

REPORT TO BUCHAN AREA COMMITTEE – 19 March 2024

DEVELOPING EXCELLENCE IN OUR NORTH COAST COMMUNITIES – PETERHEAD VISION AND ACTION PLAN FINAL PROGRAMME REPORT

1 Executive Summary/Recommendations

1.1 This report provides the Committee with a final report on the regeneration strategy: Developing Excellence in our North Coast Communities for Peterhead, summarising the achievements throughout the programme.

1.2 The Committee is recommended to:

1.2.1 Consider the report and provide comments to the Infrastructure Services Committee (ISC) on the contents of the report for Peterhead in Appendix 1.

1.2.2 Note that comments will be collated following consultation with other affected Area Committees before the final report is presented to Infrastructure Services Committee on 16th May 2024.

2 Decision Making Route

2.1 On 17 March 2016, Infrastructure Services Committee (Item 17), approved a new Regeneration Strategy, “From Strategy to Action: Developing Excellence in our North Coast Communities” which concentrates regeneration efforts in the four northern towns of Banff, Macduff, Fraserburgh, and Peterhead. The Committee also agreed the plan for each town and budget allocations to the plans, summarised in the table in section 3.2 below.

2.2 Progress update reports have been submitted to the Buchan Area Committee every six months and to Infrastructure Services Committee annually, with the exception of the period covering the height of the Covid-19 pandemic when the work of the Regeneration and Town Centres team was refocused on business response and recovery tasks. The previous update report was discussed by the Committee on 30th May 2023 (Item 6), and the Committee requested that a final report be submitted to committee as we transition to the Peterhead 2040 plan. At their meeting on 24th August 2023 (Item 6), ISC also requested that a final programme report be submitted by May 2024.

3 Discussion

3.1 Whilst this report completes this format of reporting on the Vision and Action Plan, it does not mean that work to achieve outcomes stops. The success of this place-based approach as part of our Regeneration Strategy has led to a Place Policy being shaped that proposes to embed the approach taken, enabling services across the Council to be responsive to Place Based Approaches. This Policy will be submitted to Full Council for approval in June-

2024. There have been multiple plans in place over this period, not least of which are the Community Planning Plans and Locality Planning exercises. This move towards a Place Policy is proposed to simplify the plan landscape, and enable closer working towards improving outcomes across the Council and across our partnerships.

- 3.2 The Place Policy is proposed to be guided by a data dashboard, which will enable services to analyse the priorities across Aberdeenshire and respond appropriately in a more systematic way to needs and opportunities. It will encourage services to work together also in a more effective way towards change. Whilst this move towards a Place Policy may take time to embed, there are many developments started under this programme which will continue to drive progress.
- 3.3 Appendix 1 gives a summarised report of the programme in Peterhead. Of these many measures, the actions below will continue to develop throughout this transition to a Place Policy:
- Approval of £15.97 Million for the Cultural Quarter Levelling Up bid has been a huge boost to the development of the town centre. The project will redevelop 3 historic buildings in the conservation area and will provide a new regional museum, educational and cultural space in the heart of Peterhead. Bids to other external funders will continue to be submitted for the fit out of the museum. A further £49,000 has been agreed from Peterhead Vision and Action Plan in March 2024 for a creative engagement officer, who will work with the community of Peterhead, and in particular those who do not normally engage, to develop the heritage content of the museum.
 - An events programme is planned for 2024 in the town centre, focusing on the utilisation of the revamped Drummers Corner area.
 - Peterhead Development Partnership has invited presentations from energy infrastructure developers and associated partners over the course of the year to extend partnership understanding of the opportunities and challenges ahead. Peterhead Port Authority has re-established Peterhead Energy Transition Forum to bring local infrastructure and engineering partners together to develop a shared understanding between key partners. A prospectus is planned to pull together the opportunities and market Peterhead for inward investment. Connections between these major infrastructure projects, sourcing community benefits from the developments that help to deliver improvements to our community and ensuring that they contribute a positive legacy to Peterhead 2040 will require genuine working relationships and coordination over the course of Peterhead 2040.
 - Continued delivery of the Place Based Investment Programme (PBIP) across Aberdeenshire which has supported Peterhead Area Community Trust (PACT) with £232,199 towards the £332,199 pump track facility in Victoria Park. Investment was also made to Strichen Town House to start conservation measures on the property. The 2024 / 2025 year of PBIP

applications are currently being assessed as we await confirmation of the programme value from the Scottish Government.

- Work on progressive procurement will continue, following the successful outcomes delivered as per Appendix 1. An application for Local Authority Economic Recovery (LACER) funds has been made which will look to extend the success achieved to date and widen and deepen Local Wealth Building across the Council. This work will continue to drive local economic wealth and be focused via the Place Policy and data dashboard.
- It is anticipated that the works at Clerkhill will be contracted during April 2024 to make safer and more pleasant access to the Clerkhill shops. Ground condition investigations and complex external funding opportunities have hampered earlier designs, but a simplified scheme can be delivered utilising funds from the Peterhead Vision and Action Plan.
- The Tackling Poverty and Inequalities work will continue to focus on Aberdeenshire wide interventions to improve equality outcomes and Buchan Community Planning group will bring partners together at a local level to communicate and develop local responses. The Place Policy proposes that future Place Plans are co-owned by the community and Community Planning Partners, thereby bringing greater cohesion and traction.

3.4 Funds were agreed for regeneration aligned with the plans for each of Banff, Macduff, Fraserburgh and Peterhead. These funds are held in the Council’s Regeneration & Priority Town Centre Reserve and the current position is noted below for Peterhead:

	Indicative Allocation £	Committed £	Uncommitted £
Peterhead	1,566,000		

3.5 Since the impact of Covid-19 and increased pressure on local authority funding models, there has been a positive effort to secure external funding for any pipeline projects. We have therefore brought significant external funding into delivery through for example, Coastal Communities (seaweed project), LACER (local procurement and wealth building), Shared Prosperity (Enterprising Aberdeenshire) and Levelling Up (Cultural Quarter). This has saved having to commit all of the local authority funds available on new initiatives. The balance of funding from the reserve will be moved into a Place Strategy Reserve and will be available for projects aligned with the Place Strategy.

3.5 Each of the regeneration plans contain ambitious output and outcome indicators and targets to aim to achieve over the lifetime of the plans. It is of credit to the partners involved in regeneration efforts – particularly in light of the disruption caused by the pandemic and more recent economic events - that most of the outcomes in the Peterhead plan have been achieved or exceeded. An outcome summary is contained within appendix 1.

4 Council Priorities, Implications and Risk

- 4.1 This report helps deliver the Strategic Priorities “Economic Growth” within the Pillar “Our Economy” and “Resilient Communities” within the Pillar “Our Environment”.
- 4.2 This report helps deliver against the Aberdeenshire Council Regeneration Strategy, “From Strategy to Action: Developing Excellence in our North Coast Communities.
- 4.2 The table below shows whether risks and implications apply if the recommendations are agreed.

Subject	Yes	No	N/A
Financial		X	
Staffing		X	
Equalities and Fairer Duty Scotland		X	
Children and Young People’s Rights and Wellbeing		X	
Climate Change and Sustainability		X	
Health and Wellbeing		X	
Town Centre First		X	

- 4.3 There are no staffing or financial implications as a result of this report.
- 4.4 The screening section as part of Stage One of the Integrated Impact Assessment process has not identified the requirement for any further detailed assessments to be undertaken as this report is for information and discussion only. However, it should be noted on a general basis that most of the projects and schemes included within the regeneration plans will contribute positive outcomes against many of the assessment themes. More details are contained in the Appendix.
- 4.5 The following Risks have been identified as relevant to this matter on a Corporate Level:
- *ACRP005 Partnership policy. This report summarises partnership input to regeneration and the need for this to continue.*
 - *ACORP006 Reputational Management. This report provides good evidence that the council and its partners are delivering against previously agreed plans.*
 - *ACORP007 Social Change. This report takes into account demographic changes in Aberdeenshire’s most vulnerable towns and considers improvements and changes to the plans as a result.*

[Corporate Risk Register](#)

The following Risks have been identified as relevant to this matter on a Strategic Level:

- *ISR002 – Regeneration. The Report illustrates that progress is being achieved in the regeneration plans and that they are being appropriately monitored and managed.*

[Strategic Risk Register](#)

5 Scheme of Governance

- 5.1 The Head of Finance and Monitoring Officer within Business Services have been consulted in the preparation of this report and their comments are incorporated within the report and are satisfied that the report complies with the Scheme of Governance and relevant legislation.
- 5.2 The Committee is able to consider this item in terms of Section B.1.2 of the List of Committee Powers in Part 2A of the Scheme of Governance to consider, comment on, make recommendations to Services and any other appropriate Committee on any matter or policy which impacts its Area.

Alan Wood
Director of Environment and Infrastructure Services

Report prepared by Christine Webster, Team Manager, Place Economy
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List of Appendices –

APPENDIX 1 – VISION AND ACTION PLAN FINAL REPORT – PETERHEAD