

ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL
GARIOCH AREA COMMITTEE

COUNCIL CHAMBER, GORDON HOUSE, INVERURIE ON 19 MARCH 2019

- Present:** Councillors F Hood (Chair), N Baillie, L Berry, M Ewenson, M Ford, V Harper, S Leslie, D Lonchay, R McKail, A McKelvie, G Reid, H Smith, I Walker and J Whyte.
- Apology:** Councillor D Aitchison
- Officers:** M-J Cardno (Garioch Area Manager), A Overton, (Senior Solicitor), B Strachan (Senior Planner), L Robertson (Engineer/Technician), M Laing (Engineer/Technician), B Strachan (Roads and Landscapes Services Manager), I Mitchell (Landscape Officer), S Walker (Principal Roads Engineer), A Johnston (Tackling Poverty and Inequalities Co-ordinator), S Adams (Area Project Officer), F McCallum (Team Manager), J Bruce (Roads Policy Officer), G Aitken (Team Leader), P Whalley (Early Years Estates Manager) and A Cumming (Area Committee Officer).

1. DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

In accordance with the Scheme of Governance, the following interests were declared:-

- Item 10 – Councillors Berry, Ewenson, McKail, Walker and Whyte declared interests as they had been invited to the civic dinner for the U18s Centenary Football Event and intended to attend. These Councillors left the Council Chamber whilst the application was considered.

2. RESOLUTION

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.

2B. 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.
13	8
14	8
15	8

3. MINUTE OF MEETING OF 26 FEBRUARY 2019

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 DETERMINATION

The following planning applications were considered along with any valid representations received and were dealt with as recorded in **Appendix A** to this Minute.

APP/2019/0037	Change of use from workshop (Class 4) to soft play centre (Class 11) at Unit 3, Ground Floor, Building 1, Advertising House, Burghmuir Circle, Inverurie	Grant
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5. 2019/2020 BRIDGEWORKS PROGRAMME (ROAD NETWORK)

A report by the Director of Infrastructure Services was circulated to Members seeking approval for the 2019/2020 Bridgeworks Programme (Road Network).

Officers confirmed that they were progressing with the asset management system to ensure best value was being provided.

Members accepted that the funding available to the Service was not enough to maintain the status quo and were keen to see measures taken to protect at risk bridges from further damage from large vehicles. Members queried the use of capital funds for a feasibility study and requested that the appropriateness of this be clarified before progressing with the Programme.

Members highlighted the need for works to be progressed regarding the Howford Bridge given the larger amount of traffic that was being directed there via the northern link road. Officers confirmed that meetings were taking place with regards to this being progressed and it was linked to development at Osprey Village. Members asked to be kept informed about developments on this bridge.

The Committee **agreed** to:

1. approve the Garioch Area 2019/2020 Bridgeworks Programme (Road Network), as detailed in Appendix A to this report subject to Officers discussing with Internal Audit the appropriateness of capital spend on the proposed project at Don Bridge, Inverurie as detailed in the appendix to the report;
2. note that approval for any Garioch Area based procurements of £50,000 or more will be sought within the Infrastructure Service 2019/2020 Procurement Plan;
3. request that consideration being given to the appropriateness of bridges for use by HGVs and potential restrictions being put on to at risk bridges along with cameras to assist enforcement; and
4. request that Local Members be kept up-to-date with progress being made with improvements at Howford Bridge.

6. LANDSCAPE SERVICES REVENUE AND CAPITAL WORK PROGRAMME 2019/20

A report by the Director of Infrastructure Services was circulated to Members seeking approval of the Landscape Services Revenue and Capital Work Programme 2019/2020.

Members acknowledged the importance of the work done by Landscape Services to the residents of Garioch and sought clarification to work being done regarding cemeteries, playparks in Blackburn and Westhill, pest control at the Cemetery and projects in Newmachar. Members were keen to see more engagement with Community Councils particularly in Inverurie and suggested this be discussed further at Ward meetings. Local members asked Officers to engage with ward members and residents before a final plan was implemented for Barringer Lane (biodiversity planting) due to previous local interest.

The Committee **agreed**:-

1. to welcome and approve the Area Landscape Maintenance and Capital Programme as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report and thank Landscape Services Officers for their hard work in the Garioch communities;
2. to approve the schemes headed Reserve as detailed in Appendix 1; to the report;
3. that Reserve schemes can be brought forward in the event of slippage, provided that their inclusion does not result in the overall expenditure exceeding the allocated budget sum;
4. to request that Officers give consideration to the inclusion of works at the path at Kinmundy Road and School Road, Newmachar and Newmachar War Memorial; and
5. note that approval for any Garioch Area based procurements of £50,000 or more will be sought within the Infrastructure Services 2019/2020 Procurement Plan.

7. ROAD MAINTENANCE PROGRAMME 2019/20

A report by the Director of Infrastructure Services was circulated to Members seeking approval of the Road Maintenance Programme 2019/20.

Members acknowledged the challenges faced by the Service given the budget constraints and sought clarification as to the type of works proposed, the quality and warranty period that come with these works. Members also asked whether any work was planned for Riverside Path in Kemnay. Officers confirmed that this was not part of the road network, but would pass on the query to the relevant Service. Members asked why Westhill Drive works were not included. Officers confirmed that these had been inspected but were not considered to be a safety risk at the moment.

The Committee **agreed** to:-

1. welcome and approve the Roads Maintenance Programme 2019/20 and thank Roads Officers for their hard work across Garioch;
2. request that Ward Members be briefed before the street lighting works commence in Westhill; and
3. request that the Kintore Burgh signs be repainted as part of the review of signage.

8. LOCAL REVIEW BODY DECISION NOTICE – SITE AT AQUHORTHIES, BURNHERVIE

A Local Review Body decision notice was circulated detailing the appeal decision relating to the erection of a dwellinghouse at Aquhorthies 40M west of Cosy Neuk, Burnhervie.

The Committee **agreed** to note the decision of the Local Review Body to dismiss the appeal and refuse the application for the erection of a dwellinghouse at Aquhorthies 40M west of Cosy Neuk, Burnhervie.

9. REDUCING CHILD POVERTY IN ABERDEENSHIRE 2019

A report by the Director of Infrastructure Services was circulated to Members seeking approval of the Action Plan for reducing child poverty in Aberdeenshire 2019.

Members discussed at length the issues around child poverty and provided suggestions and comments as to how some of these issues may be tackled. They were keen to be kept up-to-date with activities and requested that seminars be arranged for a Child Poverty update and Benefits.

The Committee **agreed** to

1. approve the Action Plan and provide the following comments to Full Council:-
 - a) Education should feature more strongly throughout the Plan;
 - b) Better awareness and use should be made of the Pupil Equity Fund;
 - c) Working poor should be included within the priority target groups;
 - d) Inflated prices as a result of oil and gas has meant that there is a great deal of hidden poverty which is not known about;
 - e) Whilst the plan considers issues with rural living, it should also be considering remote rural and the challenges associated with that;
 - f) Further work should be done in relation to free school meals to make the awareness and application process as easy as possible;
 - g) Money management advice is also a key area where support is required; and
 - h) More direct contact with teachers should be made so that families in need and the causes can be identified.
2. request that a seminar on benefits be provided to the Committee; and
3. request that officers report back to a Committee seminar on progress made with the action plan in six months.

10. GAC STRATEGIC FUND AND AREA INITIATIVES FUND – URY RIVERSIDE PARK AND U18 FOOTBALL CENTENARY SHIELD

As detailed in item 1, Councillors Berry, Ewenson, McKail, Walker and Whyte declared interests and left the Council Chamber whilst the application for the Area Initiatives Fund was considered.

A report by the Director of Education and Children’s Services was circulated asking Members to consider awards to the Ury Riverside Park and Centenary Shield International U18 football from the Area Committee Strategic Fund and Area Initiative Fund.

The Committee **agreed**:-

1. to award £14,038 towards the cost of a new entrance at Ury Riverside Park from the Area Committee Strategic Fund; and
2. not to award any funds towards supporting the Centenary Shield International U18 Football from Area Initiative Fund on the grounds that it would not be an appropriate use for Council funds.

11. GARIOCH AREA COMMITTEE BUDGET 2019/20

A report by the Director of Education and Children’s Services was circulated seeking approval to allocate funds from the Garioch Area Committee Budget.

The Area Manager highlighted the need for Councillors to promote the small initiatives grants and to provide possible projects for consideration to the strategic budget. Members were keen that projects that are strategic, but may not have an impact across the whole of Garioch, be included and agreed a change to the wording on recommendation 3 to take account of this.

The Committee **agreed** to:-

1. allocate £15,000 of the Garioch Area Committee Budget 2019/20 to the Garioch Area Initiatives Fund, in line with the eligibly criteria outlined in Sections 2.3-2.11 of the report, to promote the development of community-based initiatives supporting the delivery of the following themes:

Theme	
Improving the appearance and maintenance of towns and villages	£15,000
Healthy Communities	
Strong Communities	
Safe Communities	

2. allocate £5,000 of the Garioch Area Committee Budget 2019/20 to the Garioch Rural Partnership Small Grant Initiative;
3. utilise the remaining £60,000 of the Garioch Area Committee budget for projects which have a strategic impact; and
4. instruct Officers to report to Area Committee the outcome of investments made via the 2018/19 Area Committee Budget.

12. STATEMENT OF OUTSTANDING BUSINESS

A report by the Director of Education and Children’s Services was circulated presenting the items of outstanding business for the Garioch Area Committee as at March 2019.

The Committee Officer indicated that the Chair and Vice Chair had agreed to receive the report relating to Voids as a bulletin item.

The Committee **agreed** to:-

1. note the items of outstanding business as at March 2019;
2. note that the Voids report will be provided as a bulletin item; and
3. express great disappointment at the time taken to take action with regard to speeding in Newmachar and in particular the time taken to act following the Member Promoted Issue. The Committee asked that the Area Manager feed this back to the Service.

13. ANNUAL WORK PLAN 2019/20 FOR BUSINESS SERVICES DIRECTORATE – PROCUREMENT APPROVAL

A report by the Director of Business Services was circulated seeking approval of the Annual Work Plan 2019/20 for Business Services Directorate.

The Committee **agreed**:-

1. to note the Directorate Work Plan as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report;
2. to approve the items on the 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 Work Plan; and
4. to request that further, more detailed information, be provided about the projects included within the work plan for all future reports.

14 ANNUAL WORK PLAN FOR INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES – PROCUREMENT APPROVAL

A report by the Director of Infrastructure Services was circulated seeking approval of the Annual Work Plan 2019/20 for Infrastructure Services Procurement Approval.

The Committee noted the late addition to the work plan from Housing and the amended appendix providing the details for this project.

The Committee **agreed**:

1. to note the Directorate Work Plan as detailed in Appendix 1; to the report;
2. approve the items on the Work Plan identified as falling within the remit of the Committee;
3. not to reserve approval of the Business Case for any of the items detailed on the Work Plan; and
4. request that further, more detailed information, be provided about the projects included within the work plan for all future reports.

15. SUPPLEMENTARY 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 Supplementary Annual Work Plan for Education and Children's Services Directorate Procurement Approval.

The Committee **agreed** to:

1. consider the Directorate Work Plan as detailed in Appendix 1;
2. approve the item on the Work Plan identified as falling within the remit of the Committee;
3. approve the Business Case in Appendix 2; and.
4. request that a briefing be provided to show Garioch Councillors the plans for enhancement works for nursery provision.

**16. KINGSEAT MEMBER OFFICER WORKING GROUP –
MINUTE OF MEETING ON 8 FEBRUARY 2019**

The Committee **agreed** to note the minute of the Kingseat Member Officer Working Group.

Councillor Presiding over meeting

Print Name

Signature

Date

GARIOCH AREA COMMITTEE

19 MARCH 2019

APPENDIX A

PLANNING APPLICATIONS FOR DETERMINATION

A. Reference No:

Full Planning Permission for change of use from workshop (Class 4) to soft play centre (Class 11) at Unit 3, Ground Floor, Building 1, Advertising House, Burghmuir Circle, Blackhall Industrial Estate, Inverurie, Aberdeenshire, AB51 4FS

Applicant: BECS Centre
Agent: James Greig - Architect

The Senior Planner explained that the application was a departure from the Development Plan as it was proposing a class 11 use in the business park which was designated as classes 4, 5 and 6. He explained that the business park had a variety of uses and the provision of a soft play area for children with additional support needs was considered to fit in well with the surrounding uses. He pointed out that the proposals would see the reuse of a currently vacant property, but as there were no major changes proposed to the building, it could revert to industrial use in the future. He accepted that the parking provision issues were covered within the supporting statement and this had been accepted by the Roads Service. He highlighted the concern raised in the letter of representation regarding traffic generation, but indicated that there was not expected to be a significant change to transport movements as a result of the development.

The Committee **agreed:-**

1. that the reason for departing from the Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan 2017 is that the proposed development is of a limited scale, provides a valuable resource to the local community and is capable of being reversed in the future. In addition the proposal fully meets the requirements set out by Policy RD1; and
2. to grant Full Planning Permission