

ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL

KINCARDINE AND MEARN'S AREA COMMITTEE

COUNCIL CHAMBER, VIEWMOUNT, STONEHAVEN, 05 MARCH 2019

Present: Councillors Wendy Agnew (Chair), Ian Mollison (Vice-Chair), Alastair Bews, George Carr, Sarah Dickinson, Alison Evison, Provost William Howatson, Jeff Hutchison, Colin Pike, Dennis Robertson, Sandy Wallace, Leigh Wilson.

Officers: Robert Gray (Head of Service, Planning and Building Standards), Emma Storey (Area Committee Officer, Kincardine and Mearns), Peter Robertson (Senior Solicitor, Corporate Services), Annette Johnston, (Tackling Poverty & Inequalities Coordinator), Corrie McCall (Principal Officer Harbours, Roads, Landscape Services & Waste, Frances Swanston (Environment Planner), Tom Buchan (Facilities Manager), Gareth Campbell (Head Teacher, Mearns Academy), Louise Moir (Head Teacher, Mackie Academy, Neil Morrison (Head Teacher, Portlethen Academy).

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 no declarations were intimated.

2A. STATEMENT ON EQUALITIES.

In making decisions on the following items of business, the Committee **agreed**, in terms of Section 149 of the Equality Act, 2010:-

- (1) to have due regard to the need to:-
 - (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation;
 - (b) advance equality of opportunity between those who share a protected characteristic and persons who do not share it; and
 - (c) foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
- (2) where an Equality Impact Assessment was provided, to consider its contents and take those into account when reaching their decision.

2B. RESOLUTION.

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 class described in the undernoted paragraphs of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

Item No
09

Paragraph No of Schedule 7A
8

3. MINUTE OF MEETING OF KINCARDINE AND MEARNS AREA COMMITTEE OF 12 FEBRUARY 2019.

The Committee had before them and **approved** as a correct record the Minute of Meeting of the Committee of 12 February 2019.

4. LOCAL REVIEW BODY DECISION NOTICE (434), 5 MUIRSKIE GRANGE, DURRIS, BANCHORY, ABERDEENSHIRE (APP/2018/2093).

The Committee had before them, and **noted**, an Aberdeenshire Council Local Review Body Review Decision Notice dated 14 February 2019 informing them of their decision. The Local Review Body (LRB) agreed with the determination reviewed by it and refused Full Planning Permission in accordance with the Appointed Officer's decision.

5. 2019/2020 REVENUE, CAPITAL AND RESERVE WORKS PROGRAMMES FOR KINCARDINE AND MEARNS HARBOURS.

A report by the Director of Infrastructure Services was circulated advising Members of the annual works programme being promoted for Kincardine and Mearns.

The Principal Officer, Harbours, was in attendance to present the paper and to answer queries.

The Committee **agreed** to:

1. Approve the 2019-2020 Annual Revenue Works Programmes for Kincardine and Mearns Harbours as detailed in Appendix 1, as it related solely to the Kincardine and Mearns Area,
2. Note the 2019-2020 Capital Works Programme for Kincardine and Mearns Harbours as previously approved at Kincardine and Mearns Area Committee on 02 March 2018, detailed in Appendix 2, as it related solely to the Kincardine and Mearns Area,
3. Note the Reserve List for Kincardine and Mearns Harbours as detailed in Appendix 3, as it related solely to the Kincardine and Mearns Area.

6. REDUCING CHILD POVERTY IN ABERDEENSHIRE 2019.

A report by the Director of Business Services was circulated which explained that the Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017 placed a statutory duty on local authorities and health boards to jointly prepare, and submit to the Scottish Government, an annual Local Child Poverty Action Report identifying what action had been taken in the previous 12 months, and what action would be taken in future, to reduce child poverty.

The Tackling Poverty and Inequalities Co-ordinator introduced the report and responded to questions from Members in relation to breakfast clubs, stigma attached to poverty and the introduction of Universal Credits.

The Committee **agreed** to note the Aberdeenshire Child Poverty Action Plan and provided the following comments for consideration by full Council:

- a. members felt it would be useful to have anonymised case studies attached to the action plan,
- b. members request thought be given to a final column on the action plan highlighting actions taken,
- c. be more creative with ideas to reduce the 10% poverty figure having regard to stigma attached to poverty,
- d. focus on poverty in rural areas, the requirement for public transport to get from A to B, continued working with partner agencies,
- e. members welcomed the idea of more Breakfast Clubs within schools,
- f. would like to see "cost of the school day" training being delivered in more than 6 schools per year, and
- g. members commended Officers on the layout and format of the report.

7. ANALYSIS OF ATTAINMENT AND ACHIEVEMENT OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN KINCARDINE AND MEARNS SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN ACCREDITED AWARDS, YEAR ENDING JUNE 2018.

A report by the Director of Education and Children's Services was circulated advising Members of attainment figures in Kincardine and Mearns secondary schools. The Head Teachers of Portlethen, Mearns and Mackie introduced the report drawing attention to attainment achieved by pupils in 2018 for each of the schools.

Members were advised that there was a clear focus on improving literacy and numeracy, developing a young and skilled workforce, and working with colleagues in primary education provision to ensure a greater understanding of each young person moving into secondary school. Collaborative working across the three academies was also having a positive impact.

Members were advised of teacher recruitment difficulties within the area and they had addressed this by recruiting teachers earlier than required. Members were advised of the wide range of programmes available to pupils internally and externally, Rural Skills, Foundation Apprenticeships, extended work experience and courses within Angus College.

After discussion, the committee **agreed** to the report, commending the staff, pupils and the wider community on the results achieved in 2018.

8. THE HISTORIC ASSET MANAGEMENT PROJECT ANNUAL UPDATE REPORT.

A report by the Director of Infrastructure Services was circulated giving the annual update on the Historic Asset Management Project (HAMP) repair and maintenance programme work, undertaken over the last year.

The Environment Planning Officer was in attendance to introduce the report and to respond to any queries.

The Committee **agreed** to:

1. Note the annual update on the Historic Asset Management Project,
2. Support the approach taken by the Historic Asset Management Project,
3. Request that the annual report on the Historic Asset Management Project continue to be formally reported to the Kincardine and Mearns Area Committee, and
4. Provided the following comment to the Infrastructure Services committee,
 - a) Commend Officers on the use of social media platforms and request that this along with the Historic Asset Management Project webpage be promoted more.

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

An exempt report by the Director of Business Services was circulated advising Members of the Directorate's Procurement Work plan.

A Facilities Manager introduced the report and answered queries with regards to materials used, closure of facility to allow work to be carried out and timescales for work taking into consideration the tourist season.

The Committee **agreed** to:

1. Note the Directorate Procurement Work Plan as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report,
2. Approve the items on the Procurement Work Plan identified as falling within the remit of the Committee, and
3. Opted not to reserve approval of the Business Case for any item on the Procurement Work Plan as the matter is between £50,000 and £1,000,000.