

ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL

COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

WOODHILL HOUSE, ABERDEEN, 20 FEBRUARY, 2020

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

Apologies: Councillors Petrie, Ross and Wallace.

Officers: Director of Business Services, Head of Service (Housing), Interim Head of Service (Lifelong Learning and Leisure), Corporate Finance Manager, Housing Manager, Housing Manager (Housing and Building Standards), Detective Chief Inspector McPhail, Police Scotland, Team Leader (Housing and Building Standards), Justice and Substance Misuse Manager, Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care Partnership, Business Services Manager, Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care Partnership, Service Development Officer, Housing and Building Standards, 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.

Councillor Hassan declared an interest in Item 19 as a nominated observer representative on two of the organisations, Councillor Kloppert declared an interest in Item 19 as a nominated observer representative on one of the organisations.

No further 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
16	1
17	8
18	8
19	4

3. MINUTE OF MEETING OF THE COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE OF 19 DECEMBER, 2019

The Minute of Meeting of the Committee of 19 December, 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 19 December, 2019. The report also detailed the actions completed since the last meeting.

In respect of Living Wage Accreditation, the Committee **agreed** that the Director of Business Services provide a briefing to all Councillors for information and that Communities Committee members be asked for views; and that as such those views be provided to the meeting of the Business Services Committee on 23 April, 2020.

Thereafter, 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 REPORT TO 31 DECEMBER, 2019 – COMMUNITIES BUDGET

There was circulated a report dated 13 January, 2020, by the Director of Business Services, which provided revenue and capital budget monitoring information to 31 December, 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 £128.881M, due to virements, additional Scottish Government Funding and transfers from reserves. The report detailed the emerging issues.

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 31 December, 2019;

- (2) approve the budget movements as set out in Appendix 2, with further details in Appendix 3; and
- (3) that a workshop be organised for members and substitute members of the Communities Committee during the next financial year on effectiveness of budget reporting and related issues, including the format of presentation of information to Committee.

6. FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE REPORT TO 31 DECEMBER, 2019 – HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT

There was circulated a report dated 13 January, 2020, by the Director of Infrastructure Services, which provided revenue and capital budget monitoring information to 31 December, 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 31 December, 2019; and
- (2) that a briefing note be provided to the Committee, at the appropriate time, on the review of the voids process; and that the workshop agreed to be held at Item 5 above also give consideration of the presentation and report of voids information to Committee.

7. CONSULTATION ON HM INSPECTORATE FOR CONSTABULARY IN SCOTLAND: SCRUTINY PLANNING 2020/21

There was circulated a report dated 31 January, 2020, by the Director of Business Services on the consultation on HM Inspectorate for Constabulary in Scotland (HMICS) Scrutiny Planning 2020/21.

The report explained that the consultation gave the opportunity to put forward multiple issues that should be considered for scrutiny by HMCIS, and any emerging threats that would impact on Police Scotland or the Scottish Police Authority. As the consultation involved all Services across the Council, it was decided that officers' views would be collated by the Corporate Policy and Strategic Community Planning Team. Chief Officers, Policy Committee Chairs and Area Committee Chairs also had the opportunity to contribute. Responses were collated prior to submission by the closing date of 17 January 2020.

The report highlighted that, in terms of the Scheme of Governance, the draft response was submitted following review and approval by the Chair, Vice Chair and main opposition spokesperson of the Communities Committee. A copy of the submission was included as an appendix.

The Committee **agreed** to acknowledge Aberdeenshire Council's response submitted under delegated powers and following consultation.

8. CONSULTATION ON REMOTE RURAL COMMUNITIES BILL

There was circulated a report dated 30 January, 2020, by the Director of Business Services on the consultation on the Remote Rural Communities Bill.

The report explained that the Scottish Parliament was consulting on a proposal for a remote rural communities bill. It would create a duty for Scottish Ministers to publish a national remote rural plan and ensure the impact of public policy on remote rural communities would be taken into consideration.

The report highlighted that, in terms of the Scheme of Governance, the draft response was submitted following review and approval by the Chair, Vice Chair and main opposition spokesperson of the Communities Committee. A copy of the submission was included as an appendix.

The Committee **agreed** to acknowledge Aberdeenshire Council's response submitted under delegated powers and following consultation.

9. CONSULTATION ON SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE LOCAL FIRE AND RESCUE PLAN REVIEW 2020

There was circulated a report dated 16 January, 2020, by the Director of Business Services on the consultation on the Scottish Fire and Rescue Local Fire and Rescue Plan Review 2020.

The report explained that, following the publication of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) Strategic Plan 2020 to 2022 in October 2019, SFRS would be reviewing their Local Fire and Rescue Plans over the coming months and, as part of this review, had drafted a short survey which was open until 18 March, 2020. A copy of the survey was included as an appendix.

The Committee **agreed**:

- (1) that the Director of Business Services seek comments from all members of the Communities Committee; the comments to be collated, before final submission by the Director of Business Services, following consultation with the Chair, Vice Chair and Group Spokespersons; and
- (2) to request all Services to input into the survey.

10. POLICE SCOTLAND: PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT OF OPERATION CORNER

There was circulated a report dated 31 January, 2020, by Chief Superintendent Thomson on the content of the Preliminary Assessment and findings from the analysis of data obtained during the period from February 2019 to October 2019 in respect of Operation Corner.

The report explained that Operation Corner was a multi-agency operation which commenced in June 2018, with a Police operation which included a two week enforcement phase, seeking to not only disrupt "County Lines" Organised Crime Groups, but to provide appropriate and effective multi-agency support to the most vulnerable members of North East communities being "cuckooed" or otherwise exploited by such groups.

A presentation was delivered by Detective Chief Inspector Finn McPhail, Police Scotland, Annette Strachan, Housing and Dawn Leslie, Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care Partnership.

The Committee **agreed** to:-

- (1) acknowledge the attached report regarding the Preliminary Assessment of Operation Corner; and

- (2) acknowledge the informative presentation delivered by Detective Chief Inspector McPhail, Police Scotland, Annette Strachan, Housing and Dawn Leslie, Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care Partnership; and that Members of the Committee should advise their own Area Committees that Police Scotland could make similar presentations to Area Committees.

11. HOUSING TO 2040: DRAFT CONSULTATION RESPONSE

There was circulated a report dated 21 January, 2020, by the Director of Infrastructure Services which presented the draft response to the Scottish Government consultation of its Housing Vision to 2040 to the Committee for consideration.

The report explained that the Scottish Government had developed a draft vision and set of principles on the future of housing up to 2040 and that it was consulting on outline policy options for housing. The report included an appendix which detailed a draft response.

The Committee **agreed**:-

- (1) to approve the draft consultation response, subject to it being amended to be more robust in respect of issues relating to availability of land, cost of building and use of brownfield sites; and
- (2) that the Chair, on behalf of the Committee, write to Scottish Water to request further discussion on constraints due to lack of water supply.

12. HOUSING ALLOCATIONS REVIEW POLICY UPDATE

There was circulated a report by the Director of Infrastructure Services on the housing allocation policy which was currently being reviewed.

The report requested that the Committee give consideration to the report produced by the Service and agree that further investigations take place into a change to the current allocation process to a possible Choice Based Lettings (CBL) approach.

The Committee **agreed**:-

- (1) to acknowledge comments provided by Area Committees in respect of the report and possible change to a Choice Based Lettings (CBL) approach;
- (2) that further investigation be undertaken by the Housing Service to consider the introduction of a CBL allocations system;
- (3) that further consultation take place with Area Committees; and
- (4) that a further report be submitted to the meeting of the Committee on 5 November, 2020, with a final recommended allocation system.

13. HOUSING ACTION PLAN

There was circulated a report dated 9 January, 2020, by the Director of Infrastructure Services which provided an update on the key areas for improvement for the Housing Service arising from the Annual Return on Charter.

The report reminded Members that the Housing Action Plan was brought before the Communities Committee at six monthly intervals and updated following receipt of benchmarking data. The Housing Service worked on improvements continuously, with a clear

action plan being a key part of retaining focus on specific areas for improvement. The Action Plan showing the areas for improvement was attached as an appendix.

The Committee **agreed** to:-

- (1) approve the Housing Action Plan; and
- (2) continue to receive six monthly updates on the progress of the Action Plan.

14. CHARGING POLICY 2020/21

With reference to the Minute of Meeting of the Aberdeenshire Integration Joint Board (IJB) of 19 December, 2019 (Item 15), there was circulated a report dated 9 January, 2020, by the Interim Chief Officer, Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care Partnership which outlined the proposed Charging Policy for Non-Residential and Residential Care for the year 2020/21.

The Committee **agreed**:-

- (1) to approve the Charging Policy for Non-Residential Care and Support 2020/21, namely:
 - (a) agree the recommendations from the IJB, as detailed in Appendix 1;
 - (b) detailed in the refreshed charging policy document in Appendix 2;
 - (c) agree the rates for Charges and Allowances, as detailed in Appendix 3; and
 - (d) unit Costs are agreed, as detailed in paragraph 5.1;
- (2) to approve the Charging Guide for Residential Care and Support 2020/21, as detailed within Appendix 4; and
- (3) that engagement with clients be robust, with the option of face to face interaction to be offered to all clients.

15. HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE PARTNERSHIP PERFORMANCE REPORTING 2019/20

With reference to the Minute of Meeting of the Aberdeenshire Integration Joint Board of 30 October, 2019 there was circulated a report dated 1 December, 2020, by the Interim Chief Officer, Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care Partnership which presented the Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care Partnership's performance information reported against strategic priorities for the period April to June 2019.

The Committee **agreed** to:-

- (1) acknowledge the content of the Integration Joint Board Performance Q1 Report; and
- (2) that the Health and Social Care Partnership organise a workshop for the Communities Committee on performance information.

16. SHELTERED HOUSING REVIEW

With reference to the Minute of Meeting of the Committee of February, 2018, when a review of all Sheltered Housing in Aberdeenshire was undertaken, there was circulated a report dated 24 January, 2020, by the Director of Infrastructure Services on the delivery of a future model of Sheltered Housing across Aberdeenshire.

A presentation was made to the Committee.

Thereafter, the Committee **agreed**:-

- (1) to approve the proposed changes to the structure of the Sheltered Housing team and acknowledge the renaming of job titles to Independent Living instead of Sheltered Housing;
- (2) to acknowledge the service redesign, with a transitional approach over approximately 3 years, to provide a new model of housing support to tenants in Sheltered Housing;
- (3) to instruct Officers to consider the future use of Cottages and Schemes in Sheltered Housing within the Asset Management Plan;
- (4) to acknowledge that the Health & Social Care Partnership (H and SC) Homely setting project continued to develop and that H and SC were working to identify a model of support for people who had particular housing needs because of a long-term condition or frailty;
- (5) that further reports be submitted to the Committee as the project progressed; and
- (6) that the Service issue the slide presentation and a briefing note to all Aberdeenshire Councillors.

17. PROCUREMENT PLAN 2020/21 FOR HOUSING AND BUILDING STANDARDS

There was circulated a report dated 16 December, 2019, by the Director of Infrastructure Services on the Procurement Plan 2020/21 for Housing and Building Standards. The report covered Housing related procurements with a contract value of £50,000 or more that were planned 2020/21.

The Committee **agreed** to:-

- (1) approve the items in the Procurement Plan in Appendix 1;
- (2) to not reserve approval of the Procurement Approval Form for any item on the Procurement Plan where the value of the matter was between £50,000 and £1,000,000;
- (3) acknowledge that the Committee will receive the Procurement Approval Form for approval for any item on the Procurement Plan which is within the Committee's remit and the value of the matter is over £1,000,000;
- (4) approve the Procurement Approval Form for the items on the Procurement Plan which were within the remit of the Committee and the value was over £1,000,000;
- (5) to delegate for a period of twelve months, to the Head of Housing, following consultation with the Chair, Vice Chair and Group Spokespersons, the authority to approve items for inclusion on a procurement plan that relate to the purchase of works, goods or services for reactive response matters.

18. LIVE LIFE ABERDEENSHIRE BUSINESS PLAN 2019 TO 2024

With reference to the Minute of Meeting of the Culture and Sport Sub-Committee of 22 January, 2020 (Item 9), there was circulated a report dated 25 January, 2020, by the Director of Education and Children's Services which presented the draft initial five year Business Plan for Live Life Aberdeenshire.

The report explained that the first Business Plan for Live Life Aberdeenshire aimed to clearly set out priorities, aspirations and impact that Live Life Aberdeenshire expected to deliver in its first five years. The Business Plan Priority Actions were aligned to Aberdeenshire Council and LOIP objectives and the Culture and Sport Strategies 2019 to 2029.

The report highlighted that the final Business Plan, reflecting comments from the Communities Committee, would be presented to the Culture and Sport Sub-Committee meeting on 27 February for consideration and approval. A copy of the Business Plan was included as an appendix to the report.

The Committee **agreed** to recommend the Live Life Aberdeenshire Business Plan 2019 to 2020 to the Culture and Sport Sub-Committee for approval.

19. LIVE LIFE ABERDEENSHIRE GRANT FUNDING

With reference to the Minute of Meeting of the Culture and Sport Sub-Committee of 22 January, 2020 (Item 10), there was circulated a report by the Director of Education and Children's Services which set out an amended scheme of grant funding proposed for distribution via Live Life Aberdeenshire from 2020/21.

The report explained that the Culture and Sport Sub-Committee had instructed officers to consult with Area Committees and the Communities Committee on the proposals to amend Live Life Aberdeenshire grant funding.

Appendix 1 to the report gave an overview of the discussion and potential impact on each organisation following withdrawal or reduction in grant funding. Appendix 2 detailed options for reductions in funding. Three options were outlined.

The Committee **agreed** to:-

- (1) acknowledge the recommendations on funding in the year 2020-21 and note that this was subject to the outcome of the Council's Budget Setting process.
- (2) acknowledge comments received from Members of Area Committees
- (3) acknowledge the three options outlined in the report and to recommend to the Culture and Sport Sub-Committee approval of Option 2 for a period of twelve months, thereafter Option 3 and that any organisations that had indicated that they did not require funding to be excluded; Option 1 being no change to the level of funding and Option 2 showing a year on year reduction of grant funding, with a 30% reduction in 2020/21, 50% in 2021/22 and an 80% reduction in 2022/23.

ITEMS FOR NOTING

- (a) The Committee **noted** the Minute of Meeting of the Culture and Sports Sub-Committee of 14 November, 2019, which forms Appendix A to this Minute.
- (b) The Committee **noted** the Minute of Meeting of the Culture and Sports Sub-Committee of 3 December, 2019, which forms Appendix B to this Minute.

APPENDIX A

COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

CULTURE AND SPORT SUB-COMMITTEE

WOODHILL HOUSE, ABERDEEN, 22 JANUARY, 2020

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

Apology: Mr C Sutherland.

Officers: Interim Head of Live Life Aberdeenshire (Avril Nicol); Service Manager, Facilities & Funding (Tim Stephen); Corporate Finance Manager; Principal Solicitor, (Lauren Cowie); Arts and Heritage Manager (via Skype; and Senior Committee Officer (Niall 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.

In terms of Item 10, Councillor Simpson and Mr Knowles declared interests due to involvement with organisations who had previously been in receipt of Council funding. Having applied the objective test, both Councillor Simpson and Mr Knowles determined that the interest was both clear and substantial and indicated that they would leave the meeting, taking no part in the discussions on that item.

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
8	8
9	8
10	4

3. MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE OF 14 NOVEMBER AND 3 DECEMBER, 2019

On consideration of the circulated Minutes of Meetings of the Sub-Committee of 14 November and 3 December, 2019, members **approved** them as correct records, after which the Minutes were signed by the Chair.

4. VERBAL UPDATE ON PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

The Sub-Committee **noted** a verbal update on Performance Information provided by the Interim Head of Live Life Aberdeenshire.

5. LIVE LIFE ABERDEENSHIRE CATERING

There was circulated a report dated 19 December, 2019, by the Director of Education and Children's Services which outlined the requirement for a change in the delivery model for catering in Live Life Aberdeenshire (LLA) facilities and proposed a review of the catering offered in its establishments.

The report explained that LLA proposed a review process commencing in early 2020 which would be carried out to determine the most effective and efficient catering operating model across the LLA facilities. The aim was for a further detailed report with recommendations to be provided to the Sub-Committee in April 2020.

The Sub-Committee **agreed** that:-

- (1) a review of catering across LLA establishments be undertaken;
- (2) the terms of reference of the review be provided to Members of the Sub-Committee for information by email;
- (3) a stakeholders' project team be established; and
- (4) a review report with options for consideration be submitted to the Sub-Committee in April 2020.

6. LIVE LIFE ABERDEENSHIRE PITCH AND OPEN SPACE STRATEGY

There was circulated a report dated 7 January, 2020, by the Director of Education and Children's Services which outlined progress of the Pitch and Open Space Strategy and sought endorsement for suggested future progress.

The report highlighted that the Facilities and Funding team had been overseeing a project to maximise the access to outdoor spaces for the benefit of health and wellbeing, and to look at improving the ability of organised sports clubs to access grass and synthetic pitch facilities. Key recommendations from the work included: establishment of local hubs with community involvement to plan and programme club schedules and usage with maintenance; encouraging community management and further coordinating development of a range of existing pitches; and development of a network of high quality pitches to be booked and charged through LLA.

The report concluded by explaining that the next steps included officers developing specific plans for each network and identifying the costs and funding options for future consideration.

The Sub-Committee **agreed**:-

- (1) that the following actions be implemented: the establishment of local pitch user hubs in networks; endorsement of more community management of sports pitches; and the principle of establishing high quality pitches booked and managed by LLA;
- (2) to the principle of the creation of a pitch plan for each network, following consultation with Area Committees;
- (3) that officers establish the costs associated with the proposals set out in the report, outlining the business case and funding options; and
- (4) that the Chair and Interim Head of LLA determine an appropriate way to provide detailed information of developer obligation funds to the Sub-Committee.

7. LIVE LIFE ABERDEENSHIRE – ACROSS THE GRAIN FESTIVAL

With reference to the Minute of Meeting of the Sub-Committee of 14 November 2019 (Item 6), there was circulated a report dated 19 December, 2019, by the Director of Education and Children's Services which detailed the performance of the impact of the Across the Grain 2019 Festival and proposed a revised format and approach, with the aim of growing audiences and increasing the return on financial resources and staff time.

A summary report of the 2019 festival was included as an appendix. It detailed: summary of activity; analysis of key findings; lessons learned; and key measures of success.

The report went on to provide details of proposals for the 2020 festival, based upon learning from the key findings. In essence this was to continue to develop Across the Grain as a cultural brand for Aberdeenshire by programming an annual festival of high profile events in a smaller number of communities over a four day long weekend in October.

The Sub-Committee **agreed**:-

- (1) to acknowledge the performance reports for Across the Grain 2019;
- (2) to approve a revised format and approach around the promotion of Doric culture; and
- (3) that the Arts and Heritage Team provide the the Sub-Committee with the draft programme of activity for 2020 in due course, and thereafter produce a finalised programme.

8. PROPERTY INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT AND INVESTMENT UPDATE

There was circulated a report dated 7 January, 2019, by the Director of Education and Children's Services on progress to improve ways of working in respect of maintaining the portfolio of properties, and the principle underpinning the developing Live Live Aberdeenshire (LLA) estate Capital Plan.

The report explained that the Service was currently working two work streams related to the development of property infrastructure and planning, namely: ensuring customer facing facilities are refreshed when major work takes place and where it is required; and development of a ten year Capital Plan.

The Sub-Committee **agreed:-**

- (1) to note and endorse the processes currently being utilised to repair and refresh a range of LLA facilities in the current financial year;
- (2) that the process be further developed and expanded for the 2020/21 financial year; and
- (3) to note the ongoing development of the Capital Plan, as outlined in the report.

9. LIVE LIFE ABERDEENSHIRE BUSINESS PLAN 2019 TO 2024

There was circulated a report dated 9 January, 2020, by the Director of Education and Children's Services which presented for consideration the draft initial five year Business Plan for Live Life Aberdeenshire (LLA).

The report explained that the five year Business Plan was intended to drive forward the development and delivery of the business unit and provide clarity for staff and other stakeholders on the vision and mission of Live Life Aberdeenshire. The draft Business Plan was included as an appendix to the report.

The Sub-Committee **agreed:-**

- (1) to acknowledge the draft Business Plan;
- (2) that staff consultation on the draft Business Plan be undertaken at a planned staff event on 24 January, 2020 ;
- (3) that the draft Business Plan be submitted for consultation to the meeting of the Communities Committee on 20 February, 2020; and
- (4) that a final draft Business Plan, incorporating comments and feedback from consultees, be submitted to the meeting of the Sub-Committee on 27 February, 202 for consideration and approval as appropriate.

10. LIVE LIFE ABERDEENSHIRE GRANT FUNDING

Councillor Simpson and Mr Knowles withdrew from the meeting for consideration of this item.

With reference to the Minutes of Meetings of the Sub-Committee of 14 November (Item 11) and 3 December (Item 3), there was circulated a report dated 17 December, 2019, by the Director of Education and Children's Services on Live Life Aberdeenshire (LLA) Grant Funding.

The report reminded members that the Sub-committee had previously received two reports on the future of Live Life Aberdeenshire Key Partner Core Grant Funding. The Sub-Committee had agreed that any future scheme would have a focus on impact. Therefore Members had agreed to the development of a Positive Actions Grants Scheme. The Sub-Committee also endorsed further work by officers to provide information on the impact of any withdrawal or reduction in funding to those groups currently receiving LLA grants.

The Sub-Committee **agreed to:-**

- (1) acknowledge the recommendations on the funding in 2020/21 Financial Year and note that this was subject to the outcome of the Council's budget setting process; and

- (2) instruct the Service to consult with all elected members at Ward Level and the Communities Committee at the meeting on 20 February, 2020, and thereafter a final decision regarding LLA Grant Funding to be taken at the meeting of the Culture and Sport Sub-Committee on 27 February, 2020.

APPENDIX B

COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

CULTURE AND SPORT SUB-COMMITTEE

WOODHILL HOUSE, ABERDEEN, 3 DECEMBER, 2019

Present: Mr D Cook (via Skype); Councillor L Berry; Councillor A Forsyth; Mr J Knowles; and Ms K Penman (via Skype).

Apologies: Councillor A Simpson; and Mr C Sutherland.

Officers: Interim Head of Live Life Aberdeenshire (Avril Nicol); Service Manager, Facilities & Funding (Tim Stephen); Service Manager, Business Development (Claire Thomson); Principal Solicitor, (Lauren Cowie); Team Manager, Finance (Shirleyann Gordon); and Committee Officer, Legal and Governance (Jan McRobbie).

1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

In the physical absence of both the Chair and the Vice-Chair, the Interim Head of Live Life Aberdeenshire called for nominations for a pro tem Chair.

The Sub-Committee unanimously **agreed** that Mr Knowles Chair the meeting.

Mr Knowles took the Chair.

2. DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

Mr Knowles, in the Chair, asked members if they had any interests to declare, in terms of the Councillors' Code of Conduct.

In terms of Item 3, Mr Knowles declared an interest as a fundraiser for one of the organisations who had previously been in receipt of Council funding. Having applied the objective test, he determined that the interest was both clear and substantial and left the meeting, taking no part in the further discussions.

At this point of proceedings, the Sub-Committee unanimously **agreed** that Councillor Forsyth Chair the remainder of the meeting.

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
3	4

3. GRANT FUNDING

With reference to the Minute of Meeting of 14 November, 2019 (Item 11) and 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 had been circulated a report dated 20 November, 2019 by the Director of Education and Children's Services which requested consideration of a proposed approach with outside bodies in moving away from traditional grant funding to a specific Positive Action Grants, relating to the deliver of specific Live Life Aberdeenshire objectives.

The Sub-Committee heard further from the Head of Live Life Aberdeenshire and the Service Managers that discussions to date with the previous grant recipients, aware over a period of years of the proposed change, had not yet reached a recommended course of action for each organisation; that local needs would be taken into account when allocating funding, with the base use of Service Level Agreements to link the funding to expected outputs; and that decisions would be taken with a full understanding of implications of any changes, so that there would be no unintended consequences for bodies using the facilities.

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

- (1) to agree the principle of the process for releasing grant funding in 2020/21, noting that this is subject to the outcome of the Council's budget-setting process;
- (2) that officers pursue further discussion with local organisations on potential funding routes; and
- (3) that a further update report be considered on 22 January, 2020 on grant funding, including the terms, and amounts, of any award proposed, and the expectations for the outcomes of that funding in the local community.