

ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL

MARR AREA COMMITTEE

ALFORD PUBLIC HALL, ALFORD, 24 JANUARY, 2017

Present: Councillors M F Ingleby (Chair), J J Latham (Vice Chair), P J Argyle, G Blackett, K L Clark, L Clark, G E Petrie, M M Stewart, and J Webster.

Officers: J Clark, Area Manager (Marr); T Stephen, Services Manager, Facilities Funding; Bruce Stewart, Planning Service Manager; Ailsa Anderson Policy Planer; M Macleod, Environment Planner; C Roberts, Environmental Planner (Built Heritage); L Buchan, Strategic Development Officer, Older People and Physical Disability; R McKenzie, Public Transport Manager; J Joss, Senior Solicitor; and J McRobbie, Committee Officer.

In Attendance: I Ramsay, Partnership Manager, and D Cruickshank, Location Manager, Huntly and Alford (Marr), Health & Social Care Partnership.

Prior to the commencement of the business of the meeting, the Chair paid tribute to Katrina Farquhar, who had resigned as a Councillor since the previous meeting of the Area Committee. Colleagues spoke of her commitment and enthusiasm and sent best wishes to Mrs Farquhar in her future roles.

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 declarations were intimated.

2A. STATEMENT ON 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; and
- (2) where an Equality Impact Assessment was provided, to consider its contents and take those into account when reaching a decision.

2B. RESOLUTION

The Committee **agreed**, in terms of Section 50A (4) and (5) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, as amended, the public and media representatives be excluded from the meeting for Item 11 of the business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information of the class described in Paragraph 9 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

Item No
11

Paragraph No of Schedule 7A
9

3. MINUTE OF MEETING OF MARR AREA COMMITTEE OF 13 DECEMBER, 2016

The Committee had before them, and **approved** as a correct record, the Minute of Meeting of the Committee of 13 December, 2016.

4. APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES – BALLATER (ROYAL DEESIDE) LTD AND CAIRNGORM OUTDOOR ACCESS TRUST

The Committee had before them a report dated 6 January, 2017 by the Director of Infrastructure, seeking consideration of appointments to (a) the Ballater (Royal Deeside) Ltd and (b) Cairngorm Outdoor Access Trust, following the resignation of Cllr Farquhar. The report provided details of the two organisations and expectations, in terms of Confidential Governance, of any Council representative.

It was **agreed**:

- (1) that Councillor Peter Argyle be appointed to the Ballater (Royal Deeside) Ltd in an advisory capacity; and
- (2) that Councillor Peter Argyle be appointed to the Cairngorm Outdoor Access Trust in a decision-making capacity.

5. NAMING OF NEW BANCHORY SPORTS FACILITY

The Committee had before them a report dated 30 December, 2016 by the Director of Education & Children's Services, requesting Members' consideration of a name for the new sports and community centre in Banchory, greatly supported by community fund-raising. Whilst existing branding suggested "Banchory Sports and Community Centre", the fundraising group had requested that the facility be called, "Banchory Sports Village".

It was **agreed** that the new sports and community facility in Banchory be named "Banchory Sports Village".

6. ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2017 – REPORT OF THE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN EXAMINATION

There had been circulated a report by the Director of Infrastructure Services requesting Members' consideration of issues arising from the Reporter's examination of the Council's Local Development Plan 2015, highlighting the binding implications for the Council of the Reporter's amendments and detailing all changes, at policy and at settlement level. After discussion, and having noted that all comments would be returned for consideration, across all area, at the meeting of Council on 9 March, 2017,

It was **agreed**:

- (1) that no specific issues raised by the Reporter's examination be challenged; and
- (2) that the undernoted comments be considered by Council in collating an Aberdeenshire response:
 - a. disappointment that the Reporter's response timescale has taken so long and that his changes are binding, undermining the democratic processes which supported the construction of the original Local Plan;
 - b. curiosity as to why additional housing sites should be allocated, if the Reporter assesses the housing land supply to be "generous"?
 - c. disappointment at the replacement of maximum numbers on housing site allocations with "indicative" numbers;
 - d. disappointment in the dilution of the carbon neutrality and affordable housing policies;
 - e. concern of an apparent disconnect between the Scottish Government policy and the Reporter in terms of supporting affordable housing and sustainability policies;
 - f. concerns, even acknowledging that the Reporter allows for localised circumstances to be taken into account in matters of flooding, over the reduction of assessments from a one in 400 to a one in 200 year risk;
 - g. a welcoming of the inclusion of a Digital Infrastructure policy; and
 - h. a welcoming of the Reporter's support, in principle, for a strategic transport fund.

Arising out of consideration of the above, the Committee further **agreed** to commend the efforts of staff in all their work supporting the production of the Council's Local Development Plan and, in particular, producing the report to Area Committees over a constrained, festive, time period.

7. REVIEW OF ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL TREE PRESERVATION ORDERS

With reference to the Minute of Meeting of 3 November, 2015, (Item 7, page 804), Members had before them a report dated 15 December, 2016 by the Director of Infrastructure Services, requesting Members' consideration of five new Tree Preservation Orders and a Tree Preservation Revocation Order in terms of the on-going review of Tree Preservation Orders across Aberdeenshire.

After discussion, it was **agreed**:

- (1) to approve Tree Preservation Order No. 44 (2016) at Corsee Hill, Banchory;
- (2) to approve Tree Preservation Order No. 45 (2016) at Arbeadie House, Banchory;
- (3) to approve Tree Preservation Order No.46 (2016) at Tor-na-Coille, Banchory;
- (4) to approve Tree Preservation Order No. 47 (2016) at Ramsay Road, Banchory;
- (5) to approve Tree Preservation Order No. 48 (2016) at the Learney Arms, Torphins; and
- (6) to defer consideration of the Tree Preservation Revocation Order No 16 (K&DDC) (2016) to a future meeting, with maps and photographs be made available to assist Members in their consideration.

8. ABERDEENSHIRE DESIGN AWARD SCHEME

There had been circulated a report dated 9 January, 2017 by the Director of Infrastructure Services (a) providing details of Aberdeenshire's Design Award Scheme as modified in 2016 to acknowledge the 2016 "Year of Innovation, Architecture and Design" and (b) seeking comments on how the 2018 scheme should run.

After discussion, it was **agreed** that the undernoted comments be submitted for the further consideration of the Infrastructure Services Committee;

- (1) that staff work, in supporting the award scheme, be commended;
- (2) that previous categories, including landscape design, conservation, craftsmanship; master-planning, and large-scale housing development, be reinstated as crucial categories and judged on the basis of completed build;
- (3) that, should there be a need to reduce the number of categories, to suggest that public art could be removed;
- (4) that student submissions to be conceptual, professionally assessed, and the only category subject to additional public vote;
- (5) that consideration be given to rotating the location of the event, dependent on size, to include consideration of tested venues such as Haddo House and the Woodend Barn, but also other venues such as Braemar Castle and The Fyfe Arms Hotel, Braemar;
- (6) that the event continue to include a guest speaker, noting the added value of Continuous Professional Development for staff, and potentially Elected Members;
- (7) to reinstate the role of expert advisors supporting the judging panel; and
- (8) the officers, mindful of potential conflicts of interest, explore the potential of private sector sponsorship.

9. SOCIAL WORK ASSISTED TRANSPORT POLICY

With reference to the Minute of Meeting of the Integration Joint Board of 11 May, 2016, (Item 8), and the Marr Area Committee of 14 June, 2016, (Item 8), there had been circulated a report dated 13 January, 2017 by the Chief Officer, Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care Partnership, requesting (a) Members' consideration of a proposed Social Work Assisted Transport Policy as it related to adult social care, and (b) comments on the proposals, for onward consideration by the Integration Joint Board.

After discussion, the Committee **agreed**:

- (1) to welcome the enabling intent of the proposed policy and its move to establish consistency across Aberdeenshire;
- (2) to note and welcome the potential start up grants for community transport ventures, as approved by the Policy & Resources Committee of 19 January, 2017;
- (3) that the undernoted comments be submitted for consideration by the Integrated Joint Board:
 - a. that community assistance be encouraged, and coordination promoted, potentially through overarching bodies such as Aberdeenshire Voluntary Action (AVA);
 - b. that consideration be given to funding mini-bus driver training (MIDAS) for volunteers;
 - c. that any changes, including any funding implications, be discussed well in advance with individual users and relevant carers;
 - d. that consideration be given to any potential impact on carer's "free time" if transport to other support services is now expected of them;
 - e. to welcome the intention that the impact on individuals of any implemented scheme will be monitored and reviewed;
 - f. that consideration be given, on a case by case basis, to using mobility allowances towards costs, if appropriate; and
 - g. to note that public transport is not always accessible in areas where need for adult social care services may be identified; and
- (4) that the matter be monitored and reported back to Committee in due course.

10. ABERDEENSHIRE HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE PERFORMANCE AND OUTCOMES FRAMEWORK QUARTER 2 REPORTING – 2016/17

The Committee had before them a report dated 21 December, 2016 from the Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care Partnership Manager (South), requesting their consideration of (a) the current performance outcomes framework and reporting arrangements for the Health and Social Care Partnership; (b) the continuing development of reporting arrangements; and (c) a proposed schedule of reporting to area and policy committees to inform or note areas of progress for the Integration Joint Board.

Having heard further from the Partnership Manager (South) and the Location Manager, (Alford and Huntly, Marr), of the ongoing development of the performance reporting, and the current challenges in extrapolating relevant information from two previously disparate organisations, the Committee

Agreed:

- (1) to note for their interest the current performance reporting and its evolution;
- (2) to note the intent to continue to develop the reporting arrangements across the partner organisations;
- (3) to note the proposed schedule for reporting to area and policy committees; and
- (4) to request that the Integration Joint Board consider the undernoted:
 - a. that clarification of the area committees' roles to comment, as opposed to note, the performance and outcomes reporting, be sought;
 - b. that the area committee welcomes the intent to disaggregate information to a meaningful local level where possible;
 - c. that narrative information be provided to explain performance measures; and
 - d. that Members are aware, and appreciative of, challenges in merging two different systems into meaningful reporting.

11. COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFER – FORMER ALFORD ACADEMY (PART)

There had been circulated a report dated 6 January, 2017 by the Director of Infrastructure Services, requesting Members' consideration of an application for Community Asset Transfer of the former technical block of the former Academy, School Road, Alford, together with an area adjoining land, for the creation of a community orchard, 10 allotments, and a facilitated access community sensory garden. The application had been recommended, by the Marr Community Asset Transfer steering group, for approval.

The Committee agreed:

- (1) to approve the application from the Alford & District Men's Shed for the former technical block of the former Alford Academy, for the community purposes as detailed in the report;
- (2) that the building, along with adjacent land, be transferred through a combination of sale and lease, with the lease being for 25 years ground lease with a peppercorn rental of £1 per annum with the option to purchase, after the sale of the remaining academy site; and
- (3) that efforts be made to ensure that the building's look is improved by the Alford & District Men's Shed.