

ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL
FORMARTINE AREA COMMITTEE

THE KIRK CENTRE, STATION ROAD, ELLON, 16 JANUARY 2018

Present: Councillors I Davidson (Chair), I Taylor (Vice-Chair), K Adam, S Duncan, A Forsyth, J Gifford, A Hassan, A Kloppert, G Owen, A Stirling and R Thomson.

Apologies: Councillor P Johnston.

Officers: E Brown (Formartine Area Manager), C Young (Committee Officer, Formartine), M Ingram (Solicitor, Legal and Governance), A Wood (Health and Social Care Partnership Manager, Central), K Menzies (Location Manager, Ellon/Haddo, Health and Social Care Partnership), A McGruther (Location Manager, Turriff/Oldmeldrum, Health and Social Care Partnership), A Ramsay (Senior Planner, Infrastructure Services), A Jones (Transportation Engineer, Infrastructure Services), B Mann (Archaeologist, Infrastructure Services), D Campbell (Community Planning Officer, Formartine), R Goldring (Learning Estates Team Leader, Education and Children's Services), J Bartlet (Learning Estates Officer, Education and Children's Services), and E Wallace (Head of Service for Transportation, Infrastructure Services).

1. DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

Members confirmed that they had no interests to declare in terms of the Councillors' Code of Conduct.

2. RESOLUTIONS

a) Equalities

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

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

3. MINUTE OF MEETING OF 28 NOVEMBER, 2017

The Committee had before them, and **approved** as a correct record, the minute of the meeting of 28 November, 2017.

4. ABERDEENSHIRE HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE PARTNERSHIP – PERFORMANCE AND OUTCOMES FRAMEWORK QUARTER 2 REPORTING JULY TO SEPTEMBER 2017

There had been circulated a report dated 13 December, 2017 by the Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care Partnership Manager (Central). The report detailed the Health and Social Care Partnership's performance information reported against the strategic priorities for the period July to September, 2017.

The Central Manager was in attendance with the two Location Managers for Formartine. The members welcomed the report and, during discussion, queried the percentage of carers who felt supported and whether there was scope to improve this within Aberdeenshire.

Following debate, the Committee:

- (1) **noted** the content of the Integrated Joint Board (IJB) Performance Q2 report, and
- (2) provided the following **comments** to the IJB for their consideration:-
 - The data contained within the report was very easy to understand,
 - NI 18 – it is unclear what measure of quality this indicator provides,
 - LO6 – as this is a numerical target, it is unclear whether those who require the service are receiving it,
 - Formartine indicators would be welcomed in future reports,
 - It would be helpful if baseline figures could accompany the percentages provided,
 - It would be useful to see trends within the reports going forward,
 - Members would welcome an informal session to provide an update on information relating to GPs, primary care and the future strategy, and
 - It would be helpful if officers could circulate to members, the promotional video around the use of antibiotics.

5. PLANNING APPLICATIONS FOR DETERMINATION

Reference	Description	Recommendation
A. APP/2017/2430	Full Planning Permission for Erection of 1.8m High Fence (Retrospective) at Cross Of Jackston, Rothienorman	Refuse

6. PLANNING APPEAL DECISION NOTICE – APP/2017/0270 – SITE AT FORMER EAST ABERDEENSHIRE GOLF CENTRE, MILLDEN, BALMEDIE

There had been circulated, a Planning Appeal Decision Notice dated 24 November, 2017, advising that the reporter dismissed the appeal refused planning permission in principle.

The salient points to be acknowledged by the Committee and the Service had been outlined within the information provided to the members.

Thereafter, the Committee **noted** the information provided.

7. INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES QUARTER 2 2017-2018 PERFORMANCE REPORT (ABERDEENSHIRE PERFORMS)

There had been circulated a report dated 22 November, 2017 by the Director of Infrastructure Services which detailed exceptions in performance monitoring that were significantly above or below performance targets.

The Senior Planner provided an update on the planning related statistics, highlighting that during this quarter there had been changes in staffing, with three of the five vacancies being filled.

Following consideration of the report, the Committee:-

- (1) **acknowledged** the good performance achieved July to September 2017 (Quarter 2),
- (2) **noted** those measures where performance was below expectations July to September 2017,
- (3) **noted** the publication of the complete July to September 2017 Performance Report on Ward Pages and on the Council's website,
- (4) **advised** the Director of Infrastructure Services to continue to report, by exception, to the Committee quarterly on performance measures against service objectives and six monthly on progress in delivering all aspects of the Service Plan, and
- (5) made the following **comment** to be raised with the Service:
 - It would be helpful to have baseline figures to accompany the percentages provided.

8. ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL ARCHAEOLOGY STRATEGY REVIEW 2014-17 AND ARCHAEOLOGY SERVICE STRATEGY 2017-20

There had been circulated a report dated 12 December, 2017 by the Director of Infrastructure Services which updated on the work being carried out by the Archaeology Service and highlighted the aims and objectives of the Service Strategy.

During discussion, the members commended the work of the team; highlighted that one of the projects was available on BBC Alba on iPlayer until the end of January; asked if there were opportunities for the service to work with Visit Aberdeenshire; asked for further details of the possibilities for projects in Blackdog and whether there was scope to involve the community; suggested that there could be information available at Aberdeen airport relating to local history; and queried the calculation for the total income generated by the service.

Following debate, the Committee:-

- (1) **noted** the achievements of the Archaeology Service in complying with the Archaeology Strategy 2014-2017,
- (2) **noted** that Infrastructure Services Committee had approved the Archaeology Service Strategy 2017-2020 and associated Team Action Plan at its meeting on 5 October, 2017 and had instructed that all Area Committees be advised of the new Strategy,
- (3) **noted** the terms of the aims and key priorities of the Archaeology Service Strategy 2017-2020 and Associated Team Action Plan, and
- (4) **requested** that future reports be provided to Area Committees at an earlier stage to allow for input, rather than being submitted retrospectively.

9. FORMARTINE COMMUNITY PLAN 2016-2019 – SUMMARY FOR MONITORING REPORT

There had been circulated a report dated 18 December, 2017 by the Director of Business Services which updated on the progress of actions within the Formartine Community Plan 2016-2019. The Community Planning Officer advised that the members would have further opportunity to provide input into the plan at a joint session being held with the Formartine Community Planning Group and Formartine Area Management Team on 6 March, 2018.

Following discussion, the Committee:-

- (1) **noted** the progress of actions within the Formartine Community Plan 2016-2019, and
- (2) provided the following **comments**:-
 - It was important to know whether the work being carried out was having a positive impact on the area. Therefore an outcomes based focus should be built into the new plan,
 - The Community Action Plans needed to be reviewed to ensure that the plans were living documents and were short and deliverable,
 - The criteria for Participatory Budgeting should be reviewed to be more focused and this has been raised at the Integration Joint Board,
 - Participatory Budgeting required to be measureable in terms of the impact it made on an area,
 - A report from the Welfare Reform Group would be welcomed at the appropriate time, to update on the impact that Universal Credits will have on this area,
 - In considering connectivity, it may be helpful to have a presentation from Economic Development on how this is being taken forward, and
 - The Community Planning Officer should make arrangements for any leftover reflective discs, as provided by the Formartine Community Safety

Group, to be dispersed to local school children in the Formartine area for use in the darker weather.

10. 2017 BASED SCHOOL ROLL FORECASTS

There had been circulated a report dated December 2017 by the Director of Education and Children's Services which provided detail of the 2017 based school roll forecasts for all primary and secondary schools in Aberdeenshire.

During discussion, the members asked whether the service would consider rezoning any schools within Formartine, should any capacity issues arise in the future; sought clarity on the difference between core capacity and working capacity; queried how far in advance schools planned ahead to manage proposed school roll increases; noted that it was important to be aware of community expectations within Blackdog and Balemddie; and clarified that the school roll forecasts took account of allocated sites for development within the Local Development Plan.

Thereafter, the Committee **noted** the information contained within the report and provided the following **comment**:-

- The members would welcome a single figure for school capacity, rather than published core capacity v working capacity.

11. EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICE QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE EXCEPTION REPORTING JULY TO SEPTEMBER 2017 (ABERDEENSHIRE PERFORMS)

There had been circulated a report dated 17 November, 2017 by the Director of Education and Children's Services which informed that no measures were performing significantly above or below performance targets for this quarter, with all measures being on target. A comprehensive performance monitoring report for the period had been made available on Ward Pages.

The Committee:-

- (1) **acknowledged** the performance achieved July to September 2017 as referred to in paragraphs 2.4 to 2.7 of the report,
- (2) **noted** that there were no measures where performance was below expectations July to September 2017,
- (3) **noted** the publication of the complete July to September 2017 Performance Report on Ward Pages,
- (4) **instructed** the Director of Education and Children's Services to continue to report, by exception, to committee quarterly the performance measures against Service objectives, and
- (5) made the following **comment** to be raised with the Service:
 - The Committee welcomed the opportunity for a workshop to consider the Performance Indicators, in line with the Council Plan 2017-2022. It was

important to have the Service Plan information available during discussions.

12. HOUSING SERVICE QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE EXCEPTION REPORTING JULY TO SEPTEMBER 2017 (ABERDEENSHIRE PERFORMS)

There had been circulated a report dated 18 December, 2017 by the Director of Infrastructure services which detailed exceptions in performance monitoring that were significantly above or below performance targets.

Following discussion, the Committee:-

- (1) **noted** the positive performance achieved from July to September 2017, as detailed in paragraph 2.3 of the report,
- (2) **noted** the measures where performance was below expectations in July to September 2017 (Quarter 2), as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report,
- (3) **noted** the publication of the complete July to September 2017 performance report, along with a reporting rationale document for all indicators, on Ward Pages, and
- (4) provided the following **comment**:-
 - In noting the housing seminar outstanding on the Statement of Outstanding Business, the Committee requested that this be widened to include consideration of housing stock issues and the new repairs and maintenance programme, to be held after the HRA review on 22 February.

13. AREA COMMITTEE BUDGET 2017-2018

With reference to the Minute of Meeting of this Committee of 21 March, 2017 (Item 11), at which the broad allocation of the Area Committee Budget for 2017-18 was agreed, there was circulated a report dated 8 December, 2017 by the Director of Business Services which detailed requests for funding that had been received from local groups.

Ellon Parish Church

An application had been received from Ellon Parish Church, which sought a contribution towards new seating and multi-media for the Kirk Centre in Ellon, to improve the community facilities available.

After consideration of the information provided, the Committee **agreed to award £5,000** to the group.

Fyvie Indoor Bowling Club

An application had been received from Fyvie Indoor Bowling Club, which sought a contribution towards replacement bowling carpets.

After consideration of the information provided, the Committee **agreed** to **award £1,779.60** to the group.

The Committee further **requested** that officers reconsider the current Developer Obligations criteria, and whether open membership clubs should be eligible to apply for funding.

14. STATEMENT OF OUTSTANDING BUSINESS

The Committee had before them and **noted** a report by the Formartine Area Manager, updating on matters that had previously been discussed by the Committee but remained to be resolved.

15. FRASERBURGH, PETERHEAD AND ELLON TO ABERDEEN STRATEGIC TRANSPORT STUDY

There had been circulated a report dated 7 November, 2017 by the Director of Infrastructure Services which asked the Committee to consider the work recently undertaken to inform the appraisal of options for improving transport connections between Fraserburgh, Peterhead, Ellon and Aberdeen.

During discussion, members asked what the implications were for the current foot and cycle path on the Formartine to Buchan Way, should the rail option go ahead; and sought further information on the environmental impacts resulting from rail construction activity.

Thereafter, the Committee **noted** the work recently undertaken to inform the appraisal of options for improving transport connections between Fraserburgh, Peterhead, Ellon and Aberdeen and provided the following **comments** to Infrastructure Services Committee on the terms of the report:-

- The Council needed to be innovative and should look at new technology and combined projects, giving consideration to both road and rail options,
- The Toll of Birness and infrastructure north of Ellon should be progressed now as it was very important in the short term and should be a significant priority for the Scottish Government. Further, consideration should also be given to dualling the road now to future proof the infrastructure,
- There should be an assessment of the rail option, without the costs associated with the works required for the tunnel at Kittybrewster, Aberdeen, given that the tunnel was a national issue,
- Consideration should be given to increasing the speed limits for HGVs from 40mph to 50mph, and
- It was recognised that the rail options suggested would provide significant opportunities for rail users, from outlying rural areas as well as those areas with proposed stations.

16. CORPORATE ENGAGEMENT POLICY

Item withdrawn by Service.

Councillor Presiding over meeting

Councillor Isobel Davidson

Print Name

Signature

6 February 2018

Date

APPENDIX A

5A. Reference No: APP/2017/2430

Full Planning Permission for Erection of 1.8m High Fence (Retrospective) at Cross of Jackston, Rothienorman, Inverurie, Aberdeenshire, AB51 8UT

Applicant: Mr Stuart Brown

Agent: No Agent

The Senior Planner introduced the application which was recommended for refusal.

During discussion, the members asked about the location of the former hedge; queried whether there were any alternative access points; asked whether there had been any negotiation with the applicant over the angle of the fence, to improve visibility; asked if consideration had been given to relocating the fence and reducing the height; queried whether there were any land ownership issues in relation to the current position of the fence; noted that the neighbouring house had a post and wire fence which did not cause visibility issues; noted the use of the road by HGV traffic; and noted the danger posed to visitors and delivery drivers, as well as the applicants.

Following consideration of the possible adjustments that could be made to improve visibility, the Senior Planner highlighted that members could only consider the application in front of them as the red line boundary for the application was the fence itself, therefore any amendments would require a new application.

After consideration of all the information provided, the Committee **refused** Full Planning Permission on the grounds that the proposed development did not comply with Policy P1 Layout, siting and design of the Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan 2017 in that it would impact road safety due to insufficient visibility splays.