

ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL
GARIOCH AREA COMMITTEE

GORDON HOUSE, INVERURIE ON 13 MARCH 2018

Present: Councillors F Hood (Chair), D Aitchison, N Baillie, L Berry, M Ewenson, M Ford, V Harper, D Lonchay, R McKail, A McKelvie, G Reid, I Walker and J Whyte.

Apologies: Councillors Leslie and Smith.

Officers: M J Cardno (Garioch Area Manager), A Overton (Senior Solicitor), B Strachan (Senior Planner), P Finch (Strategic Transportation Manager), S Walker (Principal Roads Engineer), I Welsh (Principal Landscape Officer), F McCallum (Team Manager, Hard FM), E Wallace (Head of Service, Transportation), M Mitchell (Programme Delivery Officer) and A Cumming (Garioch Area Committee Officer).

1. DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

No interests were declared.

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.

B. EXEMPT ITEMS

“That, under Sections 50A (4) and (5) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, as amended, the public and media representatives be excluded from the meeting for certain items of business on account of the likely disclosure of exempt information of the classes described in the relevant Paragraphs of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act”.

Item No.	Paragraph No.
9	8
10	8
11	8

3. MINUTE OF MEETING OF 20 FEBRUARY 2018

In accordance with Standing Order 7.1.1 the Committee **agreed** that the minute was a correct record of proceedings and it was duly signed by the Councillor presiding over the meeting.

4. PLANNING APPLICATION FOR CONSIDERATION

The following planning application was considered and was dealt with as recorded in **Appendix A** to this Minute.

APP/2018/0216	Change of use from general industrial (Use Class 5) to Gymnastic Club (Use Class 11) at Unit 9, Burghmuir Place, Blackhall Industrial Estate, Inverurie	Grant
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5. A96 ABERDEEN TO INVERNESS DUALLING POSITION STATEMENT

A report by the Director of Infrastructure Services was circulated providing information on progress made and seeking comments on the Council's position statement on the A96 Aberdeen to Inverness dualling project.

The Strategic Transportation Manager gave the Committee an overview of the process to date, the route options being considered and the timescales for progressing the project. Members sought clarification about the provision of cycle routes, whether accident statistics were taken into consideration and the responsibility for the current road once it is replaced. Members were reassured that cycle route were planned and that the current A96 could continue to be used. Officers confirmed that accident statistics were an important part of the consideration. Officers confirmed that once the A96 had been replaced, any parts not incorporated in the new route would revert to being local roads and would be taken over by the Council once agreement had been made to ensure that they were of the required standard.

The majority of Members welcomed the project and highlighted the need for the dualling to support the local economy. They were pleased to see the inclusion of option Q and highlighted the opportunity to consider the issues and impacts on related roads within the project.

However, one Member highlighted the criteria for the provision of dual carriageway (between 11,000 and 39,000 traffic movements per day) and pointed out that some parts of the A96 route did not meet the criteria with traffic movements being around 6,000 to 9,000 per day. He stressed the scarce resources and suggested that the money could be better used on other services particularly public transport.

Councillor Ford moved that the position statement from Aberdeenshire Council with regard to the A96 Aberdeen to Inverness dualling project be that Aberdeenshire Council:-

1. notes that Annual Average Daily Traffic flows in the central section of the A96 are in the region of 6000 - 9000 vehicles per day, well below the published Transport Scotland figure for consideration of a dual carriageway.
2. notes the constraints and environmental challenges to dualling including the importance of the Bennachie special landscape area; the availability and quality of agricultural land north of Inverurie; and the presence of two nationally important battlefields, high quality Listed Buildings, significant areas of ancient woodland, Keith Hall House and Gardens Designated Landscape, and floodplains around the Rivers Don and Ury.

Accordingly, Aberdeenshire Council does not support the proposal for dualling the whole A96, because it is not necessary, and believes the priority for transport spending should be investing in public transport.

However, this motion did not receive a seconder and therefore fell.

The Committee **agreed** to

1. note the progress that has been made to date on the A96 Aberdeen to Inverness dualling project; and
2. agree the position statement in respect of the future assessment of route options, for consideration at a future Aberdeenshire Council meeting, and to be communicated to Transport Scotland and its consultants thereafter.

6. GARIOCH ROAD MAINTENANCE PROGRAMME 2018/19

A report by the Director of Infrastructure Services was circulated seeking approval for the Area Road Maintenance Programme 2018/19.

The Principal Roads Engineer explained how the service planned to maintain the roads across Garioch within the budget provided. He indicated that the focus would be on surface dressing rather than resurfacing and the implications of this.

Members acknowledged the work done by the service with ongoing budgetary pressure and congratulated it on its response during the recent winter weather. They welcomed the focus on work on lighting to reduce revenue costs and the importance of these works. Members sought clarification as to whether any residual winter maintenance funding would be available to use on road maintenance.

The Committee **agreed** to:-

1. approve the Area Road Maintenance Programme as detailed in Appendix A to the report; and
2. request:-
 - a) that the resurfacing of Corseduck Road be done at the same time as the traffic calming works;
 - b) that information be provided regarding what happens to winter maintenance funding if it is not all used i.e. does it get transferred to road maintenance; and
 - c) that a briefing note on road asset management planning be provided to Councillors.

7. LANDSCAPE SERVICES REVENUE AND CAPITAL WORK PROGRAMME 2018/19

A report by the Director of Infrastructure Services was circulated seeking approval for the Area Landscape Maintenance and Capital Programme 2017/18.

The Principal Landscape Services Officer gave an overview on the focus for works and the priorities for the resources available. He confirmed that the Service continued to work with communities and to access external funds in this way. He confirmed that the reserve list was

not in priority order, but that projects would be considered if and when resources became available.

Members gave information to assist the service in relation to some of the proposed projects and highlighted the place standards events that had taken place as opportunities to get useful information about community needs. Members asked whether the service was able to use community payback to assist them in some of their work. The Officer confirmed that this was used as widely and as often as appropriate.

The Committee **agreed** to approve the Area Landscape Maintenance and Capital Programme as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report.

8. GARIOCH AREA COMMITTEE BUDGET 2017/18

A report by the Director of Education and Children's Services was circulated providing details of an application from Hatton of Fintray Community Association.

Councillor Ford, seconded by Councillor Berry, moved that the remaining balance of £779.12 should be left as an underspend.

As an amendment, Councillor McKail, seconded by Councillor Walker, moved that authority to grant the remaining funds of £779.12 to appropriate projects be delegated to the Area Manager.

The Committee voted

For the motion (5) Councillors, Aitchison, Berry, Ford, McKelvie and Whyte

For the amendment (8) Councillors Hood, Baillie, Ewenson, Harper, Lonchay, McKail, Reid and Walker

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

1. to defer consideration of the application to the new financial year; and
2. that authority to grant the remaining funds of £779.12 to appropriate projects be delegated to the Area Manager.

9. ANNUAL WORK PLAN 2018/19 FOR BUSINESS SERVICES DIRECTORATE – PROCUREMENT APPROVAL

A report by the Director of Business Services was circulated seeking approval of the Annual Work Plan for 2018/19.

The Committee **agreed**:-

1. to note the Directorate Work Plan as detailed in Appendix 1; and
2. to approve the item on the Work Plan identified as falling within the remit of the Committee;
3. not to reserve approval of the Business Case for the Work Plan item as the value of the matter is between £50,000 and £1,000,000; and

4. to request that an up-to-date list of all of the works being undertaken at Westhill Academy, including timescales, be provided to the Area Committee Officer for circulation to Councillors.

10. INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES KEY ACTIVITY, PROJECTS AND FORWARD PROCUREMENT WORK PLAN FOR 2018/19

A report by the Director of Infrastructure Services was circulated seeking approval of the Projects and Procurement Work Plan for 2018/2019.

Members sought further detail on some of the projects listed.

The Committee **agreed**:-

1. to note the Directorate Procurement Work Plan as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report;
2. to approve the items on the Procurement Work Plan identified as falling within the remit of the Committee;
3. not to reserve approval of the Business Case for any item on the Procurement Work Plan where the value of the matter is between £50,000 and £1,000,000;
4. to request that that the flood prevention works at Kingsfield Road be undertaken as a matter of urgency; and
5. that a plan of the project at B9119 be provided to Local Members.

11. ANNUAL WORK PLAN FOR EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES DIRECTORATE – PROCUREMENT APPROVAL

A report by the Director of Education and Children's Services was circulated seeking approval of the Directorate Work Plan.

Members sought further detail about the proposed project and welcomed the provision of the extra capacity at Old Rayne School.

The Committee **agreed**:-

1. to note the Directorate Work Plan as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report;
2. approve the item on the Work Plan identified as falling within the remit of the Committee; and
3. not to reserve approval of the Business Case for the item on the Work Plan as the value of the matter is between £50,000 and £1,000,000.

Councillor Presiding over meeting

Print Name

Signature

Date

GARIOCH AREA COMMITTEE

13 MARCH 2018

APPENDIX A

PLANNING APPLICATION FOR DETERMINATION

A. Reference No: APP/2018/0216

Full Planning Permission for change of use from general industrial (use class 5) to gymnastics club (use class 11) at Unit 9, Burghmuir Place, Blackhall Industrial Estate, Inverurie, Aberdeenshire, AB51 4FW

Applicant: Garioch Gymnastics Club
Agent: Portico Design

The Committee **agreed:-**

- a) that the reason for departing from the Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan 2017 is that the proposed development is of a limited scale, would not have an undue impact to neighbouring businesses and is capable of being reversed in the future. Further to this, the proposal complies with Policy P3: Infill and householder developments within settlements (including home and work proposals) and Policy RD1: Providing suitable services of the Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan 2017.
- b) to grant Full Planning Permission subject to the following condition:-
 1. The development hereby approved shall not be occupied unless off-street parking for 15 cars, surfaced in hard standing materials has been provided in accordance with the details shown on the approved plans. Once provided, the parking area shall thereafter be permanently retained as such.

Reason: To ensure the timely completion and retention of the on-site facilities to an adequate standard in the interests of road safety.