

ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL

KINCARDINE AND MEARN'S AREA COMMITTEE ON 18 JANUARY 2022

ALL ATTENDANCE BY SKYPE

- Present:** Councillors Wendy Agnew (Chair), Ian Mollison (Vice-Chair), Alastair Bews, George Carr, Sarah Dickinson, Alison Evison, Provost Bill Howatson, Jeff Hutchison, Colin Pike, Dennis Robertson and Sandy Wallace.
- Apology:** Councillor Leigh Wilson.
- Officers:** Bruce Stewart (Area Manager, Kincardine and Mearns), Emma Storey (Area Committee Officer, Kincardine and Mearns), Martin Ingram (Senior Solicitor, Legal and People), Mairi Stewart, (Planning Service Manager), Kirsty Black, (Project Co-ordinator, Planning and Environment), James Davidson, (Environment Planner, Planning and Environment), Glenn Roberts, (NESCRc Co-ordinator, Planning and Environment) and Fiona Banks, (Ranger Co-ordinator Planning and Environment).

1. DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

The Chair asked Members if they had any interests to declare in terms of the Councillors' Code of Conduct and there were none intimated.

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

3. MINUTE OF MEETING OF KINCARDINE AND MEARNS AREA COMMITTEE OF 07 DECEMBER 2021

The Committee had before them and **approved** as a correct record the Minute of Meeting of the Committee of 07 December 2021.

4. STATEMENT OF OUTSTANDING BUSINESS

A report by the Director of Environment and Infrastructure Services had been circulated presenting the outstanding business for Kincardine and Mearns Area Committee as of 18 January 2022.

5. REVIEW OF PLANNING DELEGATIONS – LOCAL MEMBER NOTIFICATION PROCESS AND REPRESENTATIONS

A report by the Director of Environment and Infrastructure Services was circulated asking the Committee to consider recommendations regarding the Local Member Notification Process and Representations.

The Planning Service Manager provided a detailed presentation laying out the proposed changes to planning delegations and provided statistics to show how these may impact on officer time and the time for determination of applications. Members discussed the report and highlighted a number of concerns and issues.

Councillor Wallace seconded by Councillor Carr, moved to provide a consensus view from the Kincardine and Mearns Area Committee, to reject the recommendations made in the report and express contentment with the current system.

As an amendment Provost Howatson seconded by Councillor Robertson moved to support Officers recommendations.

The Committee voted

For the motion (8) Councillors Agnew, Bews, Carr, Dickinson, Evison, Mollison, Pike and Wallace.

For the amendment (3) Councillors Hutchison, Robertson and Provost Howatson.

Therefore the motion was carried to provide a consensus view from the Kincardine and Mearns Area Committee, to reject the recommendations made in the report and express contentment with the current system

The Committee **agreed** to provide a consensus view from the Kincardine and Mearns Area Committee, to reject the recommendations made in the report and express contentment with the current system.

6. PLANNING INFORMATION AND DELIVERY TEAM STRATEGY 2022-2025

A report by the Director of Environment and Infrastructure Services was circulated to Members seeking endorsement of the work of the Planning Information and Delivery Team as contained in the Team's Draft Strategy 2022-2025.

The Project Co-Ordinator outlined the report and highlighted the work of the small team. The Committee **agreed** to endorse the Draft Planning and Information Team Strategy 2022-2025.

7. DRAFT ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL POLLINATOR ACTION PLAN 2022 TO 2027

A report by the Director of Environment and Infrastructure Services was circulated asking the Committee to provide comments on the objectives, key priorities and ongoing commitments outlined in the draft Aberdeenshire Council Pollinator Action Plan 2022-2027.

The Environment Planner outlined the report and confirmed that the action plan would be considered by the Sustainability Committee at its meeting in June. Members discussed the report and raised several concerns around the importance of how we action the planting in public spaces, suggested use of planters and raised beds to contain and control the spread of wildflower planting. Some Councillors raised the need for further community understanding and further engagement and the careful management of these spaces. Members notes the need to perhaps engage wider with less known and established groups to help share information on the initiative.

The Committee **agreed** to provide the following comments on the objectives, key priorities, and on-going commitments outlined in the draft Aberdeenshire Council Pollinator Action Plan 2022-2027 as follows;

1. In order to enhance public open spaces and help maintain public spaces, consideration to be given to planters, raised beds and tubs as options when planting out these open spaces. Suggestion by some members to plant the borders and keep the green open space clear.
2. Some members opposed the 10% of public greenspaces to be enhanced and managed for pollinators however others were in agreement but suggested the need for close engagement with the community through social media inviting comments and not only with established groups but sharing ideas wider within the community.
3. Members queried the decision making route and sought further clarification if comments went to Sustainability Committee or indeed this should be ISC.

8. AREA PERFORMANCE CALENDAR

A report by the Director of Environment and Infrastructure Services was circulated updating Members on the planned area performance reporting schedule and information on the scope of performance reporting that committee can expect to see in the coming year.

The Committee **agreed**:

1. To acknowledge the reporting schedule and scope of performance reporting,
2. To instruct the Area Manager to present a mid-year update (April 2021 September 2021) on progress made in relation to projects/actions within the Kincardine and Mearns Area Plan 2020-2022 on 18 January 2022, and
3. To receive mid-year performance reports (April 2021-September 2021) relevant to the Kincardine and Mearns area between February and March 2022.

9. NORTH EAST SCOTLAND BIOLOGICAL RECORDS CENTRE(NESBReC)

A report by the Director of Environment and Infrastructure Services was circulated to Members seeking comments on the proposal to increase charges by 10% (including the annual inflationary uplift) for providing biological data to commercial users of North East Scotland Biological Records Centre.

The Committee **agreed** to the proposal to increase charges by 10% for providing biological data to commercial users of North East Scotland Biological Records Centre (NESBReC).

10. RANGER SERVICE

A report by the Director of Environment and Infrastructure Services was circulated to Members seeking comments on the proposal to increase charges for the delivery of exclusive activity sessions which the Ranger Service provided to commercial organisations

The Committee **agreed** on the proposal to introduce charges for the delivery of exclusive activity sessions which the Ranger Service can provide to commercial organisations.

Councillor Presiding over meeting

Print Name

Signature

Date

DRAFT