

## **REPORT TO BUCHAN AREA COMMITTEE – TUESDAY 18 MARCH 2025**

### **UPDATE – PETERHEAD PROJECTS**

#### **1 Executive Summary/Recommendations**

**1.1** This report updates Buchan Area Committee on recent activity in relation to key Aberdeenshire Council led projects in the town of Peterhead.

#### **1.2 The Committee is recommended to:**

**1.2.1 Acknowledge the current position on providing updates on the delivery of Peterhead Community Campus; and**

**1.2.2 Acknowledge the activity that has taken place and proposed to take place in relation to the Peterhead Cultural Quarter (Appendix 1).**

#### **2 Decision Making Route**

**2.1** On 27 August 2024, Buchan Area Committee considered the Annual Scrutiny Report 2023-24 (item 9). Committee requested that the Area Manager arrange for a report to be provided to every Buchan Area Committee updating on progress with key projects being delivered in Peterhead, led by Aberdeenshire Council, and specifically including updates on the delivery of Peterhead Community Campus and the Peterhead Cultural Quarter, part of the Cultural Tides: North Sea Connections in Aberdeenshire programme funded primarily through UK Government.

**2.2** This report has not previously been considered by any Committee.

**2.3** This is the eighth update reported to this Committee.

#### **3 Discussion**

**3.1** As the largest town in Aberdeenshire, located on the coast and near critical energy infrastructure, there is significant activity and proposed investment into Peterhead, and this includes projects led by Aberdeenshire Council.

**3.2** The community can stay engaged with projects through Engage HQ - [Peterhead 2040 | Engage Aberdeenshire](#) however in response to the Annual Scrutiny Report 2023-2024, Committee requested direct updates on projects in the town led by Aberdeenshire Council to be reported to every Committee meeting with a specific focus on the delivery of Peterhead Community Campus and Peterhead Cultural Quarter. Committee asked for the updates to be in public session wherever possible.

## **Peterhead Community Campus**

- 3.3 A report was considered by Full Council on 20 February 2025. The report, restricted by virtue of paragraph 8 of Schedule 7A of the Local Government (Scotland) Act as it will include expenditure that may be incurred by the Council under a contract for acquisition of property or supply of services, presented Councillors with a range of options on how to progress the project based on the latest costs and value to the taxpayer.
- 3.4 Councillors agreed to proceed with the option that will result in the construction of a new Peterhead Academy at Kinmundy Road, known as Site 1. The decision reflects the need for a new Academy following a condition assessment of the current school. It is expected the new Academy will open in August 2028.
- 3.5 The decision taken at Full Council means the original proposals for replacement facilities for Dales Park, Meethill and Anna Ritchie schools will not go ahead, and the current schools will be retained. A commitment has been made to a discussion in the community to ensure Dales Park, Meethill and Anna Ritchie schools can keep providing a positive learning environment for pupils.
- 3.6 The report to Full Council also confirmed the feasibility study underway for Site 2, the current Academy site, which is intended for community use. This study is determining the scope, programme and financial implications and there will be a report to Full Council shortly to outline these and confirm the way forward.
- 3.7 As previously confirmed to Councillors, it is planned to commission an external investigation on lessons that can be learned from the Peterhead Campus and the wider capital programme. The scope of the investigation and the council's Chief Executive will develop the scope of the investigation in consultation with the council's group leaders.

## **Peterhead Cultural Quarter**

- 3.8 There is no substantial update since the report considered by Councillors on 25<sup>th</sup> of February 2025.
- 3.9 Buchan Councillors received a briefing on the operator for the Carnegie Building (current Library and Arbuthnot Museum building) on the 4<sup>th</sup> of March 2025. This was in advance of a lease being agreed for the building and associated media releases which will be released shortly.
- 3.10 A further briefing session with Councillors on the Peterhead Cultural Quarter has been arranged for the 18<sup>th</sup> of March 2025.

## **4 Council Priorities, Implications and Risk**

- 4.1 This report is relevant to the Council Priorities:

<b>Pillar</b>	<b>Priority</b>
Our Environment	Resilient Communities

<b>Pillar</b>	<b>Priority</b>
Our Economy	Economic Growth

4.2 The table below shows whether risks and implications apply if the recommendations are agreed.

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>N/A</b>
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 Any risks and implications associated with the projects are addressed through the appropriate reporting and governance route. All projects have their own associated Integrated Impact Assessments.

## **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 are satisfied that the report complies with the relevant legislation.

5.2 The Committee is able to consider [and take a decision on] this item in terms of Section B 1.1 of the List of Committee Powers in Part 2A of the Scheme of Governance as the Committee has full powers to determine any matter that is specific to its Area not otherwise properly delegated to any other Committee

### **ROB SIMPSON**

#### **Director of Business Services**

Report prepared by Amanda Roe, Area Manager (Buchan) and Allan Whyte, Head of Property & Facilities

10 March 2025