

## ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL

### FORMARTINE AREA COMMITTEE

THE KIRK CENTRE, STATION ROAD, ELLON, 6 FEBRUARY 2018

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

**Officers:** E Brown (Formartine Area Manager), C Young (Committee Officer, Formartine), M Ingram (Solicitor, Legal and Governance), A Ramsay (Senior Planner, Infrastructure Services), P Buchan (Head Teacher, Ellon Academy), A Travis (Head Teacher, Meldrum Academy), L Menzies (Head Teacher, Turriff Academy) and W Chisholm (Scottish Fire and Rescue Service).

#### 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 Johnston declared an interest in Item 4 as a supporter of the proposal by Mark Ruskell MSP, for a bill to replace the 30mph limit on speed restricted roads with a 20mph limit. As he did not feel this interest was clear and substantial, he indicated that he would take part in the debate of the item.

Councillor Kloppert declared an interest in Item 9 in relation to the application from the Ellon and District Sports Development Trust, as the Committee's representative on the body in an advisory capacity. As she did not feel this interest was clear and substantial, she indicated that she would take part in the debate of the item.

#### 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.

##### b) Exempt Information

The Committee **agreed** that under 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 it involved the likely

disclosure of exempt information of the class described in Paragraph 9 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

### **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 16 January, 2018.

#### **4. PETITION FOR CONSIDERATION – PETITION FROM THE RESIDENTS AND FRIENDS OF NEWBURGH IN SUPPORT OF 20MPH SPEED LIMIT IN MAIN STREET, NEWBURGH**

There had been circulated a report dated 12 January, 2018 by the Director of Business Services which informed the Committee of a petition that had been received from the residents and friends of Newburgh, in support of a 20mph speed limit in Main Street, Newburgh.

The Chair advised that the petitioner had previously received a response from the Chair of the Infrastructure Services Committee but due process had been followed to allow the petition to come before the Formartine Area Committee for consideration.

After consideration of the information provided, and having heard an oral presentation from the petitioner, the Committee **instructed** the Head of Service for Roads, Landscape and Waste and Head of Service for Transportation to bring a report back to the Formartine Area Committee detailing:-

- (1) Options available to reduce the speed of traffic on Main Street, Newburgh, by means of speed controls or a reduction in speed limit,
- (2) The options available for the stretches of Main Street both within and out with the village centre,
- (3) Information from Police Scotland regarding enforcement actions available for any possible measures to be taken,
- (4) Consideration of whether Newburgh could be considered a trial village for a 20mph zone on Main Street, and
- (5) Confirmation of where speed monitoring has been carried out to date, in order to assess whether this has been an appropriate location.

#### **5. SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE – FORMARTINE AREA COMMITTEE PERFORMANCE REPORT**

There had been circulated a joint report by a Local Senior Officer of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service and the Director of Business Services of Aberdeenshire Council, which informed members of how the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service was performing locally in Formartine, against key performance measures and associated targets as set out in the Aberdeenshire Local Fire and Rescue Plan 2014-17 and the Formartine Multi-Member Ward Plan, for the period from 1 October, 2017 to 31 December, 2017. The Formartine & Garioch Station Manager was in attendance to introduce the report.

During discussion, the members asked about the advertising campaign for home safety visits; asked whether it would be necessary for the organisation to work with partners in relation to the CPR training; queried whether there was a mechanism for

feedback to a community where a fire had occurred; asked whether farmers were also being encouraged to be part of the Community Action Team for their area; and asked if there was any feedback available on the recent fires that had occurred within the Ellon area. The members also noted that Local Senior Officer David Rout had retired and wished him all the best. His replacement hoped to meet with all Area Committees in the near future.

Thereafter, the Committee:-

- (1) **noted** the performance report relating to the period 1 October, 2017 to 31 December, 2017,
- (2) **noted** the local operational matters arising together with key resource issues as detailed within the appendices to the report, and
- (3) **requested** that future reports detail figures and trends, as was previously available for monitoring and scrutiny purposes.

#### **6. PLANNING APPEAL DECISION NOTICE – APP/2017/0122 – LAND AT MOSS-SIDE CROFT, BELHELVE**

There had been circulated, a Planning Appeal Decision Notice dated 5 January, 2018, advising that the reporter allowed the appeal and granted planning permission in principle subject to the seven conditions listed in the decision notice.

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 and **instructed** the Planning Service to request further information from the James Hutton Institute, on the methods for assessing Prime Agricultural Land, and thereafter to hold a member briefing session to discuss findings.

#### **7. LOCAL REVIEW BODY DECISION NOTICES**

##### **A. LRB 395 – PLANNING REF: APP/2017/1215 – SITE ADJACENT TO 10 HILLCREST ROAD, TURRIFF**

There had been circulated, a Local Review Body Decision Notice dated 20 December, 2017, advising of a decision to agree with the determination reviewed by it and refusing Planning Permission in Principle in accordance with the Appointed Officer's decision.

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.

##### **B. LRB 399 – PLANNING REF: APP/2017/0708 – SITE AT THORNHILL ROAD, HILLHEAD OF TEUCHAR, CUMINESTOWN**

There had been circulated, a Local Review Body Decision Notice dated 20 December, 2017, advising of a decision to agree with the determination reviewed by it and refusing Full Planning Permission in accordance with the Appointed Officer's decision.

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.

#### **8. ANALYSIS OF ATTAINMENT AND ACHIEVEMENT OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN FORMARTINE SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN ACCREDITED AWARDS, YEAR ENDING JUNE 2017**

There had been circulated a report dated 20 January, 2018 by the Director of Education and Children's Services which detailed the analysis of attainment and achievement of young people in Formartine secondary schools, in accredited awards, for the year ending June, 2017. The Head Teachers of the three secondary schools were in attendance to brief the members in relation to their respective schools.

Following the in-depth update provided by the Head Teachers, the members asked questions about exam pressures for young people; asked how the schools kept young people interested in their chosen subjects as they progressed; queried the use of GLOW and other similar school systems; noted that ongoing changes within the education system could have an impact on the schools and asked whether there were any key elements that the schools required for more self-reliance; queried whether Aberdeenshire had the correct mix and access to services in terms of Getting It Right For Every Child; noted the challenges that schools faced in dealing with mental health issues; noted that close monitoring of progress was beneficial in recording the achievements of Looked After Children; suggested that more interaction for local members with the schools would be helpful throughout the year; and sought reassurance that any staffing issues would not impact on the subject choices available to young people in the Formartine area.

Thereafter, the Committee commended the secondary Head Teachers and young people within the Formartine Area and:-

- (1) **noted** the contents of the report, and
- (2) **requested** that the Head Teachers:-
  - Make arrangements for young persons to present to members on their successes or challenges,
  - Provide any feedback to members if there were ways in which they could be supported in their role in terms of social issues and mental health issues within their schools, and
  - Ensure that local members are invited to meetings of Parent Councils, where appropriate.

#### **9. 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 22 January, 2018 by the Director of Business Services which detailed requests for funding that had been received from local groups.

Blackdog Residents Association (Community Park)

An application had been received from the Blackdog Residents Association, which sought a contribution towards the refurbishment of their community park.

After consideration of the information provided, the Committee **agreed to award £335.42** to the group, towards their landfill tax contribution required to release funds for the project.

Blackdog Residents Association (Towable Grit Spreader)

A further application had been received from the Blackdog Residents Association, which sought a contribution towards a towable grit spreader which would attach to their tractor mower to provide support to the village during winter conditions. The group have undertaken to ensure that liability insurance is in place to allow them to carry out these duties.

After consideration of the information provided, the Committee **agreed to award £1,294.20** to the group.

Ellon and District Sports Development Trust

An application had been received from the Ellon and District Sports Development Trust, which sought a contribution towards the refurbishment of the football pitch fencing.

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

Newburgh Indoor Bowling Club

An application had been received from the Newburgh Indoor Bowling Club, which sought a contribution towards two sets of indoor bowls.

After consideration of the information provided, the Committee **agreed to award £208.49** to the group.

Friends of Turriff Cemetery

An application had been received from the Friends of Turriff Cemetery which sought a contribution towards the creation of a new area to connect the cemetery with the millennium garden. The space would create a sensory garden, memorial area, seating areas, wild flower displays and a poppy garden.

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

## 10. 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.

Further, the Committee:-

- (1) **requested** that members be consulted during the service provision review as detailed at item 2,
- (2) **clarified** that for item 3 they wished the service to, if possible:
  - a. seek feedback from applicants, agents and anyone submitting a representation, and
  - b. provide outcomes based on final build as well as the process, and
- (3) **requested** that the reflective discs, as detailed at item 5, be dispersed to a school within either ward 7 or ward 8.

## 11. SALE OF FORMER CEMETERY LODGE, CASTLE ROAD, ELLON

There had been circulated a report dated February, 2018 by the Director of Business Services which provided an update on the sale of the former Cemetery Lodge, Castle Road, Ellon.

Following consideration of the information provided, the Committee **approved** the sale of the former Ellon Cemetery Lodge to Mr and Mrs Martin Park, for the revised sum as detailed within the report, in accordance with the terms stated in paragraphs 2.3(i) to 2.3(iii) of the report.