

ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL

INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES COMMITTEE

HYBRID MEETING, 8 JUNE, 2022

- Present:** Councillors J Crawley (Chair), I Davidson (Vice Chair), D Aitchison, G Carr, J Cox (as substitute for Councillor G Blackett), M Ewenson, P Johnston, Doreen Mair (as substitute for Councillor R Withey), G Reid, A Ross, S Smith, M Sullivan, I Taylor (as substitute for Councillor W Agnew) and A Turner.
- Apologies:** Councillors Agnew, Blackett and Withey.
- Officers:** Director of Environment and Infrastructure Services; Head of Service (Planning and Economy); Head of Service (Roads and Infrastructure); Head of Service (Environment and Sustainability); Team Manager (Chris Ormiston); Team Manager (Wendy Forbes); Team Manager (Darren Ross); Team Leader (Ailsa Anderson); Team Manager (Alistair Reid); Team Manager (Martin Brebner); Regeneration and Town Centres Manager; Employability Co-ordinator; Quality and resources Manager; Passenger Transport Manager; Strategy Manager (Martin Hall); Business Support and performance Manager (Trisha Pirie); Fleet Manager; Principal Officer, Business Partner, Finance (Moirra Beverley); Principal Solicitor, Democratic Services (Arlene Gibbs); and Senior Committee Officer, (Niall David).

1. DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

The Chair asked Members if they had any interests to declare, in terms of the Councillors' Code of Conduct. No interests were declared.

ADJOURNMENT

At this point in the proceedings the meeting was adjourned for a training and development session for substantive and substitute Members of the Committee on the Committee's functions and officer roles and responsibilities, including legislative requirements, for delivery of Planning and Economy, Environment and Sustainability, and Roads and Infrastructure, within the Environment and Infrastructure directorate. The meeting reconvened at approximately 11.45 am.

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.

2B. EXEMPT INFORMATION

The Committee **agreed** in terms of Sections 50A (4) and (5) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, as amended, to exclude the public from the meeting during consideration of the items shown below, so as to avoid disclosure of exempt information of the class described in undernoted paragraphs of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

Item No	Paragraph No of Schedule 7A
26	8
27	8 and 9
28	8

3. MINUTE OF MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF 10 MARCH, 2022

The Committee had before it, and **approved** as a correct record, the Minute of Meeting of Infrastructure Services Committee of 10 March, 2022.

4. MINUTE OF MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF 27 APRIL, 2022

The Committee had before it, and **approved** as a correct record, the Minute of Meeting of Infrastructure Services Committee of 27 April, 2022.

5. OUTSTANDING BUSINESS

There was circulated a list of outstanding actions from previous meetings of the Infrastructure Services Committee, which had been deferred to future meetings of the Committee, as of 8 June, 2022.

The Director of Environment and Infrastructure Services introduced the report and provided the Committee with an update.

The Committee **agreed** to note the current position in respect of actions arising at previous meetings.

6. PLANNING PERMISSION IN PRINCIPLE FOR ERECTION OF DWELLINGHOUSE AND GARAGE AT 8 CARNOUSTIE AVENUE, FORGLEN, TURRIFF, ABERDEENSHIRE, AB53 4JZ – REFERENCE: APP/2021/1479

With reference to the Minute of the Banff and Buchan Area Committee Meeting of 8 March 2022 (Item 6D), there was circulated a report by the Director of Environment and Infrastructure Services, which sought consideration of an application for planning permission in principle for the erection of dwellinghouse and garage at 8 Carnoustie Avenue, Forglen, Turrieff, Aberdeenshire AB53 4JZ– Reference: APP/2021/1479.

The report explained that the application had been considered by the Banff and Buchan Area Committee, who had agreed that the application should be referred to the Infrastructure Services Committee for final determination, stating that the Banff

and Buchan Area Committee was minded to delegate the grant subject to appropriate conditions on the grounds that: (1) the application would be a logical addition to the housing pattern; (2) it filled a gap site; (3) it was an appropriate addition to the cohesive group; and (4) the numbers indicated for a cluster were guidance which allowed for flexibility. As such the Area Committee agreed the application would comply with policy R2 of the Local Development Plan.

The Team Manager (Banff and Buchan and Garioch Areas) introduced the report and provided the Committee with the background to the proposal. It was explained that the Officer recommendation was REFUSE for the following reasons: (1) the application did not comply with Policy R1: Special rural areas or Policy R2: Housing and employment development elsewhere in the countryside of the Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan 2017 as the proposed development did not qualify under any of the following criteria: (a) development permissible under the Greenbelt section of Policy R1: Special Rural Areas (b) refurbishment or replacement of an existing or disused building, or a previously developed site which was now redundant; (c) organic growth of a settlement identified in Appendix 4; (d) a new dwelling in relation to a retiring farming succession; or (e) an appropriate addition to a cohesive group of at least five houses; and (2) the proposed development was assessed against the Scottish Planning Policy principles of sustainable development however the proposal does not accord with those principles and did not accord with the policies of the Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan 2017 and therefore could not be considered to contribute to sustainable development.

Following discussion, with specific reference to the site's planning history, the Committee **agreed**:-

to delegate the grant GRANT of Planning Permission in Principle to the Head of Service (Planning and Economy), on the grounds that: (1) the application would be a logical addition to the housing pattern given that the site previously had planning permission; (2) it filled a gap site; (3) it was an appropriate addition to the cohesive group; and (4) the numbers indicated for a cluster were guidance which allowed for flexibility; and as such the Area Committee agreed the application would comply with policies R1 and R2 of the Local Development Plan; subject to the following conditions:

- (1) full details of layout, siting and design of dwellinghouse to be submitted as part of matters specified in conditions;
- (2) full details of servicing including parking, access, and foul and surface water drainage;
- (3) existing and proposed site sections;
- (4) landscaping scheme and details of boundary treatments;
- (5) carbon neutrality; and
- (6) connection of the dwellinghouse to the public water supply.

7. CONSULTATION UNDER SECTION 36 OF THE ELECTRICITY ACT 1989 FOR THE ERECTION OF A SOLAR PV FARM OF 50MW CAPACITY AND A BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE FACILITY OF 20MW CAPACITY WITH ANCILLARY DEVELOPMENT ON LAND AT KIRKTON APPROXIMATELY 1.2KM SOUTHEAST OF ST FERGUS VILLAGE PETERHEAD - REFERENCE: APP/2021/1712

The Chair intimated that a request to speak had been received, and the Committee **agreed** to hear from: Mr Seamus Fay (agent), who was supported by his client Mr Ronan Clark (applicant).

With reference to the Minute of the Buchan Area Committee Meeting of 19 April, 2022 (Item 4B), there was circulated a report by the Director of Environment and Infrastructure Services, on consultation under Section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 for the Erection of a Solar PV Farm of 50MW Capacity and a Battery Energy Storage Facility at 20MW Capacity with Ancillary Development on Land at Kirkton, approx. 1.2km South East of St Fergus Village – Reference: APP/2021/1712.

The Team Manager (Strategic Team) introduced the report and provided the Committee with the background and detail to the proposal. The Committee were advised that the Buchan Area Committee had agreed that the application be referred to Infrastructure Services Committee for determination given its support for the application by agreeing that authority be delegated to the Head of Service (Planning and Economy) to respond to the Energy Consent Unit consultation with 'No Objection' subject to – (a) the conditions detailed in the report, and (b) the following issues which were addressed and included within the report to Infrastructure Services Committee: (i) more photos showing any potential impact on the nearby farmhouse; the visual impact the development may have on the houses at Inverquinzie which are above ground level and may also be affected by the glare from the panels; and North Kirkton Cemetery, (ii) in relation to North Kirkton Cemetery, to request that the Applicant works with the Council to ensure that any works were paused whilst burials take place and that the cemetery is openly available at all times, and (iii) a request that should the track to the old cemetery be used by construction vehicles that an agreement be reached, before works start, for remuneration towards upgrading and restoration of the access track, (iv) to highlight concern that as a consultee, the Council is not made aware of the views/representations received from surrounding neighbours and does not actively seek local comment; this issue needs to be addressed, (v) clarification of any likely impact blown sand will have on the panels, (vi) clarification of the possible impact of glare on the main access road, and (vii) clarification as to whether the proposed site is considered to be prime agricultural land.

With regard to North Kirkton Cemetery it was noted that the Applicant had committed to working with the Council to ensure there would be no disruption to the cemetery.

Thereafter, the Committee heard the request to speak.

The Committee **agreed** that authority be delegated to the Head of Planning and Economy to respond to the Energy Consent Unit consultation with NO OBJECTION subject to the following planning conditions:

- (1) Duration of Consent - The consent is for a period of 40 years from the date of First Commissioning. Written confirmation of the date of Final Commissioning

shall be provided to the Planning Authority and Scottish Ministers no later than one calendar month after that date. Reason: To define the duration of the consent.

- (2) Commencement of Development - The Commencement of the Development shall be no later than three years from the date of this consent, or in substitution such other period as the Scottish Ministers may hereafter direct in writing. Written confirmation of the intended date of Commencement of Development shall be provided to the Planning Authority and Scottish Ministers no later than one calendar month before that date. Reason: In accordance with s58 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997. To avoid uncertainty and ensure that the consent is implemented within a reasonable period.
- (3) Restoration Scheme - (i) The Development will cease to generate electricity by no later than the date falling 40 years from the Date of Final Commissioning. The total period for decommissioning and restoration of the Site in accordance with this condition shall not exceed 18 months after the date of cessation of electricity generation by the Development without prior written approval of the Scottish Ministers in consultation with the Planning Authority; (ii) There shall be no Commencement of Development unless and until a decommissioning, restoration and aftercare strategy has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Planning Authority. The strategy shall include measures for the decommissioning of the Development, restoration and aftercare of the site and will include, without limitation, proposals for the removal of the above ground elements of the Development, confirmation of the status of subterranean elements of the development (retention, removal or other such proposal), the treatment of ground surfaces, the management and timing of the works and environmental management provisions; (iii) No later than twelve months prior to decommissioning of the Development or the expiration of this consent (whichever is the earlier) a detailed decommissioning, restoration and aftercare plan, based upon the principles of the approved decommissioning, restoration and aftercare strategy, shall be submitted to the Planning Authority for written approval. The detailed decommissioning, restoration and aftercare plan will provide updated and detailed proposals for the removal of above ground elements of the Development, the treatment of ground surfaces, the management and timing of the works and environment management provisions. It should include (but shall not be limited to): (a) a site waste management plan (dealing with all aspects of waste produced during the decommissioning, restoration and aftercare phases); (b) details of the formation of new features required to facilitate the decommissioning and restoration including but not limited to: the construction compound, welfare facilities, any areas of hardstanding, turning areas, internal access tracks, car parking, material stockpiles, oil storage, lighting columns, and any construction compound boundary fencing; (c) a dust management plan; (d) details of measures to be taken to prevent loose or deleterious material being deposited on the road network including wheel cleaning and lorry sheeting facilities, and measures to clean the site entrances and the adjacent local road network; (e) a pollution prevention and control method statement, including arrangements for the storage and management of oil and fuel on the site; (f) soil storage and management; (g) a surface water and groundwater management and treatment plan, including details of the separation of clean and dirty water drains, and

location of settlement lagoons for silt laden water; (h) sewage disposal and treatment; (i) temporary site illumination; (j) the construction of any temporary access into the site and the creation and maintenance of associated visibility splays; and; and (k) details of watercourse crossings (iv) The Development shall be decommissioned, site restored, and aftercare thereafter undertaken in accordance with the detailed decommissioning, restoration and aftercare plan as approved, unless otherwise agreed in writing in advance with the Planning Authority. Reason: To ensure the decommissioning and removal of the development in an appropriate and environmentally acceptable manner and the restoration and aftercare of the site, in the interests of safety, amenity and environmental protection.

- (4) Restoration Bond - No works in connection with the development hereby approved shall commence unless the developer has provided to the Planning Authority written details of the guarantee or other financial provision that is proposed to be put in place to cover all site restoration liabilities at the end of the period of this permission (as per condition 1 of this notice). The developer shall also provide an independent confirmation by a chartered surveyor or other suitable qualified professional (whose appointment for this task has been approved in writing by the Planning Authority) that the amount of the guarantee or financial provision so proposed is sufficient to meet the full estimated costs of dismantling, removal, disposal, site restoration, remediation aftercare liabilities and incidental work as well as associated professional costs. No works shall commence on site unless written confirmation has been given by the Planning Authority that the proposed guarantee is satisfactory, and the developer has confirmed in writing to the planning authority that the guarantee has been put in place. The guarantee or other financial provision must: (a) be granted in favour of the Council as Planning Authority; (b) be from a bank or other institution which is of sound financial standing and capable of fulfilling the obligations under the guarantee; (c) The value of the financial provision shall be reviewed by a suitably qualified independent professional every five years and increased or decreased to take account of any variation in costs of compliance with restoration and aftercare obligations; (d) come into effect on or before the date of commencement of development and expire no earlier than completion of site restoration and aftercare liabilities. In the event that the guarantee becomes invalid for any reason, no operations shall be carried out in connection with the development hereby approved unless a replacement guarantee, completed in accordance with the terms of this condition has been submitted to, and approved in writing by the Planning Authority. Reason: To ensure financial security for the cost of the site reinstatement and aftercare liabilities is in place in the interests of the visual amenity of the area and environmental protection.
- (5) Construction Environment Management Plan (CEMP) - No works in connection with the development hereby approved (including demolition, ground works and vegetation clearance) shall commence unless a Construction Environmental Management Plan ("CEMP") has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Planning Authority. The CEMP shall include the following: (a) Risk assessment of potentially damaging construction activities; (b) Identification of biodiversity protection zones; (c) Practical measures (both physical measures and sensitive working practices) to avoid or reduce impacts during construction (may be provided as a set of method statements); (d) The location and timing of

sensitive works to avoid harm to biodiversity features; (e) The times during construction when specialist ecologists need to be present on site to oversee works; (f) Responsible persons and lines of communication; (g) The role and responsibilities on site of the environmental clerk of works (ECoW) or similarly competent person; (h) Use of protective fences, exclusion barriers and warning signs; (i) Site Waste Management Plan, including details of any peat excavation; (j) Species Protection Plans (SPP) detailing working measures to be undertaken in order to prevent disturbance or harm to protected species (including badgers, otters, bats and breeding birds) and any mitigation measures which may be required. All works carried out during the construction period shall be undertaken strictly in accordance with the approved CEMP unless otherwise agreed in writing with the Planning Authority. Reason: In the interests of protecting the biodiversity of the environment.

- (6) Landscaping - No works in connection with the development hereby approved shall commence unless a scheme of hard and soft landscaping works has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Planning Authority. Details of the scheme shall include: (a) Existing landscape features and vegetation to be retained; (b) Protection measures for the landscape features to be retained; (c) The location of new trees, shrubs, hedges, grassed areas and water features; (d) A schedule of planting to comprise species, plant sizes and proposed numbers and density; (e) An indication of existing trees, shrubs and hedges to be removed; (f) The location, species details and timing of planting identified in order to mitigate the impact of glint and glare, including the impact upon the A90 trunk road; (g) The location of and full details of any planting associated with biodiversity enhancement measures; (h) A programme for the implementation, completion and subsequent management of the proposed landscaping; All soft and hard landscaping proposals shall be carried out in accordance with the approved planting scheme and management programme. Any planting which, within a period of 5 years from the completion of the development, in the opinion of the Planning Authority is dying, being severely damaged or becoming seriously diseased, shall be replaced by plants of similar size and species to those originally required to be planted. Once provided, all hard landscaping works shall thereafter be permanently retained. Reason: To ensure the implementation and management of a satisfactory scheme of landscaping which will help to integrate the proposed development into the local landscape in the interests of the visual amenity of the area.
- (7) A90 access upgrades - Prior to the commencement of development of the Solar Farm, the access between the unadopted road and A90 shall be upgraded in accordance with the following drawing: RPS drawing JNY9487-SK001. The construction details of said upgrade shall be submitted to the Planning Authority for agreement in consultation with Transport Scotland. The development shall be carried out in accordance with the approved construction details. The aforementioned road upgrades shall be retained in perpetuity unless otherwise agreed in writing with the Planning Authority in consultation with Transport Scotland. Reason: In the interests of road safety and ensuring the site can be safely accessed.
- (8) Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) No works in connection with the permission hereby granted shall commence unless a Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) has been submitted to and approved in writing by

the Planning Authority. Thereafter, the development shall be carried out in accordance with the approved CTMP. Reason: In the interests of road safety and to avoid degradation of the road and bridge network.

- (9) Programme of Archaeological Works No works in connection with the development hereby approved shall commence unless a written scheme of archaeological investigation has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Planning Authority and a programme of archaeological works has been carried out in accordance with the approved scheme. The written scheme of investigation shall include details of how the recording and recovery of archaeological resources found within the application site shall be undertaken, and how any updates, if required, to the written scheme of investigation will be provided throughout the implementation of the programme of archaeological works. Should the archaeological works reveal the need for post-excavation analysis the development hereby approved shall not be brought into use unless a post-excavation research design (PERD) for the analysis, publication and dissemination of results and archive deposition has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Planning Authority. The PERD shall be carried out in complete accordance with the approved details. Reason: To safeguard and record the archaeological potential of the area.

8. FULL PLANNING PERMISSION FOR ERECTION OF 10 DWELLINGHOUSES AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE AT LAND AT SOUTH YTHSIE, BY TARVES – REFERENCE: APP/2021/2104

The Chair intimated that a request to speak had been received, and the Committee **agreed** to hear from: Mr Daniel Harrington (agent).

With reference to the Minute of the Formartine Area Committee Meeting of 26 April, 2022 (Item 4D), there was circulated a report by the Director of Environment and Infrastructure Services, requesting consideration of an application for Full Planning Permission of the Erection of 10 Dwellinghouses and Associated Infrastructure at Land at South Ythsie, By Tarves – Reference: APP/2021/1712.

Team Manager (Buchan and Formartine Areas) introduced the report and provided the Committee with the background to the proposal. The Committee were advised that at its meeting of 26 April 2022, the Formartine Area Committee agreed that there would be no adverse impacts which would significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefits of the proposal, and with the recommendation to a delegated grant as a departure from the Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan, subject to conclusion of developer obligations and exploration with the developer of the potential extension of the country style footpath to Tarves and planning conditions.

Thereafter, the Committee heard the request to speak.

The Committee **agreed** that authority to GRANT Full Planning Permission be delegated to the Head of Planning and Economy subject to:

- (1) Conclusion of Developer Obligations; and

(2) The following conditions:

- (1) No individual dwellinghouse hereby approved shall be erected unless an Energy Statement applicable to that dwellinghouse has been submitted to and approved in writing by the planning authority. The Energy Statement shall include the following items: (a) Full details of the proposed energy efficiency measures and/or renewable technologies to be incorporated into the development; and b) Calculations using the SAP or SBEM methods, which demonstrate that the reduction in carbon dioxide emissions rates for the development, arising from the measures proposed, will enable the development to comply with Policy C1 of the Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan 2017. The development shall not be occupied unless it has been constructed in full accordance with the approved details in the Energy Statement. The carbon reduction measures shall be retained in place and fully operational thereafter. Reason: To ensure this development complies with the on-site carbon reductions required in Scottish Planning Policy and Policy C1 of the Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan 2017.
- (2) The proposed development shall be connected to the public water supply as indicated in the submitted application and shall not be connected to a private water supply without the separate express grant of planning permission by the planning authority. Reason: To ensure the long term sustainability of the development and the safety and welfare of the occupants and visitors to the site.
- (3) No dwellinghouse hereby approved shall be occupied unless the proposed foul and surface water drainage systems have been provided in accordance with the approved plans and the Drainage Statement Revision 03 dated 12.1.22 by Cameron and Ross. The foul and surface water drainage systems shall be permanently retained thereafter in accordance with the approved maintenance scheme. Reason: In order to ensure that adequate drainage facilities are provided, and retained, in the interests of the amenity of the area.
- (4) No works in connection with the development hereby approved shall commence unless a scheme of hard and soft landscaping works has been submitted to and approved in writing by the planning authority. Details of the scheme shall include: (a) Existing and proposed finished levels; (b) The location of new trees, shrubs, hedges, and grassed areas; (c) A schedule of planting to comprise species, plant sizes and proposed numbers and density; (d) The location, design and materials of all hard landscaping works including walls, fences, gates, and street furniture; (e) An indication of existing trees, shrubs, and hedges to be removed; (f) A programme for the implementation, completion, and subsequent management of the proposed landscaping. All soft and hard landscaping proposals shall be carried out in accordance with the approved planting scheme and management programme. Any planting which, within a period of 5 years from the completion of the development, in the opinion of the planning authority is dying, being severely damaged or becoming seriously diseased, shall be replaced by plants of similar size and species to those originally required to be planted. Once provided, all hard

landscaping works shall thereafter be permanently retained. Reason: To ensure the implementation and management of a satisfactory scheme of landscaping which will help to integrate the proposed development into the local landscape in the interests of the visual amenity of the area.

- (5) All landscaped areas and public open space outwith the curtilages of the dwellinghouses and shown on the approved drawing number S01 Revision C shall be permanently retained as such and shall at no time be used as private garden ground nor incorporated within the curtilage of any of the dwellinghouses hereby approved without the express grant of planning permission by the planning authority. Notwithstanding the provisions of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (Scotland) Order 1992 or any order amending, revoking, or re-enacting that Order no means of enclosure, other than that shown on the approved plans, shall be erected within the landscaped areas without an express grant of planning permission by the planning authority. Reason: In the interests of the character and appearance of the development.
- (6) Notwithstanding the provisions of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (Scotland) Order 1992 or any order amending, revoking, or re-enacting that Order no means of enclosure, other than that shown on drawing numbers s300 Revision A and S02 revision C shall be erected on the site under the terms of Class 3E of Schedule 1 to that Order without an express grant of planning permission from the planning authority. Reason: In the interests of the character and appearance of the development.
- (7) Each dwellinghouses hereby approved shall not be occupied unless their driveway, parking and turning areas for that plot have been provided in full. The maximum gradient of each access over the first 5 metres measured back from the footpath shall not exceed 1:20 gradient and the first 5 metres of the access shall be fully paved. Once provided, all parking and turning areas shall thereafter be permanently retained as such. Reason: To ensure the timely completion of each driveway to an adequate standard to prevent the carriage of loose driveway material on to the public road in the interests of road safety.
- (8) No development in connection with the permission hereby granted shall commence and the access hereby approved shall not be brought into use unless visibility of 45 metres in both directions along the channel line of the public road has been provided from a point 2.4 metres measured at right angles from the existing edge of the carriageway surface along the centre line of the approved new access in accordance with the Council's Standards for Road Construction Consent and Adoption. The visibility splays shall be physically formed on the ground and any existing fences, walls, hedges or other means of enclosure or obstructions within the splays shall be removed and relocated outwith the splays in accordance with the approved plans. Once formed, the visibility splays shall be permanently retained thereafter, and no visual obstruction of any kind shall be permitted within the visibility splays so formed. Reason: To

enable drivers of vehicles using the access to have a clear view of other road users and pedestrians in the interests of road safety.

- (9) No dwellinghouse hereby approved shall be occupied unless the passing places as shown on drawing numbers 190890-902-3-REV5 and 190890-902-2-Rev5 have been provided and surfaced in accordance with the Council's Standards for Road Construction Consent and Adoption in the locations shown on the approved plans. Reason: To ensure the existing road network can accommodate the traffic likely to be associated with the proposed development in the interests of road safety.
- (10) No dwellinghouse hereby approved shall be occupied unless a country style footpath has been formed in accordance with drawing numbers 190890- 902-3-Rev5, 190890-902-2-Rev5 and 190890-902-1-Rev7, constructed in accordance with the Council's Standards for Road Construction Consent and has been provided in its entirety. Once provided, the footpath shall thereafter be permanently retained as such. Reason: To ensure safe access for pedestrians to the existing bus stop; and that the reason for departing from the Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan is that the planning authority considers that the application is for a development that is not in accordance with the Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan 2017. The development is contrary to Policy R2 Housing and employment development elsewhere in the countryside, as the development exceeds what is considered to be acceptable small scale residential development in the countryside. The site has extant planning history for the redevelopment of this former brownfield development site. The changes in the local housing market since the development was originally approved, has forced the developer to amend the scale and design to meet market forces. The development makes efficient use of the former brownfield site while delivering open space and affordable housing and provides a good balance of house types. The development has been well designed to better reflect the scale and character of the original houses at Ythsie, while achieving an overall contemporary design. Therefore, the development is an acceptable departure from this policy.

9. ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL PLANNING INFORMATION AND DELIVERY TEAM STRATEGY 2022-2025

There was circulated a report dated 11 April, 2022, by the Director of Environment and Infrastructure Services, which sought approval of the Planning Information and Delivery (PID) Team Strategy 2022-2025.

The report explained that the PID Team Strategy was the first formal Strategy to be prepared by the PID Team. It would be used to drive the work of the Team over the next 3 years. The Strategy outlined the vision of the Team, along with associated aims and objectives. Key priorities for the Team were set around the Council's Strategic Priorities. Actions were identified that would be progressed by Officers during the Strategy period.

The report went on to explain that a work programme for the first year of the Strategy was also provided, with a list of publications that would be produced by the Team.

The draft Strategy had been subject to scrutiny by the Planning and Environment Member Officer Working Group and Area Committees prior to being presented to this meeting of Infrastructure Services Committee for approval. Monitoring and updates would be provided by way of an Annual Report, with a full review scheduled for 2024.

Having considered the content of the report, the Committee **agreed** to:-

- (1) acknowledge the Draft Planning and Information Team Strategy 2022-2025, as amended, on the basis of comments received from Area Committees (Appendix 1 and 2); and
- (2) approve the Planning and Information Team Strategy 2022-2025 for publication on the Council's website.

10. FOOD AND DRINK ACTIVITY BUDGET 2022-23

There was circulated a report dated 3 May, 2022, by the Director of Environment and Infrastructure Services, which sought approval for a grant of up to £51,000 by Aberdeenshire Council, towards total project costs, for Food and Drink Activity of £373,000, undertaken by Opportunity North East (ONE).

The report explained as background that, ONE was established in 2015 as a private sector led body, focused on ensuring a sustainable economic future for North-East Scotland. ONE worked with partners to co-create, develop and deliver transformational projects and programmes in the region's key sector of food, drink agriculture and fishing; life sciences; tourism; digital and energy. Since 2016, Aberdeenshire Council had provided grant funding to ONE, towards its support of the food and drink sector. Aberdeenshire Council's previous Leader was a member of the ONE Board. At the time of writing Aberdeenshire Council had still to appoint its new representative on the ONE Board.

The report further explained that ONE's focus was on investment and action to stimulate economic growth, safeguard jobs and create new employment opportunities over the medium to long term. It provided co-funding and resources to develop and bring forward high-impact projects that supported the growth of these key sectors in partnership with the public and private sectors. During discussion, it was highlighted that there would be a report to a future meeting of the Committee on the impact on investment and action to stimulate economic growth.

Having considered the content of the report, the Committee **agreed** to:-

- (1) endorse the work undertaken by ONE to support the food and drink sectors in Aberdeenshire in 2021-22;
- (2) approve a contribution of up to £51,000 by Aberdeenshire Council, towards total project costs for Food and Drink Activity of £373,000, undertaken by Opportunity North East (ONE); and
- (3) instruct the Head of Planning and Economy to report on ONE's spend and activity to support the Food and Drink sector to this Committee at six and

twelve monthly intervals; and that a detailed presentation on this also be made to a future meeting.

11. COMMUNITY LED LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FUNDING

There was circulated a report dated 28 April, 2022, by the Director of Environment and Infrastructure Services, which provided an update on the launch of the 2022-23 Rural Community Led Local Development Fund.

The report explained that this effectively replaced the previous LEADER programme, with funds to be managed by local partnerships. The paper proposed that the Council act as Accountable Body for, and remain a member of, the North and South Aberdeenshire Local Action Groups in order to deliver this funding.

Having considered the content of the report, the Committee **agreed**:-

- (1) to note the launch of the Rural Community Led Local Development Fund and the indicative allocation of £1,030,000 to the North and South Aberdeenshire Local Action Groups;
- (2) that the Council acts as Accountable Body for the partnerships and funding for the 2022-23 financial year; and
- (3) that the Council remains a member of the North and South Local Action Group partnerships until at least 30 April 2023.

12. DEVELOPING EXCELLENCE IN OUR NORTH EAST COMMUNITIES

There was circulated a report, by the Director of Environment and Infrastructure Services, which provided an update on the regeneration strategy: Developing Excellence in our North Coast Communities for Banff, Macduff and Fraserburgh and Peterhead highlighting the progress achieved since the last update in June 2020.

In particular, the report explained that the Vision and Action Plans were achieving their anticipated outputs and outcomes, that there were key developments throughout the 4 towns that were ongoing, and improvements yet to be developed with partners as part of the long term regeneration agenda.

Having considered the content of the report, the Committee **agreed**:-

- (1) to acknowledge the report;
- (2) to note that the Vision and Action Plans were nearing the end of their anticipated lifespan, that there was an 18 month freeze on activity during Covid 19, and to continue the plans this year until a new Place Strategy could be put into place; and
- (3) that Officers report to Committee in 12 months with a further full progress update and that that, in the meantime, regular reports be submitted to the

Committee and Area Committee on any emerging issues, as appropriate, before the regular 12 monthly update.

13. PROPOSALS TO AWARD EMPLOYABILITY FUNDS

There was circulated a report dated 2 May, 2022, by the Director of Environment and Infrastructure Services, which provided an overview of the current employment landscape and the proposed specific approach of Aberdeenshire Council and the Local Employability Partnership (LEP), which was branded locally as Employment CONNECT, to support individuals across Aberdeenshire who were unemployed.

In particular, the report outlined the developing No-One Left Behind employability policy between Scottish and Local Government which aimed to ensure that employability was aligned and integrated with service delivery at a local level. The report highlighted the increasing role of LEPs in local decision-making and the co-commissioning of local services.

The report also proposed a partnership grant process for employability service delivery, managed by the Council and delivered through the LEP, to ensure that the right employability services were delivered locally.

Having considered the content of the report, the Committee **agreed**:-

- (1) to note that the Council has been allocated £2,486,480 in grant funding from the Scottish Government for employability services;
- (2) that the current employability grant programme continue until March 2023, pending a review; and that a local employability framework be established to replace the current grant programme effective from April 2023;
- (3) that the Service will create a provider review framework and produce an Annual Report for Areas and report to Infrastructure Services Committee every 6 months;
- (4) that, in terms of the Financial Regulations, the Head of Planning and Economy had delegated authority to approve, allocate and award these grants, following consultation with the Chair, Vice Chair and Opposition Spokesperson of the Infrastructure Services Committee; and
- (5) that a briefing note be issued to each Area Committee in the meantime.

14. REGIONAL ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP FUND

There was circulated a report dated 28 April, 2022, by the Director of Environment and Infrastructure Services, which provided an update on an allocation of funding from the Scottish Government to the Regional Economic Partnership.

The report explained that as the Accountable Body for the partnership, the funding was awarded to the Council which was required to submit a bid to the Government setting out proposed partnership activity which aligned with the fund criteria. The application submitted was based on activity carried out by Opportunity North East

(ONE). As the cost of this activity was greater than £50,000, Committee approval was being sought to approve an award of £89,750.35 of funding to ONE.

Having considered the content of the report, the Committee **agreed** to:-

- (1) note the award of Regional Economic Partnership funding to the Aberdeen City Region; and
- (2) approve a grant of £89,750.35 to Opportunity North East.

15. CAPITAL PROPOSALS FOR ROADS

There was circulated a report dated 26 May, 2022, by the Director of Environment and Infrastructure Services, which outlined the how the method for identifying roads related capital works schemes could be improved.

The report highlighted where data could be used to identify schemes, and how these schemes could be prioritised. In addition, the report proposed a more flexible and responsive method for engaging with Members on which works were committed for delivery.

The Committee were advised that in March and April 2022, the Service reported to each of the six Area Committees with details of the proposed 2022-2023 works programmes. In accordance with the Council's Scheme of Governance, the Roads Service sought agreement from each Area Committee for the proposals as they related to Revenue spending in the relevant Area, and comments on Capital spending proposals. These comments and the Service response were included as Appendix 1.

The Committee went on to discuss Capital Programme Approval; Roads Programme Production; Drainage Programme Production; Street Lighting Programme Production; and Footway programme Production.

Having considered the content of the report, the Committee **agreed**:-

- (1) that all Area Committees be consulted on the proposed mechanism for asset maintenance and prioritisation;
- (2) that data driven processes be developed for producing and prioritising roads related Capital Works Programmes;
- (3) that the Service move to a live and transparent method of scheme identification and prioritisation to replace annual works programmes reporting;
- (4) that road asset maintenance should be considered across Aberdeenshire as a whole; and
- (5) to the proposed programmes of roads related Capital Works for 2022-23, as detailed in Appendix 2.

16. PARTNERSHIP REVIEW – HEALTH AND TRANSPORT ACTION PLAN (HTAP) AND ROAD SAFETY NORTH EAST SCOTLAND (RSNES)

There was circulated a report dated 25 May, 2022, by the Director of Environment and Infrastructure Services, which sought approval of Aberdeenshire Council's involvement in two partnerships, namely, the Grampian Health and Transport Action Plan (HTAP) and Road Safety North East Scotland (RSNES) until June 2024 at which point they would be reviewed again.

The detail of the partnership assessment and associated risk assessment were included in the appendices to the report. The report highlighted that both partnerships were able to demonstrate that they were effective in bringing different organisations together to achieve shared aims and objectives and that the Council's involvement in both was low risk.

Having considered the content of the report, the Committee **agreed**:-

- (1) to endorse the partnership reviews of the Grampian Health and Transport Action Plan (HTAP) and Road Safety North East Scotland (RSNES), as set out in Appendices 1 to 4 of the report; and
- (2) that the Council continue to participate in the partnerships until June 2024, when they will be reviewed again, in line the Partnership Working Policy.

17. PARTNERSHIP REVIEW – NORTH EAST OF SCOTLAND BUS ALLIANCE

With reference to the Minute of Meeting of the Committee of 18 June, 2020 (Item 16), there was circulated a report dated 25 May, 2022, by the Director of Environment and Infrastructure Services, on a further review of the Council's participation in the Bus Alliance, in line with the Council's Partnership Policy. The report also sought approval of continued participation and outlined the proposal by the Bus Alliance partners to review and revise the partnership agreement, in line with the emerging new transport authority partnership powers under the Transport (Scotland) Act 2019.

Having considered the content of the report, the Committee **agreed**:-

- (1) to endorse the partnership review of North East of Scotland Bus Alliance, as detailed in Appendices 2 and 3 of the report;
- (2) that the Council continue to participate in the partnership for a further two years;
- (3) to note the proposal by the North East of Scotland Bus Alliance partners to review and revise the partnership agreement, in line with the emerging transport authority partnership powers under the Transport (Scotland) Act 2019; and
- (4) that the Committee be advised when Bus User Forum Groups had restarted.

18. STRATEGIC TRANSPORT UPDATE

There was circulated a report dated 25 May, 2022, by the Director of Environment and Infrastructure Services, which provided updates on projects associated with the Local Transport Strategy across Aberdeenshire.

A full update was detailed in Appendix 1, with the main ones being: Creation of a Member Officers' Working Group (MOWG) to guide development of the update to the Local Transport Strategy (LTS); An update on the Ready2Go trial of Digital Demand Responsive Travel in and around Inverurie; and an Increase in Electric Vehicle (EV) charging tariffs.

The report explained that a Strategic Transport Update was submitted to the Infrastructure Services Committee at every second meeting in order to provide timely updates on progress and allow appropriate decisions to be taken. The report therefore detailed the developments since the last update to the meeting on 20 January, 2022.

Having considered the content of the report, the Committee **agreed** to:-

- (1) acknowledge the progress made with projects, activities and developments taken forward by Nestrans, external agencies and stakeholders, as outlined in the report;
- (2) accept further updates on the progress of both the implementation and delivery of the Aberdeenshire Local Transport Strategy (LTS), as appropriate;
- (3) approve the Terms of Reference with respect to the Local Transport Strategy MOWG; and nominate Members to this group, on a politically proportionate basis; and
- (4) acknowledge the proposed increase of the tariff for Electric Vehicle (EV) charge points from the current tariff charged of £0.21 per kWh to the new rate £0.24 per kWh, that would be introduced from 20 June 2022.

19. ANNUAL SCRUTINY AND IMPROVEMENT REPORT 2021/22

There was circulated a report dated 19 May, 2022 by the Director of Environment and Infrastructure Services, which (1) explained that the Scrutiny and Improvement at Aberdeenshire Guidance in Part 4 of the Scheme of Governance required each Committee to consider an Annual Scrutiny and Improvement Report, (2) included highlights of key scrutiny activity undertaken by the Committee over the past year, (3) outlined areas for inclusion in the scrutiny programme for the coming year, and (4) provided the Committee with an annual report outlining its scrutiny activity in the period from 1 April, 2021 to 31 March, 2022.

Having considered the content of the report, the Committee **agreed** to:-

- (1) acknowledge the activities detailed in the report; and
- (2) agree the proposed programme of scrutiny activity for 2022/23.

20. ENVIRONMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES PERFORMANCE AND DIRECTORATE PLAN UPDATE, OCTOBER 2021 – MARCH 2022 (ABERDEENSHIRE PERFORMS)

With reference to the Minute of the Infrastructure Services Committee meeting of 25 November, 2021, (Item 16), there was circulated a report, dated 26 May, 2022, by the Director of Environment and Infrastructure Services, which provided the Committee with an update on progress, with actions, and performance measures set out in the Environment and Infrastructure Services Directorate plan, for the period October 2021 to March 2022, which fall under the remit of the Infrastructure Services Committee.

The report set out a total of 53 actions to be undertaken in support of the Council's Operational Priorities, under four themes (Economic Development, Environment, Connectivity and Housing) and the report concentrated on those actions and measures which fall under the remit of the Infrastructure Services Committee.

Having considered the content of the report, the Committee **agreed**:-

- (1) to acknowledge the progress and performance made during the period October 2021 – March 2022 with the key measures and actions set out in Appendix 1 – 3 to the report;
- (2) to instruct the Director of Environment and Infrastructure Services to continue to present performance reports to the Committee on a six-monthly basis, evidencing progress and performance with delivery of the priorities set out in the Environment and Infrastructure Services Directorate Plan 2020 – 2022; and
- (3) that officers consider including an “actions” column within future reports.

21. CORPORATE IMPROVEMENT PLAN QUARTERLY UPDATE

With reference to the Minute of Meeting of the Infrastructure Services Committee of 20 January, 2021 (Item 17), there was circulated a report, dated 23 May, 2022, by the Director of Business Services seeking the Committee's consideration and comments on the Corporate Improvement Plan, as presented in Appendix 1 to the report, which it had been agreed would be presented to the Committee on a quarterly basis, to enhance transparency and accountability and to provide Members with assurance around the progression of agreed actions.

The Director of Environment and Infrastructure Services introduced the report and advised the Committee that since reporting had commenced, there had been a significant amount of work undertaken across Services and the vast majority of actions had been progressed.

Having considered the content of the report, the Committee **agreed** to:-

- (1) note the Corporate Improvement Plan, as detailed in Appendix 1;
- (2) note that the Corporate Improvement Plan would be considered by Audit Committee on 29 June, 2022; and

- (3) receive six-monthly updates.

22. NOMINATIONS TO SUB-COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS

A report dated 9 May, 2022 by the Director of Business Services had been circulated inviting the Committee to consider whether it wished to reappoint the Sub-Committees and Working Groups previously established under the Committee and, if so, to agree membership of the Sub-Committees. The report also requested that the Committee makes recommendations on continued representation on inter-authority, partnership working and advisory groups.

The groups were detailed in an appendix to the report, namely: Penalty Notice Sub-Committee, Harbours Sub-Committee, Planning and Economy Member Officer Working Group, Fisheries Working Group, Rural Affairs Working Group, North east Scotland Agriculture Advisory Group, North East Scotland Fisheries Development Partnership, Waste Management Working Group, Joint Member Energy from Waste Engagement Group, European Member Officer Working Group, and Local Development Partnerships: Fraserburgh, Peterhead, Banff and Macduff.

Following consideration, the Committee **agreed**:-

- (1) to re-establish the Penalty Notice Sub- Committee, Harbours Sub-Committee, Planning and Economy Member Officer Working Group, Rural Affairs Working Group, North east Scotland Agriculture Advisory Group, Waste Management Working Group, Joint Member Energy from Waste Engagement Group, European Member Officer Working Group, and Local Development Partnerships: Fraserburgh, Peterhead, Banff and Macduff.
- (2) that the Fisheries Working Group and North East Scotland Fisheries Development Partnership be subject to a review by the Head of Planning and Economy as to whether they could be amalgamated, and a report thereon to be submitted to the meeting of the next meeting of the Committee.
- (3) to appoint Members as follows:

Penalty Notice Sub- Committee – to be advised.

Harbours Sub-Committee – Councillors Agnew, Black, Cassie, Cox and Findlater.

Planning and Economy Member Officer Working Group – Councillors Aitchison, Crawley, Cox, Crowson, Davidson, Evison and Goodhall.

Rural Affairs Working Group – Councillors Chou Turvey, Evison, Goodhall, Joji, David Mair, Ross, Taylor and Whyte.

North East Scotland Agriculture Advisory Group – Councillors Blackett, Goodhall, Powell, Ross, Walker and 2 Opposition Members to be advised.

Waste Management Working Group – Councillors Carr, Crawley, Durno, Ewenson, Johnston, Kloppert, Doreen Mair and Sullivan.

Joint Member Energy from Waste Engagement Group – Councillors Aitchison, Carr and Davidson.

European Member Officer Working Group – Provost, Chair of Infrastructure Services Committee, Vice Chair of Infrastructure Services Committee, 6 Area Committee Chairs and Councillors Dickinson and Keating and 1 other Opposition Member to be advised.

Local Development Partnerships: Fraserburgh, Peterhead, Banff and Macduff - delegated to appropriate Area Committee; and

- (4) to note that the membership of the Sub-Committees was based on the proportionality model approved by the Full Council on 19 May 2022, namely that an 8 Member group comprise 5 Administration members and 3 Opposition Coalition members; and a 5 Member group comprise 3 Administration members and 2 Opposition Coalition members.

23. NOMINATIONS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

With reference to the Minute of Meeting of Aberdeenshire Council of 19 May, 2022 (Item 11), when it had been agreed, in principle, to nominate members to a number of outside bodies and to delegate authority to the relevant Policy Committee to nominate Members as required, there had been circulated a report by the Director of Business Services inviting the Committee to nominate Members to the bodies detailed in the Appendix A to the report. The report also sought nominations by the Committee, for the appointment of Members to represent Aberdeenshire Council on a number of partnerships, as listed in Appendix B to the report.

The Committee **agreed**:-

- (1) to nominate Members to outside bodies as follows:
- (a) Aberdeen International Airport Consultative Committee – observer capacity – Councillors Chou Turvey, Gifford and McKail.
 - (b) Aberdeenshire Local Outdoor Access Forum – observer capacity – Councillor Walker
 - (c) North East Scotland Preservation Trust – decision making capacity – Councillors S Adams and Carr.
 - (d) North Sea Commission – decision making capacity – Councillors S Adams and Stirling.
 - (e) North Sea Commission Thematic Groups – decision making capacity
 - (i) Attractive and Sustainable Communities – Councillor J Adams.
 - (ii) Climate Change Working Group – Councillor Dickinson.
 - (iii) Managing Maritime Space – Councillor Bell.
 - (iv) Transport Working Group - Councillor S Adams;
- (2) to nominate Members to the partnership bodies as follows:

- (a) Conference on Peripheral Maritime Regions – Councillor Findlater.
- (a) VisitAberdeenshire – Councillors Cox (substantive) and Chou Turvey (substitute).
- (c) KIMO (Kommunenes Internasjonale Miljøorganisasjon) – Councillors S Adams, Dickinson and Findlater.
- (d) Cairngorms National Park Authority Board – Councillor Ross.
- (e) North East (NE Local Plan District) - Councillor Crawley.
- (f) Tay Estuary and Montrose Basin (TEAMB) LPD (Steering Group) – Councillor Carr;
- (3) to note that Council nominations to outside bodies listed in Appendix C to the report were either disbanded or Aberdeenshire Council representation was no longer required; and
- (4) to instruct Officers to ensure that the necessary formalities were dealt with regarding resignations and nominations of Members to outside bodies/partnerships as listed in Appendices A and B to the report.

At the conclusion of the item Councillor Stephen Smith expressed disappointment that the Opposition were not afforded the opportunity to take up places on any outside bodies. The Chair advised that he would discuss with the Leader of the Council those observations in respect of the nominations made to outside bodies and that the Leader of the Opposition be advised as to whether these could be considered again at a future meeting of the Committee and, if so, a report be brought forward by officers.

24. FUTURE MEETING ARRANGEMENTS

With reference to the Minute of Meeting of Aberdeenshire Council of 23 September, 2021 (Item 13), when it had been agreed to introduce a Choice Based Blended Model of Fully Virtual and Hybrid Meetings, which incorporated the principle that meeting groups should be able to choose how they want to meet, there was circulated a report dated 27 May, 2022 by the Director of Business Services, which (1) informed Members that work was ongoing to develop an options appraisal for upgrading Council venues to provide a high quality hybrid experience, and (2) asked the Committee to confirm preferred arrangements for meetings for 2022/2023, having regard to existing limitations including availability of audio visual equipment and staffing resources.

The Committee **agreed**:-

- (1) to note the options for fully virtual and hybrid meetings of the Committee as outlined in Section 3 of the report; and
- (2) the hybrid option as preferred arrangement for the meetings listed in Appendix 1 to the report.

25. FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE AS AT 31 MAY, 2022

There was circulated a report, dated 24 May, 2022, by the Director of Environment and Infrastructure Services, which provided the Committee with financial performance information to 31 May, 2022 for the Infrastructure Services Committee budget for both Revenue and Capital Expenditure.

The report explained that the revised Revenue Budget for 2022/23 for the Infrastructure Services Committee was £60.129 million. At present there were no identified pressures on the budget, however some risks had been identified which may affect the outturn position at the end of the financial year.

The report further explained that the approved revised Capital Budget for 2022/23 in respect of the Infrastructure Services Committee was £87.229 million. At present there were no confirmed movements on the Capital Budget, however six projects were at risk and were detailed in the report.

Having considered the content of the report, the Committee **agreed** to:-

- (1) note the Revenue Budget position, as at 31 May, 2022 and the potential risks; and
- (2) note the Capital Budget position, as at 31 May, 2022.

26. VEHICLE REPLACEMENT PLAN

There was circulated a report, dated 26 May, 2022, by the Director of Environment and Infrastructure Services, which provided the details of the scheduled vehicle and plant replacements for 2022/23 and 2023/24, which due to long lead times had been combined.

Having considered the content of the report, the Committee **agreed**:-

- (1) to approve the two-year replacement plan for the provision of replacement vehicles and plant as detailed in Appendix 1 for financial years 2022/23 and 2023/24 combined;
- (2) to approve the items on the supplementary procurement plan and note that these items would be added to the Directorate Procurement Plan that was approved by the Committee on 10 March 2022, (Item 23), as detailed in Appendix 2 to this report;
- (3) not to reserve the award of the Procurement Approval Forms for items on the Supplementary Procurement Plan where the value of the matter was between £50,000 and £1,000,000;
- (4) to approve the Procurement Approval Forms for the items on the Supplementary Procurement Plan where the value is over £1,000,000, Appendices 4, 5, 6 and 7 to this report; and

- (5) to note that the authority to award the contracts was delegated to the Head of Roads and Infrastructure, as the Chief Officer with budget responsibility.

27. VISIT ABERDEENSHIRE SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT

With reference to the Minute of Meeting of the Committee of 27 April, 2022 (Item 3), there was circulated a report, dated 3 May, 2022, by the Director of Environment and Infrastructure Services, which sought approval of the Service Level Agreement with VisitAberdeenshire, for the supply of Tourism Services 2022-23.

The report explained that at the meeting of the Committee on 27 April, 2022, a contract for Tourism Services was awarded to VisitAberdeenshire for the years for 2022-23 and Committee agreed indicative awards for the years 2023-2025 and that authority had been delegated authority to the Head of Planning and Economy to negotiate the terms of a Service Level Agreement between Aberdeenshire Council and VisitAberdeenshire, outlining the expectations and responsibilities of delivering Tourism Services on behalf of the Council for 2022-2025; that the Service Level Agreement be reported to the Committee at the meeting in June 2022 for approval; and that bi-annual performance updates be reported to this Committee and annually to Area Committees.

Having considered the content of the report, the Committee **agreed**:-

- (1) to approve the Service Level Agreement with VisitAberdeenshire for Tourism Services 2022-23, detailed at Appendix 1
- (2) that the Service Level Agreement continue to be reviewed by officers during the next year; Information on the review to be provided to the Committee during the year and specifically recommending improvements to Visit Aberdeenshire provision throughout Aberdeenshire;
- (3) that formal consultation with all Area Committees on VisitAberdeenshire provision to take place annually, to include the opportunity for Area Committees to actively influence and scrutinise service delivery at a local level; and
- (4) that the Chief Executive of VisitAberdeenshire be invited to attend a future meeting of Infrastructure Services Committee or a dedicated session to make a presentation and be questioned by Members; and similarly for VisitAberdeenshire to be invited to attend each Area Committee.

28. SUPPLEMENTARY DIRECTORATE PROCUREMENT PLAN – PROCUREMENT APPROVAL

There was circulated a report, dated 26 May, 2022, by the Director of Environment and Infrastructure Services, which sought approval of additional expenditure to be approved and added to the Directorate Annual Procurement Plan for the required procurement for the treatment and recycling of mixed recycling (co-mingled) collected from households, recycling centres and trade properties throughout Aberdeenshire. The service was to include bulk haulage from all bulking points within Aberdeenshire to the service provider premises.

Having considered the content of the report, the Committee **agreed**:-

- (1) to acknowledge the Directorate Supplementary Procurement Plan as detailed in Appendix 1;
- (2) to approve the item on the Supplementary Procurement Plan and note that this item would be added to the Directorate Procurement Plan that was approved by the Committee on 10 March, 2022;
- (3) to approve the Procurement Approval Form in Appendix 3; and
- (4) not to reserve the award of the final contract; and to note that the Head of Service (Environment and Sustainability) would have the delegated power to award the contract.