S Adams (Area Project Officer), M Benson (Programme Leader), S Rochester (Service Manager), L Buchan (Strategic Development Officer), B Duthie (Principal Building Surveyor) and A Cumming (Garioch Area Committee Officer).

In Attendance: S Lynch (Network Rail), Chief Inspector M Main and Inspector J Millar (Police Scotland).

The Chair confirmed that he had accepted an item of urgent business (Item 16 - Martin Road and George Street, Inch Traffic Management Order 2016) on to the agenda and that it would be considered after item 7 on the agenda.

1. DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

In accordance with the Councillors' Code of Conduct the following interest was declared:-

- Item 6 – Councillor Ford as a member of NESTRANS board;
- Item 10 – Councillor Vernal as he has been heavily involved in the town twinning process; and
- Item 14 – Councillor Walker as she has a family connection to one of the companies involved in the tender

Councillors Vernal and Walker indicated that they would leave the Council Chamber whilst the relevant items were considered, Councillor Ford continued to take a full part in considering the item.

2. RESOLUTION

A. 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.

B. 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.
14	9
15	8

3. MINUTE OF MEETING OF 10 MAY 2016

The Minute of Meeting of 10 May 2016 was approved as a correct record of proceedings.

4. INTIMATION OF PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no public questions intimated.

5. POLICE SCOTLAND - PERFORMANCE MONITORING AND OPERATIONAL UPDATE

A report by the Director of Business Services was circulated detailing the performance statistics from Police Scotland for the period to the end of December 2015.

The Committee noted that ward information had been provided following the agenda papers being printed.

Police Officers gave the Committee an overview of the activity in Garioch and discussed the statistics in relation to the same reporting period in the previous year. They also gave updates on ongoing initiatives and operations being carried out throughout Garioch.

Members sought clarification on a number of issues including stop and search detection rates for acquisitive crime, communication and provision of information with Community Councils, speed awareness courses, call handling, turnover of officers in communities, feedback from deployment of speed sign and general traffic issues.

The Police Officers responded to a number of the queries and undertook to report back on the potential introduction of speed awareness courses, to work to improve communication with Community Councils and to include feedback from the speed sign within reports to Community Councils

The Committee **agreed** to:-

1. note the attached performance monitoring information relating to the Garioch component of the Aberdeenshire and Moray Division of Police Scotland and the ward information circulated separately; and
2. request the Divisional Commander to continue to report to Committee quarterly on performance measures against service objectives;

3. request that:-

- Officers provide further information regarding the provision of speed awareness training;
- Officers pass on to the Roads Service issues at Marketplace Primary and Rutherford Folds to investigate whether any road markings could be put in place to address parking issues;
- Officers look at ways to improve communication with Community Councils.

6. KINTORE RAIL STATION - SCOTTISH STATIONS FUND BID

As previously indicated, Councillor Ford declared an interest, but continued to take a full part in considering the item.

A report by the Director of Infrastructure Services was circulated detailing the progress made regarding the implementation of a new rail station at Kintore.

The Committee heard a presentation from Network Rail regarding the process for doubling the train line between Aberdeen and Inverness. Members welcomed the progress on this and accepted that the disruption that would be required to undertake the project would be worth it with the improved capacity and services.

The Principal Engineer gave an overview of the work done to date and explained the bid for funding and the overall costs of the project. Members welcomed the progress being made with the Kintore Station, but highlighted the pressure on parking at Inverurie and urged officers to ensure that parking provision had the potential for future expansion.

The Committee **agreed** to:

1. welcome the contents of this report, and the progress made in finalising the business case for a new Kintore Rail Station;
2. welcome the intended submission of a Scottish Stations Fund bid to Network Rail, in partnership with Nestrans;
3. support ongoing liaison between officers of Aberdeenshire Council and Nestrans with Network Rail, ScotRail and Transport Scotland with respect to the finalisation of the business case, and other detailed aspects related to the implementation of the Station; and
4. requested that Officers future proof parking provision at Kintore station as far as possible.

7. STREET NAMING – KINGSEAT DEVELOPMENT

A report by the Director of Infrastructure Services was circulated requesting approval of the name 'Henry Catto Place' for a new street within the Kingseat Development.

Members indicated that through the work to seek approval for the use of the name for the street, it had been discovered that Mr Catto was still alive. Members expressed a wish that he be invited to the unveiling if he was well enough to attend.

The Committee **agreed** to:-

1. name the street 'Henry Catto Place'; and
2. request that Mr Catto be invited to the unveiling of the road sign if he is well enough to attend.

8. DESIGN AND BUILD OF PATH AT URY RIVERSIDE PARK – DELEGATION OF TENDER AWARD

A report by the Director of Infrastructure Services was circulated seeking delegated powers to progress the project through acceptance of an appropriate tender within specific terms.

Members sought clarification about the surface, lighting and ongoing maintenance. The Area Project Officer confirmed that the proposed surface was identified to cope with the flooding on site, that low level solar lighting was proposed and that a Management Group would be undertaking maintenance of the paths.

The Committee **agreed** to delegate authority to the Head of Commercial and Procurement following consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair of Garioch Area Committee and Head of Finance to accept a tender recommended by Officers (on quality / price basis), provided tender prices are a up to a maximum of £440k. Details of the agreed tender will be provided on Ward Pages in August 2016.

9. LOCAL REVIEW BODY DECISION NOTICE - LAND AT NORTH LODGE, FINTRAY

A decision notice from the Local Review Body was circulated detailing the decision relating to an appeal against refusal for Full Planning Permission for erection of dwellinghouse and detached double garage at land at North Lodge, Fintray.

The Committee **agreed** to note the decision of the Local Review Body to **agree** with the determination before it and refuse Full Planning Permission for the application at land at North Lodge, Fintray.

10. AREA COMMITTEE BUDGET 2016/17

As previously indicated Councillor Vernal declared an interest and left the Council Chamber whilst the applications were determined.

A report by the Director of Education and Children's Services was circulated asking the Committee to consider two applications to the Area Committee Budget.

Some Members expressed concerns about the use of the Area Committee Budget for this type of project and the potential for this to create a precedent. Whilst they accepted the potential benefits for the town they were keen to learn what these would be and requested that a report be brought back following the trip. They also considered that it was important that the groups raised some of the funds themselves and suggested restricting the amount allocated for the trip itself.

However, other Councillors were fully supportive of the project, the positive benefits that it would bring to Inverurie and the full amount requested being granted.

Councillor McKail, seconded by Councillor Cowling moved that the full amount of £2,250 requested for the Inverurie Town Twinning Project should be granted.

As an amendment, Councillor Hood, seconded by Councillor Lonchay, moved that up to £1,000 be granted towards the costs of the Town Twinning trip and £650 be granted towards the provision of signage.

The Committee voted:-

- For the motion (2) Councillors Cowling and McKail
- For the amendment (6) Councillors Hood, Cullinane, Ford, Lonchay and Oddie

Councillors Grant and Vernal were absent from the division.

Therefore the amendment was carried and the Committee **agreed** to:-

1. grant up to £1,000 towards the expenses for the twinning group visit to Bagneres de Bigorre and £650 towards the provision of signage, subject to the group reporting back to Committee on the benefits to Inverurie of the visit and the twinning project; and
2. grant £10,000 to Inverurie Business Association towards the Business Improvement District application.

11. CAPITAL PLAN PROGRAMMES 2016-2017

A report by the Director of Business Services was circulated providing details of the Capital Plan Programme works being undertaken during 2016/2017 and seeking comments on the recommendation to Policy and Resources Committee.

Members welcomed progress being made with the waste site in Inch, but highlighted concerns about the lack of provision of public toilets in some villages where it would be difficult to find potential comfort partnerships. Members expressed concerns about the financial information provided regarding photovoltaic panels and questioned why these were not self-financing. The Programme Leader confirmed that he would seek further information regarding this.

The Committee **agreed** to:-

1. request that information be provided to explain the income/costs from the provision of photo-voltaic panels and why this is not self- funding;
2. suggest that comfort partnerships should be the main way of providing public toilets, but consideration needs to be given to villages where this is not possible;
3. request that the redundant public toilet in Kintore be removed.

12. CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY

A report by the Director of Business Services was circulated seeking comments from the Committee on the proposed Corporate Communications Strategy.

Members discussed the potential webcasting of meetings, they sought clarification that communication and engagement with communities would improve and sought training for Councillors on social media.

Committee **agreed** to:-

1. note the proposed corporate communications strategy; and
2. request that workshops on digital communications and social media be provided to Councillors.

13. ASSISTED TRANSPORT POLICY AND RESIDENTIAL RESPITE SERVICES IN ABERDEENSHIRE AND THE CASE FOR REVIEW AND REDESIGN

A report by the Chief Officer of Health and Social Care was circulated seeking comments on the development of policies on assisted transport and residential respite services.

Members were initially unsure of what stage of policy development was being reported and how they could meaningfully give comments without knowing what the potential impact would be on service users. However, after further discussion, and accepting that the report was seeking a view as to whether policies should be developed for these areas of work, they were content that the development of policy would be useful. However, they stressed the difficulty and pain that would be felt in implementing policies for this service provision. They stressed the need for extensive consultation and a long flexible period for implementation to minimize the impact and to allow people to adjust. They felt that the provision of scenarios would aid understanding of the impact and requested that a report giving the detailed policy and scenarios be brought back to Committee for comment prior to going back to the Integrated Joint Board for approval.

The Committee **agreed** to:-

1. to request that further reports including scenarios should be brought to Committee once the detailed draft policies had been devised before going back to Integrated Joint Board; and
2. to forward the comments detailed in the table below to the Integrated Joint Board:-
 - a) The paper brought before the Committee was not clear and it was difficult to understand exactly what was being proposed and what was expected of the Committee;
 - b) Agree with the principle of the proposed policies, but:-
 - wide consultation with service users is required;
 - an extended transition period will be required as people have built their lives around current provision; and
 - departures from policy will be required for a period of time.
 - c) The proposed policies are going to cause pain to individuals and whilst the adoption of a policy is sensible the impact on individuals needs to be taken into account.
 - d) Rural transport is difficult and expensive. Leaving individuals to organise their own transport loses any economies of scale. PTU should be involved to ensure a degree of control. Dispersed transport to dispersed locations will require control.

14. KEMNAY PRIMARY SCHOOL – NURSERY EXTENSION – CONTRACT 18076

As previously indicated, Councillor Walker declared an interest and took no part in determining the item.

A report by the Director of Business Services was circulated to Members to approve the Kemnay Primary School, Nursery extension.

The Local Members welcomed the extension to the Nursery.

The Committee **agreed** to:

1. give approval of the project costs, inclusive of Property costs, as detailed within the report; and
2. authorise acceptance of the tender submitted by R Davidson Joiners & Builders in the confirmed tender amount as detailed within the report.

15. KEMNAY ACADEMY PROPOSED ALL WEATHER PITCH – CONTRACT 18052

A report by the Director of Business Services was circulated to Members to approve the Kemnay Academy proposed All Weather Pitch.

The Committee **agreed** to:

1. the recommendations which will be made to Policy and Resources Committee on 9 June 2016; and
2. give approval of the cost estimate as detailed in section 3.3 of this report for the Kemnay Academy Proposed All Weather Pitch as detailed in this report and to proceed to tender (Gateway Stage 3).

16. MARTIN ROAD & GEORGE STREET, INSCH TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT ORDER 2016

As previously indicated, the following item was accepted on to the agenda by the Chair as an item of urgent business and was considered following item 7 on the agenda.

A report by the Director of Infrastructure Services was circulated seeking authorisation to commence the statutory procedures for a traffic management order in Insch.

The Committee **agreed** to –

1. authorise the commencement of the statutory procedure for the making of the The Aberdeenshire Council Martin Road and George Street, Insch Traffic Management Order 2016; and
2. authorise the subsequent making of the The Aberdeenshire Council Martin Road and George Street, Insch Traffic Management Order 2016 in the event that no valid objections are received or any received are resolved and withdrawn; or

3. instruct the submission of a further report to Committee in the event that any valid objections received are not resolved and not withdrawn, or the proposals are amended following consideration of valid objections.