

ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL

COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

WOODHILL HOUSE, ABERDEEN, 19 DECEMBER, 2019

Present: Councillors A Stirling (Chair), M Roy (Vice Chair), A Allan, D Beagrie (as substitute for Councillor A Kille), G Blackett, V Harper (as substitute for Councillor G Petrie), P Gibb, A Hassan, D Mair, G Reynolds, D Robertson, A Ross, I Walker and S Wallace.

Apologies: Councillors A Kille and G Petrie.

Officers: Director of Infrastructure Services, Head of Service (Housing), Head of Service (Lifelong Learning and Leisure), Corporate Finance Manager, Housing Manager, Head of Children's Services, Housing Manager (Housing and Building Standards), Chief Social Work Officer, Local Senior Officer, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, Chief Superintendent C Thomson, Police Scotland, Strategic Procurement Manager, Principal Solicitor (Governance) (Lauren Cowie), and Senior Committee Officer (N David).

1. DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

The Chair asked members if they had any interests to declare in terms of the Councillors' Code of Conduct. No interests were declared.

2. RESOLUTIONS

A. PUBLIC SECTOR EQUALITY DUTY

In taking decisions on the undernoted 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 and 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) to consider, where an equality impact assessment has been provided, its contents and to take those into consideration 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

the items specified below 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
14	8 and 10
15	8
16	8
17	8
18	8

3. MINUTE OF MEETING OF THE COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE OF 7 NOVEMBER, 2019

The Minute of Meeting of the Committee of 7 November, 2019 had been circulated, was **approved** as a correct record and thereafter signed by the Chair.

4. PROGRESS WITH ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MEETINGS

There was circulated a report, which updated members on the progress made, against outstanding actions agreed, at previous meetings of the Communities Committee, held on 5 September and 7 November, 2019. The report also detailed the actions completed since the last meeting.

The Committee **agreed** to acknowledge the position with regard to the progressing of actions from previous meetings and those which had now been completed.

5. FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE REPORTING TO 30 NOVEMBER 2019: COMMUNITIES BUDGET

There was circulated a report dated 5 December, 2019, by the Director of Business Services, which provided revenue and capital budget monitoring information to 30 November, 2019 for consideration.

The Communities Revenue Budget for 2019/20 for monitoring purposes had been agreed at the meeting of Aberdeenshire Council on 14 February, 2019 at £126.905M. The report highlighted that the revised budget was £128.739M, due to virements, additional Scottish Government Funding and transfers from reserves.

The Communities Capital Budget for monitoring purposes for 2019/20 had also been agreed at the meeting of Aberdeenshire Council on 14 February, 2019 at £4.409M. The revised budget was £5.928M, due to £1.519M being carried forward from the last financial year.

Detailed information was included in appendices to the report.

The Committee **agreed** to:-

- (1) acknowledge the revenue and capital budget monitoring to 30 November, 2019; and

- (2) approve the budget movements as set out in Appendix 2, with further details in Appendix 3.

6. FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE TO 30 NOVEMBER 2019 - HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA)

There was circulated a report dated 4 December, 2019, by the Director of Business Services, which provided revenue and capital budget monitoring information to 30 November, 2019 for the Housing Revenue Account for consideration.

The report reminded members that the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) and Capital Expenditure budget for monitoring purposes for 2019/20 was approved by Council on 14 February 2019. Any surplus on the HRA was used to fund the HRA Capital Programme, whilst maintaining a minimum working balance of £2M in reserves. The report provided detailed monitoring information on both the Revenue Budget and Capital Budget.

The Committee **agreed**:-

- (1) to acknowledge the Revenue and Capital Budget monitoring to 30 November 2019; and
- (2) that a briefing note be provided to the Committee on the operational changes to the voids process when implemented in 2020; and then a report be submitted to the Committee six months thereafter providing an update.

7. SCRUTINY REFERRAL FROM AUDIT COMMITTEE – INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT 2001 – BUILDING MAINTENANCE YEAR END STOCK TAKES

With reference to the Minute of Meeting of the Committee of 31 October, 2019 (Item 5), there was circulated a report dated 13 November, 2019, by the Director of Business Services on a Scrutiny Referral from the Audit Committee in respect of Building Maintenance and Year End Stock Takes (Internal Audit Report 2001).

The report explained that the Audit Committee received and considered an Internal Audit Report at the meeting on 31 October, 2019 and identified a matter of service delivery for improvement, being Building Maintenance Year End Stock Takes (Internal Audit Report 2001). The Audit Committee had powers relating to the scrutiny of service delivery which allowed them to request that a policy committee conduct the Committee Review Process in respect of a matter of service delivery, identified in an audit report for improvement.

The Committee **agreed** to:-

- (1) conduct the Committee Review Process and that the Head of Housing will report to Committee with the Stage 1 Report on 2 April, 2020;
- (2) instruct the Head of Housing to report to Audit Committee on 6 February, 2020, with the Committee's decision; and
- (3) to acknowledge that the lead officer for the Stage 1 report be the Housing Manager (Housing and Building Standards).

8. POLICE SCOTLAND - PERFORMANCE MONITORING AND OPERATIONAL UPDATE

There was circulated a report dated 5 December, 2019, by the Director of Business Services which provided information on how the Police Service was performing against key performance measures and associated targets, as set out in the Aberdeenshire Police Plan, previously approved by the Communities Committee.

The report reminded members that the performance monitoring report provided a regular opportunity for members to maintain scrutiny of significant Police activities, in order to achieve good outcomes for the residents of Aberdeenshire.

Chief Superintendent Campbell Thomson introduced the report and took members through the various themes of the report and commented on a number of areas within the report.

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

- (1) to acknowledge the performance monitoring information relating to the Aberdeenshire component of the North East Division of Police Scotland;
- (2) that future reports potentially include Victim Support input;
- (3) that an email briefing be provided to the Committee on the process/methodology for compiling domestic abuse statistics; and
- (4) to request the Divisional Commander to continue to report to Committee quarterly on performance measures against service objectives.

9. POLICE SCOTLAND – THEMATIC REPORT: SENSORY IMPAIRMENT AWARENESS TRAINING

There was circulated a report dated 5 December, 2019, by the Director of Business Services on Police Scotland's Sensory Impairment Awareness Training.

The report explained that following consideration of a report on British Sign Language at the meeting of the Committee on 20 December, 2018, an opportunity was identified by Police Scotland to provide local officers with training to assist them should they encounter people with sensory impairment. Thereafter, a training plan was devised and successfully implemented. The training was first introduced to probationer constables in May 2019.

The Committee **agreed:-**

- (1) to acknowledge the Sensory Impairment Awareness Training provided to probationer constables in North East Division; and
- (2) that Police Scotland invite members of the Committee to Sensory Impairment Awareness Training for probationer constables.

10. SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE – PERFORMANCE REPORT FOR 1 APRIL 2019 – 30 SEPTEMBER 2019

There was circulated a report dated 21 November, 2019 by the Director of Business Services on The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Performance Report for 1 April to 30 September, 2019.

The report outlined how the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service was performing against key performance measures and associated targets, as set out in the Aberdeenshire Fire and Rescue Plan 2017 to 2020, approved at the meeting of the Communities Committee on 9 December, 2017. A copy of the Performance Report was appended to the report.

The Committee **agreed** to acknowledge the Performance Report relating to year to date performance for 1 April, 2019 to 30 September, 2019 for the Aberdeenshire area of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.

11. WORKING TOGETHER TO PROTECT YOUNG PEOPLE FROM HOMELESSNESS

With reference to the Minute of Meeting of the Committee of 21 February, 2019 (Item 7), there was circulated a report dated 19 November, 2019, by the Director of Infrastructure Services on work being undertaken by the Housing Service in partnership with others to address the needs of young people at risk of homelessness.

The report highlighted that Aberdeenshire Council had worked closely with partners and in consultation with care experienced young people to ensure a range of stable and sustainable housing and accommodation options for young people leaving care were available. There was a shared commitment between the Housing Service and the Children's Social Work Service to ensure that no young person should have to become homeless on leaving care.

The report provided detail on the significant range of activities being undertaken jointly to implement guidance and to develop housing and accommodation options for care leavers and care experienced young people.

The Committee **agreed** to:-

- (1) acknowledge the activities being undertaken jointly by both Housing and Children's Social Work Services to implement guidance and to develop housing and accommodation options for care leavers and care experienced young people;
- (2) the Housing Service working with Children's Social Work Services to identify and lease suitable property to enable the provision of respite accommodation as an alternative to out of area residential placement if required; and
- (3) further updates being provided to the Committee in the future.

12. PERFORMANCE MONITORING REPORT (COUNCIL PLAN PRIORITIES 2017 – 2022)

With reference to the Minute of Meeting of the Committee of 5 September, 2019 (Item 14) there was circulated a report dated 20 November, 2019, by the Director of Infrastructure Services on Performance Monitoring (Council Plan Priorities 2017 to 2022).

The report highlighted that it was the second such monitoring report to be presented to the Committee and that it provided an update on progress with priorities for the period April to September 2019.

The Committee **agreed**:-

- (1) to acknowledge and consider progress made during 2019/20 towards achieving the Council Plan Priorities 2017-2022 referred to in Appendices 1-3;
- (2) to instruct the Director of Infrastructure Services to continue to present performance reports to the Committee on a six-monthly basis, evidencing progress and performance with delivery of the Council Plan 2017-2022; and
- (3) that, in respect of Priority 8, namely work to reduce poverty and inequalities within communities, that a report be submitted to the Committee providing detailed information on the Child Poverty Action Plan and the implementation thereof, in order that a decision then be taken whether to instruct a Stage 1 Report in the Committee Review Process.

13. CHIEF SOCIAL WORK OFFICER ANNUAL REPORT 2018/2019

There was a circulated report dated 21 November, 2019, by the Chief Social Work Officer (1) which explained the background to the production of his Annual Report for 2018/2019 and (2) to which was appended a copy of the Annual Report itself.

After detailed consideration, the Committee **agreed** to acknowledge:-

- (1) the Chief Social Work Officer Annual Report for the 2018/2019 financial year in relation to Adult Social Work Services and to recommend approval to Full Council;
- (2) the level of investment by the Council in Children's Social Work Services for the residents of Aberdeenshire; and
- (3) the commitment of social work staff in the consistent delivery of high performing services.

14. HOUSING IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME (HIP) 2017-2021

There was circulated a joint report dated 3 December, 2019, by the Directors of Business Services and Infrastructure Services which provided an update on the progress of the delivery of the Housing Improvement Programme (HIP) for HIP Year 1 and Year 2.

The report set out detailed information on the 4 year Housing Improvement Programme of works, namely North, East, Central and South. Appendix 1 gave details on the final totals for Year 1 along with information on Year 2. Appendix 2 provided information on Key Performance Indicators being used to monitor all four contractors. Finally, Appendix 3 detailed Community Benefits and set out the specified benefits along with the total achieved to date, against the target set overall for the four year framework.

The Committee **agreed** to:-

- (1) endorse the current position with regard to progress on the delivery of the Housing Improvement Programme for 2017- 2021;
- (2) acknowledge the forecast expenditure for the Financial Year 2019/2020 on the Housing Improvement Programme;
- (3) endorse the Call-off Contract for HIP Year 2, for the Central area contractor, MPS Housing Limited, as detailed in the report; and
- (4) receive an email briefing providing more detail on Community Benefits.

15. HARD FACILITIES MANAGEMENT (HARD FM) UPDATE

With reference to the Minute of Meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee of 17 November, 2016 (Item 39) when it had been agreed to award the Hard Facilities Management (HardFM) contract to FES FM Ltd, there was circulated a report dated 25 November, 2019, by the Director of Business Services which provided an update on Hard Facilities Management (Hard FM).

The Committee **agreed** to:-

- (1) acknowledge the performance of FES FM Limited under the Hard Facilities Management contract; and
- (2) continue to receive updates on a quarterly basis and that those updates provide greater detail in respect of Live Life Aberdeenshire.

16. SUPPLEMENTARY HOUSING WORK PLAN – TENANTS CONTENTS INSURANCE

There was circulated a report dated 20 November, 2019, by the Director of Infrastructure Services on the Supplementary Work Plan for Housing.

The report advised the Committee of the proposed procurement strategy for the provision of a Tenant Contents Insurance Scheme.

The Committee **agreed** to:-

- (1) acknowledge the Housing Supplementary Work Plan, as detailed in Appendix 1;

- (2) approve the items on the Supplementary Work Plan identified as falling within the remit of the Committee and note that this would be added to the Housing Work Plan that was approved at the meeting of the Committee on 21 February, 2019;
- (3) approve the Business Case in Appendix 2, seeking the use of an external framework for the provision of services; and
- (4) acknowledge that the authority to award, and the award of call offs from the external framework, were delegated to the Head of Housing.

17. SUPPLEMENTARY WORK PLAN FOR HOUSING – PROCUREMENT APPROVAL FOR HOUSING REPAIRS TENDER

There was circulated a report dated 22 November, 2019, by the Director of Infrastructure Services on the Supplementary Work Plan for Housing.

The report was in respect of the proposed procurement and tender strategy for Housing Repairs sub-contractors.

The Committee **agreed** to:-

- (1) acknowledge the Housing Supplementary Work Plan as detailed in Appendix 1;
- (2) approve the items on the Supplementary Work Plan identified as falling within the remit of the Committee and note that this will be added to the Housing Work Plan that was approved at the meeting of the Committee on 21 February, 2019;
- (3) approve the Business Case in Appendix 3;
- (4) not reserve the award of the final contract and note that if not reserved, the Head of Housing had the delegated authority to award the final contract.
- (5) approve the approach and expenditure on new contracts, as shown in the business case.

18. ANNUAL WORK PLAN FOR INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD – PROCUREMENT APPROVAL

With reference to the Minute of Meeting of the Aberdeenshire Integration Joint Board of 18 December, 2019 (Item 16), there was circulated a report by the Interim Chief Officer, Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care Partnership which presented the annual procurement work plan for the Integration Joint Board for 2020/2021 for the Communities Committee to implement the Direction to procure the items on the work plan.

The Committee **agreed** to:-

- (1) acknowledge the details included in the report to the Integration Joint Board entitled 'Annual Work Plan – Procurement Approval', attached at Appendix 1 and approved at the meeting of the Integration Joint Board on 18 December 2019;

- (2) implement the Direction from the Integration Joint Board to procure the items in the Work Plan, other than the item relating to a property acquisition on page 253, which would be dealt with by officer delegation;
- (3) note that the Committee may reserve the approval of Business Cases for items on the Work Plan with a value of £50,000 up to £1,000,000 and the award of contract with a value over £1,000,000.

ITEMS FOR NOTING

- (a) The Committee **noted** the Minute of Meeting of the Culture and Sports Sub-Committee of 12 September, 2019, which forms Appendix A to this Minute.
- (b) The Committee **noted** the Minute of Meeting of the Gypsy/Traveller Sub-Committee of 19 June, 2019, which forms Appendix B to this Minute.

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APPENDIX A

COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

CULTURE AND SPORT SUB-COMMITTEE

WOODHILL HOUSE, ABERDEEN, 12 SEPTEMBER, 2019

Present: Mr D Cook (Chair), Councillor A Simpson (Vice-Chair), Councillor L Berry; Councillor A Forsyth, Councillor C Pike, Mr J Knowles and Ms K Penman.

Apology: Mr C Sutherland.

Officers: Director of Business Services; Head of Live Life Aberdeenshire; Corporate Finance Manager; Service Manager, Lifelong Learning and Leisure (Tim Stephen); Service Manager, Lifelong Learning and Leisure (Claire Thomson); Senior Committee Officer, Legal and Governance (Allan Bell); Senior Community Leisure Officer, Lifelong Learning and Leisure (Donald Fraser); and Community Learning Officer, Lifelong Learning and Leisure (Ashleigh Eaton).

2. DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

The Chair asked members if they had any interests to declare, in terms of the Councillors' Code of Conduct. No interests were declared.

2A. PUBLIC SECTOR EQUALITY DUTY

In taking decisions on the undernoted items of business, the Sub-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) to consider, where an equality impact assessment has been provided, its contents and to take those into consideration when reaching a decision.

2B. EXEMPT INFORMATION

The Sub-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 the items specified below 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
9	4
10	8
11	11

3. MINUTE OF MEETING OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE OF 30 MAY, 2019

On consideration of the circulated Minute of Meeting of the Sub-Committee of 30 May, 2019, members **approved** it as a correct record, after which the Minute was signed by the Chair.

4. FRASERBURGH FILM PRESENTATION

The Sub-Committee **noted** a film presentation on Fraserburgh Community and Sports Centre.

5. SKI CENTRES PRESENTATION

The Sub-Committee **noted** presentations by Ashleigh Eaton, Community Leisure Officer, and Donald Fraser, Senior Community Leisure Officer, on the Alford Ski Centre and Huntly Nordic and Outdoor Centre respectively, on the current activities at those facilities and the future aspirations for developing both.

6. PROVISION OF FITNESS EQUIPMENT

Consideration was given to a circulated report dated 4 September, 2019, by the Director of Education and Children's Services, which (1) advised that the provision of fitness equipment was viewed as a key component in encouraging Live Life Aberdeenshire membership sales and promoting active and healthy lifestyles, (2) explained that the current approach to the procurement of fitness equipment was outright purchase and (3) indicated that a project team had undertaken an initial options appraisal of alternative ways of procuring new fitness gym equipment.

After consideration, the Sub-Committee **instructed** the Head of Live Life Aberdeenshire to undertake a more detailed appraisal of the costs and benefits of procuring fitness equipment through lease arrangements and to report back to a future meeting with the outcome of the appraisal and the specific financial implications.

7. PROMOTING PHYSICALLY ACTIVE LIFESTYLES IN THE WORKFORCE

Consideration was given to a circulated report dated 4 September, 2019, by the Director of Education and Children's Services, which (1) explained the advantages of encouraging physical activity for the workforce near to, or at, a work location and (2) explained that ongoing office rationalisation and the reduced need for records storage had created the opportunity for Live Life Aberdeenshire to consider the provision of a fitness facility in the basement of Woodhill House.

After consideration, the Sub-Committee **instructed** the Head of Live Life Aberdeenshire to investigate further the feasibility and market for the installation of a fitness facility in Woodhill House.

8. PERFORMANCE REPORT 2019/20

With reference to the Minutes of Meetings of (1) the Communities Committee of 21 February, 2019 (Item 10), when approval had been given to a number of performance targets for Live Life Aberdeenshire for 2019/20 and (2) the Sub-Committee of 18 April, 2019, there was circulated and **noted** a report dated 3 September, 2019, by the Director of Education and Children's Services (1) which contained the first quarter performance measurements (March – June 2019) for Live Life Aberdeenshire, (2) which highlighted a number of key messages, in respect of participation in cultural, sporting and physical activities, targeted participation, memberships, customer satisfaction and volunteer hours and (3) to which was appended a copy of the summary performance report for the first quarter of 2019/20.

9. GRANT FUNDING

With reference to the Minute of Meeting of the Education, Learning and Leisure Committee of 8 December, 2016 (Item 9), when members had agreed grant support for cultural, sport, and community learning and development functions, there was circulated a report dated 3 September, 2019, by the Director of Education and Children's Services which (1) explained that the Capacity Grant Scheme had now expired and that Key Partner Core Funding Grants would end in the current financial year, (2) advised that Live Life Aberdeenshire intended to seek approval for new funding schemes from financial year 2020/21 and (3) set out a timetable to review those organisations which were currently funded, in order to assess the viability of those groups and their requirement for continued funding.

After consideration, the Sub-Committee **agreed** to a review and to the implementation of a funding scheme to be delivered through Live Life Aberdeenshire, commencing in 2020/21.

10. FACILITIES REFURBISHMENT

The Sub-Committee **noted** an oral update from the Head of Live Life Aberdeenshire on the urgent requirement to refurbish a number of premises for which her Service was responsible.

11. DEVELOPING OUR FUTURE LIBRARY SERVICES

With reference to the Minutes of Meetings of (1) Aberdeenshire Council of 26 April, 2018 (Item 7), when approval had been given to the Aberdeenshire Council Cultural Strategy 2018-2028 and (2) the Sub-Committee of 18 April, 2019 (Item 4), there was circulated a report dated 7 August, 2019, by the Director of Education and Children's Services, which (1) explained the background to proposals for the development of the Council's Library Service and (2) highlighted a number of budgetary considerations, together with operational proposals and consultation thereon.

Thereafter, the Sub-Committee **noted** and **endorsed** the proposed actions contained within the report.

APPENDIX B

COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

GYPSY/TRAVELLER SUB-COMMITTEE

WOODHILL HOUSE, ABERDEEN, 19 JUNE, 2019

Present: Councillors A Stirling (Chair), A Allan, N Baillie, M Ewenson, M Ford (as substitute for Councillor A Wallace), G Owen (as substitute for Councillor H Smith) and I Taylor.

Apologies: Councillors D Robertson, H Smith and A Wallace.

Officers: Housing Manager (Strategy), Principal Solicitor (Democratic Services), Senior Committee Officer (Allan Bell), Gypsy/Traveller Liaison Officer, Gypsy/Traveller Teacher (Lyndsay Aspey) and Strategic Housing Officer (Liz Hamilton).

Also in attendance: Angie Wood (Partnership Manager, Aberdeenshire Housing and Social Care Partnership) and Inspector Sheila McDermott (Police Scotland).

1. DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

The Chair asked members if they had any interests to declare in terms of the Councillors' Code of Conduct. No interests were declared.

2A. STATEMENT ON EQUALITIES

In taking decisions on the undernoted items of business, the Sub-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) to consider, where an equality impact assessment has been provided, its contents and to take those into consideration when reaching a decision.

2B. EXEMPT INFORMATION

The Sub-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 the items specified below 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
7	2
8	8

3. MINUTE OF MEETING OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE OF 13 FEBRUARY, 2019

On consideration of the circulated Minute of Meeting of the Sub-Committee of 13 February, 2019, members **approved** it as a correct record, after which the Minute was signed by the Chair.

4. ACTION PLAN FOR THE GYPSY/TRAVELLER SUB-COMMITTEE

With reference to the Minute of Meeting of the Sub-Committee of 6 September, 2017 (Item 4), there was circulated a report dated 6 June, 2019, by the Director of Infrastructure Services, which provided an update on each of the actions contained within the Sub-Committee's Gypsy/Traveller Action Plan.

Having **noted** members' comments in respect of the reduction in the number of unauthorised encampments, the length of occupation of allocated council houses by gypsy/travellers, privately-owned sites for travellers, health engagement and outreach, reporting hate crimes, and the provision of information on "negotiated stopping" in other local authority areas, the Sub-Committee **agreed** to continue to monitor the Action Plan.

5. MEASURING THE DELIVERY OF THE ACTION PLAN

With reference to the Minute of Meeting of the Sub-Committee of 5 September, 2018 (Item 4), when it had been agreed that a workshop should be held to review the Gypsy/Traveller Sub-Committee Action Plan, there was circulated a report dated 5 June, 2019, by the Director of Infrastructure Services, which advised that (1) the Action Plan had been updated to take account of members' feedback and (2) officers had developed a performance management framework to be incorporated into the Action Plan.

After consideration, the Sub-Committee:-

- (1) **agreed** the framework for measuring the delivery of the Gypsy/Traveller Sub-Committee Action Plan, and
- (2) **instructed** officers to report back to members, by exception, on any issues arising from the Action Plan.

6. MINISTERIAL ENQUIRY INTO GYPSY/TRAVELLERS

The Sub-Committee **noted** an oral update by the Housing Manager (Strategy) on the Scottish Government's ministerial inquiry into matters relating to gypsy/travellers and that a report would be published thereon in September, 2019.

7. DRAFT GYPSY/TRAVELLER SITE PROVISION STRATEGY

With reference to the Minute of Meeting of Aberdeenshire Council of 12 March, 2015 (Item 8) when it had been agreed to adopt the Aberdeenshire Gypsy/Traveller Site Provision Strategy, there was circulated a report dated 5 June, 2019, by the Director of Infrastructure Services (1) which explained that there had been an increase in site provision since 2015 and (2) to which was appended a copy of the updated Site Provision Strategy.

Having **noted** members' comments regarding sites identified under the current Local Development Plan, the need to identify sites across Aberdeenshire for smaller groups of travellers, the Council's Asset Management Plan, and potential options which had emerged since the development of the Aberdeenshire Western Peripheral Route, the Sub-Committee **agreed** the draft Site Provision Strategy for consultation with area committees.

8. AIKEY BRAE GYPSY/TRAVELLER SITE

With reference to the Minute of Meeting of the Sub-Committee of 13 February, 2019 (Item 7), when it had been agreed that a report should be submitted to the next meeting on the development of wireless internet facilities at Aikey Brae travellers' site, Old Deer, there was circulated a report dated 27 May, 2019, by the Director of Infrastructure Services, which (1) provided further information on proposals and costs for upgrading facilities at Aikey Brae, taking account of feedback from recent occupants and (2) gave an estimated cost breakdown for undertaking various works to improve the facilities onsite .

After detailed consideration, the Sub-Committee:-

- (1) **noted** the proposals contained within the report for upgrading the facilities at Aikey Brae travellers' site, and
- (2) **instructed** officers to submit a report, at the appropriate time, reviewing feedback and usage of the site, and evaluating the possibility of undertaking upgrade works at Aikey Brae, taking into account information on prospective new sites to be identified in the short-term.