

ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL**INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES COMMITTEE****WOODHILL HOUSE, ABERDEEN, 1 DECEMBER, 2016**

Present: Councillors D Aitchison (Chair), G J Clark (Vice-Chair), P J Argyle, C C Buchan (substitute for S Lonchay), J B Cox, M Findlater, J N Gifford (substitute for W A Agnew), R McKail (substitute for A Gardiner), R J Merson, I J Mollison, C H Nelson, M Roy and H Vernal.

Apologies: Councillors W A Agnew, A Gardiner, S Lonchay and H Partridge.

Officers: Director of Infrastructure Services, Head of Service (Planning and Building Standards), Head of Service (Transportation), Head of Service (Economic Development and Protective Services), Planning Manager, Roads Policy and Asset Manager, Chief Internal Auditor, Chief Accountant, Senior Solicitor (M Ingram) and Committee Officer (K Macleod).

1. DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

The Chair asked Members if they had any interests to declare in terms of the Councillors' Code of Conduct.

Councillor Mollison declared an interest in Item 12 as a board member of Elevator and left the meeting during consideration of that item.

Councillor Aitchison declared an interest in Item 12 as a board member of Elevator and left the meeting during consideration of that item.

2. RESOLUTIONS**A. PUBLIC SECTOR EQUALITY DUTY**

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 a decision.

B. EXEMPT INFORMATION

The Committee **agreed**, in terms of Section 50A (4) and (5) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, to exclude the public from the meeting during consideration of the item specified below so as to avoid disclosure of exempt information of the class described in the undernoted paragraph of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

Item No
15

Paragraph No of Schedule 7A
14

PLANNING AND BUILDING STANDARDS

3. FULL PLANNING PERMISSION FOR CONVERSION AND CHANGE OF USE OF HOTEL AND RESTAURANT TO CREATE 7 NO. FLATS AT CAMMIES, CAMMACHMORE, NEWTONHILL, ABERDEENSHIRE, AB38 3NR REFERENCE: APP/2015/2389

With reference to the Minute of Meeting of the Committee of 26 November, 2015 (Item 3, Page 934), when the Committee had agreed to a delegated grant of full planning permission for the conversion and change of use of a hotel and restaurant to create seven flats at Cammies, Cammachmore, Newtonhill, there had been circulated a report dated 27 October, 2016, by the Director of Infrastructure Services, which advised of a new material consideration in relation to the Strategic Transport Fund contribution and requested that Members consider whether they still wished to support the application in light of the new material consideration.

The Planning Manager introduced the report and explained that the application had previously been approved as a departure from the Local Development Plan 2012 on the grounds that the proposal would improve the appearance of the existing building. The application, when previously reported, had been subject to strategic transport contributions but, following a challenge to the Strategic Transport Fund Guidance which inhibited the Council's ability to seek contributions to the fund, a further assessment of transport impacts had been undertaken and it had been confirmed that no contribution was required.

The Committee **agreed**:-

- (1) to note the new material consideration in relation to the Strategic Transport Fund (STF) contribution;
- (2) that it still wished to delegate authority to grant full planning permission to the Head of Planning and Building Standards subject to:-
 - (a) the payment of developer obligations or completion of a suitable Section 75 Legal Agreement; and
 - (b) the following conditions:
 01. That no other development in connection with the permission hereby approved shall take place and the access hereby approved shall not be brought into use unless visibility of 90 metres in both directions along the public road has been provided from a point 2.4 metres measured at right angles from the existing carriageway surface along the centre line of the approved new access. Once formed, the visibility splays shall be permanently retained thereafter and no visual obstruction of any kind shall be permitted within the visibility splays so formed.

Reason: To enable drivers of vehicles using the access to have a clear view of other road users and pedestrians in the interests of road safety.
 02. The following shall be provided prior to any of the dwelling houses/flats being occupied:

- (a) 18 Parking spaces, surfaced in hardstanding and shall be provided within the site in accordance with the Council's Car Parking Standards
- (b) A refuse bin uplift area to be constructed (behind any visibility splay) so as to be accessible for bin uplift and be secure enough to prevent empty bins from being windblown. Details shall be submitted for the consideration and approval of the Planning Authority in consultation with the Roads Authority. The uplift area shall not be constructed until the details and location have been fully agreed in writing.

Reason: In the interest of road and public safety.

03. That the development hereby approved shall not be externally lit unless details of a scheme has been submitted for the further consideration and approval of the Planning Authority.

Reason: In the interests of visual amenity and character of the surrounding area and greenbelt

04. That no works in connection with the development hereby approved shall take place unless a scheme of hard and soft landscaping works has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Planning Authority. Details of the scheme shall include:

- i. Existing landscape features and vegetation to be retained.
- ii. The location of new trees/shrubs/hedges/grassed areas/water features.
- iii. A schedule of planting to comprise species, plant sizes and proposed numbers and density.
- iv. The location, design and materials of all hard landscaping works including walls, fences, gates etc.
- v. An indication of existing trees, shrubs and hedges to be removed.
- vi. A programme for the completion and subsequent maintenance of the proposed landscaping.

All soft and hard landscaping proposals shall be carried out in accordance with the approved scheme and shall be completed during the planting season immediately following the commencement of the development or such other date as may be agreed in writing with the Planning Authority. Any planting which, within a period of 5 years from the completion of the development, in the opinion of the Planning Authority is dying, being severely damaged or becoming seriously diseased, shall be replaced by plants of similar size and species to those originally required to be planted.

In addition, prior to the commencement of the implementation of the approved scheme, detailed proposals for a programme for the long term management and maintenance of all the approved landscaped and

open space areas within the development shall be submitted for the further written approval of the Planning Authority. Thereafter, all management and maintenance of the landscaped and open space areas shall be implemented, in perpetuity, in accordance with the approved programme.

Reason: To ensure the implementation of a satisfactory scheme of landscaping which will help to integrate the proposed development into the local landscape in the interests of the visual amenity of the area and to ensure that the landscaping is managed and maintained in perpetuity.

05. Prior to the commencement of development, a sample and/or details/specification and colour of the following elements of the proposed external finish of the development shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Planning Authority:

- Wall finish
- Roof finish
- Design and finish of the windows/doors/garage doors/rooflights
- Stain or colour of the timber cladding/windows/doors
- Rainwater goods

Reason: In the interests of the appearance of the development and the visual amenities of the area.

- (3) that the reason for departing from the Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan 2012 remain as follows:

Although the application does not involve the sensitive restoration, conversion or extension of a vernacular building or other building of architectural merit, the design would, on the whole, improve the external appearance of the existing building to an extent that it is considered a step forward in terms of the building's contribution to the character of the Greenbelt.

4. SCOTTISH WILDCAT ACTION CONFERENCE 2017 – COUNCILLOR ATTENDANCE

There had been circulated a report by the Director of Infrastructure Services which requested consideration of Councillor Farquhar's attendance, in her capacity as Aberdeenshire Council's Biodiversity Champion for the Scottish Wildcat, at a communications workshop on the Scottish Wildcat which was to be held in Edinburgh on 18 January, 2017.

The Committee **agreed** to approve the attendance of Councillor Farquhar at a Scottish Wildcat Action Communications Workshop on 18 January, 2017 in her role as Aberdeenshire Council Biodiversity Champion for this species.

5. CONSULTATION REQUEST FOR PLANNING PERMISSION IN PRINCIPLE FOR MAJOR DEVELOPMENT MIXED USE COMMERCIAL (UP TO 30,000M²) INCLUDING RETAIL (CLASS 1), FOOD DRINK (CLASS 3), OTHER ANCILLARY USE (SUCH AS OFFICES) AND ASSOCIATED LANDSCAPING, INFRASTRUCTURE AND ACCESS WORKS AT PRIME FOUR BUSINESS PARK, KINGSWELLS FROM ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

There had been circulated a report dated 7 November, 2016, by the Director of Infrastructure Services, which (1) provided information on an application for planning permission in principle submitted to Aberdeen City Council by Halliday Fraser Munro on behalf of Prime Four Limited for a retail development on land forming part of the Prime Four Business Park, Kingswells;

(2) advised that Aberdeenshire Council, as a neighbouring authority, had been consulted on the proposed development as it had potential impacts on the Aberdeenshire area, principally in terms of retail impact and transportation; and (3) recommended that an objection to the proposals be lodged until such a time as it had been demonstrated that the development would not adversely impact on the viability and vitality of existing towns in Aberdeenshire.

The Head of Service (Planning and Building Standards) recommended that an objection be lodged and advised that this could be withdrawn at any time. Reference was made to the potential impacts of the development on settlements including Westhill, Banchory and Inverurie and potential cumulative impacts in respect of roads and transportation. It was highlighted that in Aberdeenshire a full retail impact assessment would usually be sought for retail developments which were less than a tenth of the size of the proposed development.

After due consideration, the Committee **agreed** the following response to the consultation request from Aberdeen City Council:

That Aberdeenshire Council object to the proposed development on the basis that it had not been demonstrated that the proposed development would not adversely impact upon the vitality and viability of existing town centres within Aberdeenshire.

Request that Aberdeenshire Council be consulted on any additional information submitted in relation to the retail impact of the proposed development or any additional information or addendums to the Transport Assessment in order that the Council could fully consider any changes to the proposal and assess impacts upon Aberdeenshire.

GENERAL

6. INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES QUARTER 2 (JULY – SEPTEMBER 2016) PERFORMANCE EXCEPTION REPORT (ABERDEENSHIRE PERFORMS)

There had been circulated a report, dated 8 November, 2016, by the Director of Infrastructure Services, which provided the Committee with information on the performance of Infrastructure Services over the period from July to September, 2016 (Quarter 2), as assessed using the performance indicators set out in the Infrastructure Services Service Plan 2016-2019.

The Director of Infrastructure Services advised the Committee of an upcoming engagement exercise with elected members on future performance reporting and highlighted three measures which had shown good performance and four measures where performance had been below expectations.

During discussion, Members welcomed the number of processing agreements entered into and sought further information on progress in dealing with legacy cases involving section 75 agreements. Members also suggested that consideration be given to raising the target for the number of individuals transferred to training or employment due to the number of job losses in the region, and that, as part of the review of performance indicators, consideration be given to where the median may be a more appropriate measure than the average.

The Committee **agreed:-**

- (1) to acknowledge the good performance achieved from July to September, 2016, as identified in Appendix 1 to the report;
- (2) to note those measures where performance was below expectations from July to September, 2016, as identified in Appendix 2 to the report;

- (3) to note the publication of the complete July – September, 2016 Performance Report on Ward Pages and on the Council's website;
- (4) to request that a report or information bulletin on applications involving section 75 agreements be brought to the Committee; and
- (5) to advise the Director to continue to report, by exception, to Committee quarterly on performance measures against service objectives and six monthly on progress in delivering all aspects of the service plan.

TRANSPORTATION

7. ROAD ASSET MANAGEMENT – UPDATE 2016

With reference to the Minutes of Meetings of the Committee of 4 October, 2012 (Item 10, Page 1048) and 25 June, 2015 (Item 8, Page 279), there had been circulated a report dated 15 November, 2016, by the Director of Infrastructure Services, which provided an update in relation to the Council's Road Asset Management Plan. The report explained that the Plan was based on a framework developed by all Scottish Councils through the Society of Chief Officers of Transportation in Scotland (SCOTS) and provided the Committee with information on proposals by SCOTS to continue to develop and extend the Asset Management Framework across all 32 authorities. The report also highlighted issues raised by Audit Scotland in their report, 'Maintaining Scotland's roads – a follow up report', published in August 2016, and provided a summary report on the road asset valuation for 2016.

The Committee heard from the Roads Asset Manager on the extent of the Council's road infrastructure assets; changes to the way that the value of roads was calculated; and the condition of the Council's road network.

Following discussion, the Committee **agreed**:-

- (1) to approve the participation of Aberdeenshire Council in the next phase of the SCOTS Asset Management Framework project and authorise the Head of Legal and Governance to sign the new legal agreement enabling this on behalf of the Council, subject to a check on the acceptability of the terms and conditions;
- (2) to note the issues raised by Audit Scotland in their August 2016 report; and
- (3) to support the continuing work of officers in using a Road Asset Management Plan model to develop options for prioritising expenditure on road maintenance.

ROADS, LANDSCAPE SERVICES AND WASTE

8. UPDATE AND FUTURE INVOLVEMENT IN KIMO

There had been circulated a report dated 18 November, 2016, by the Director of Infrastructure Services, which explained that Aberdeenshire Council was a member of KIMO (The Local Authorities International Environmental Organisation); provided the Committee with the KIMO International Annual Report 2016, together with information on the activities of KIMO UK including the Fishing for Litter Scotland project; and sought consideration of whether the Council should remain a member of KIMO and continue to support Fishing for Litter Scotland waste collection from Peterhead and Fraserburgh harbours.

During discussion, Members indicated their support for continued membership of KIMO and for the Fishing for Litter Project and commented in relation to discarded nets and seeking contributions from the industry for net recycling.

After due consideration, the Committee **agreed**:-

- (1) to note the activities described in the KIMO International Annual Report 2016;
- (2) to note the activities of KIMO UK described in the report;
- (3) that Aberdeenshire Council should remain a member of KIMO; and
- (4) that Aberdeenshire Council should continue to support Fishing for Litter Scotland waste collection from Peterhead and Fraserburgh harbours should the project be successful in seeking additional funding.

8A. ATTENDANCE AT THE OCEAN AWARDS CEREMONY AND DINNER, RESTAURANT OURS, LONDON 11 JANUARY, 2017

There had been circulated a report dated 24 November, 2016, by the Director of Infrastructure Services, which advised that KIMO UK's Fishing for Litter Scotland project has been selected as a finalist for 'The Ocean Awards' 2017 in the 'Seafarer' category, and sought consideration of Councillor Christie's attendance, in his capacity as Chair of KIMO UK, at the awards ceremony to be held in Restaurant Ours, London on 11 January, 2017, at which the winner would be announced.

The Committee **agreed** that Councillor Christie attend The Ocean Awards 2017 award ceremony and dinner on 11 January, 2017, in his capacity as Chair of KIMO UK.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PROTECTIVE SERVICES

9. TOWN CENTRE FIRST PRINCIPLE

There had been circulated a report dated 4 November, 2016, by the Director of Infrastructure Services, which (1) provided background information on the development of the Town Centre First Principle which had been launched by the Scottish Government and COSLA in January, 2015; (2) detailed proposals to adopt the Town Centre First Principle, as provided in an appendix to the report, as an Aberdeenshire Council policy; and (3) advised that if the policy was approved, a town centre framework would be developed, including a town centre impact assessment, and officers would be nominated from each service to become town centre ambassadors.

The Head of Service (Economic Development and Protective Services) advised that all area committees had been supportive of the proposals. Each area had nominated two councillors to act as town centre ambassadors but Kincardine and Mearns Area Committee had asked to have three ambassadors.

The Committee welcomed the report and it was accepted that Kincardine and Means Area Committee should have two town centre ambassadors to be consistent with other areas but that Councillor Mollison could be a substitute.

The Committee **agreed** to approve the Town Centre First Principle as a policy for Aberdeenshire Council as set out in Appendix 1 to the report.

10. SCOTTISH SHARED SCIENTIFIC SERVICES

There had been circulated a report dated 24 October, 2016, by the Director of Infrastructure Services, on proposals to develop a Scottish Shared Scientific Service. The report (1) advised that Aberdeenshire Council had a Service Level Agreement with the Aberdeen City Council Public Analyst to analyse environmental samples and provide technical and scientific advice;

(2) provided background information on the development of proposals for a Scottish Shared Scientific Service to deliver public analyst services for the benefit of Scottish local authorities and other public agencies; and (3) advised that Aberdeen City Council was also investigating the possibility of working with partners to assess the potential for creating a regional laboratory.

After due consideration, the Committee **agreed:-**

- (1) to approve the approach of the Council's Environmental Health Service in supporting Aberdeen City Council and other Scottish partners to progress the development of a Scottish Shared Scientific Service, and the potential for developing a regional laboratory; and
- (2) to seek an update report in due course on the progress of the proposals.

11. VISIT ABERDEENSHIRE SIX MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT

With reference to the Minute of Meeting of Aberdeenshire Council of 21 January, 2016 (Item 6, Page 998), when the Council had agreed to transfer its responsibilities for tourism marketing and product development and its tourism budget to the proposed new Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire Destination Management Organisation, there had been circulated a report dated 4 November, 2016, by the Director of Infrastructure Services, which provided the Committee with the first biannual report on progress of and activities undertaken by Visit Aberdeenshire.

The Head of Service (Economic Development and Protective Services) introduced the report and highlighted plans to map tourism remits across the North East to enable better understanding of Visit Aberdeenshire's role.

During a full discussion, Members welcomed the proposal to map tourism remits and requested the opportunity to input local knowledge to this work. Members indicated that they would expect to see outcomes reported on in the next progress report and suggested that further information was needed on the value of attendance at trade shows.

The Committee **agreed:-**

- (1) to note the progress of and activities undertaken by Visit Aberdeenshire; and
- (2) to seek a further report on progress in six months.

12. MEMBERSHIP OF THE NEW BUSINESS GATEWAY GOVERNANCE BOARD

There had been circulated a report dated 24 October, 2016, by the Director of Infrastructure Services, which (1) advised the Committee of the formation of a new National Business Gateway Governance Board, to be comprised of eight elected members and six officers representing the twelve Scottish Enterprise areas and the Islands and Highland council areas; (2) outlined the remit of the board and the key principles that would form the basis for future development of the Business Gateway service; and (3) invited the Committee to nominate an elected member to be put forward as the north east representative on the Board.

Having previously declared interests in the item, Councillors Aitchison and Mollison left the room and the Vice Chair presided during consideration of the item.

The Head of Service advised that the COSLA Leadership would agree from those nominated which eight elected members would be on the board and that officers would subsequently be nominated for the areas not covered by an elected member.

Prior to any discussion, Councillor Gifford declared an interest in the item as a COSLA Group Leader and left the meeting during consideration of the item.

After due consideration, the Committee **agreed**:-

- (1) to note the formation of the new National Business Gateway Governance Board which would operate as part of the COSLA structure; and
- (2) to nominate Councillor Cox to be put forward as the north east representative on the Business Gateway Governance Board.

13. TRADING STANDARDS SERVICE – ANNUAL REVIEW 2015-16

There had been circulated a report dated 21 October, 2016, by the Director of Infrastructure Services, which provided the Committee with the Trading Standards Service Annual Review 2015-16 and information on the activities of the service during the year.

After due consideration, the Committee **agreed**:-

- (1) to acknowledge the performance of the Trading Standards Service in 2015-16 as set out in Appendix 1 to the report;
- (2) to request that the Service provide the information in Appendix 1 to all area committees as a bulletin report for their information; and
- (3) to thank the Trading Standards Service for their vital work.

BUSINESS SERVICES

14. INTERNAL AUDIT REPORTS

There had been circulated a report dated 21 November, 2016, by the Chief Internal Auditor, which advised the Committee of the results of completed internal audits relating to LEADER, rent collection, and the Bus Service Operators Grant, together with information on progress made by Infrastructure Services in implementing agreed recommendations arising from previous internal audit reports.

After due consideration, the Committee **agreed**:-

- (1) to note the issues raised within the report and the attached appendix; and
- (2) to commend the Service for its success in collecting 99.9% of rent due in 2015/16.

15. INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT

There had been circulated a report dated 21 November, 2016, by the Chief Internal Auditor, which advised the Committee of the results of a completed audit.

After due consideration, the Committee **agreed** to note the issues raised within the report and to request that a more detailed report on the issues raised be brought to the next meeting of the Committee on 2 February, 2017.

ITEMS FOR NOTING

The Committee **noted** the Minutes of Meetings of the following Sub-Committees, copies of which form appendices A-G to this Minute:-

- (a) Draft Minute of the North East Scotland Agricultural Advisory Group (NESAAG) Meeting of 1 June, 2016
- (b) Minute of the Waste Management Working Group (WMWG) Meeting of 13 June, 2016
- (c) Draft Minute of the Planning and Building Standards Member/Officer Working Group (PBSMOWG) Meeting of 17 February, 2016
- (d) Draft Minute of the Strategic Development Planning Authority (SDPA) Meeting of 21 September, 2016
- (e) Draft Minute of the Fisheries Working Group (FWG) Meeting of 23 September, 2016
- (f) Draft Minute of the Rural Affairs Working Group (RAWG) Meeting of 28 September, 2016
- (g) Minute of the Waste Management Working Group (WMWG) Meeting of 3 October, 2016

APPENDIX A

ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL

INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES COMMITTEE

NORTH EAST SCOTLAND AGRICULTURE ADVISORY GROUP

COMMITTEE ROOM 5, WOODHILL HOUSE, ABERDEEN

WEDNESDAY 1 JUNE, 2016

Present: **Aberdeenshire Council** – Councillors W Howatson (Chair), A Duncan, K Farquhar, A Norrie, L Pirie, and D Stewart
Aberdeen City Council – Councillors J Corall
Angus Council – Councillors B Myles and L Devine
Aberdeen & Grampian Chamber of Commerce – I Bonavino
Forestry Commission Scotland – J Nott
James Hutton Institute – Prof K Thomson and Prof D Roberts
LANTRA – K Patrick
Opportunity North East – P Cook
Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors – Larry Irwin
SAC Consulting – E Johnston
Scottish Enterprise – J Bell

Officers: D McDonald, Industry Support Executive (Rural & Maritime), J Davidson, Integrated Land Use Project Officer, E Mathie, Industry Support Executive (Food & Drink), S Stuart, Marketing and Events Officer, all Aberdeenshire Council.

Apologies: Councillor J Gaul, Angus Council; G Ford, Scottish Enterprise; J Kinnaird, SGRPID; Lorna Paterson, NFUS; Lee-Ann Sutherland, JHI; Peter Wright, SEPA; Brian Pack; Pat Machray, ANM Group; Alister Laing, SAC Consulting, David Smart, RICS; Roddy Catto, NFUS, Brian Pack

1. WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Chair welcomed everyone present to the meeting. Members were asked if they had interests to declare. No declarations of interest were intimated.

2. MINUTE OF MEETING OF 18 NOVEMBER, 2015

The Minute of Meeting of 18 November 2015, was circulated. Cllr D Stewart noted the minutes recorded his apologies – and also showed he was present. In fact he did not attend. The minutes were otherwise **approved** as a correct record.

3. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

4. UPDATE ON DAIRY PRODUCTION AND PROCESSING IN NORTH EAST SCOTLAND

In the absence of Roddy Catto, NE Scotland Regional Chair, NFUS and Chairman of the Muller Producers Group who was unable to attend, the Chair introduced Peter Cook, the recently-appointed Director of Opportunity North East and invited him to present an update on the current position of the dairy production and processing sector in NE Scotland.

Mr Cook advised there are currently 43 dairy farmers in the NE 'milk field' – in Aberdeenshire and Angus – producing 74 million litres of milk per annum, virtually all of which has been previously processed by the Muller Wiseman factory in Tullos, Aberdeen. The dairy has for some time been running at around 40% capacity and following a review, Muller Wiseman had just announced (on 31 May 2016) that the factory was to close. Local producers had been offered a deal whereby the company would continue to accept local milk but producers would require to meet the costs of trucking milk to Bellshill of 1.75p per litre, putting them at a major commercial disadvantage when returns from milk production are already very low. Twelve producers are on 'aligned' contracts in which the additional transport costs will be borne by the retail outlets they supply (totalling 28 million litres per annum). However aligned producers were also concerned over the future prospects for the sector following the haulage charge precedent.

Following discussions between local dairy farmers, NFUS, Opportunity North East (ONE) and Aberdeenshire Council, ONE and the council had agreed to co-fund stage one of a study to examine alternative processing options to help secure the future of local dairy production. The study would survey producers to assess their individual circumstances including efficiency, investment history and future intentions; would investigate the wider market for dairy products and would contact potential investors to assess their interest. Subject to initial findings, there was a commitment on the part of funders to develop the project further.

Questions then followed on which dairy products are bought in by local food manufacturers, the on-pack value of local provenance dairy product as a food ingredient, on-farm value-add (eg cheese, yoghurt), the usefulness of high-melatonin milk when treating autism, the Scottish Dairy Strategy and Dairy Hub, potential export markets, the resilience and cohesion of local producers and their willingness to invest in processing and the timeframe for the study.

Members will be advised of progress.

Action point 1: Dairy Sector study progress update to members at next meeting

5. VERBAL UPDATE ON OPPORTUNITY NORTH EAST

Mr Cook then moved on to an update on Opportunity North East – the new public/private partnership for economic development in NE Scotland to which he had been recently recruited and which was aligned with the Aberdeen City Region Deal. Advising that ONE had been set up with £25M from Sir Ian Wood and would focus on four specific workstreams – Agriculture Food and Drink, Life Sciences, Tourism and Oil & Gas, Mr Cook commented that ONE aimed to complement the existing business support network (eg Scottish Enterprise, local authorities and Chambers of Commerce). ONE's role was to identify gaps and specific opportunities to foster innovation and supply chain development in the four selected sectors to help grow, diversify and strengthen the NE economy which has for many years been dominated by the energy industry. Operational plans were being compiled by ONE for each of the four sectors.

The Agriculture, Food and Drink workstream had 5 strands: an agri-food and nutrition innovation centre, market development, integrated supply chains, business growth and skills development. Grampian Food Forum had been incorporated into ONE.

Sir Ian Wood is Chair of ONE, Jennifer Crow is Chief Executive, Pat Machray ONE Vice Chair and also Chair of Agriculture Food and Drink. Life Sciences is Chaired by Prof Steve Logan, Tourism by Colin Crosby and Oil and Gas by Sir Ian Wood.

Questions were raised on the geographic extent of ONE, its governance, how its resources might be accessed, whether fisheries and renewables were within scope (fisheries yes; renewables no), measures of success and what would happen beyond ONE's five year

timeframe. In the light of ONE's tourism focus it was suggested that VisitAberdeenshire be invited to attend forthcoming meetings of NESAAAG.

Action point 2: invite VisitAberdeenshire representative to next meeting

The Chair thanked Peter Cook for two very comprehensive updates and requested that he continue to attend NESAAAG to inform members of developments at ONE. Mr Cook committed to attending future meetings of the Group.

6. PRESENTATION: THE NEW LEADER PROGRAMME IN ABERDEENSHIRE

The Chair introduced Flick Ibbotson as the Coordinator for the North Aberdeenshire Leader programme. Ms Ibbotson advised the financial allocations to 2020 for North and South Aberdeenshire LAG* areas were £3.3M and £2.8M respectively. (LAG =Local Action Group). After outlining the geographic extent of the respective areas Ms Ibbotson went on to explain that funding of up to 50% was available for projects which fitted the programme's Local Development Strategy.

Programme priorities include Place, Connectivity, Business Competitiveness, Better Opportunities and Co-operation. Programme indicators – measures of success – were explained and details were provided on the targets for assisting farm diversification in Aberdeenshire.

Questions were asked on the eligibility/desirability of large projects (given that farm business diversification budgets were larger in the previous programme), the application process and when payments are made, the IT system, collaborative projects and the timeframe for concluding the programme. Ms Ibbotson agreed to allow her presentation to be posted on the NESAAAG webpage.

Action point 3: LEADER presentation to be posted on NESAAAG webpage

The Chair thanked Ms Ibbotson for a lively and informative presentation.

7. BULLETIN: LAND-BASED STUDY UPDATE

There was circulated a bulletin report dated 23 May 2016, by the Director of Infrastructure Services, which advised that 'The Land-based Sector in NE Scotland - facing the future' had been published on 15 March 2016 and launched at a public event at Thainstone Agricultural Centre. While the report had been well received and provided detailed statistical information and analysis at a pivotal time for Scottish agriculture, attention had now turned to progressing the report's main recommendations, which were provided as an appendix to the Bulletin.

The emergence of ONE and its welcome commitment to drive business growth and innovation in agriculture food and drink in partnership with Scottish Enterprise, the councils and other partners was expected to be highly significant in helping to deliver a number of the recommendations but there would remain a need for NESAAAG to lobby and use its influence to advance the sector's wider interests. Members will be kept informed of progress

Action point 4: Land-based study progress update to members at future meeting

8. BULLETIN: RINGLINK RURAL INTERNSHIP UPDATE

There was circulated a bulletin report dated 20 May 2016, by the Director of Infrastructure Services, which advised of the background to the creation of the Ringlink Rural Internship in 2013 and to progress in the intervening years. SRUC had become involved in 2015 and it now hosts the three-week induction at Craibstone. The 2016 programme attracted 45

applicants for the 12 places. Ringlink had again raised the resources required to run the programme from private sponsorship.

Ringlink reports that over 90% of the interns completing the 6 month internship have gone on to secure full-time employment in the agricultural/rural sector. The model has been shown to work and demand for internship places exceeds supply. Work is underway to resource and recruit a project officer to extend the geographic scope of the internship beyond NE Scotland.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

a) The Chair intimated that Jennifer Kinnaird had hoped to be present to update members on the 2015 CAP Basic Payments. However she and all members of the SGRPID team were working flat out to issue payments. Miss Kinnaird conveyed her apologies and submitted a brief summary of the current position which was read out.

Over 80% of local recipients' payments had been processed to at least first stage payment and her team were fully focused on meeting the EU deadline of 30 June 2016. The online application process for the 2016 Basic Payment Scheme had proceeded much more smoothly than the previous year, with over 11,000 online applications (there have been around 3900 paper-based applications). Less Favoured Area Support Scheme payments had been completed.

b) The Chair advised members that Brian Pack had been unwell recently. Members asked that a get well soon card be sent.

Action point 5: Get well soon card to be sent to Brian Pack on behalf of the Group

6. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

It was **noted** that the next meeting of the North East Scotland Agriculture Advisory Group was scheduled to take place on:

- Wednesday 23 November, 2016 at 10.00 a.m. in Woodhill House, Aberdeen

APPENDIX B**ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL****INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES COMMITTEE****WASTE MANAGEMENT WORKING GROUP****WOODHILL HOUSE, ABERDEEN, 13 JUNE, 2016**

Present: Councillors P J Argyle (Chair), G J Clark, R McKail, R J Merson, C H Nelson, S Pratt (substitute for A C Duncan) and M Roy.

Officers: Head of Service (Roads and Landscape), Waste Manager, Support Leader – Waste Processing and Disposal (North), Team Manager (Collections and Cleansing) and Committee Officer (V McCaskill).

Apologies: Councillors A C Duncan and P K Johnston.

In attendance: A Dick and L Bradney, Zero Waste Scotland and L Ovens, Project Director, Joint Energy from Waste Project.

1. DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS.

Members were asked if they had any interests to declare in terms of the Councillors' Code of Conduct. No interests were declared.

2. PUBLIC SECTOR EQUALITY DUTY

In taking decisions on the undernoted 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 and 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, and
- (2) to consider, where an equality impact assessment had been provided, its contents and to take those into consideration when reaching a decision.

3. MINUTE OF MEETING OF 20 APRIL, 2016

There had been circulated and was **noted** the Minute of Meeting of 20 April, 2016.

THE JOURNEY TO ZERO WASTE**4. PRESENTATION: THE NATIONAL PICTURE**

The Chair welcomed Andy Dick and Louise Bradney from Zero Waste Scotland to the meeting and advised that a copy of the Household Recycling Charter had been circulated for members' consideration. Mr Dick and Ms Bradney gave a presentation to the Group on the National Picture with the Household Recycling Charter and the Circular Economy. The presentation covered setting the context; tools for progress; ambitions for achievement; the Charter and Task Force; code of practice; implications of signing the Charter; key points – for design,

volumes, materials, policies, operations and communications; and the current position and ongoing work.

During discussion, members asked questions about the costs associated with signing up to the Charter; vehicle requirements for kerbside recycling; difficulties associated with recycling shredded paper; issues associated with increasing the number of bins or containers required by households; and the role of the third sector in sorting and interception.

Thereafter, the Working Group **agreed** to note the content of the presentation.

5. DEVELOPING ABERDEENSHIRE'S WASTE STRATEGY

There had been circulated a report dated 2 June, 2016, by the Director of Infrastructure Services, giving a *Comparison of Alternative Collection Methods*. The report compared the recycling collection system of Aberdeenshire Council with several other collection systems to identify the main differences and whether anything could be replicated to improve recycling rates. The report covered kerbside sort; single stream co-mingled; separate stream co-mingled; case studies on Clackmannanshire, South Oxfordshire, Conwy, Belfast City and Presteigne and Norton; the Aberdeenshire system; and three-weekly and four-weekly residual bin collections. The report ended by detailing a number of conclusions drawn from the comparison work, as well as setting out a number of issues for further consideration when reviewing the long term waste strategy.

In addition, there had also been circulated a report dated 2 June, 2016, by the Director of Infrastructure Services, setting out the *State of the Recycling Market and Solution to Deal with Co-mingled Recyclate*. The report covered dry mixed recycling; detailed future options available (potential use of Aberdeen City Council Material Recovery Facility (MRF); Zero Waste Scotland Brokerage Service/Scotland Excel Framework/Market Place; build, own and operate our own MRF; or use of rail haulage of materials); the state of the recycling market; Household Recycling Charter; and market prices and stability for other materials.

Finally, there had been circulated a report dated 2 June, 2016, by the Director of Infrastructure Services, giving details of *Waste Performance and Tonnage*. The report covered figures for household waste arisings; household recycling levels since 2003; commercial waste; projected future waste arisings; understanding Aberdeenshire's waste modelling; housing growth in Aberdeenshire; future waste growth; waste composition; and further modelling.

The Team Manager (Collections and Cleansing) gave a presentation to the Group on the development of the Council's waste strategy. The presentation gave details of Zero Waste Scotland requirements and targets; current Aberdeenshire service and performance; alternative collection systems; kerbside sorting; single stream co-mingled; separate stream co-mingled; case studies from different regions; projected performance; possible changes for improvement; and next steps.

During discussion, members asked questions about figures excluding garden waste; figures for usage of recycling sites; possible use of soft plastics; the impact of geographical area and number of households on costs; the impact of charity collections on recycling centres; and the relationship with the voluntary sector.

After consideration, the Working Group **agreed**:-

- (1) to note the content of the reports on *Comparison of Alternative Collection Methods*, *State of the Recycling Market and Solution to Deal with Co-mingled Recyclate*, and *Waste Performance and Tonnage*,

- (2) to note the outcomes of the Options Appraisal for dealing with co-mingled and dry recyclate,
- (3) to note that further information would be brought back to the Group on the options for dealing with co-mingled recyclate as part of the review of Aberdeenshire's Waste Strategy, and
- (4) to request officers to bring a report to a future meeting of the Group on the relationship between the Council's Waste Service and the voluntary sector.

6. PRESENTATION: RESIDUAL WASTE MANAGEMENT SOLUTIONS

The Chair welcomed Linda Ovens, Project Director, Joint Energy from Waste Project, to the meeting. Ms Ovens gave a presentation to the Group on Residual Waste Management Solutions. The presentation covered the history of the waste problem; the changing composition of waste over the years; Scotland's journey towards Zero Waste; the current position and performance; dealing with residual waste; what to do with waste; Energy from Waste (EfW) in the waste hierarchy; the top 12 EfW countries in the EU; and EfW in Scotland. The presentation then focused on updating the Group on the EfW plant in Aberdeen. It was advised that work was being undertaken on procurement; the Council team and advisers had been put in place; current projects being progressed were the site purchase, planning permission, contract procurement and development of the heat network. The presentation was concluded with details of the Council approval process and an indicative timeline for the project.

During discussion, members asked questions about the capacity of the plant; encouraging engagement; and educating service users on what could be recycled. There was also discussion around the constraints of the identified site; waste management practices in other locations including Shetland and Denmark; opportunities for CO² recovery; and how any residual ash from the facility is processed.

Thereafter, the Working Group **agreed** to note the content of the presentation.

APPENDIX C**ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL****PLANNING & BUILDING STANDARDS MEMBER OFFICER WORKING GROUP****COMMITTEE ROOM 4, WOODHILL HOUSE, ABERDEEN
17 FEBRUARY 2016**

- Present:** Cllr David Aitchison (Chair)
Cllr Peter Argyle
Cllr Anne Robertson
Cllr Martin Ford
Cllr Fergus Hood
Cllr Carl Nelson
Cllr John Cox
Cllr Bryan Stuart
- Apologies:** Stephen Archer, Director of Infrastructure Services
Robert Gray, Head of Planning & Building Standards
- Officers:** Niall David, Senior Committee Officer (ND, Item 1 only)
Bruce Stewart, Planning Service Manager (BS)
Piers Blaxter, Policy Team Leader (PLB)
Fiona Thompson, Policy Planner (FT)
Ailsa Anderson, Policy Planner (AA)
Phil Brands, Admin Assistant (PB)

1. Appointment of Chair

The meeting commenced with a vote for the position of Chair with Cllr Aitchison and Cllr Argyle both being nominated. There was an equality in the vote and lots were drawn. Cllr Aitchison was appointed Chair.

2. Minute of Meeting of 15 September 2015

The minute of the previous meeting was approved.

3. Local Development Plan Verbal Update

PLB advised that the Proposed Local Development Plan (Proposed LDP) was sent to the Scottish Government for Examination on 1 December 2015. The Participation Statement has been considered and it was concluded that the consultations undertaken were competent.

One Reporter has been appointed (Mr Michael Shiel). He has sent one request for information to date regarding the potential omission of a digital communications policy and requested possible wording. This has been provided although Policy have not supported its inclusion as digital communications are covered by several other policies already in the Plan and it was a Council decision not to include such a policy.

Cllr Ford enquired as to whether we would fall back to the Scottish Planning Policy position if challenged. PLB advised that this was the case.

Cllr Stuart wished to know if a digital communications policy could be included in the Plan at this stage. PLB advised that there is no provision for this under the LDP

process and it could only be done by starting the process over. PLB advised that the matter could be taken forward as Planning Advice but not as Supplementary Guidance at this stage. In addition, the issue was discussed previously during the Schedule 4 stage (schedule 4, no. 2). The instruction that Policy received from the Council at that time was to not include a digital communications policy in the Plan.

There was agreement from Cllr Ford and Cllr Robertson that Policy acted appropriately in this regard. Cllr Ford noted that the Proposed LDP is now in place and the Policy Team's role is to defend it. It was further suggested that changing the Plan now would leave the Council in an awkward position and this would be undesirable.

Cllr Nelson asked when the response was sent to the Reporter and whether there had been a reply. PLB advised that the response was sent on Friday 12 February 2015 and that the Reporter's response would be in his report. Cllr Robertson noted that the Reporter had only asked for possible wording if a policy was to be included rather than requesting its inclusion. Cllr Argyle was in agreement that the position taken was the correct one and revisiting this issue now would be impractical.

Cllr Hood was also in agreement and enquired as to whether it was within the Reporter's remit to include the policy. PLB advised that the Reporter can make this recommendation but cannot action this themselves. Aberdeenshire Council could choose not to accept the Reporter's recommendations. Policy have advised against the new policy's inclusion as this would, amongst other things, result in increased costs for the development community.

Cllr Stuart stated that the response sent to the Reporter has not been seen by Councillors and so they cannot speculate on its contents. BPS advised that 12 February was the deadline given by the DPEA for a response (this was a two week turnaround). PLB advised that failing to provide a response would have left us in a vulnerable position.

PLB advised that when we receive the Reporters recommendations, Area Committees will be consulted before the Plan is presented to Full Council.

4. Special Landscape Areas Report

PLB advised that this piece of work has been prepared by Ailsa Anderson, Policy Planner. Land Use Consultants (LUC) are assisting Policy in the identification of Special Landscape Areas (SLA's). These are areas of high aesthetic value that have sentimental value to the local community. Bennachie was given as an example. Ten such SLA's have been identified which PLB summarised. Designs in these areas should be extremely sympathetic to the character of the area.

PLB reported that LUC have established criteria to assist in the identification of SLA's. They have also consulted with Community Council's regarding both the criteria and special characteristics of local areas of interest. ISC approval for public consultation is to be sought on 17 March 2016.

The Policy Team are confident that this will provide a good measure of how SLA's are to be judged. Furthermore, PLB reiterated that the Valued Views policy was not working as intended and that the Council had agreed to remove it from the Plan. It is intended that this new piece of Supplementary Guidance will have a much wider scope.

Cllr Hood requested a better quality map for Area Committees. PLB has agreed to provide one. It was also agreed that the map would be made available via ward pages.

Cllr Ford asked what percentage of Aberdeenshire would be covered by SLA's. PLB advised that this information was not readily at hand during the meeting but agreed to provide this information in due course (now confirmed as 24.5%).

It is hoped that this Supplementary Guidance will be further presented to ISC in August 2016.

5. Town Centre Health Checks 2015

PLB advised that the production of Town Centre Health Checks has been made much more efficient than in previous years and thanked Policy Planner Fiona Thompson (FT) for her work on the Health Checks. PLB also reported that these Checks are now recommended in Scottish Planning Policy.

Policy consulted with the Citizens Panel regarding preferred shopping locations and the reasoning involved. It was noted that some settlements are very independent in this regard whereas others have a much wider catchment area. Discussion followed on the performance of several settlements and various factors which may affect this performance.

Cllr Cox enquired whether the figures included in the scores were literal statistics or a score. PLB advised that the figures are scores which give a qualitative impression for comparison purposes.

Cllr Hood asked whether the Panel were asked about online shopping and whether retailers were consulted for their views. FT advised that one question asked of the Panel focussed on online shopping but the focus was largely on shops. PLB advised that consultation with individual retailers was considered impractical and the Property Service were asked for expert analysis instead.

Some discussion followed regarding the effect of large retailers (i.e. Tesco and Asda) on smaller, independent retailers.

Cllr Ford noted that the process is described as having changed but there are no specifics. Cllr Ford further asked whether the current Town Centre Health Checks could be compared with previous years. PLB advised that he was confident that, while the process has evolved, there should be very little effect on any comparisons drawn.

Cllr Argyle expressed the opinion that this was a very valuable exercise and extended his thanks to FT.

Cllr Hood noted that retailers are asked for annual returns by the Assessors' office and wondered whether this information could be included. PLB advised that this is not possible for Data Protection reasons.

Cllr Robertson stated that the Health Checks are a very useful tool that warrants a wider discussion and wondered whether a Members Seminar would be the best approach. PLB suggested approaching Area Managers regarding this. Cllr Stuart agreed that the report should have a high profile and input from Councillors would be desirable.

There was some debate as to whether retailers should be invited to the seminar. Cllrs Hood and Stuart suggested that their input would be beneficial while Cllr Robertson expressed the opinion that opening up the discussion to that degree before Councillors had fully digested the report may not be the best approach. It was decided that PLB would approach Area Managers.

6. Engagement and Consultation with Elected Members

BPS introduced the topic. The LDP process is a rolling, five year process and we need to start thinking about the next LDP despite not having completed the current cycle. Member engagement is a very important part of the process.

It was noted that deadlines are tight and that the LDP is a large, demanding piece of work. Decisions and recommendations need to be made at the right time or delays are inevitable. This is something we have successfully endeavoured to avoid in years past.

BPS requested that Members think about how we can best engage with them during the process. The process is set out in the Development Plan Scheme (DPS) and more discussions will be held at Area Committees. Members suggestions are always welcome.

Cllr Ford noted that we are nearing the end of the current LDP process and has no concerns regarding the process. He also suggested that it may be beneficial to brief Councillors on the process and the timescales involved as opportunities disappear as the process progresses. There was also some concern that the LDP may become a regurgitation of National Policy as decision-making powers are taken away from Local Authorities.

Cllr Argyle agreed with regard to the process and also shared Cllr Ford's concerns re decision-making powers. Cllr Argyle also noted that any new Councillors may know little about the LDP. BPS confirmed that the training given to new Councillors could be more extensive with more training on the LDP process.

Cllr Ford noted that the DPS does not specify what can and cannot be done beyond each stage of the process and requested that any planned changes to the next LDP are communicated to Members at the earliest opportunity.

There was a discussion relating to removing sites from the LDP that were undeveloped and BPS advised that removing sites can be difficult but that it was something that would be explored fully through preparation of the next plan, particularly using the completed and updated Action Programme.

7. Date of Next Meeting

27 April 2016 from 2-5pm
Committee Room 4, Members Building, Woodhill House

APPENDIX D

STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT PLANNING AUTHORITY

ABERDEEN, 21 September 2016. Minute of Meeting of the STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT PLANNING AUTHORITY. Present:- Councillor Peter Argyle, Chairperson; Councillor Milne, Vice-Chair; and Councillors Aitchison, Bellarby, Cox, Donnelly, Finlayson, Grant and Smith.

Apologies: Councillor Yuill.

Officers: Strategic Development Planning Authority: Strategic Development Plan Manager and Senior Planner (T Walsh)

Aberdeen City Council: Acting Head of Planning and Sustainable Development and Committee Officer (E Parr)

Aberdeenshire Council: Head of Planning and Building Standard and Accountant (J Shepherd)

DECLARATION OF MEMBERS INTERESTS

1. No declarations of interest were intimated.

OPENING REMARKS

2. The Chair intimated that a revised version of the Audited Statement of Accounts had become available since the publication of the agenda and as such the revised report would be circulated to members and a recess would be given to allow Members and Officers to read the amended version prior to consideration of the item.

The Chair welcomed Tom Walsh to his first meeting since joining the Strategic Development Planning Authority.

MINUTE OF THE STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT PLANNING AUTHORITY MEETING OF 15 JUNE 2016

3. The Authority had before them the minute of the previous meeting of 15 June 2016.

With reference to Article 8 (6), Draft Advice on Net Economic Benefit and Planning Consultation Response, the Strategic Development Plan Manager advised that there was currently no timetable for when a report would be published by the Scottish Government.

The Authority resolved:-

- (i) To approve the minute as a correct record; and
- (ii) To note the verbal update for Article 8 (6) of the minute.

AUDITED STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

4. The Authority had before them a report of the Audited Statement of Accounts 2015/16 and Independent Auditors Reports. The Strategic Development Planning Authority Accountant advised that amendments had been made due to an adjustment on forecasted figures for legal fees which had reduced from £45,000 to £22,000.

The report recommended:-

That the Authority -

- (a) Approve for signature the audited Statement of Accounts for 2015/16; and
- (b) Consider the Independent Auditor's Report.

The Deloitte representative advised that there were no issues to report.

The Authority resolved:-

- (i) To approve for signature the audited Statement of Accounts for 2015/16;
- (ii) To note the Independent Auditor's report; and
- (ii) To approve the refund of £19,000 to Aberdeen City Council and £1000 to Aberdeenshire Council following the readjustment of legal fee payments.

BUDGET MONITORING

5. The Authority had before them a report by the Treasurer to the Strategic Development Planning Authority (SDPA), which presented the budget monitoring and forecast position for 2016/17 as at 31 August 2016.

The report recommended that the Authority:-

Note the budget monitoring position and forecast outturn as at 31 August 2016.

The Authority resolved:-

To approve the recommendation.

PLANNING REVIEW UPDATE

6. The Authority had before them a report by the Strategic Development Plan Manager which provided an update on the publication by Scottish Ministers of their initial response to their Independent Panel's report on the 'Review of Planning' and subsequent action to take forward the recommendations of the review.

The report recommended that the Authority:-

- (a) Note the publication of the Independent Panel's report on the planning system, discuss its recommendations (focusing on those related to strategic planning) and agree a response if appropriate; and
- (b) Agree to a special meeting of the SDPA in early 2017 (if required) to enable a response to the White Paper to be agreed.

The Authority resolved:-

- (i) To approve the recommendations; and
- (ii) To invite members of both Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Council to a seminar to be hosted by the SDPA in advance of a white paper being published.

DEVELOPMENT PLAN SCHEME 2010/17

7. The Strategic Development Plan Manager provided a verbal update on the Development Plan Scheme and advised that since both the Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Council's development plans were still being consulted on they would be unable to produce a main issues report until 2017.

The Authority resolved:-

- (i) To note the verbal update provided by the Strategic Development Plan Manager; and
- (ii) To request that the Chair write to the Minister to seek clarity on whether the Scottish Government wish the Authority to proceed with preparing a new Strategic Development Plan.

SDPA BULLETIN

8. The Authority had before them an information bulletin prepared by the Strategic Development Plan Manager which informed members on key issues relating to the work of the Authority where no decisions were currently required and where verbal updates were provided on each item since publication.

Details contained within the bulletin included:-

(1) Strategic Transport Fund

The SDPA have sought leave to appeal to the Supreme Court and it is expected to hear the outcome by the end of the year.

(2) Local Development Plans Update

Both Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Council submitted their Local Development Plans to the Scottish Government last year with a 6-9month waiting time for a response, however it is not expected for the City Council to get their response until late September and possibly late October for Aberdeenshire's response.

(3) Planning Applications of Strategic Importance

An SDPA consultation response to a planning application at Blackdog was highlighted and appended to the bulletin report. A supplementary response by the SDPA to the Directorate for Planning and Environmental Appeals in relation to the appeal against refusal of planning permission by Aberdeenshire Council at Auchattie, Banchory was also appended to the bulletin report and the SDPA were advised that a reporter is yet to be appointed to this case.

(4) Housing Market Activity

Average house prices have fallen over the past year as well as lower rent prices due to the oil downturn. Housing completions have risen over the last few years however there is currently an over supply of office accommodation.

The Authority resolved:-

To note the content of the bulletin and the verbal updates.

APPENDIX E
ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL
INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES COMMITTEE
FISHERIES WORKING GROUP
FRASERBURGH COMMUNITY AND SPORTS CENTRE, MACONOCHIE PLACE,
FRASERBURGH
FRIDAY, 23 SEPTEMBER, 2016

- Present:** Councillors C C Buchan (Chair); R Cassie (substitute for Councillor S Smith); A Gardiner; J Ingram; and M Roy.
- Apologies:** Councillors A S Buchan, P K Johnston, and S W Smith.
- Officers:** Derek McDonald, Industry Support Executive (Rural and Maritime); Jamie Wilkinson, European Programmes Co-ordinator; Tom Boyle, Harbourmaster, Fraserburgh Harbour; Michael Bates, SSA Development Officer; and Naomi Waite, Assistant Committee Officer.

1. DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

The Chair asked members if they had any interests to declare in terms of the Councillors' Code of Conduct. No interests were intimated.

2. PUBLIC SECTOR EQUALITY DUTY

In making decisions on the undernoted items of business, the Working Group **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 their decision.

3. MINUTE OF MEETING OF 17 JUNE 2016

The Minute of Meeting of 17 June, 2016, had been circulated and was **noted** as a correct record.

4. MATTERS ARISING

No items were raised.

5. INTRODUCTION TO TOM BOYLE, NEW HARBOURMASTER AT FRASERBURGH HARBOUR

Tom Boyle, the recently appointed Harbourmaster at Fraserburgh Harbour following the retirement of Andrew Ironside, provided the committee with an overview of his own background, his thoughts on changes in the fishing industry in Fraserburgh since he was a fisherman there and his aspirations for the port. Mr Boyle made particular reference to the steady reduction in fishing-related employment in the town but noted that offshore wind energy development along the North East coast could utilise the local skills and knowledge.

Mr Boyle informed the Group that the port was committed to the installation of an electronic fishmarket auction to replace the current system. Advantages were anticipated for both skippers and fish buyers. Members noted Mr Boyle's comments on how the new system is expected to work - it will be different from the Lerwick/Scrabster auction - and how advance landings information would be required from skippers to prepare an electronic sales catalogue. It was hoped that funding would be available from the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund in support of the installation of the new system. Work was ongoing to gather views from harbour users on how the port should develop - a harbour-users group had recently been formed

The Chair thanked Mr Boyle for his informative introduction and extended an invitation to return to a future meeting of the group with a progress update.

6. UPDATE ON NE SCOTLAND FISHERIES LOCAL ACTION GROUP (EMFF) BY JAMIE WILKINSON, EUROPEAN PROGRAMMES COORDINATOR, ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL

The European Programmes Co-ordinator gave an update to the Group on the work of the North East Scotland Fisheries Local Action Group (NESFLAG) which had been launched at the end of March. Jamie Wilkinson advised that NESFLAG was responsible for stimulating and managing applications for Community Led Local Development Funds as part of the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund. Aberdeenshire Council was the NESFLAG managing agency. Two first-round project applications had been received and considered by NESFLAG at its recent meeting; the final decision on whether the projects are approved rests with Marine Scotland. FWG members requested an update at the next FWG meeting.

Mr Wilkinson indicated that, since the Brexit vote, there was uncertainty over future EMFF funding beyond March 2018, however he reassured members that NESFLAG would continue to be open for applications until further notice. The Group was advised that a series of workshops in the main coastal communities would be arranged to raise awareness of the programme and to promote and encourage new project ideas in the hope that new applications would come forward from businesses, other public sector organisations and relevant communities.

Thereafter, the Group requested that the web link for the NESFLAG website be circulated to members and **noted** the update.

7. UPDATE ON SCOTTISH SEAFOOD ASSOCIATION ACTIVITY BY MICHAEL BATES, SSA DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

Michael Bates, SSA Development Officer, provided the Group with an overview on his own extensive background in the sector and the issues facing the seafood processing industry, specifically in relation to the current under-provision of processing skills including fish filleting. The Group noted that the Scottish Seafood Association has worked hard to raise the profile of the sector as a career, provided processing demonstrations to a variety of audiences; from

young school children, hospitality trainees at NESCOL, and to job seekers – but that the lack of a modern, well-appointed central training facility in NE Scotland was a constraint.

SSA was currently delivering high levels of training - including food hygiene, sensory assessment and had recently achieved a world-first in group MSC* accreditation of several SSA members (*Marine Stewardship Council).

The Group noted the importance of enhancing the skill set of the current workforce and encouraging new entrants to help support the future development of seafood processing and the wider fisheries industry.

Thereafter, the Chair thanked Mr Bates for his informative update.

8. BULLETIN REPORT ON SEAFOOD CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE PROJECT

There had been circulated a report dated 23 September, 2016, by the Head of Economic Development which provided members with an update on the Blue Careers project which had been submitted to the EU. The report also noted that the EU referendum result was unlikely to have improved the chances of the application being approved (decision due late October). Derek McDonald advised that project partners had decided to explore alternative funding options and that a smaller and more focused proposal had been made to the Coastal Communities Fund (CCF). An Expression of Interest had been submitted focusing on the creation of a Fraserburgh based Centre of Excellence for the seafood industry. Members noted that a decision on whether the initial application would be progressed is expected in November 2016.

During discussion, members highlighted the importance of creating a Centre of Excellence for the wider fisheries industry in the North East to encourage enterprise and business development in the area - and where possible to encourage fisheries support agencies and regulators to establish a larger presence in the North East rather than in the Central Belt.

After consideration, the Working Group **agreed** to note the contents of the report.

9. BULLETIN REPORT ON TRAINING FOR NEW ENTRANTS TO FISHING

There had been circulated a report dated 23 September, 2016, by the Head of Economic Development which provided members with an update on the Training for Young Fishermen project. The report detailed that the project launched in January 2015 and the purpose was to provide local school leavers with a career interest in the fishing with a structured introduction to the industry.

The Group noted that in early 2016 a consortium led by Seafish and Scottish Fisherman's Federation with support from fishing industry training organisations and educational establishments had lodged a bid to secure European Maritime and Fisheries Funds for a Fisherman's Voluntary Safety Training project. This would provide both new and experienced fishermen with training to improve their knowledge and skills to cope with the daily exposure to risks and danger in the fishing industry.

After consideration, it was **agreed**:

- (1) to note the information provided, and
- (2) to invite a representative from the project to a future meeting to talk the Group.

10. VERBAL UPDATE ON FISHERIES/BREXIT

Derek McDonald provided the Group with a verbal update on the impact of the Brexit vote on the fisheries industry in the North East of Scotland. Members noted that the referendum result had generated considerable levels of uncertainty surrounding UK-EU relations and that there were a variety of possible scenarios and implications for the UK seafood industry.

After consideration, the Working Group agreed to invite a speaker to a future meeting to address the subject of Brexit.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was **noted** that the next meeting of the Group was scheduled to take place on Friday, 17 February, 2017.

APPENDIX F

ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL

INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES COMMITTEE

RURAL AFFAIRS WORKING GROUP

KEENAN RECYCLING, HILLHEAD OF AUCHREDDIE, NEW DEER, TURRIFF

WEDNESDAY, 28 SEPTEMBER, 2016

Present: Councillors W Howatson (Chair), S Duncan, F McRae (as substitute for G Blackett), A K Norrie and L Pirie.

Apologies: Councillors G Blackett, H Partridge and P Oddie.

Officers: D McDonald, Industry Support Executive (Rural and Maritime), and N Waite, Assistant Committee Officer.

Also attending: Prof. K Thompson, Emeritus Professor, University of Aberdeen.

1. DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

Members were asked if they had any interests to declare in terms of the Councillors' Code of Conduct. No interests were intimated.

2. PUBLIC SECTOR EQUALITY DUTY

In taking decisions on the undernoted items of business, the Working Group **agreed**, in terms of Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 to:-

- (1) have due regard to the need to :-
 - (d) eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation,
 - (e) advance equality of opportunity between those who share a protected characteristic and persons who do not share it,
 - (f) foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic and persons who do not share it, and
- (2) consider the contents of equality impact assessments, where provided, and to take those into account when reaching a decision.

3. MINUTE OF MEETING OF 18 MARCH, 2016

There had been circulated the minute of the meeting on 18 March, 2018 and amendments were noted. Thereafter, Members **agreed** to approve the minute.

4. MATTERS ARISING

Members **noted** that a presentation on the issue of food waste would be arranged to take place at the next meeting of the Group on Wednesday, 7 December, 2016.

5. PRESENTATION: THE IMPLICATIONS FOR THE SCOTTISH RURAL ECONOMY OF BREXIT BY PROF KEN THOMSON, EMERITUS PROFESSOR, UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN

The Chair welcomed Professor Ken Thomson, Emeritus Professor at the University of Aberdeen, to the meeting. Professor Thomson delivered a presentation to members on the implications of Brexit for the rural/agricultural economy of North East Scotland. It was advised that Article 50 could be triggered in spring 2017 and the UK could formally leave the European Union in spring 2019. The two options of a 'Hard' or 'Soft' Brexit were highlighted to members. In the event of a 'Soft' Brexit there would be Single Market access however there were uncertainties with regards to the trade of agriculture and goods, whereas a Hard Brexit would mean no access to the Single Market and trade tariffs would be incurred.

Professor Thomson provided the Group with an overview of current EU shares in UK trade and highlighted that 75% of exports of UK agricultural products go to the EU especially to France, Germany and Ireland. It was highlighted that EU-to-UK trade exceeds UK-to-EU trade. Members also noted that arrangements for current long-term EU workers in UK/Scotland would probably continue until a Brexit agreement had been concluded.

During discussion members raised their concerns over the possible impacts of a Soft or Hard Brexit on farm business profitability since neither option offered much reassurance.

Thereafter, it was **agreed** to note the information provided in the presentation.

6. COMMITTEE REPORT: THE FUTURE OF FORESTRY IN SCOTLAND CONSULTATION

There had been circulated a report dated 28 September 2016, by the Head of Economic Development, which provided members with information on the future of forestry in Scotland. The Scottish forest industry contributes around £1Bn Gross Value Added per annum and it supports 25,000 jobs.

The report detailed that a new agency entitled 'Forestry and Land Scotland' would be created and it would be responsible for the managing the existing National Forest Estate to deliver economic, environmental and social benefits. Current legislation requires the NFE to be managed so that all activities are tree-related. However, in order to maximise the benefits of the NFE to the nation, the consultation proposed greater legislative flexibility in how state forests are managed in order to enable Ministers to meet their wider obligations on climate change, biodiversity, integrated land use and to harness renewable energy opportunities.

During discussion members **agreed** to endorse the suggested response and **noted** the content of the report.

7. BULLETIN REPORT: LAND-BASED STUDY UPDATE

There had been circulated a report dated 28 September 2016, by the Head of Economic Development, which provided members with an update on the land based study. Derek McDonald advised that 'The Land-based Sector in NE Scotland- facing the future' was published on 15 March 2016 and the main findings had been presented at the NESAG on 3 March 2016.

The creation of the new enterprise agency Opportunity North East (ONE) in autumn 2015 was recognised by the NESAG study subgroup as a very significant development and the decision to focus on Agriculture Food and Drink as a key workstream was of particular interest. Members noted that it was still early days for ONE and it remained to be seen whether and to

what extent any of the Land-based study recommendations would be supported and resourced.

After consideration, it was **agreed**:

- (1) to note the information provided, and
- (2) to invite Peter Cook, Director of Agriculture Food and Drink at ONE to a future meeting to speak to members about the new organisation and its plans.

8. VERBAL UPDATE: DAIRY SECTOR IN ABERDEENSHIRE

Derek McDonald provided members with a verbal update on the Dairy Sector in Aberdeenshire. It was noted that since the Tullos dairy processing plant had closed 8 months ago, milk produced in Aberdeenshire was being trucked to Bellshill at producers' expense for processing at a cost of 1.75 pence per litre, putting local producers at a major commercial disadvantage. Aberdeenshire Council and Opportunity North East were sharing the costs of a major study to investigate alternative processing options to sustain the future of the local dairy sector.

After consideration, it was **agreed** to note the information provided and members requested an update at the next meeting in December.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

It was **agreed** that a request be issued to hold the next meeting at the new dairy at Middleton of Rora, Longside, Aberdeenshire.

10. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

It was **noted** that the next meeting of the Group was scheduled to take place on Wednesday 7 December, 2016, at 10:00 a.m.

APPENDIX G

ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL

INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES COMMITTEE

WASTE MANAGEMENT WORKING GROUP

WOODHILL HOUSE, ABERDEEN, 3 OCTOBER, 2016

- Present:** Councillors P J Argyle (Chair), G J Clark, A C Duncan, K Farquhar (substituting for Cllr C R McKail), R J Merson, C H Nelson and M Roy.
- Officers:** Head of Service (Roads and Landscape), Waste Manager, Support Leader – Waste Processing and Disposal (North), Team Manager (Collections and Cleansing), Waste Team Manager (Processing and Disposal), Interim Corporate Finance Manager and Committee Officer (F Brown).
- Apologies:** Councillor C R McKail.
- In attendance:** Diarmid Jamieson - SLR Consulting and L Ovens - Project Director, Joint Energy from Waste Project.

1. DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

Members were asked if they had any interests to declare in terms of the Councillors' Code of Conduct.

Councillor Johnston referred to Agenda Item 6 and advised that he was a Director of the Community Resources Network Scotland but did not feel that this should preclude him from discussion on that particular item.

No other interests were declared.

2. PUBLIC SECTOR EQUALITY DUTY

In taking decisions on the undernoted 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 and 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, and
- (2) to consider, where an equality impact assessment had been provided, its contents and to take those into consideration when reaching a decision.

3. MINUTE OF MEETING OF 13 JUNE, 2016

There had been circulated and was **noted** the Minute of Meeting of 13 June, 2016.

4. ENERGY FROM WASTE PROJECT UPDATE

The Chair welcomed the Project Director for the Energy from Waste Project (EfW) to the meeting who was in attendance to provide the Working Group with a verbal update on the Energy from Waste Project which included progress to-date.

- (i) It was reported that an application for planning permission for the site at East Tullos had been presented to the Planning Development Management Committee at Aberdeen City Council and that item had been deferred to be considered by their Full Council at a meeting scheduled to take place on Thursday 6 October, 2016.
- (ii) It was reported that the purchase of the site from Scottish Gas Networks had been ongoing for a period of 18 months, however, the Project Director was pleased to advise that this would be concluded later that day with the missives being signed which was a huge step forward for the project.
- (iii) The Inter Authority Agreement IAA2 document was now in its final form and a Committee Report would be presented to each Local Authority in the last week of October for consideration:-
 - Aberdeen City Council – meeting 24 October, 2016
 - Moray Council – meeting 25 October, 2016
 - Aberdeenshire Council – meeting 26 October, 2016
- (iv) The next stage in the process would be to go to the market to procure. It was reported that the contract period would be in the control of the three local authorities and they would also decide how electricity and heat revenues would be shared. Each local authority would have to agree to a capital contribution.

It was reported that the procurement exercise would begin in January 2017 for a period of 18-24 months and the project would then begin in September/October 2021.

- (v) It was reported that each local authority could walk away from the project at any time as there was a termination clause included within IA2 and as part of the procurement exercise conclusion, a report would have to be presented to Full Council for each local authority.

Thereafter, the Working Group **agreed** to note the verbal update on the Energy from Waste Project.

5. WASTE COMPOSTION ANALYSIS – RESIDUAL WHEELED BIN

There had been circulated a report dated 29 August, 2016, by the Director of Infrastructure Services, which presented a composition analysis of the residual wheeled bin waste collection for the Banff Area who were the first area to receive the new service in 2013.

The report advised that the waste composition analysis had been commissioned to provide information on what could be done to further increase levels of recycling using information gained from 500 households across a representative sample of housing types over a two week period in June, 2016.

Section 2.7 to the report provided a pie chart which highlighted the waste types found within the residual waste stream and showed that food waste was the largest category at 22.1% of which 12.3% was packaged food and garden waste accounted for 16.7 with the majority being green garden waste.

The Waste Manager introduced the report and reported that the recycling rate in 2015 was 44% which was an improvement from the previous year of 4%, however, there was still a lot of work to do as there was still a large amount of food not going directly into food caddies. It was reported that 60% of the residual waste could have been recycled and to improve the recycling rate the service would need to undertake a targeted approach to promoting the service and recycling to get that message across to Aberdeenshire residents.

During discussion the Working Group suggested that the figures could be seasonal and the analysis could provide greater qualitative and quantitative information if the analysis was undertaken more than once a year.

The Team Manager (Collections and Cleansing) advised the Working Group that to get robust figures it would be helpful to do an analysis at least three times a year within a range of demographics to ensure that decisions were not being made from statistics taken from a snapshot in time.

The Waste Manager advised the Working Group that a publicity campaign was scheduled to take place the following week to promote composting bins.

The Working Group welcomed the report and sought assurances that the report would be circulated to all Councillors through Area Committees to assist them to promote recycling within their communities.

Thereafter, the Working Group **agreed** to note the content of the report and request that the report be presented to Area Committees.

6. HWRC TRIAL – SORT-A-LITTLE-RECYCLE-A-LOT!

The Chair invited the Support Leader – Waste Processing and Disposal (North) to provide the Working Group with a presentation on the Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) Sort-a-Little-Recycle-a-lot trial.

The Support Leader advised the Working Group that there were 17 HWRCs in Aberdeenshire who currently handle 30% of Aberdeenshire's waste and the presentation covered current recycling performance; the current cost of landfill; how the initiative was promoted in the community; how recycling can be monitored (random bag searches and landfill skip monitoring) and finally the results of the initiative:-

- More separation and fewer traders
- Containers well received
- Improved use of ACORN
- Signage and black bags sorting
- Planning, do, review and revise for improving the project next year

During a question and answer session the Working Group queried:-

- (i) As part of a joint approach to landfill sites was there a need to contact multiple charities as each only deal with certain materials;
- (ii) Would it be better to have third sector employees rather than council employees manning recycling centres as they may get a different approach when the public are recycling materials
- (iii) Regulatory issues – when entering council recycling centres your materials are automatically considered as waste rather than re-use, could more be done to encourage re-use.

The Support Leader – Waste Processing and Disposal (North) provided responses to each of the questions raised:-

- (i) Evidence gathering was being undertaken to look at different providers who recycle different materials;
- (ii) While recycling centres would welcome support from voluntary groups, it is better to have a council worker man the sites as they are open all day;
- (iii) Re-use would stop the Council being the bulk handler of waste at recycling centres and it would be beneficial if the public went directly to charitable organisations to recycle re-use waste.

The Waste Manager advised the Working Group that a strategy would be developed in the future following dialogue with Community Resources Network Scotland (CNRS) and a report would be presented to the Waste Management Working Group.

Thereafter, the Working Group **agreed** to note the verbal update on the Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) Sort-a-Little-Recycle-a-lot trial.

7. 'DEVELOPING A CIRCULAR ECONOMY IN THE UK' – FEEDBACK ON CONFERENCE ATTENDED ON 22 SEPTEMBER BY COUNCILLOR PAUL JOHNSTON AND ANDY SHERIDAN

The Chair invited Councillor Johnston to provide the Working Group with a verbal report following his attendance at the 'Developing a Circular Economy in the UK' event which took place on 22 September, 2016.

Councillor Johnston reported that the key headlines from the Conference were:-

- Good opportunity to network – Chris Preston, Department for Environment who provided an excellent presentation; Gabriella Pieraccini, Head of Zero Waste from the Scottish Government presented the background to the Strategy for a Circular Economy; Sue Armstrong Brown – Green Alliance presented the most important aspects of the circular economy and the slides of that presentation would be provided to the Working Group;
- It was reported that England were significantly ahead in terms of recycling rates for waste;
- It was reported that Peterborough Council had the highest figures for kerbside sorting;
- Issues waste streams – material waste approach – emphasis material approach;
- Case study University of Bradford – transition to a circular economy very interesting
- Materials based approach to recycling foil film bags;
- Steve Lee – CIWM – similar view to Green Alliance and Friends – circular economy – employment opportunities.

The Team Manager (Collections and Waste) reiterated the key headlines which he reported were all very interesting and which had raised some good points.

The Working Group thanked Councillor Johnston for his verbal report and requested copies of any powerpoint slides from the event and a brief report on Councillor Johnston's summary of the event.

Thereafter, the Working Group **agreed** to note the verbal update on the "Developing a Circular Economy in the UK" event and the Working Group welcomed Councillor Johnston's offer to provide copies of the powerpoint slides and a brief report on summary of the event.

8. SLR REPORT ON FUTURE WASTE TONNAGE PROJECTIONS AND COLLECTION OPTIONS

There had been circulated a report dated 19 September, 2016, by the Director of Infrastructure Services which presented various options for waste tonnage and collection against one where there would be no change to the current service of waste collected by the Council as part of a detailed waste 'flow' model to assess the impact of potential service changes.

The Working Group were advised that pages 3-11 of the report presented a Waste Flow Analysis and Modelling for Future Waste Tonnage Projections and Collection Options as part of the review and Diarmid Jamieson from SLR Consulting Ltd presented the key findings of the review as part of a powerpoint presentation in support of the report.

The presentation gave details of the key outcomes from the waste analysis and modelling work completed by SLR Consulting and the options and the key finding from the waste analysis and collection review were:-

- (i) Significant opportunities would exist to increase recycling and reduce residual waste quantities by making changes to the Council's existing waste collection services;
- (ii) Fully meeting future Scottish and European recycling targets would remain a significant challenge;
- (iii) Given the uncertainties in future waste arising and the range of options for improvement of collection services, the projected residual waste quantities would vary substantially (between 45-110ktpa);
- (iv) High level modelling of service provision costs indicate that implementation of the service changes required to materially improve recycling and minimise residual waste, can be achieved without necessarily incurring additional costs for service provision (as the benefits of higher landfill diversion offset the additional service costs) and if properly implemented may result in a net cost saving; and
- (v) Given considerable uncertainty over the future tonnages of residual LACW, the Council should take cautious approach to agreeing any guaranteed minimum tonnage (GMT) commitments sought by the joint EfW project and seek to consider alternative options (such as an exclusivity arrangement for residual LACW) prior to finalising any contractually binding agreement with regard to Aberdeenshire's GMT commitments.

The Waste Manager advised the Working Group that the report sought to give consideration to what services would be provided in the future by considering current service provision; what would be best practice; consideration of other models which could deliver more efficient services and the background to future options which could achieve waste tonnage targets.

Thereafter, the Working Group **agreed** to note the content of the report with regard to projected residual waste quantities and review the alternate collection options and summary of key finding as presented at the meeting by representatives of SLR Consulting Ltd.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING AND ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

It was noted that the next meeting of the Waste Management Working Group would take place on Friday 11 November, 2016 in Committee Room 2 at 10.15 a.m.