

**ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL**  
**INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES COMMITTEE**

**WOODHILL HOUSE, ABERDEEN,**

**21 JUNE, 2018**

**Present:** Councillors P J Argyle (Chair), J Cox (Vice Chair), W A Agnew, D Aitchison, G W Carr, J Ingram, P K Johnston, J J Latham, I J Mollison, C R Pike, G Reid, S W Smith, A Wallace (as substitute for Councillor D Lonchay) and R S Withey.

**Apologies:** Councillor D-P L G Lonchay

**Officers:** Director of Infrastructure Services, Head of Service (Planning and Building Standards), Head of Service (Roads, Landscape and Waste Management), Head of Service (Transportation), Head of Service (Economic Development & Protective Services), Planning Manager (M Stewart), Planning Manager (B Stewart), Roads Development Manager, Accountancy Finance Manager, Senior Solicitor (M Ingram) and Principal Committee Services Officer.

The Chair welcomed Councillor Reid to his first meeting of the Committee as a substantive Member.

**1. DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS**

The Chair asked Members if they had any interests to declare in terms of the Councillors' Code of Conduct and the following interests were intimated –

- (1) Item 11 – Councillor Ingram as a Member of the Aden Park Working Group and left the meeting;
- (2) Item 14 – Councillor Johnston as Chair of Community Resource Network Scotland but having applied the objective test considered the interest to be remote and insignificant and continued to participate in the meeting; and
- (3) Item 19 – Councillor Reid as friend had a financial interest and left the meeting.

**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 Items 18 and 19, so as to avoid disclosure of exempt information of the classes described in the undernoted paragraphs of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

Item No	Paragraph No of Schedule 7A
18	4
19	4

### 3. MINUTE OF MEETING OF INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES COMMITTEE OF 10 MAY, 2018

The Committee had before them, and **approved** as a correct record, the Minute of Meeting of 10 May, 2018.

### 4. PRESENTATION BY DOUG GOODAY – “THE WILD NORTH EAST – SCOTLAND’S NATURAL GEM”

The Chair, on behalf of the Committee, welcomed Mr Doug Gooday, from the Council’s Ranger Service, to the meeting, who introduced a short film which had been produced in partnership with the North East Scotland Local Biodiversity Partnership, and had been designed to inspire, educate and inform people about the nature and wild places in Aberdeenshire and the Cairngorms National Park. The film was designed to showcase the region’s landscapes, to highlight special habitats, woods, seabird colonies and to generally educate people that the North-East is a very special place and of national significance for the wildlife population.

It was noted that the video, which had been funded by a number of partner organisations, had been made publically available and had already been viewed more than 120,000 times, with plans to use it to promote the area further in a number of different ways. The Chair, thanked Mr Gooday for his interesting and informative presentation and all Partners and Team members for their hard work and contribution towards the production of the video.

### 5. APP/2017/1366 - ERECTION OF ROADSIDE SERVICES (COMPRISING CLASS 1 (SHOPS), CLASS 2 (FINANCIAL, PROFESSIONAL AND OTHER SERVICES), CLASS 3 (FOOD AND DRINK) AND CLASS 7 (HOTELS AND HOSTELS) AND PETROL STATION (SUI GENERIS) WITH ASSOCIATED CAR PARKING, INFRASTRUCTURE AND LANDSCAPING AT SITE AT MAINS OF LUTHER, LAURENCEKIRK

The Chair reported that requests to speak on the application had been received from the applicant, the applicant’s agents, Visit Scotland and objectors and the Committee **agreed** to hear from Calli Hopkinson (applicant) and Steve Crawford (Halliday, Fraser, Munro), Jo Robinson (Visit Scotland), Ms Melville-Evans (objector) and Phil Swire (objector) prior to determination of the application.

With reference to the Minute of Meeting of the Kincardine and Mearns Area Committee of 15 May 2018 (Item 5), there had been circulated a report dated 21 May 2018 by the Director of Infrastructure Services which sought consideration of an application for Planning Permission in Principle for the Erection of Roadside Services (comprising Class 1 (Shops), Class 2 (Financial, Professional and Other Services), Class 3 (Food and Drink) and Class 7 (Hotels and Hostels) and Petrol Station with associated car parking, infrastructure and landscaping at Mains of Luther, Laurencekirk.

The report advised that in terms of Section F.4.1 of Part 2A List of Committee Powers and Section C.2.1 of Part 2C Planning Delegations of the Scheme of Governance the application had been referred to the Infrastructure Services Committee for final determination, following a vote at the Kincardine and Mearns Area Committee meeting on 15 May 2018 resulting in a decision to refer the application to the Committee with a positive recommendation to grant Planning Permission in Principle.

The Planning Manager reported on the detail of the application and highlighted key areas for consideration including the development being presented as farm diversification, offering potential economic, employment and tourism benefits and the principle planning issue being the acceptability of the proposed development in terms of Policy R2 Housing and Employment Proposals elsewhere in the Countryside of the Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan (ALDP 2017). She explained that there were issues in relation to the acceptability of the impact of the proposals in terms of location as the site was not well related to an existing settlement as per the requirements of Policy P1 Layout, Siting and Design and further, that the development would result in the loss of prime agricultural land as recognised within Policy PR1 Protecting Important Resources. She advised that the proposed development also failed to meet the fundamental requirements of a number of policies contained within the Local Development Plan which shared themes of sustainability. Whilst acknowledging that the proposal was for roadside services, it was considered that the scale and nature of the proposal would constitute a tourist destination or destination trip attractor and as such the Planning Service had based their assessment also on the tourism policies in terms of the impact of the proposal and the sustainability of proposed tourist facilities.

Reference was made to the issue of road safety and it was noted that the consultation response from Transport Scotland considered that the proposal could not be designated as roadside services as it was located on only one side of the road, and did not propose to allow access by HGVs, both of which were required in terms of the criteria for roadside services on a dual carriageway. It was also noted that the Council's Transportation Team had objected to the proposals in terms of the lack of sustainable travel, lack of convenient access and connectivity and lack of promotion of intermodal travel.

In conclusion, the Planning Manager confirmed that the overarching reasons for the recommendation of refusal related to the failure of the proposal to meet the fundamental requirements of several policies within the Local Development Plan and the location of the proposed development was considered to be unsuitable.

The Planning Manager then responded to questions from Members on the issue of road safety, proximity of bus stops to the site, proximity of alternative services for refuelling and recharging for hybrid/electric vehicles to the proposed location and options for a reduction in the speed limit in the area of the development.

The Committee then heard from Calli Hopkinson (applicant) and Steve Crawford (Halliday, Fraser, Munro) in support of the application who confirmed that the vision was to draw visitors from the A90 into the rural area and to provide a high quality facility, routed in the farming culture, with a focus on high quality produce from the North East. They confirmed that market research had produced positive feedback and support for the development which would result in the growth of the local economy in terms of job creation and would provide significant economic development benefits.

There were no questions from Members to Ms Hopkinson and Mr Crawford.

The Committee heard from Jo Robinson (Visit Scotland) in support of the application, advising that the proposal offered a potential destination development that would be seen as an opportunity to showcase the key themes of touring and locally produced food in the area and expanding the offer to travellers along the A90 route. She highlighted the economic

contribution that the project could potentially bring to the visitor economy in the area, as the increasing trend for touring required good services to be provided along the route.

Questions were asked by Members in relation to the enhancement of local businesses, the position of Visit Scotland in relation to the proposed location of the proposed development and the possible benefit to other attractions in the area from the type of development being proposed.

The Committee heard from Ms Melville-Evans, in objection to the proposal, who expressed concern at the loss of productive arable land to a non-essential commercial development, which may set a precedent in the area for further development along the A90. She also expressed road safety concerns which she considered could create an accident black spot and referred to the potential breach of several of the key policies from the Council's Local Development Plan, if it were allowed to go ahead.

Ms Melville-Evans responded to a question from Members on the current provision of fuel station facilities at Laurencekirk and the surrounding area.

The Committee heard from Phil Swire, a local farmer and tearoom operator, in objection to the proposal, who raised concerns of road safety, in particular in relation to the issue of large vehicles crossing the carriageway at the location, and the need for a grade separated junction, in view of the anticipated substantial increase in traffic movement into the site if the development were to take place.

Mr Swire responded to questions by Members in relation to crossing traffic at the Luthermuir junction, particularly large buses and farm traffic and in relation to any improvements in road incident statistics since the introduction of average speed cameras in the area.

Transportation Service Officers confirmed that it was the general policy of Transport Scotland to remove and upgrade the type of junction which currently exists at Luthermuir, due to an increased road safety risk and to replace with grade separated junctions, and, in addition, the existing junction was below current standards, with the deceleration lane being shorter than required for a junction of its type. The Planning Manager confirmed that one of the conditions proposed by Transport Scotland was for the provision of signage indicating that no HGVs were to be allowed into the site, and it was considered that such a condition could be difficult to enforce and police.

After discussion, Councillor Johnston, seconded by Councillor Argyle, moved that the Committee approve the officer recommendation and refuse to grant Planning Permission in Principle for the erection of Roadside Services (Comprising Class 1 (Shops), Class 2 (Financial, Professional and Other Services), Class 3 (Food and Drink) and Class 7 (Hotels and Hostels) and Petrol Station (Sui Generis) with Associated Car Parking, Infrastructure and Landscaping at Site at Mains of Luther, Luthermuir, for the reasons given in paragraph 6.1 of the report, with a further reason for refusal on the grounds of road safety.

As an amendment, Councillor Wallace, seconded by Councillor Pike, moved that the Committee delegate authority to the Head of Planning and Building Standards to grant Planning Permission in Principle for the erection of Roadside Services (Comprising Class 1 (Shops), Class 2 (Financial, Professional and Other Services), Class 3 (Food and Drink) and Class 7 (Hotels and Hostels) and Petrol Station (Sui Generis) with Associated Car Parking, Infrastructure and Landscaping at Site at Mains of Luther, Luthermuir, subject to appropriate conditions covering the matters detailed in Paragraph 6.2 of the report, the reasons for the departure from policy being:

There was not considered to be a significant departure from LDP policies P1, B3, R2 and PR1 and that this was outweighed by the significant economic benefits of employment; tourism; and benefits to the local economy.

Members of the Committee voted:

for the motion	(11)	Councillors Argyle, Cox, Agnew, Aitchison, Ingram, Johnston, Latham, Mollison, Reid, Smith and Withey
for the amendment	(2)	Councillors Wallace and Pike
declined to vote	(1)	Councillor Carr

The motion was carried and the Committee **agreed** to REFUSE Planning Permission in Principle for the following reasons:

- (1) The Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan (2017) Policy B3 Tourist Facilities supports the development of new tourist facilities or accommodation that are well related to settlements and deliver net economic and social benefits. In this case, while there may be economic and social benefits in the form of employment generation, the development is not well related to a settlement. This policy also requires tourist facilities to be conveniently accessible by different modes of transport. Further, Policy P1 Layout Siting and Design supports development that demonstrates the six qualities of a successful place including a requirement for development to be well connected to create well connected places that promote intermodal shifts and active travel. In this case Public Transport links to the site are limited and there are no footpath or cycle paths linking to the development. Access to the site would be, in the main, limited to the car, the site is not well connected and does not promote intermodal and active travel. On these grounds the proposal fails to comply with the requirements of both Policy B3 Tourist Facilities and Policy P1 Layout Siting and Design of the Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan (2017).
- (2) The Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan (2017) Policy R2 Housing and Employment Development elsewhere in the Countryside supports development proposals in the rural housing market area, as is the case here, if they are small-scale employment proposals. The Local Development Plan glossary defines small scale development as a site of less than 0.5 hectares and employing 5 or less full time people. It is clear that the site would extend to well over 0.5 Ha and would employ significantly more than 5 full time people. The proposal cannot therefore be considered to represent small scale employment development and therefore fails to comply with the clear objectives of Policy R2 Housing and Employment Development elsewhere in the Countryside of the Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan (2017).
- (3) The Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan (2017) Policy P1 Layout Siting and Design requires an agreed statement for all Major Developments. While the applicant has carried out the required public consultation, there is no agreed statement in this instance. The proposal therefore fails to comply with this part of Policy P1 Layout Siting of the Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan (2017).
- (4) The Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan (2017) Policy PR1 Protecting Important Resources supports sustainable economic development while protecting land resources which are needed for specific uses - in this case agriculture. The proposed development would result in the loss of prime agricultural land that does not benefit from a site allocation or for an identified need outlined within the Local Development Plan for the development proposed. The proposal therefore fails to comply with Policy PR1 Protecting Important Resources of the Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan (2017).
- (5) The Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan (2017) Policy P1 Layout, Siting and Design highlights that Scottish Planning Policy seeks to direct the right development to the right place, this includes locating developments in safe locations. In addition to

this, Policy RD1 Providing Suitable Services requires the provision of safe and convenient access for service, delivery and other goods vehicles. The proposed development would intensify the use of an existing substandard junction on a stretch of classified road which carries significant traffic movements, usually at speed. The deceleration lane is approximately 30m short of the required standard and does not enable HGVs or buses to completely clear the northbound nearside running lane when turning left. There is insufficient width within the central reserve to fully accommodate an HGV or bus turning right out of the development and no acceleration lane is provided, which is the required standard for flows greater than 600 vehicles/day. Furthermore, the proposed development, if permitted, would lead to a significant increase in right hand turning movements in and out of the development, across the opposing traffic stream of a principal route which would impact on the free and safe flow of traffic, increasing the road safety risk and inconvenience to road users. The intensification of interference with the passage of vehicles on the opposing traffic streams which this proposal would engender, with particular regard to heavy goods vehicles and buses, would be detrimental to road safety. No means of adequate mitigation or restriction has been demonstrated to address this matter. The proposal is therefore considered to be contrary to the objectives of both Policy P1 Layout, Siting and Design and Policy RD1 Providing Suitable Services of the Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan (2017).

**6. APP/2018/0624 - APPROVAL OF MATTERS SPECIFIED IN CONDITIONS FOR CONDITIONS 1 (A) - (P) (SUBSTATION SITE PHASE) OF PLANNING PERMISSION IN PRINCIPLE REFERENCE APP/2015/0478 FOR NATIONAL CONSTRUCTION OF ONSHORE ELECTRICAL TRANSMISSION CABLES, COMPRISING AN ONSHORE TRANSITION JOINTING PIT, UNDERGROUND CABLES WITHIN A 33KM (APPROXIMATELY) LONG CABLE CORRIDOR AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF 2 NO. SUBSTATIONS SOUTHWEST OF NEW DEER, ALSO INCLUDING TEMPORARY CONSTRUCTION COMPOUNDS, ACCESS TRACKS, LAYDOWN AREAS AND OTHER ASSOCIATED WORKS; LAND WEST OF CAIRNBANNO HOUSE, NEW DEER**

The Chair reported that a request to speak on the application had been received from the applicant's agent and the Committee **declined** the request to speak, on the basis that detailed information on the application had already been supplied by Planning officers and the application was recommended for approval.

There was circulated a report dated 22 May, 2018 by the Director of Infrastructure Services, seeking determination by the Committee, following consultation with the Buchan Area Committee on 8 May, 2018 (Item 6E), and the Formartine Area Committee on 15 May, 2018 (Item 4C) of the assessment of Matters Specified in Conditions attached to the granting of Planning Permission in Principle (PPP) for the development of Onshore Transmission Infrastructure (OnTI) at Land West of Cairnbanno House, New Deer related to an offshore windfarm.

The Head of Service (Planning and Building Standards) advised the Committee that PPP was granted for the installation of OnTI in connection with the Moray Offshore Windfarm (East) development (Moray East) in 2014 under APP/2014/2430 and an application to alter a condition of the PPP had subsequently been submitted and approved in 2015 (APP/2015/0478) to split the conditions attached to the extant PPP into a "Cable Route Phase" and a "Substation Site Phase". The current application related to the Substation Site Phase of the development and the Cable Route phase was addressed separately under APP/2018/0623, elsewhere on the agenda.

The Senior Planner (Strategic Development) reported on the detail of the application and highlighted key areas for consideration, including the layout and design of the substations on site as well as associated access, drainage and landscaping, and it was noted that the matters

specified in the conditions attached to the extant PPP had all been addressed and the mitigation outlined was considered to be acceptable in terms of addressing potential environmental impacts and satisfying Local, Strategic and National Policy.

Having heard that the Buchan Area Committee had agreed to refer the application to the Infrastructure Services Committee with a recommendation of approval and the Formartine Area Committee had also agreed to refer the application to the Committee with a recommendation of approval, subject to clarification of issues relating to environmental management, monitoring of the site during construction and assessment of visual impact, the Committee **agreed** to GRANT Approval of Matters Specified in Conditions.

The reason for the decision being that the proposal and mitigation measures set out and contained therein are considered to be acceptable in terms of the relevant Policies contained within the Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan 2017 with regard to addressing the matters specified in conditions of extant Planning Permission in Principle application APP/2017/0478.

**7. APP/2018/0623 - APPROVAL OF MATTERS SPECIFIED IN CONDITIONS FOR CONDITIONS 1 (Q) (AA) (CABLE ROUTE PHASE) OF PLANNING PERMISSION IN PRINCIPLE REFERENCE APP/2015/0478 FOR NATIONAL FOR CONSTRUCTION OF ONSHORE ELECTRICAL TRANSMISSION CABLES, COMPRISING AN ONSHORE TRANSITION JOINTING PIT, UNDERGROUND CABLES WITHIN A 33KM (APPROXIMATELY) LONG CABLE CORRIDOR AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF 2 NO. SUBSTATIONS SOUTHWEST OF NEW DEER, ALSO INCLUDING TEMPORARY CONSTRUCTION COMPOUNDS, ACCESS TRACKS, LAYDOWN AREAS AND OTHER ASSOCIATED WORKS; LANDING AT INVERBOYNDIE BAY, BANFF, TRAVELLING TO LAND WEST OF CAIRNBANNO HOUSE, NEW DEER**

There was circulated a report dated 22 May, 2018 by the Director of Infrastructure Services, seeking determination by the Committee, following consultation with the Banff and Buchan Area Committee on 1 May, 2018 (Item 6A), Buchan Area Committee on 8 May, 2018 (Item 6D), and the Formartine Area Committee on 15 May, 2018 (Item 4B) of the assessment of Matters Specified in Conditions attached to the granting of a Planning Permission in Principle (PPP) for the development of Onshore Transmission Infrastructure (OnTI) landing at Inverboyndie Bay, Banff, travelling to Land West of Cairnbanno House, New Deer related to an offshore windfarm.

The Head of Service (Planning and Building Standards) advised the Committee that PPP was granted for the installation of OnTI in connection with the Moray Offshore Windfarm (East) development (Moray East) in 2014 under APP/2014/2430 and an application to alter a condition of the PPP had been subsequently submitted and approved in 2015 (APP/2015/0478) to split the conditions attached to the extant PPP into a "Cable Route Phase" and a "Substation Site Phase". The current application related to the Cable Route Phase of the development.

The Senior Planner (Strategic Development) reported on the detail of the application and highlighted key areas for consideration, including the cable landfall point to the west of Banff at Boyndie Bay, with approximately 33km of underground cabling to be installed to connect to proposed new substations at Cairnbarrow, New Deer.

The Committee heard that the Banff and Buchan Area Committee had agreed to forward the application to the Committee with a recommendation of approval and had requested clarification on the potential impact on River Deveron salmon as part of the works, for which no adverse impact had been identified. The Buchan Area Committee had agreed to refer the application to the Committee with a recommendation of approval and the Formartine Area Committee had also agreed to refer the application to the Committee with a recommendation

of approval, subject to clarification of issues relating to environmental management, monitoring of the site during construction and assessment of visual impact, all of which were addressed in Appendix 4 to the report.

Thereafter, the Committee **agreed** to GRANT Approval of Matters Specified in Conditions.

The reason for the decision being that the proposal and mitigation measures set out and contained therein are considered to be acceptable in terms of the relevant Policies contained within the Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan 2017 with regard to addressing the matters specified in conditions of extant Planning Permission in Principle application APP/2017/0478.

## **8. CITY REGION DEAL STRATEGIC TRANSPORT APPRAISAL UPDATE**

There had been circulated a report dated 5 June 2018 by the Director of Infrastructure Services on progress with the Scottish Transport Appraisal Guidance (STAG) Pre-Appraisal undertaken as part of the Strategic Transport Appraisal component of the Aberdeen City Region Deal, containing draft interim objectives for the next stage of the study and the draft summary of findings to date for the Committee's consideration.

The Committee heard from the Strategic Transportation Projects Manager that the report presented the initial outcomes of the initial stages of work at the pre-appraisal stage and presented the key findings of the work done to date. He referred to the key themes which had led to the Draft Interim Transport Planning Objectives (TPOs), which were focussed on reflecting the identified problems and opportunities, and linked significantly with the Key Themes and expressed the outcomes sought for the study.

Officers responded to issues raised by Members in relation to the cost of carbon emissions and speeding reduction and, thereafter, the Committee **agreed:-**

- (1) to approve the draft interim Transport Planning Objectives identified in Paragraph 2.11 and advise the Aberdeen City Region Deal of the approval;
- (2) that the Head of Transportation check that the full report reflects the cost of carbon emissions and includes speeding reduction as part of transport network and road safety; and
- (3) to authorise Officers to continue to update the Committee via appropriate reports or briefings as the appraisal work progresses.

## **9. FESTIVE LIGHTS AND ATTACHMENTS TO STREET LIGHTING COLUMNS POLICY**

With reference to the Minute of Meeting of 25 January 2018 (Item 11) when the Committee had agreed to defer consideration of a proposed policy on festive lighting and attachments to street lighting columns to allow a short term working group to be established with representatives of festive-lighting groups to help prepare for the introduction of the policy and to identify measures to mitigate the potential impact of areas of concern identified, there had been circulated a report dated 18 May, 2018 by the Director of Infrastructure Services, reporting on the outcome of a community engagement meeting which had been held on 18 April 2018 to consider the terms of the proposed policy.

At this stage in the proceedings, the Committee unanimously **agreed** to suspend Standing Order 2.1.2 to allow the meeting to continue beyond 1pm to conclude determination of the matter prior to adjourning for lunch.

The Committee heard from the Strategic Transportation Projects Manager that the proposed policy seeks to establish a reasonable and consistent approach across Aberdeenshire for dealing with requests from community groups for erecting festive lights, hanging baskets, banners and bunting and attaching such items and others, such as signs, to street lighting

columns. Following the engagement meeting, the Service had revised its proposals to reflect the areas of concern which had been raised by community groups in relation to the issue of structural testing of columns and it was now proposed that the Council incorporate a sufficient level of structural testing and assessment into its programme of inspection to ensure that all columns of interest had adequate strength for their applied loadings. The Committee was requested to consider whether community groups should be required to pay for electricity supplied through the street lighting network, in accordance with the presumption of full cost recovery in the Corporate Charging Framework, approved by the Full Council on 11 February 2016 (Item 6).

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

- (1) to note the concerns raised by community groups at the engagement meeting and the proposed changes to documentation as a result;
- (2) to approve the draft Festive Lights and Attachments to Street Lighting Columns policy statement appended to the report as Appendix 2;
- (3) that the cost of electricity supply for festive lights be met by the Authority;
- (4) that arrangements for an appropriate appeal process (relating principally to disagreement on main footfall areas in communities) and the proposal to delegate authority to the Area Committees to determine such appeals be referred to the Procedures Committee for consideration; and
- (5) that a bulletin/briefing note be issued to Members after 12 months of operation of the policy.

## **10. ROADS ASSET MANAGEMENT**

With reference to the Minute of Meeting of 1 December 2016 (Item 7, Page 884), there had been circulated a report dated 23 May 2018 by the Director of Infrastructure Services presenting the Annual Status and Options Report 2018, summarising the status of the Council's road assets in terms of size, value and condition and presenting a number of investment scenarios for the Council's major road assets, designed to assist with the budget setting process. The report sought the Committee's (1) agreement to receive an annual report on the condition of the Council's road infrastructure, (2) consideration of the Status and Options Report 2018, and (3) views on how best to allow for the contents of the report when making decisions relating to the future management of the road network.

The Committee heard from the Head of Transportation who introduced the report and responded to questions and matters raised by Members in relation to options for the funding of bridge repairs and improvements, the potential review of the effectiveness of existing Park and Ride schemes in light of the Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route (AWPR) opening, the management and planning of maintenance of the road network and the use of the Planning system in the planning and design of new road networks.

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

- (1) to receive an annual report on the condition of the Council's road infrastructure and how the Council's most valuable physical asset is managed and maintained;
- (2) that the findings in the report be taken in to consideration when making decisions relating to the future management of the road network; and
- (3) that officers produce a supplementary report presenting options for additional investment in the road network across all asset groups and report back to a future meeting.

## 11. ADEN COUNTRY PARK – HERITAGE LOTTERY PROJECT BID

With reference to the Minute of Meeting of the Buchan Area Committee of 10 November 2015 (Item 7) when it had been agreed to support the resubmission of a Heritage Lottery Fund Parks for People Application for the Aden Country Park Restoration and Improvement Project, there was circulated a report dated 8 June 2018 by the Director of Infrastructure Services seeking approval for the use of the Parks and Open Spaces Capital Plan budget, if required, to underwrite the match funding element (£223,000) of the second round Heritage Lottery Fund application. The report explained that (1) the stage 1 (delivery stage) application for Heritage Lottery Funding (HFL) had been successful, (2) the stage 2 application (ready to tender) had been submitted in February 2018 which included amongst other things the proposed submission of funding applications to Historic Environment Scotland (£44,000) and Landfill Trust (£223,000), (3) the application process for funding from Landfill Trust did not officially open until June/July with awards announced in August/September which did not meet the deadline for the HFL application, (4) at a recent meeting with HFL Scottish Committee representatives it was pointed out that any proposed funding that was not secured prior to the award panel meeting would be seen as a risk which could weaken the application, and (5) to strengthen the application to HFL and to give the best chance of success, it was proposed that the sum of £223,000 be underwritten using the Parks and Open Spaces Capital Plan budget.

Having heard from the Head of Roads and Landscape Services on the detail and timing of the bids to be submitted and associated risks, the Committee **agreed** to approve the use of the Parks & Open Spaces Capital Plan, if required, to underwrite the match funding element (£223,000) of the 2<sup>nd</sup> round HLF application submitted.

## 12. FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT PLANNING: 2018 POTENTIALLY VULNERABLE AREAS CONSULTATION

There had been circulated a report dated 8 June 2018 by the Director of Infrastructure Services on a review of the National Flood Risk Assessment (NFRA) by SEPA for the planning cycle for 2022 to 2028, which provided Scotland with the knowledge and tools to assess the causes and consequences of river, coastal and surface water flooding, and proposing that the Committee approve the proposed response to the consultation document as detailed in Appendix 5 of the report.

The Committee heard from the Head of Service (Roads, Landscape and Waste Management) that the NFRA forms a key element of the preparations for the second flood risk management planning cycle for 2022 – 2028, and that within the consultation document, SEPA had proposed a number of new potentially vulnerable areas (PVAs), a number of boundary changes to existing PVAs and that a number of areas be removed from the register, and noted that the understanding of flood risk is constantly developing and improving and it is not a static field of work, therefore periodic review and update is essential.

Officers responded to Members questions in relation to existing and proposals for further designation of PVAs and the need for community briefings once the NFRA is finalised following the consultation exercise, the implications for areas which are proposed to be removed from the list of PVAs and the impact on residents in terms of household insurance, and thereafter, the Committee **agreed**:-

- (1) to approve the proposed response to the SEPA consultation document as contained in Appendix 5 of the report; and
- (2) following confirmation of the SEPA decision, that Officers provide information to Community Councils/Groups on the process and implications of areas being identified as potentially vulnerable to flood risk, to include those areas where the designation has been amended or removed.

### **13. MATERIAL RECYCLING/DISPOSAL & EQUIPMENT SERVICING CONTRACTS**

There had been circulated a report dated 8 June, 2018 by the Director of Infrastructure Services, advising that an internal audit of material recycling / disposal and equipment servicing arrangements had highlighted some arrangements which were out of contract, that the Service was currently working on procurement exercises to cover these services, and would be completed by the end of October 2018, and seeking the Committee's approval to continue under the terms of the most recent contracts with suppliers pending the procurement of new agreements.

Having heard from the Head of Service (Roads, Landscape and Waste Management), the Committee **agreed** to approve the continuation of existing material recycling / disposal and equipment servicing arrangements under the terms of the most recent contracts with suppliers pending the conclusion of new procurement exercises.

### **14. NEW WASTE STRATEGY – PRE-CONSULTATION APPROVAL**

There had been circulated a report dated 8 June, 2018 by the Director of Infrastructure Services, proposing that a public consultation exercise be undertaken on a new Waste Strategy for 2019-2023, to include consultation through Area Committees.

The Head of Service (Roads, Landscape and Waste Management) introduced the report and highlighted the main areas for consideration, including (1) the need to provide effective collection systems and encourage residents to maximise reuse and recycling of materials, (2) the main outcomes from a waste analysis of landfill waste which was carried out in 2016-17, (3) that the new strategy will help the Council to comply with the statutory obligations set out in the Waste (Scotland) Regulations 2012 which ban the landfilling of biodegradable waste by 2021, and (4) the main objectives of the strategy as well as the 5 specific measures set out to help deliver the strategic objectives. He outlined the two options for the kerbside collection service which were being proposed for consultation, which would result in a reduction of the non-recyclable waste capacity and outlined proposals to increase the number of seasonal village garden waste collection points.

The Committee discussed matters relating to proposed changes to garden waste collection services, the timescale for the extension to the Alford recycling centre and proposals for a communications plan and briefings for Local Members in advance of the public consultation exercise.

Thereafter, the Committee **agreed**:-

- (1) to issue the draft Waste Strategy 2019-2023 for public and Area Committee consultation in September 2018; and
- (2) to allow the public, through the public consultation, to indicate a preference between the two preferred kerbside collection services put forward in the report.

Having moved an amendment, which was not seconded, seeking to have the assumption of energy from waste removed and the document reworded to seek views on the wider circular economy and material issues around the waste strategy and to have a second consultation exercise on the public kerbside collection services, Councillor Johnston requested, as provided for in Standing Order 5.2.4, that the terms of his amendment be recorded in the minute.

### **15. FOOD AND DRINK ACTIVITY BUDGET**

There had been circulated a report dated 24 May, 2018 by the Director of Infrastructure Services, outlining the work being undertaken to support the food and drink sector in Aberdeenshire and seeking approval of a contribution of £47,805 in 2018/19 towards total

project costs for Food and Drink Activity of £172,935 undertaken by Opportunity North East (ONE).

The Head of Economic Development and Protective Services introduced the report and outlined activities that were being undertaken by ONE in the areas of food, drink and agriculture, with a focus on investment and action to stimulate economic growth, safeguarding jobs and creating new employment opportunities over the medium and long term.

Following discussion on the impending legislation on food packaging and the need to move towards a reduction in single use packaging, the potential for project development work on this and a proposal to bring forward an annual report on the activities undertaken by ONE, the Committee **agreed**:-

- (1) to endorse the work undertaken to support the food and drink sector in Aberdeenshire;
- (2) to approve a contribution of £47,805 in 2018/19 by Aberdeenshire Council towards total project costs for Food and Drink Activity of £172,935 undertaken by ONE;
- (3) that Officers consider opportunities to encourage the development of a project to look at the minimising of food packaging; and
- (4) that future reports should provide more detail on the outcomes and outputs from the activities undertaken.

## **16. REGIONAL ECONOMIC STRATEGY UPDATE**

A report dated 24 May 2018 by the Director of Infrastructure Services was circulated, providing an update with regard to the Regional Economic Strategy and the activities of Opportunity North East (ONE), and seeking approval of a refreshed Regional Economic Strategy Action Plan for 2018-2023.

The Head of Economic Development and Protective Services introduced the report and responded to questions from Members on a proposed food Hub which was being developed as part of the Aberdeen City Region Deal and the issue of access to and advice on sources of finance other than banks for small local businesses.

After discussion, the Committee **agreed** to:-

- (1) approve the refreshed Regional Economic Strategy Action Plan 2018-2023; and
- (2) note the update on the Regional Economic work including ONE.

## **17. A947 MEMBER OFFICER WORKING GROUP – APPOINTMENT OF AREA COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

With reference to the Minute of Meeting of the Committee of 15 March 2018 (Item 7), a report dated 12 June, 2018 by the Director of Business Services was circulated seeking appointment of Area Committee nominees to the A947 Member Officer Working Group.

The Committee **agreed** to appoint the following Area Committee nominees to the A947 Member Officer Working Group.

Banff and Buchan	Councillors Cassie, Findlater, Reynolds and Roy
Garioch	Councillors Hood and Reid
Formartine	Councillors Adam, Duncan, Hassan and Taylor

## 18. CITY REGION DEAL – DIGITAL BUSINESS CASE UPDATE

With reference to the Minute of Meeting of the Committee of 15 March 2018 (Item 21), there had been submitted a report dated 28 May, 2018, by the Director of Infrastructure Services seeking approval of the Council's contribution towards the Local Full Fibre Network Project, a contribution towards City Network Extension Project and resources for the overall Digital Workstream projects from the City Region Deal financing arrangements.

The Committee heard from the Head of Economic Development and Protective Services that the project to build gigabit speed fibre optic cable infrastructure would significantly improve the digital infrastructure of Aberdeenshire and suburban Aberdeen City and enable enhanced and more cost effective public sector service delivery in digital infrastructure and, after discussion, **agreed** to:-

- (1) note that the funding application to DCMS for the Local Full Fibre Network project had not been successful;
- (2) reconfirm its approval for the Local Full Fibre Network Project as set out in Appendix 1, which would now be funded, subject to City Region Deal Joint Committee approval and UK and Scottish Government approval, from City Region Deal funding along with funding from the Scottish Government Memorandum of Understanding and the two Councils;
- (3) approve the Council's contribution of up to £1,250,000 towards the Local Full Fibre Network Project from the City Region Deal financing arrangements; and
- (4) approve the allocation of £780,000 towards City Network Extension Project and resources for the overall Digital Workstream projects from the City Region Deal financing arrangements.

## 19. KINTORE BOWLING CLUB LEADER GRANT

There had been circulated a report dated 23 May, 2018, by the Director of Infrastructure Services seeking authorisation to enter into negotiations with Kintore Bowling Club in relation to the proposed Club House extension, which had been the subject of a LEADER Grant application in 2017.

Having heard from the Head of Economic Development and Protective Services, the Committee **agreed** to:-

- (1) authorise the Head of Economic Development to enter into negotiations with Kintore Bowling Club in relation to the matter of the Club House Extension subject to the conditions detailed in the report; and
- (2) delegate the award of any final settlement to the Head of Economic Development and Protective Services, following consultation with the Chair, Vice Chair and Opposition Spokesperson of the Committee.

## ITEMS FOR NOTING

The Committee had before them and **noted**:-

- A. Note of Meeting of Planning and Building Standards Member/Officer Working Group of 31 January 2018, as detailed in Appendix A hereto.
- B. Minute of Meeting of Aberdeen City Region Deal Joint Committee of 9 February 2018, as detailed in Appendix B hereto.

## APPENDIX A

### ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL

#### PLANNING & BUILDING STANDARDS MEMBERS OFFICER WORKING GROUP

WOODHILL HOUSE, ABERDEEN, 31 JANUARY 2018

**Present:** Cllr Argyle (Chair), Cllr Aitchison, Cllr Ford, Cllr Hood, Cllr Mollison, Cllr Robertson, Cllr N Smith, Cllr Sutherland

**Apologies:** Cllr Cox

**Officers:** Bruce Stewart, Planning Service Manager (BPS)  
Piers Blaxter, Team Leader Policy (PB)  
Maureen Corley, Planning Service Manager (MC)  
Ailsa Anderson, Senior Policy Planner (AA)  
Katherine Southwell, Policy Planner (KS)  
Alison Hogge, Policy Planner (AH)  
Mrinmoyee Nath, Policy Planner (MN)  
Fiona Reid, Policy Planner (FR)  
Fraser Napier, Admin Support Assistant (Minutes) (FN)  
Katie Cranwell, Admin Support Assistant (Minutes) (KC)

#### **1. Minute of Meeting of 15 November 2017**

The Minute of 15 November 2017 was agreed. Cllr Aitchison is to be added to the attendees list.

#### **2. Development Plan Update**

PB advised the group that that the Policy Team have completed 63 of the 67 Community Council meetings and they have been very positive. Affordable Housing turned out to be the main issue raised.

PB advised that the bids process began on 3rd January 2018 and closes on 31 March 2018. Bid are invited for both housing and employment land. Last time there was a total of 700 bids received. As the deadline ends over a weekend bids will be considered that are received on 2 April 2018. Other Services will be assisting with the Bids Assessments. Once the bids have been assessed we will then be able to start to form a spatial strategy. Reports relating to the bids will go to Area Committees in late August, with a further report to ISC in October.

PB advised new bid sites will go through the process with equal status to the sites currently in the LDP. The potential to remove sites from the LDP exists and therefore careful assessment of all sites is required.

There have been some issues with ICT regarding publishing documents on the website but hopefully this will be resolved.

### **3. Community Engagement Policy Issues – Discussion**

PB presented details about the housing requirements and supply that the LDP is to provide.

There's an increasing gap between the need and delivery of affordable housing. In order to meet the affordable housing needs there needs to be a range of different house sizes. Planning obviously has to work closely with Housing regarding the whole issue. Housing figures on the need and demand of affordable housing were shown.

An issue exists with situations where developers who own land are leaving the land undeveloped until the economy improves more. There's a huge amount of effective building land waiting to be taken forward in a number of cases including Inverurie.

AA advised that in the preparation of LDP, Rural Development was a Main Issue and it still remains a major issue. There was also discussion regarding the greenbelt designation of towns and the possibility of altering it. Parts of the AWPR are in the greenbelt and there are therefore pressures on it, particularly around junctions. This has been identified in the SDP Main Issue Report.

It has not been possible to review the coastal zone designation and AA suggested that some strengthening of some policies may be required.

In the Aberdeenshire LDP area, AHMA is a pressured area, RHMA is an intermediate area and there are no remote areas. However development of a "cluster" is permitted in the RHMA.

It has proven difficult to come up with a set of guidelines that will work in every situation.

AA suggested identifying pressured, intermediate or remote areas to ensure development is directed to the right place.

FR provided ideas and options for encouraging rural development that supports prosperous and sustainable communities and businesses. The topic of derelict sites was discussed and FR advised that more clarity relating to derelict and brownfield sites is required.

The issue of huts was discussed and MOWG reiterated its reluctance to see huts promoted.

### **4. 2018-2021 Aberdeenshire Council Historic Environment Strategy**

MC introduced the draft Historic Environment Strategy. It is intended to help environment teams set out what they will and won't do. The strategy will be accompanied by annual action plans.

Suggestions were made that some towns or sites should be removed from the strategy. The Conservation Area Management Plan was discussed. Kintore

Conservation Area was causing no issues and therefore there was no need to do anything with it yet. Some formatting in the Strategy was still to be corrected and it will now go to Area Committees.

MOWG welcomed the strategy and considered it to be good.

## **5. 2018-2021 Aberdeenshire Council Natural Environment Strategy**

MC introduced the Draft Natural Environmental Strategy. The strategy is intended to create an overarching document that sets out all the work and processes of P&BS in relation to the natural environment. The role of the Cairngorms National Park was discussed as they have their own strategies so local plans may not affect it, but the overall Natural Environment Strategy will. It was agreed that the photo on the front page should be changed.

MOWG welcomed the strategy and considered it to be good.

## **6. Date of Next Meeting**

Wednesday 14 March 2018.

# ABERDEEN CITY REGION DEAL:

Powering Tomorrow's World

## APPENDIX B

### ABERDEEN CITY REGION DEAL JOINT COMMITTEE

9 FEBRUARY, 2018

**Present:** Councillors J Gifford, (Chair), P J Argyle, and R Thomson (Aberdeenshire Council);

Councillors M Boulton, J Laing, and D Lumsden (Aberdeen City Council); and

Mrs J Craw, Mr P Machray, and Sir Ian Wood (ONE).

**In attendance:** J Savege, Chief Executive, Aberdeenshire Council; S Archer, Director of Infrastructure Services, Aberdeenshire Council; B Miller, Head of Economic Development and Protective Services, Aberdeenshire Council; A Wood, Head of Finance, Aberdeenshire Council; R O'Hare, Principal Solicitor (Democratic Services), Aberdeenshire Council; J P Cleary, Senior Programme Manager, Programme Management Office, Aberdeen City Council; R Matheson, Service Manager – Industry Sectors, Aberdeenshire Council; S Rochester, Service Manager – Communications and Marketing, Aberdeenshire Council; H Martin, Programme Manager, Programme Management Office, Aberdeen City Council; P Finch, Strategic Transport Manager, Aberdeenshire Council; S Haston, Head of IT and Transformation, Aberdeen City Council; and J McRobbie, Committee Officer, Aberdeenshire Council.

#### 1. SEDERUNT AND DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest.

#### 2. RESOLUTIONS

(A) Public Sector Equality Duty

In making decisions on the following items of business, the Joint 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 content and take this into account when reaching a decision.

(B) Exempt Information

The Joint Committee **agreed**, in terms of Sections 50A (4) and (5) of The Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 to exclude the public from the meeting during consideration of items 10, 11, and 12, as tabled, so as to avoid disclosure of exempt information of the classes described in paragraphs 6 and 8 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

### **3. MINUTE OF MEETING OF CITY REGION DEAL JOINT COMMITTEE OF 10 NOVEMBER, 2017**

The Joint Committee had before them and **approved** as a correct record, subject (1) to the amendment of the Sederunt to correct the error in the spelling of Cllr Argyle, and (2) the correction in Item 7, of the date of the Scottish Government decision on project funding for digital infrastructure to be March, not February, 2018, the Minute of Meeting of the Joint Committee of 10 November, 2017.

Arising out of consideration of the Minute, Item 8 (Additional £254 investment – 6 monthly update), there was discussion of the Minister's response to the letter sent requesting to speak with him on the matter of concerns about rail improvements. Noting that the Minister was to be in Aberdeen on Wednesday, 14 February, the Joint Committee **agreed** that an urgent letter be sent to the Minister, requesting he reconsider his original response and agree a short meeting while he was in Aberdeen.

### **4. MINUTE OF MEETING OF CITY REGION DEAL JOINT COMMITTEE OF 29 NOVEMBER, 2017**

There had been circulated and was **approved** as a correct record, the Minute of Meeting of the Joint Committee of 29 November, 2017.

### **5. JOINT COMMITTEE CHAIR ROTATION**

The Joint Committee heard from the Principal Solicitor, (Democratic Services), Aberdeenshire Council that, in terms of the Joint Committee's Standing Orders, the Chairing of the Joint Committee would revert to the City Council, effective from the next meeting of the Joint Committee. Legal and clerking support would also transfer to the City Council. The Joint Committee **noted** the information provided.

### **6. TERMS OF REFERENCE**

There had been circulated a joint report by the Senior Programme Manager and the Solicitor, Aberdeen City Council, requesting consideration of revised Terms of Reference for the City Region Deal Joint Committee and indicating that the proposals would be considered by Aberdeen City Council on 5 March, as part of a wider review of the Council's Scheme of Governance and by Aberdeenshire Council on 8 March. Having heard further from the Principal Solicitor (Democratic Services), Aberdeenshire Council, of the need to ensure that the Terms of Reference effectively supported operational practice as it had evolved since the City Region Deal had been established, the Joint Committee **agreed** to approve for their interest the proposed Terms of Reference as appended to the report, subject to (a) consistency in the referencing of "UK and Scottish Government" and (b) the addition of wording at paragraph 4 in relation to the Memorandum of Understanding.

### **7. CITY REGION DEAL PROGRESS UPDATE**

There had been circulated a report by the Senior Programme Manager, providing an update on the City Region Deal (CRD) and its constituent workstreams. There was discussion about how much involvement the Joint Committee members might have, or advance notice give of, press articles on progress on projects within the remit of the City Region Deal; and of the

ongoing infrastructure works around the Harbour Improvements, with the Strategic Transport Manager, Aberdeenshire Council, providing information of planned improvements, to be fully operational by 2020, and longer terms plans to accommodate wide loads from the harbour, and transport tourists from cruise ships, the Joint Committee **agreed:-**

- (1) that project leaders be requested to advise the Joint Committee members of pending press releases and articles in advance, if possible;
- (2) that additional information on the Travel Plan to support the new South Harbour be reported to the next meeting of the Joint Committee, and circulated directly if available in advance of that meeting; and
- (3) in all other respects, to note the updates provided.

## **8. AGRI-FOOD UPDATE**

The Joint Committee heard from Mrs Craw, ONE, of the ongoing work in pursuit of the Agri-Food project, with the original model revised in June 2017, following industry consultations, to reflect the need for support to develop, a dislike of the word “innovation”, and a required proximity for producers of end users. Whilst the area was strong in research linking food to health, and foods of the future, this global level of study needed to be applicable locally; to produce immediate market opportunities for local producers and not be long term developments. A business growth fund for City and Shire had been established, to address the development support need expressed locally; support for an accelerated start up process. Consideration was being given to areas where the application of digital and robotic tools, often created for Oil and Gas industry requirements, might be adapted for agri-food operations, particularly in “back end” processes such as packaging, but also capable of being applied to processing work. There was a need identified to bring food and drink closer in their operations, whether in shared space or via developing networks. The next stage, in discussion with academic partners as well as the industry, and INNOVATE, would be to develop the North East of Scotland as a centre of excellence.

Mrs Craw referred to parallel investigations by Highlands & Islands Enterprise (HIE) which, applying a different model, had come to the same conclusions of the required improvements and support. She stressed that additional market testing was required, following the rolling out of the Strategic Business Case, and so the ongoing support by a dedicated staff resource was essential and had been included.

The Joint Committee heard from Mr Machray, ONE, that the main focus of the work had been to move away from research as a driver, to being one of many contributory parts, and the highlighting of the need to drive growth into the system.

There was discussion of the areas of commonality between Aberdeen City and Shire and the Highlands & Islands; the need to create a Unique Selling Point for the region, harnessing the power of the collective and which could be the proximity of sea and land to the final consumer’s product; the need for INNOVATE to develop contact with the industry to complement its current relationships with the researchers; the challenges for small businesses in expanding to be employers of others; and an amended timescale, given the need for additional market testing, for the development of a Full Business Case.

The Joint Committee **agreed:-**

- (1) to note that the Full Business Case is now anticipated to be issued for review by both government in June 2018;
- (2) to commend the work on agri-food done to date; and
- (3) to note the update provided.

## 9. COMMUNICATIONS PROTOCOL UPDATES

There had been circulated a report by the Service Manager, Communications and Marketing, Aberdeenshire Council, requesting the Joint Committee's consideration of updated protocols for communications.

There was discussion of the need for some reports to remain in confidence in advance of the Joint Committee's consideration of them, and for which an appropriate corporate press release might be made subsequently, if required, and the Joint Committee **agreed:-**

- (1) to approve the content of the Communication Protocol, as detailed in Appendix 1;
- (2) the use of the visual identity and supporting logo suite, as detailed in Appendix 2; and
- (3) that any future update to the Communications Protocol be agreed by the City Region Deal Programme Board and only require further approval by the Joint Committee if changes are significant.

## 10. CITY REGION DEAL – Q2 & Q3 FINANCIAL UPDATE 2017/18

There had been circulated a report by the Senior Programme Manager, Aberdeen City Council, providing an update on the finances of the Aberdeen City Region Deal for the second and third quarters of 2017/18. Having heard further from the Head of Finance, Aberdeenshire Council, and the Senior Programme Manager, of rulings awaited from the Scottish Government on proposed funds carried forward, the Joint Committee **agreed** to note the updates provided and end of year outcome forecast.

## 11. BUSINESS CASE DEVELOPMENT – REGIONAL DATA EXCHANGE AND SENSOR NETWORK

There had been circulated a report by the Programme Manager, Aberdeen City Council, updating the Joint Committee on plans to develop the Regional Data Exchange and Sensor Network projects, providing Outline Business Cases for the projects and seeking approval to invest in options appraisal works and the development of a Full Business Case for a regional data exchange and a sensor network.

Having heard further from the Head of IT and Transformation, Aberdeen City Council, there was discussion of the extension, in due course of the immediate benefits in the City to the Shire, albeit with differing applications, and the Joint Committee heard from the Service Manager, Industry Sectors, Aberdeenshire Council. The Joint Committee **agreed:-**

- (1) to approve the Outline Business Case for a regional data exchange, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report;
- (2) to approve the investment of up to £150,000 in the development of a Full Business Case for a regional data exchange, subject to approval by Aberdeenshire Council in respect of its contribution;
- (3) to approve the Outline Business Case for a sensor network, as detailed in Appendix 2 to the report;
- (4) to approve the investment of up to £150,000 in the development of a Full Business Case for a sensor network, subject to approval by Aberdeenshire Council in respect of its contribution; and
- (5) to note that the Full Business Cases will be submitted, in August 2018, to the Joint Committee for approval.

## 12. LOCAL FULL FIBRE NETWORK FULL BUSINESS CASE

There had been circulated a report by the Programme Manager, Aberdeen City Council, seeking approval of the Full Business Case for the Local Full Fibre Network project, within the Digital theme of the Aberdeen City Region Deal.

The Joint Committee **agreed** to approve, for their interest, the detailed Business Case for the Local Full Fibre Network project, as appended to the report, subject to (a) approval of the Business Case by the UK and Scottish Governments, and Aberdeenshire Council and (b) positive peer review of the project by the Peer Review Group.

## 13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Joint Committee **noted** that the next meeting would be held on Friday 4 May, 2018.

Councillor Jim Gifford, Chair