

ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL

MARR AREA COMMITTEE

SKYPE MEETING, 30 MARCH 2021

Present: Councillor J Latham (Chair) , R Withey (Vice-Chair), P Argyle, G Blackett , R Bruce, E Durno, P Gibb, M Ingleby, G Petrie and A Ross.

Officers: J Clark, Area Manager (Marr); P Robertson, Senior Solicitor; G Cunningham, Principal Engineer; A MacLeod, Housing Manager; E McCarron, Team Leader, Property and Facilities; N Mair, Senior Planner; and A McLeod, Area Committee Officer.

In attendance: Station Commander C Westwood, Scottish Fire & Rescue Service

1. DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

Councillor Blackett declared an interest in Item 7, by virtue of her husband being the Chair of Marr Area Partnership. She confirmed she would leave the meeting and take no part in the item.

Councillor Argyle advised that he had an interest in Item 7, by virtue of being the Council's nominated Director on Mid Deeside Community Trust. Having applied the objective test, he had concluded that the interest was so remote and insignificant that he would remain and participate.

Councillor Blackett advised that she had an interest in item 9, by virtue of being a member of Ballater (Royal Deeside) Ltd. Having applied the objective test, she had concluded that the interest was so remote and insignificant that he would remain and participate.

2A. STATEMENT OF 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; and

- (2) where an Equality Impact Assessment was provided, to consider its contents and take those into account when reaching a decision.

2B. RESOLUTION

The Committee **agreed**, in terms of Section 50A (4) and (5) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, as amended, that the public and media representatives be excluded from the meeting for the following items of the business on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of exempt information of the class described in the relevant paragraphs of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

Item No.	Paragraph No. of Schedule 7A
9	9
10	8

3. MINUTE OF MEETING OF MARR AREA COMMITTEE OF 9 MARCH 2021

The Committee had before them, and approved as a correct record, the Minute of Meeting of the Committee of 9 March, 2021.

4. SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE PERFORMANCE – MARR AREA COMMITTEE PERFORMANCE REPORT – 1 OCTOBER 2020 TO 31 DECEMBER 2020

There had been submitted a report dated 15 March 2021 by the Local Senior Officer, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, and the Director of Business Services, which provided information on how the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service had performed locally in Marr against key performance measures and associated targets, as set out in the Aberdeenshire Local Fire and Rescue Plan and Marr Multi-Member Ward Plan, during the period from 1 October to 31 December 2020.

The Committee heard from the Station Manager on Scottish Fire and Rescue Service activity in Marr. He highlighted salient points and responded to issues raised in relation to non-fire emergency statistics, the development of a First Responder Service with the Scottish Ambulance Service for Braemar, which would be complementary to the existing services in the area, a Spring and Summer information and advice campaign, and updated members on establishment figures in Marr.

The Committee **agreed** to:

1. Acknowledge the performance report relating to the period 1 October to 31 December 2021; and
2. Acknowledge local operational matters arising, together with key resource issues, as detailed within the appendix to the report.

5. PUBLIC ROAD NETWORK – BRIDGE WORK BANK PRIORITISATION – DRAFT POLICY AND PROCEDURE

There had been submitted a report dated 11 March, 2021 by the Interim Director of Infrastructure Services seeking comments on initial proposals for a new policy, and associated procedure, titled “Public Road Network – Bridges Work Bank Prioritisation”.

The Principal Engineer, Roads, Landscape and Waste introduced the report and outlined a summary of the initial proposals for the new policy, which will ensure that the allocated resources are invested in the bridge network in the most beneficial manner. The formal policy would link to a proposed bridges prioritisation model which was being developed, and would be subject to consultation with the Area Committees and the public, before being submitted to the Infrastructure Services Committee for approval.

Following discussion, the Committee **agreed** to provide the following comments on the draft policy and procedure:

1. To support the proposed policy and the need for a prioritization procedure based on a set of objective criteria;
2. To note that an Infrastructure Fund has been put in place which will make a significant difference;
3. Questioned the need to review the policy every two years; and
4. Noted there was a duty to maintain listed structures.

6. DRAFT GYPSY/TRAVELLER SITE PROVISION STRATEGY 2021-2026

There had been submitted a report dated 16 March, 2021 by the Interim Director of Infrastructure Services seeking the comments of the Committee on a draft Gypsy/Traveller Site Provision Strategy 2021-2026, for submission to the Gypsy/Traveller Sub-Committee.

The Housing Manager introduced the report and advised that the draft Site Provision Strategy reviews the levels and locations of unauthorised encampments since 2015 and considers feedback from Gypsy/Travellers expressed both informally and through formal research reports. He advised that the numbers of unauthorised encampments in Marr had been low in the last decade, with only 4% of the total in Aberdeenshire being in Marr. The strategy indicated that there is a need in central and south Aberdeenshire that will require to be met through either local authority or private provision.

Thereafter, after discussion, the Committee **agreed** to provide the following comments on the draft strategy for submission to the Gypsy/Traveller Sub-Committee:

1. Noted that the volume of unauthorized encampments within Marr over the last decade had been extremely small;
2. Noted that the provision being considered for development would be in Central and North Aberdeenshire, where there was more need for encampments; and
3. Noted that Scottish Government guidance had been published in relation to travelling, in light of Covid-19 and local authorities and Police Scotland were supporting those who were affected.

7. AREA COMMITTEE BUDGET 2020/21 AND 2021/22

As referred to in item 1, Councillor Blackett left the meeting and took no part in this item.

There had been circulated a report dated 15 March, 2021 by the Interim Director of Infrastructure Services, which provided details of the use of the Marr Area Committee Budget in 2020/21, advised that an allocation of £80,800 was available to the Marr Area Committee in 2021/22 to respond to local needs; and sought consideration of proposals for the use of the Area Committee Budget.

The Area Manager introduced the report and outlined details of the 2020/21 spend, and proposals for the 2021/22 allocation of funds. She responded to Members questions in relation to allocations to rural partnerships and how projects were monitored to ensure they had a positive impact, and noted that a large number of groups and organisations had benefitted from the different aspects of the Area Committee Budget awards over the last year.

Thereafter, the Committee **agreed**:

1. To allocate £7,500 to Marr Area Partnership to run the Initiative Grants Scheme;
2. To allocate £6,000 to rural partnerships, as detailed in paragraph 5.8 of the report (£4,500 to Royal Deeside Partnership and £1,500 to Banchory and District Initiative);
3. That £40,000 be allocated to deliver a large project grant scheme whereby community groups can apply for a grant up to £5,000 per project;
4. That the remaining £27,300 provides an alternative grant scheme for community projects up to £2,000 per project;
5. That the Committee delegate authority to the Area Manager to approve small grant applications received during the summer recess, following consultation with the Chair/Vice Chair and Ward Members; and

6. That the Area Manager should provide a briefing note to Members at their Ward Meetings on the project outcomes and how the projects had benefitted from the award of Area Committee funding.

8. PLANNING APPLICATIONS FOR DETERMINATION

The following planning application was considered along with any representations received and was dealt with as recorded in Appendix A to this minute.

Reference No	Address
(A) APP/2020/2606	Full Planning Permission for Change of Use of Land and Formation of Paddock, Erection of Fences, Gates and Pony Shelter at Land Adjacent to Cherry Trees, Banchory Lodge, The Mews, Banchory

9. LEASE OF CHURCH SQUARE AND BALLATER GREENS

There had been circulated a report dated 15 March, 2021 by the Director of Business Services, seeking approval to lease a piece of ground in Ballater to Ballater (Royal Deeside) Ltd, on terms and conditions as detailed in the report.

Having heard from the Team Leader, Property and Facilities, the Committee **agreed** to instruct officers to lease the property that was the subject of the report to Ballater (Royal Deeside) Ltd for a period of 10 years on the terms detailed below.

10. INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES DIRECTORATE PROCUREMENT PLAN – 2021/2022

There had been circulated a report dated 18 March, 2021 by the Interim Director of Infrastructure Services, which sought consideration of items on the Infrastructure Services Directorate Work Plan 2021/22 identified as falling within the remit of the Committee.

The Principal Engineer, Roads, Landscape and Waste introduced the report and responded to Members' questions.

Following consideration of the information provided, the Committee:

1. **Approved** the items on the Procurement Plan as contained in Appendix 1 to the report; and

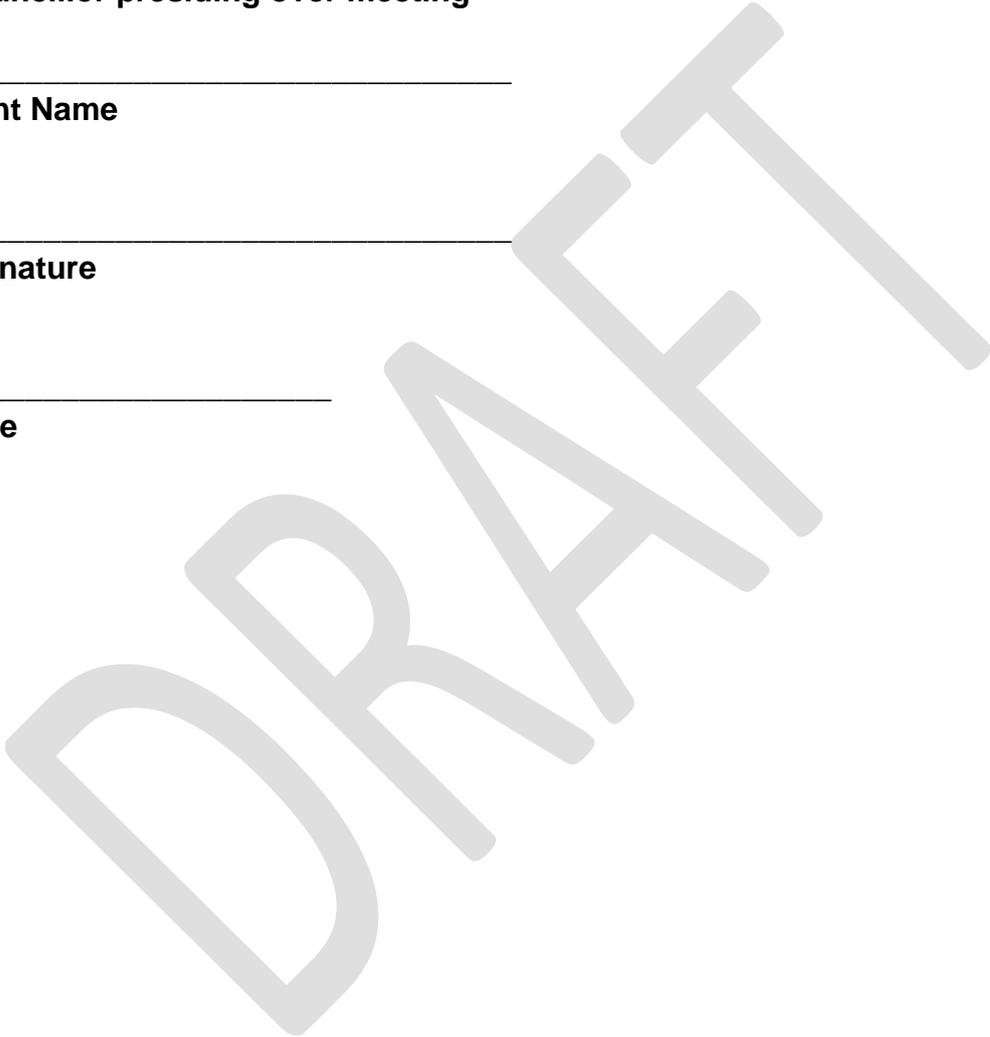
- 2. **Agreed** not to reserve approval of the Procurement Approval Forms for any of the items in the Procurement Plan where the value of the matter was between £50,000 and £1,000,000.

Councillor presiding over meeting

Print Name

Signature

Date



APPENDIX A
PLANNING APPLICATION

- (A) Reference No: APP/2020/2606 - Full Planning Permission for Change of Use of Land and Formation of Paddock, Erection of Fences, Gates and Pony Shelter at Land Adjacent to Cherry Trees, Banchory Lodge, The Mews, Banchory, AB31 5HS**

Applicant:	Mr Neil Gray
Agent:	Matthew Merchant, Silverbank, North Deeside Road, Banchory, AB31 5YR

There had been circulated a report dated 9 March, 2021 by the Head of Planning and Environment Service, which sought consideration of an application for full planning permission for the change of use of land and formation of a paddock, erection of fences, gates and pony shelter on land adjacent to Cherry Trees, Banchory Lodge, The Mews, Banchory.

The Senior Planner reported on the application, highlighted the planning history of the site, confirmed the key issues in determining the application were the visual impact of the proposed stable and associated infrastructure on the wider area and any amenity impacts arising from the development. He confirmed that the change of use of the land to a paddock and the erection of a small shelter, fencing and gates would not adversely impact on the amenity of the neighbouring properties or character of the area, and it was considered that the proposal fully complied with Policy P3 Infill and householder developments within settlements (including home and work proposals) of the Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan 2017 and it was recommended for approval.

Following discussion, the Committee **agreed** to GRANT Full Planning Permission subject to the following condition:-

01. The stable/shelter and associated paddock hereby approved shall be used only for domestic/private purposes and shall be used for no other purpose, such as a business or commercial paddock, without the express grant of planning permission from the planning authority.

Reason: To enable the planning authority to consider the implications of any subsequent change of use on the amenities of the area.

11.2 Reason for Decision

The planning authority considers that the application is for a development that is in accordance with the Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan 2017. The proposal is not considered to impact on the amenity of neighbouring properties or character of the area and does not result in the loss of any established or usable amenity space, compliant with Policy P3 Infill and

householder developments within settlements (Including home and work proposals) of the Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan 2017.

DRAFT