

ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL**SKYPE MEETING, 23 SEPTEMBER, 2021**

Present: Councillors W Agnew, D Aitchison, A Allan, P Argyle, N Baillie, D Beagrie, L Berry, A Bews, G Blackett, R Bruce, A Buchan, C Buchan, M Buchan, S Calder, G Carr, R Cassie, J Cox, I Davidson, S Dickinson, E Durno, A Evison, A Fakley, M Findlater, M Ford, A Forsyth, P Gibb, J Gifford, V Harper, A Hassan, W Howatson, J Hutchison, M Ingleby, P Johnston, A Kille, D Keating, A Kloppert, J Latham, S Leslie, D Lonchay, L McAllister, R McKail, A McKelvie, D Mair, I Mollison, G Owen, G Petrie, C Pike, S Powell, G Reid, G Reynolds, D Robertson, A Ross, M Roy, A Simpson, H Smith, N Smith, A Stirling, I Sutherland, I Taylor, B Topping, I Walker, A Wallace, L Wilson, R Withey and J Whyte.

Apologies: Councillors A Duncan, M Ewenson, J Ingram, H Partridge and S Smith

Officers: Chief Executive, Director of Business Services, Director of Education and Children's Services, Director of Infrastructure Services, Chief Officer, Health and Social Care Partnership, Head of Service, Legal and People, Head of Service, Customer & Digital Services, Head of Service, Finance, Head of Service, Planning and Environment and Principal Committee Services Officer.

CHAIR

Councillor W Howatson, Provost of the Council, presided.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Prior to commencement of the business of the meeting, the Provost thanked all staff, volunteers, businesses and community groups who had supported the recent Tour of Britain cycle race through Aberdeenshire, and congratulated –

- cyclist Josh Quigley on his record breaking achievement of cycling the greatest distance of 2,179 miles in one week along Deeside;
- all those shortlisted and the winners of the Inspiring Aberdeenshire Awards for 2021;
- the Council's Local Development Team and all those involved in setting up the Humanitarian Assistance Centre during the outbreak of COVID-19 who recently received highly commended trophies in the MJ 2021 local government achievement awards;
- Connor Morrison, Turriff Paralympian, who competed in the 100 metre final in Tokyo;
- Keiran Walker, Turriff and District, who had been awarded the 17 years and under solo piper title from the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association; and
- Live Life Aberdeenshire following a motion raised at the Scottish Parliament acknowledging their innovative The Act of Farming project.

1. DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

The Provost asked Members if they had any interests to declare in terms of the Councillors' Code of Conduct. The following declarations were intimated –

- (1) Item 12 – Councillor Beagrie as Chair of the Peterhead Area Community Trust and having applied the objective test considered the interest to be so remote and insignificant and would remain and participate in the meeting, and
- (2) Item 12 – Councillor Fakley on the basis of small financial dealings with Peter Dean who was mentioned in the report and having applied the objective test considered the interest to be so remote and insignificant and would remain and participate in the meeting.

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. MINUTE OF MEETING OF ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL OF 24 JUNE, 2021.

There had been circulated and was **approved** as a correct record the Minute of Meeting of Aberdeenshire Council of 24 June, 2021.

4. COMPOSITION OF COMMITTEES.

There had been circulated a report dated 20 August, 2021 by the Director of Business Services advising of the results of the by-election held on 19 August, 2021 to fill the vacancy in Ward 8 (Mid Formartine) and the change in political group affiliation for Councillor Blackett and seeking approval of the exact composition of the four Policy Committees and the Audit Committee, having regard to the principle of each member being allocated one committee place.

The Council welcomed Councillor Powell to her first meeting of Aberdeenshire Council and **agreed**:

- (1) to note that at the by-election on 19 August, 2021, to fill the vacancy in Ward 8 (Mid Formartine), Councillor Sheila Powell was elected;

- (2) to note the change in political group affiliation of Councillor Blackett from SNP to Independent;
- (3) to note that following notification to the Chief Executive that Councillor Sheila Powell would form part of the Scottish Conservative and Unionist Group and the change in political affiliation of Councillor Blackett, the following numbers should be noted:
- the Administration had 42 members (comprising Scottish Conservative and Unionist Group (20 – previously 19), Liberal Democrats (13) and Aligned Independents (9),
 - the Partnership had 19 members (comprising SNP (16 – previously 17), the Aberdeenshire Labour and Communities Alliance (2) and Independent (1)), and
 - the small groups and individuals had 9 members;
- (4) the exact composition of the four Policy Committees and the Audit Committee, having regard to the principle of each member being allocated one committee place;

	Business Services	Education and Children's Services	Infrastructure Services	Communities	Audit	Total
Administration	8	9	9	8	8	42
Partnership	4	3	4	4	4	19
Amalgamated small groups and individuals	2	2	1	2	2	9

- (5) to note that the political proportionality for the current standard 14 member, 8 member and 5 member committees and for sub-committees and working groups as approved by Full Council on 24 September, 2020 did not require amendment as a result of the notifications outlined at (3) above.

5. FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE AS AT 31 JULY 2021 – REVENUE ACCOUNT.

There had been circulated a report by the Director of Business Services providing financial information on expenditure and income relating to the General Fund Revenue Account for the period ended 31 July, 2021 including a forecast of the expected levels of expenditure and income for the financial year 2021/22. The report provided (1) details of the Revenue Budget for 2021/22 which amounted to £639,518,768, (2) a forecast position to the end of July, 2021 of £647,613,416, an out of balance position of £8,094,648, (3) Service commentary on the out of budget position including risks, mitigation measures being taken and impact on future years, (4) an update on corporate and cross service savings of £11,238,000 included in the

revenue budget, (5) details of reserves of £88,555,000 held by the Council, and (6) details of budget movements and virements for approval.

Having heard from the Head of Finance that there was an error in Appendix 4b of the report in respect of budget movements and that approval was sought for the virement of £151,000 to the Integration Joint Board in respect of Carefirst annual costs only, the Council **agreed**:

- (1) to acknowledge and approve the financial information and forecast position as at 31 July 2021 as detailed in the report; and
- (2) to approve the budget movement set out in Appendix 4b of the report in respect of Carefirst annual costs only.

6. FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE AS AT 31 JULY 2021 – HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA)

There was circulated a report dated 8 September, 2021 by the Director of Infrastructure Services on the financial monitoring position of the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) and capital budget as at 31 July, 2021. The report explained that (1) the HRA revenue budget of £66,529 million approved by Council at its meetings on 11 February, 2021 and 17 March, 2021 respectively was currently forecast to remain within budget, (2) the approved Capital Budget for 2021/22 amounted to £93.416 million with forecast expenditure on the New Build Housing Programme anticipated to be £11.837 million lower than expected predominantly as a result of the challenges facing the development industry as Covid-19 restrictions eased together with some slippage in obtaining statutory permissions and delays in site acquisition on some projects, and (3) there were no immediate plans for expenditure from the approved HRA reserve of £2 million.

Following discussion, the Council **agreed** to note the financial information and forecast position for the Housing Revenue Account as at 31 July 2021;

7. FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE FOR GENERAL SERVICES CAPITAL EXPENDITURE AS AT 31 JULY 2021

A report dated 12 August, 2021 by the Director of Business Services had been circulated seeking consideration and approval of the Council's financial performance information for capital expenditure for the period to 31 July, 2021. The report (1) advised that the Capital Plan formed part of the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) and reflected the Council's capital priorities for the current year and future years, (2) explained that the 2021/22 capital budget of £121.316 million had been agreed as part of the Council's 15 Year Capital Plan in March 2021, (3) proposed the reprofiling of budget amounting to £21.242 million from 2020/21 to 2021/22 together with a further £3.368 million profiled to later years totalling £24.61 million due to Covid-19 restrictions severely impacting on the delivery of capital programmes, (4) advised that new capital budget lines had been added to the Capital Plan, which were funded by grants, detailed in Appendix 1, (5) outlined the reasons for a number of projected budget variances (6) sought approval for budget virement amounting to £0.236 million from Parks and Open Spaces to the Burial Grounds budget to fund their work plan in 2021/22, (7) stated that the proposed budget roll forward of £21.242m, together with budget funded from grants of £4.454m and the changes to

the Office Space Strategy approved by Council on 29 April 2021, reflecting a revised profile reduction of (£1.512 million), resulted in a revised budget for capital expenditure of £145.5m in 2021/22, and (8) confirmed that to the end of July, the Council had spent £26.781 million or 18% of the revised budget after 4 months.

The Council heard from the Head of Finance and **agreed**:

- (1) to note the financial performance position for capital expenditure for the period 1 April to 31 July 2021;
- (2) to approve the reprofiling of budget of £24.61 million and the revised Capital Plan detailed in Appendix 3 of the report;
- (3) to approve the virement of budget amounting to £0.236 million from Parks and Open Spaces to the Burial Grounds budget to fund their work plan in 2021/22;
- (4) to approve the additional expenditure of £3 million on roads maintenance from the Infrastructure Fund 2; and.
- (5) to note the projected variances as set out in the appendices attached to the report.

8. MERGER OF DALES PARK AND MEETHILL SCHOOLS.

With reference to Minutes of Meetings of the Council of 8 February, 2018 (Item 5) when a new community campus at Peterhead had been included in the Council's Capital Plan, and of 27 June, 2019 (Item 11) when the site at Kinmundy Road, Peterhead had been approved for the campus, there was circulated a report dated 1 September, 2021 by the Director of Education and Children's Services on the outcome of the consultation process regarding the proposed merger of Dales Park and Meethill Schools at the new Community Campus at Kinmundy Road, Peterhead, and seeking agreement to permanently close both the schools. The report advised that (1) the proposal for the merger of Dales Park and Meethill Schools had emerged from a wider engagement process regarding the community campus, (2) officers had engaged widely to explore ways to improve educational, social and related opportunities for all children, young people and the wider community in Peterhead, (3) parents, carers and stakeholders had significantly different views regarding the proposal and legitimate concerns regarding road safety and safe walking routes to the proposed new school, (4) Education Scotland agreed that pupils would benefit from a new building that supported learning and teaching styles of the 21st Century and that the proposal would assist in delivering Best Value through more efficient and effective use of resources, (5) it was recommended that both schools be closed and merged at the new community campus and officers continue to engage with stakeholders of Dales Park and Meethill Schools to address their concerns regarding road safety and safe walking routes to school.

The Director of Education and Children's Services introduced the report highlighting the educational and environmental benefits of the project whilst acknowledging concerns expressed around road safety and safe walking routes to school which would be addressed through continued engagement with stakeholders.

Thereafter, Councillor Owen moved, seconded by Councillor N Smith, that the Council approve the officer recommendation to close both Dales Park and Meethill Schools and merge both schools at the new Community Campus at Kinmundy Road, Peterhead and that officers continue to engage with stakeholders of Dales Park and Meethill Schools to address their concerns regarding road safety and safe walking routes to school.

Councillor Calder moved as an amendment, seconded by Councillor Allan, that Meethill School be retained on the existing site and Dales Park continue to form part of the new Community Campus.

Members of the Council voted -

for the motion	(43)	Councillors Agnew, Argyle, Beagrie, Berry, Bruce, M Buchan, Carr, Cox, Davidson, Dickinson, Fakley, Findlater, Ford, Gibb, Gifford, Hassan, Howatson, Hutchison, Ingleby, Johnston, Keating, Kille, Latham, Leslie, Lonchay, Mair, McKelvie, Mollison, Owen, Pike, Powell, Ross, Roy, Simpson, H Smith, N Smith, Stirling, Sutherland, Taylor, Walker, Wallace, Whyte and Withey.
for the amendment	(21)	Councillors Aitchison, Allan, Baillie, Bews, Blackett, A Buchan, C Buchan, Calder, Cassie, Durno, Evison, Forsyth, Harper, Kloppert, McAllister, Petrie, Reid, Reynolds, Robertson, Topping and Wilson.
absent from the vote	(1)	Councillors McKail.

The motion was carried and the Council **agreed** to close both Dales Park and Meethill Schools and merge both schools at the new Community Campus at Kinmundy Road, Peterhead and that officers continue to engage with stakeholders of Dales Park and Meethill Schools to address their concerns regarding road safety and safe walking routes to school.

9. ABERDEENSHIRE COMMUNITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT.

With reference to the Minute of Special Meeting of Council of 7 October, 2020 (Item 4), there had been circulated a report dated 10 September, 2021 by the Director of Education and Children's Services on the findings of the second phase of the Community Impact Assessment (CIA) undertaken by the Council in collaboration with the Aberdeenshire Community Planning Partnership to assess the impact of the global COVID-19 pandemic on the residents and communities of Aberdeenshire. The report (1) advised that the data gathered from the first phase CIA had assisted the Council in its strategic decision making and had been referenced in the

development and adoption of Strategic Priorities, the Medium Term Financial Strategy, Directorate Plans, Area Plans and the Recovery Strategy, (2) highlighted the activities undertaken across the council and by community planning partners as part of the second phase to ensure it reached as many people as possible in the circumstances, (3) set out the emerging themes and trends, including information gathered by the Economic Development Service on the impact on the business community, (4) proposed that Policy and Area Committees receive reports on the outcome of the second phase to allow them to consider the information in terms of their remits and Areas, (5) outlined next steps to keep communities involved, engaged and updated in the form of (i) focussed communications, (ii) ongoing reporting to the six Joint Areas Meetings, Local Community Planning Groups and Community Council Forums, (iii) adding more questions to the Reputation Tracker and other engagement forums to assist with embedding COVID-19 impact data collection.

The Area Manager (Garioch) introduced the report and responded to Members questions on engagement with younger members of the community and harder to reach groups, work with partners and communities across areas, information missing from the report on community identified opportunities and feedback on lack of public transport.

Thereafter, the Council **agreed:**

- (1) to acknowledge the findings of the second phase of the Community Impact Assessment as detailed in Appendix 2 of the report;
- (2) to acknowledge that the report captured the position in May-July 2021;
- (3) that the section on Community Identified Opportunities missing from the report be circulated to Members for their information; and
- (4) that the Policy and Area Committees receive reports to consider the Community Impact Assessment in detail, relating to their remits and Area.

10. ABERDEENSHIRE HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE PARTNERSHIP - ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT 2020-21.

A report dated 25 August, 2021 by the Chief Officer, Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care Partnership, had been circulated on the publication of the Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care Partnership Annual Performance Report for 2020/21. The report advised that Section 42 of the Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014 required a performance report to be produced by integration authorities and published annually before 31 July providing an open account of their performance in relation to planning and delivering of the health and social care services they are responsible for. The report (1) continued to be structured around the Health and Social Care Partnership's (HSCP) five agreed strategic priorities in the context of the unprecedented and exceptional challenges faced by health and social care services during the Covid-19 pandemic, (2) advised that due cognisance should be given to the fact that the HSCP performance would be substantially different in 2020/21 and that the longer term impacts on performance were as yet unknown, and (3) provided a summary of performance against the National Core Integration indicators and local performance measures where available.

The Chief Officer introduced the report, highlighting a number of positive achievements over 2020/21 together with challenges and priorities over the coming years.

The Council also heard from the Vice Chair of the Integration Joint Board (IJB), who congratulated the Chief Officer and her Team on their performance and achievements over 2020/21.

The Council **agreed**:

- (1) to acknowledge the Aberdeenshire HSCP Annual Performance Report for 2020/21; and
- (2) that a further breakdown of the additional staffing costs be circulated to Members for information.

11. ABERDEENSHIRE ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT 2020/21.

With reference to the Minute of Special Meeting of 7 October, 2021 (Item 3) there had been circulated a report dated 8 September, 2021 by the Director of Business Services providing an assessment of the performance of the Council in delivering the six priorities in the Council Plan 2020-2022, based on data such as key performance indicators, risks, financial management and resident surveys.

The Chief Executive introduced the report and provided an overview of the performance of the Council, acknowledging the impact of the pandemic and highlighting achievements and areas for improvement.

The Leader of the Council thanked all communities, partner organisations and employees for their efforts in supporting and delivering services. He made reference to the new Council Plan and strategic priorities adopted to support the best use of digital technology, focus on climate change and green energy, collaborative working and refreshed and improved performance reporting.

The Audit and Policy Committee Chairs then highlighted key achievements from 2020/21 and the focus for the current year.

During discussion, Members commented on (i) the target for placemaking and whether it was realistic, (ii) the need to specifically highlight covid related activity, (iii) the new train service delivered in Kintore being appropriately reflected in the report, (iv) reference to the carbon budget being included under management of resources, and (v) reference to unexpected windfalls as a result of the pandemic being included, and the Council **agreed**:

- (1) to acknowledge progress being made with the delivery of the Council Plan for the period 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021;
- (2) to approve the Annual Performance Report 2020/21 attached as Appendix 1 to the Report; and
- (3) that comments made by Members be taken on board by Officers for future reporting purposes.

12. EQUALITIES MAINSTREAMING AND OUTCOMES REPORT 2021.

With reference to the Minute of Meeting of 26 September, 2019 (Item 11), a report dated 8 September, 2021, by the Director of Business Services had been circulated advising of progress towards integrating equality into the work of the Council and presenting a summary of progress in respect of the current equalities outcomes and proposed equality outcomes for 2021-2025. The report referred to the specific duty under the Equality Act 2010 to publish a report on mainstreaming the equality duty and to demonstrate progress on equality outcomes.

The Director of Business Services introduced the report and the Council **agreed** to:

- (1) acknowledge progress made towards meeting the Public Sector Equality Duty as set out in the Equality Mainstreaming and Outcomes Report 2021 attached as Appendix 1 to the report;
- (2) acknowledge progress made towards achieving the Equality Outcomes 2017 – 2021;
- (3) note the feedback from Committees detailed in Appendix 2 of the report;
- (4) approve the Equality Outcomes 2021-2025 set out in the report; and
- (5) note that the wording on period poverty would be amended to reflect the legislative wording.

13. TRANSITION TO A CHOICE BASED BLENDED MODEL FOR FULLY VIRTUAL & HYBRID MEETINGS.

With reference to the Minute of Meeting of the Council of 29 April, 2021 (Item 10) when it had been agreed to continue with Fully Virtual Meetings as the default for all committee meetings pending a further report on options available for Hybrid Meetings, there had been circulated a report dated 13 September, 2021 by the Director of Business Services outlining options for a transition to a choice based blended model for Fully Virtual & Hybrid meetings and seeking consideration and approval of the preferred way forward. The report (1) explained that feedback received as a result of Elected Member engagement had identified a preference for meetings of the Council and its Committees to be Hybrid providing a choice of in person or fully virtual attendance, (2) proposed a gradual transition to a choice based blended model of Fully Virtual and Hybrid Meetings commencing with a pilot period during which a limited number of meeting groups would host Hybrid meetings using existing technology enabling some soft testing to be undertaken prior to a wider rollout, (3) advised that external consultancy advice would be required to fully explore and assess the audio and visual requirements for each Council meeting venue in order to ascertain the costs of achieving a high-quality user experience, (4) sought the approval of a set of principles for Hybrid Meetings, as set out in Appendix 4 of the report, pending the development of procedures and a report back to Council on amendments required to the current Skype for Business guidance at Part 4G of the Scheme of Governance, and (5) proposed that a statement setting out the Council's position on Members attendance at external meetings be sent to any outside bodies with a strong recommendation that wherever possible meetings be

conducted virtually and where in person attendance was required that the premises be well ventilated, an appropriate risk assessment be carried out and 2 metre distancing be observed.

The Director of Business Services introduced the report and the Head of Legal and People provided further explanation of the proposals including health and safety requirements, technological challenges, external expert advice required, phase 1 arrangements, underpinning principles and Members attendance at external meetings.

Thereafter, Councillor Kille moved, seconded by Councillor Argyle, that Council approve the recommendations for a move to a choice based blended model of Fully Virtual and Hybrid Meetings as outlined in the report.

Councillor Ford moved as an amendment, seconded by Councillor Pike, that taking into account current infection rates, the Council maintain the status quo of wholly virtual meetings pending a further report to Council in January, 2022.

Members of the Council voted -

for the motion	(55)	Councillors Agnew, Aitchison, Allan, Argyle, Baillie, Beagrie, Berry, Bews, Bruce, C Buchan, M Buchan, Calder, Cassie, Cox, Dickinson, Durno, Evison, Fakley, Findlater, Forsyth, Gibb, Gifford, Harper, Hassan, Howatson, Hutchison, Ingleby, Keating, Kille, Kloppert, Latham, Lonchay, Mair, McAllister, McKail, McKelvie, Mollison, Owen, Petrie, Powell, Reid, Reynolds, Robertson, Ross, Roy, H Smith, N Smith, Stirling, Sutherland, Taylor, Topping, Walker, Whyte, Wilson and Withey.
for the amendment	(2)	Councillors Ford and Pike.
declined to vote	(3)	Councillors A Buchan, Davidson and Simpson.
absent from the vote	(5)	Councillors Blackett, Carr, Johnston, Leslie and Wallace.

The motion was carried and the Council **agreed** to:

- (1) move to a choice based blended model of Fully Virtual & Hybrid Meetings with the transition arrangements outlined in the report;
- (2) the selection of meeting groups for Hybrid meetings during the first phase of transition as outlined in Appendix 5 of the report;

- (3) the principles for Hybrid meetings at Appendix 4 of the report;
- (4) instruct external consultants to undertake an assessment of audio visual requirements for meeting venues, and agree what venues are in scope;
- (5) authorise the Head of Legal and People to develop and implement procedures for Hybrid meetings and report back to Full Council with revisions to the Guidance on use of Skype for Business for Council Meetings in Part 4G of the Scheme of Governance;
- (6) instruct the Director of Business Services to report back to Full Council in January 2022 with an update on the first phase and proposal for next steps; and
- (7) instruct the Head of Legal and People to prepare a statement of the Council's position on meeting arrangements to be issued to outside bodies recommending virtual meetings as a default and appropriate safety measures where in person attendance is required.

14. TIMETABLE OF MEETINGS 2022/23.

A report dated 26 August 2021 by the Director of Business Services had been circulated requesting the Council to approve the timetable of meetings of the Council, Policy Committees, the Audit Committee, the Sustainability Committee and Area Committees for the period May 2022 to April 2023.

The Council **agreed** to approve the timetable of meetings of the Council, Policy Committees, the Audit Committee, the Sustainability Committee and Area Committees for the period May 2022 to April 2023 as set out in Appendix 1 of the report.

15. OUTSTANDING BUSINESS.

There had been circulated a report dated 26 August, 2021 by the Director of Business Services on items of business previously scheduled to be reported back to Council and proposing action to be taken as a result of restrictions on travel and other activities implemented in respect of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Council **agreed** the arrangements for dealing with outstanding business as detailed in the Appendix to the report.

16. COVID 19 UPDATE.

The Council had before it a report dated 9 September, 2021 by the Chief Executive providing an update on the Council's response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic as a Category 1 Responder and work being done on the recovery phase. The report highlighted key areas for consideration including impact on communities and businesses, virus suppression, the delivery of the vaccination programme, community testing, impact on staff, Education provision, use of offices, recovery activity and provided a timeline of key events and milestones relating to the pandemic.

The Chief Executive introduced the report and provided further updates on a rise in case numbers in recent weeks, the pause in face to face working in line with Scottish Government guidance, the recent roll out of the vaccination programme to 12 to 15 year olds, workforce capacity and wellbeing, the move towards winter and activity required.

Members highlighted the importance of continuing to follow the Scottish Government guidance to repress the virus, expressed their appreciation of the services delivered by staff and highlighted the importance of staff wellbeing.

The Chief Officer of HSCP responded to questions on the future delivery of the Covid and Flu vaccination programmes in local communities, access to General Practitioners and future plans for community hospitals.

The Council **noted** the ongoing response of the Council as a Category 1 Responder under the Civil Contingencies Act and work being done on the Recovery phase.

17. APPOINTMENT OF SECTION 95 OFFICER.

With reference to the Minute of Meeting of the Council of 28 November, 2013 (Item 6) when it had been agreed that the post of Head of Finance be designated a Proper Officer for the purposes of Section 95 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, there had been circulated a report dated 10 September, 2021 proposing that Mary Beattie be appointed to the role of Section 95 Officer following her recent appointment to the post of Head of Finance.

The Council **agreed**:

- (1) to note the statutory requirement for Aberdeenshire Council to appoint a Section 95 Officer; and
- (2) that Mary Beattie be appointed as the Section 95 Officer of Aberdeenshire Council.