

ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL**SPECIAL MEETING VIA SKYPE, 19 NOVEMBER, 2020**

- Present:** Councillors K Adam, W Agnew, D Aitchison, A Allan, P Argyle, N Baillie, D Beagrie, A Bews, G Blackett, R Bruce, C Buchan, M Buchan, S Calder, G Carr, R Cassie, J Cox, I Davidson, S Dickinson, A Duncan, E Durno, A Evison, M Ewenson, M Findlater, A Forsyth, J Gifford, A Hassan, W Howatson, J Hutchison, M Ingleby, J Ingram, P Johnston, A Kille, A Kloppert, J Latham, D Lonchay, L McAllister, R McKail, A McKelvie, I Mollison, G Owen, G Petrie, G Reynolds, D Robertson, M Roy, A Simpson, H Smith, N Smith, S Smith, A Stirling, I Sutherland, I Taylor, B Topping, I Walker, R Withey and J Whyte.
- Apologies:** Councillors L Berry, A Buchan, A Fakley, M Ford, P Gibb, V Harper, F Hood, S Leslie, D Mair, H Partridge, C Pike, G Reid, A Ross, A Wallace and L Wilson.
- Officers:** Chief Executive, Director of Business Services, Director of Education and Children's Services, Director of Infrastructure Services, Head of Service (Finance), Head of Service (Legal & Governance), Acting Area Manager (Garioch) and Principal Committee Services Officer.

CHAIR

Councillor W Howatson, Provost of the Council, presided.

1. DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

The Provost asked Members if they had any interests to declare in terms of the Councillors' Code of Conduct. No declarations were intimated.

2. STATEMENT ON EQUALITIES

In making decisions on the following items of business, the Council **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.

3. REVIEW OF THE SCHEME FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMUNITY COUNCILS

With reference to the Minute of Special Meeting of Council of 21 November, 2019 (Item 3), when it had been agreed that a review of the Scheme for the Establishment

of Community Councils be undertaken, there had been circulated a report dated 29 October, 2020 by the Director of Education and Children's Services seeking consideration of the result of the first period of consultation and approval to commence the second period of consultation on the draft amended Scheme. The report advised that (a) the review had originally been scheduled to commence in Spring 2020, but the COVID 19 pandemic had required that work to be put on hold temporarily, (b) on the basis that the majority of Community Councils had been active since the onset of the pandemic, it was thereafter considered reasonable that an online and digital consultation could be carried out, (c) the first consultation period had commenced on 17 August, 2020 ending on 19 October, 2020, on the area and composition/disposition of Community Councils, the responses to which were detailed in Appendix 1 of the report, and (d) amendments to the Scheme were proposed in respect of the removal of guidance from the formal scheme which would now be maintained separately by the Head of Legal and Governance, clarification on the lodging of planning applications by Community Councils, eligibility for membership, the adoption of a single election date, arrangements for supported status, management of disciplinary matters, the review of the Community Councils Code of Conduct by the Scottish Government, dealing with unacceptable behaviour and dealing with complaints, all of which were outlined in Appendix 2 of the report.

Having heard from the Acting Area Manager (Garioch), the Council **agreed** to:

- (1) acknowledge the results of the first period consultation as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report;
- (2) approve the draft amendments to the Scheme for the Establishment of Community Councils as detailed in Appendix 2 of the report; and
- (3) approve the publication of the Legal Notice which would commence the second 8-week consultation period on the draft amended Scheme.