

MARR AREA COMMITTEE

12 MARCH 2024

Present: Councillors R Withey (Chair), G Blackett (Vice-Chair), S Brown, Y Chou Turvey, E Durno, A Kloppert, L Knight, G Petrie and A Ross

Apologies: Councillors J Goodhall

Officers: Janelle Clark (Area Manager (Marr)), Barbara Alexander (Solicitor), Rachael Goldring (Learning Estates Team Leader), Kelly Tennant (Learning Estates Officer), Fiona McCallum (Business Strategy Manager) and Kirsty Macleod (Area Committee Officer (Marr)).

1 DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

The Chair asked Members if they had any interests to declare in terms of the Councillors' Code of Conduct.

During consideration of Item 7, the following Members stated that they had connections to the item:

Councillor Ross by virtue of (1) receiving an invitation to the opening of the Glen O'Dee Path, (2) a connection to the River Dee Trust through membership of the Cairngorms National Park Authority (CNPA) board, and (3) a close relationship with The Seed Box; however, having applied the objective test, she concluded she had no interest to declare.

Councillor Blackett by virtue of (1) a connection to the River Dee Trust through membership of the CNPA board and (2) her husband being Chair of Marr Area Partnership; however, having applied the objective test, she concluded she had no interest to declare.

Councillor Chou Turvey by virtue of (1) receiving an invitation to the opening of the Glen O'Dee Path and (2) being the Council's nominee to Marr Area Partnership; however, having applied the objective test, she concluded she had no interest to declare.

Councillor Durno by virtue of receiving an invitation to the opening of the Glen O'Dee Path; however, having applied the objective test, she concluded she had no interest to declare.

2A PUBLIC SECTOR EQUALITY DUTY

In making decisions on the following items of business, the Committee **agreed**, in terms of Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010:-

- (1) to have due regard to the need to:-
 - (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation;
 - (b) advance equality of opportunity between those who share a protected characteristic and persons who do not share it; and

- (c) foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic and persons who do not share it; and
- (2) where an Integrated Impact Assessment was provided, to consider its contents and take those into account when reaching a decision.

2B EXEMPT INFORMATION

The Committee **agreed**, in terms of Section 50A (4) and (5) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, to exclude the public from the meeting during consideration of Item 8 so as to avoid disclosure of exempt information of the class described in Paragraph 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

3 MINUTE OF MEETING OF MARR AREA COMMITTEE OF 20 FEBRUARY 2024

The Committee had before them, and **approved** as a correct record, the Minute of Meeting of the Committee of 20 February 2024.

4 STATEMENT OF OUTSTANDING BUSINESS

The Committee had before them, and **agreed** to note, the statement of outstanding business from previous meetings of the Committee as at 12 March 2024.

5 DRAFT ABERDEENSHIRE BRITISH SIGN LANGUAGE (BSL) PLAN 2024-30

There had been circulated a report, dated 21 February 2024, by the Director of Business Services, which sought comments on the draft Aberdeenshire British Sign Language Plan 2024-30.

The Committee **agreed**:

- (1) to note the draft Aberdeenshire British Sign Language Plan; and
- (2) to note that comments would be collated following consultation with all Area Committees, Education and Children's Services Committee, and Aberdeenshire Integration Joint Board before the final plan was presented to Business Services Committee on 18 April 2024 for approval.

6 SECONDARY CATCHMENT ANOMALY REZONING AT LUMPHANAN FINAL CONSULTATION REPORT

There had been circulated a report, dated 1 February 2024, by the Director of Education and Children's Services, which provided the final consultation report for the statutory consultation on the rezoning of Aboyne Academy catchment to include an anomaly area of the Lumphanan school catchment currently zoned to Alford Academy.

The Committee **agreed**:

- (1) to welcome the consultation report on the rezoning of Aboyne Academy catchment to include the anomaly area of the Lumphanan School catchment currently zoned to Alford Academy; and

- (2) to recommend to the Education and Children's Services Committee to adopt the proposed rezoning of Aboyne Academy catchment to include the anomaly area of the Lumphanan School catchment currently zoned to Alford Academy.

7 MARR AREA COMMITTEE BUDGET 2023/24 AND 2024/25

There had been circulated a report, dated 26 February 2024, by the Director of Environment and Infrastructure Services, which outlined the use of the Marr Area Committee Budget 2023/24 and sought agreement for the allocation of funding from the Marr Area Committee Budget 2024/25.

The Committee **agreed:**

- (1) that £40,000 be identified from the Area Committee Budget to deliver the Large Grant Scheme whereby community groups or Council services could apply for a grant up to £5,000 per project;
- (2) that £28,200 from the Area Committee Budget provide the Small Grant Scheme for community and service projects up to £2,000 per project;
- (3) that £3,000 be allocated to provide grants of up to £500 to assist community groups with the preparation of Local Place Plans and Community Action Plans as outlined at paragraph 3.2.7 of the report; and
- (4) to delegate authority to the Area Manager to approve time-sensitive Small Grant Scheme applications received during the summer recess, following consultation with the Chair and Ward Members.

8 ABERDEENSHIRE CHARITIES TRUST (ACT2) APPLICATIONS

There had been circulated an exempt report, dated 23 February 2024, by the Director of Environment and Infrastructure Services, which sought consideration of three applications for funding from the Aberdeenshire Charities Trust (ACT2).

The Committee **agreed:**

- (1) to refuse the application from the individual identified at 1.2.1 of the report on the grounds of previous funding awarded to the applicant for a similar purpose;
- (2) to approve an award of £1,000 from ACT2 (Ward 14: any of the purposes of ACT2) to Rannes Hall Management Committee; and
- (3) to approve an award of £2,000 from ACT2 (Ward 14: any of the purposes of ACT2) to Donside Community Council.