

ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL

BUCHAN AREA COMMITTEE

VIA SKYPE – 2ND FEBRUARY 2021

Present: Councillors N Smith (Chair), D Beagrie (Vice Chair), A Allan, A Buchan, M Buchan, S Calder, A Fakley, J Ingram, A Simpson, S Smith and I Sutherland

Officers: Amanda Roe, Buchan Area Manager (Business Services); Jim Savege, Chief Executive; Amanda de Candia, Solicitor (Business Services); Annette Johnston, Tackling Poverty and Inequalities Co-ordinator (Business Services); and Theresa Wood, Area Committee Officer (Business Services)

1. DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTEREST

The Chairman asked Members if they had any interests to declare in terms of the Councillors Code of Conduct –

- (1) Councillor I Sutherland for Item 5 by virtue of the Apex Church having received Hygiene Certificates as part of the Tackling Poverty, the Apex Church being a registered interest of his. In having applied the objective test, the interest was remote and insignificant and Councillor Sutherland remained and took part in the discussion of this item.

2. STATEMENT ON EQUALITIES

In making decisions on the following items of business, the Committee **noted** the requirement, 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. DRAFT MINUTE OF 12TH JANUARY 2021

The Draft Minute of the Meeting of 12th January 2021 had been circulated and was **approved**.

**4. PLANNING APPEAL –
FULL PLANNING PERMISSION FOR MINERAL EXTRACTION
(SAND AND GRAVEL) AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE, AND
FULL PLANNING PERMISSION FOR FORMATION OF ACCESS ROAD
AT SITE FROM A952 TO MUIRTACK, ELLON**

The Committee **noted** the Appeal Decision Notices, Reference PPA-110-2398 and PPA-110-2399, which advised that the Planning and Environmental Appeals Division had allowed both appeals subject to conditions.

5. TACKLING POVERTY & INEQUALITIES – PROGRESS REPORT

A report by the Director of Business Services had been circulated providing the Committee with an update on progress made covering the work of the Tackling Poverty & Inequalities Strategic Partnership Group, including the actions within the Child Poverty Action Plan and the delivery plan supporting the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan priority 'Reducing Poverty'.

Having acknowledged the progress made in tackling this Agenda, the Committee **agreed** to provide the following comment on the Reducing Child Poverty Action Plan and the Tackling Poverty & Inequalities Annual Report to the Communities Committee, which will inform the final Local Child Poverty Action Report:-

- (1) in recognising that we will have to change the way we deliver our services to ensure that no groups or individuals are missed, to request that consideration be given as to how we are going to manage the future and support our communities beyond Covid

In terms of specific local concerns which the Tackling Poverty and Inequalities Group could consider as part of the development of future plans, the Committee **agreed** to put forward the following comments:-

- (1) to firstly thank the Tackling Poverty and Inequalities Team for their work, and also thank the many community groups and volunteers for their efforts throughout Covid,
- (2) to encourage the need for the Peterhead Regeneration Programme to improve relationships with social regeneration projects,
- (3) to request that Officers feedback to the Council's Public Transport Unit the need for better and earlier engagement when bus services are under threat, bearing in mind how vital these services are to the Buchan rural community and for those with no other forms of transport,
- (4) in considering digital inclusion, that the issue of those in deprivation being unable to afford digital devices and broadband access needs to be addressed, and

- (5) to request that an informal briefing be scheduled for the Tackling Poverty and Inequalities Co-ordinator and Partners to meet with Buchan Members to specifically discuss –
- (a) in having considered the Community Impact Assessment, the 5 interim zones identified within Buchan in relation to the ongoing effects of Covid,
 - (b) the Link Workers, connected to the local GP Practices, and what their roles and responsibilities include,
 - (c) the work and findings of the Lived Experience Forum,
 - (d) in considering the financial information within the report for those living on low incomes, the figures for 2019/2020 for Buchan as a whole, including the towns and villages in Central Buchan to allow Members and Officers to also consider those living in rural deprivation, and
 - (e) the proposal for a community based pilot project within Peterhead town centre to address the digital divide