

ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL

INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES COMMITTEE

WOODHILL HOUSE, ABERDEEN, 4 OCTOBER, 2018

Present: Councillors P J Argyle (Chair), J Cox (Vice Chair), W A Agnew, D Aitchison, G Carr, J Ingram, P K Johnston, J Latham, D Lonchay, I Mollison, C Pike, G Reid, S Smith, and R Withey.

Officers: Director of Infrastructure Services, Head of Service (Planning and Building Standards), Head of Service (Roads, Landscape Services and Waste), Planning Service Manager (B Stewart), Accountancy Finance Manager, Principal Solicitor (R O'Hare) and Committee Officer (A McLeod).

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 the following interests were intimated –

Item 9 – Councillor Johnston as Chair of Community Resources Network Scotland (CRNS), and having applied the objective test considered the interest to be remote and insignificant and continued to participate in the meeting.

2. RESOLUTIONS

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

B. 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 11, so as to avoid disclosure of exempt information of the classes described in the paragraph 8 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

**3. MINUTE OF MEETING OF INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES COMMITTEE OF
23 AUGUST, 2018**

The Committee had before them, and **approved** as a correct record, the Minute of Meeting of 23 August, 2018.

4. APP/2017/1045 – PLANNING PERMISSION IN PRINCIPLE FOR RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT OF 220 UNITS WITH OPEN SPACE AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE AT OP2 SITE, LAND SOUTH OF CHAPELWELL, BALMEDIE SOUTH, BALMEDIE, ABERDEEN

With reference to the Minute of Meeting of the Formartine Area Committee of 4 September, 2018 (item 6D), there had been circulated a report dated 18 September, 2018 by the Director of Infrastructure Services which sought consideration of an application for Planning Permission in Principle for Residential Development of 220 units with open space and associated infrastructure at OP2 site, on Land South of Chapelwell, Balmedie South, Balmedie, Aberdeen.

The report advised that in terms of Section F.4.1 of Part 2A List of Committee Powers and Section C.2.1c of Part 2C Planning Delegations of the Scheme of Governance the application had been referred to the Infrastructure Services Committee for final determination, as the application is a major development where the Head of Planning and Building Standards is of the professional opinion that approval of the application would be a departure, albeit not a significant departure, from the Development Plan, and the Area Committee had decided, after a vote, to recommend that the Infrastructure Services Committee defer consideration of the application in order to seek a Masterplan for the site, (OP2) and the adjacent OP1 allocation.

The Planning Service Manager reported on the detail of the application which sought the development of 220 houses on site OP2, to the south of Balmedie, with 50% of the units proposed to be affordable housing, with the first 87 units being social rented accommodation. He advised that the site (OP2) was allocated within the current Local Development Plan (LDP) 2017 and the principle of developing the site for housing was broadly established. However the LDP specifies that a Masterplan is required to incorporate OP2 and the adjacent OP1 site to indicate where the employment land and houses will be located and how the site(s) shall be integrated with the existing town. However, to date whilst efforts had been made to produce a Masterplan inclusive of the two allocations, progress had proved difficult and had in effect halted development in recent years.

He highlighted key areas for consideration, including that the main planning considerations with the application relating to assessing the acceptability of the development of site OP2 (Balmedie) without the submission and agreement of an overarching Masterplan covering this and the adjacent OP1 site, the overarching principle of development particularly relating to the number of housing units proposed, access arrangements and the amount of affordable housing proposed for the site.. On balance, he concluded that it was reasonable to support an application which would formally establish the principle of residential development on the site which was allocated for residential development in the LDP 2017 despite there not being an agreed Masterplan and that technical issues particularly relating to access arrangements could be adequately covered by condition.

In conclusion, the Planning Services Manager confirmed that the officer recommendation presented was that authority to approve Planning Permission in Principle be delegated to the Head of Planning and Building Standards subject to (1) the conclusion and registration of a Section 75 agreement, (2) conditions stated in the report and an amendment of condition 2 a) viii (specified matters) to require a Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP), which should include a construction traffic route from the west of the site linking to Eigie Road, avoiding the existing housing to the north of the site.

The Planning Services Manager then responded to questions from Members on the merits of continuing to seek the provision of a Masterplan, in order to seek to deliver a coherent and effective development and to ensure that early agreement is reached in relation to the layout, and access arrangements which are considered by the local community as being critical to

the acceptability of the development, issues relating to construction traffic and the need to provide a construction traffic route avoiding existing housing to the north of the site.

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

That authority to GRANT Planning Permission in Principle be delegated to the Head of Planning and Building Standards subject to:

- a) conclusion and registration of a S75 legal agreement;
- b) conditions covering the following matters:

1. Notwithstanding, the provisions of Section 59 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997, and unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Planning Service, details of the specified matters listed below shall be submitted for consideration by the Planning Authority, before the expiration of 5 years from the date of this grant of permission [this 5 year period substitutes the 3 year period referred to in Subsections (2)(a)(i) and (3) of Section 59 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997]. No development shall begin on the site unless all of the details listed in this condition have been submitted to and approved in writing by the Planning Authority. The development shall be carried out in complete accordance with the details approved in relation to this condition.

Specified matters:

- a) A phasing scheme setting out the details of the phasing of the development that must include:
 - i) Affordable housing provision.
 - ii) Landscaping.
 - iii) Road and path construction.
 - iv) Connectivity to the infrastructure serving the site.
- b) A plan outlining the road hierarchy for the development, demonstrating how each development phase, as set out in the phasing scheme required by condition 1a, shall be accessed and integrated. This plan must also demonstrate pedestrian pathways and cycle paths. This plan shall inform the detailed layout, siting and design of each development phase.
- c) a strategic landscaping scheme and open space plan which must include:
 - i) Details of the existing landscape features and vegetation to be retained.
 - ii) The locations of new trees, shrubs, hedges and grassed areas and water features.
 - iii) The extent and distribution of public open space within the development along with a programme for the completion and subsequent maintenance of the proposed landscaping.
- d) A design guide for the complete development to ensure continuity across phases.

Reason: Permission for the development has been granted in principle only and subsequent approval is required for these matters in accordance with

section 59 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (as amended).

2. Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 59 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997, and unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Planning Authority, details of the specified matters listed below for each individual phase of the development (as detailed in the phasing scheme submitted and approved in relation to Condition 1 of this permission) shall be submitted for consideration by the Planning Authority before the expiration of 5 years from the date of the grant of the permission [this 5 year period substitutes the 3 year period referred to in Subsections (2)(a)(i) and (3) of Section 59 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997]. No individual phase of the development shall begin until all of the details listed in this condition for that phase of the development have been submitted and approved by the Planning Authority. Thereafter, the phase of the development shall be carried out fully in accordance with the approved details:

Specified Matters:

- a) Full details of Layout, Siting and Design of that phase of development. This must include:
- i. A plan clearly marking the location of all dwellinghouses and other structures.
 - ii. Elevations, Floor Plans and Cross Sections of any dwellinghouse / buildings.
 - iii. Site sections, including the finished floor level of all dwellinghouses / buildings to a fixed datum point.
 - iv. A schedule of housetypes and finishes for each plot.
 - v. Details of public open space, including details of any play equipment and any means of enclosure.
 - vi. A detailed levels survey of the phase and cross sections showing proposed finished ground and floor levels relative to the existing ground levels and a fixed datum point.
 - vii. Full details of cycle parking provision within the phase of development. Cycle parking provision must be conveniently located, sheltered and secure.
 - viii. A Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP), which should include a construction traffic route from the west of the site linking to Eigie Road, avoiding the existing housing to the north of the site.
- b) Full details of the road layout, parking and access arrangements to include:
- i. Driveways and turning areas in accordance with Aberdeenshire Councils Car Parking Standards.
 - ii. Street Engineering Review (SER).
 - iii. Stage 2 Quality Audit.
 - iv. Full details of the Roads SUDS & SUDS selection method, demonstrating integration with site drainage impact assessment.
 - v. Any access point which forms a junction with the public road, which shall be completed to an adoptable standard.
 - vi. Full details of emergency/future access points to the west of the site.

- c) Full details of Pedestrian and Cycle Access, to include:
 - i. The location of any footpath and cycle ways.
 - ii. A Safe Routes to school Audit providing safe and lit routes between each residential area and each of the schools.
 - iii. The audit should address surface condition, suitability for a range of different user groups, year round maintenance, pedestrian desire lines, potential vehicle conflicts, street lighting and parking for each route.
- d) Full details of Landscaping to include:
 - i. A tree survey in accordance with BS 5837: 2012 or any such standard as is in use at the time of submission.
 - ii. Existing Landscaping features and vegetation to be retained.
 - iii. Protection measures for the landscape features to be retained.
 - iv. Existing and proposed finished levels.
 - v. The location of new trees, shrubs, hedges, grassed areas and water features.
 - vi. A schedule of planting to comprise species, plant sizes and proposed numbers and density.
 - vii. The location, design and materials of all hard landscaping works including walls, fences, gates, street furniture and play equipment.
 - viii. An indication of existing trees, shrubs and hedges to be removed.
 - ix. A programme for the implementation, completion and subsequent management of the proposed landscaping.
- e) A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) and a programme of archaeological works. The WSI 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 occupied 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.
- f) Full details of means of foul and surface water drainage to include:
 - i. Construction details of the SUDS features.
- g) A site waste management plan.
- h) A Noise Impact Assessment.
- i) A design statement demonstrating how the phase accords with the principles of design set out within the design guide submitted and approved in relation to condition 1d.
- j) Full details of the water supply serving the phase of development.

Reason: Permission for the development has been granted in principle only and subsequent approval is required for these matters in accordance with section 59 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (as amended) and to allow a for a reasonable period of time to plan and implement the development.

3. The development hereby approved 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.

Reason: To ensure the long term sustainability of the development and the safety and welfare of the occupants and visitors to the site.

4. All soft and hard landscaping proposals shall be carried out in accordance with the approved planting scheme and management programme submitted and approved in relation to condition 2d of this permission. 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. No individual dwellinghouse or unit shall be occupied or otherwise brought into use unless sufficient parking spaces have been provided for that dwellinghouse or unit.

All areas of public or visitor parking shall be in place by the completion of the penultimate dwellinghouse or unit of each phase of the development.

Parking provision shall be in accordance with details approved under Condition 2b for each phase of the development.

Reason: In order to ensure that adequate parking both in terms of quantity and quality is incorporated into the development and in order to ensure the flow of traffic is not impeded by parked vehicles.

6. 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 an ecological clerk of works (ECoW) or similarly competent person.
- (h) Use of protective fences, exclusion barriers and warning signs.

All works carried out during the construction period shall be undertaken strictly in accordance with the approved CEMP.

Reason: In the interests of protecting the biodiversity of the environment.

7. Within 6 months of the occupation of the penultimate residential unit in each phase of this development or upon the expiry of a period of three years from the date of the first residential unit to be occupied in each phase, whichever is the sooner, all roads, footpaths, parking and turning areas within and serving that phase of the development, as shown on the plans submitted and approved in relation to conditions 2b of this permission, shall be completed to their final surface course specification in accordance with the Council's Standards for Road Construction Consent and Adoption. Once provided, all parking and turning areas shall thereafter be permanently retained as such.

Reason: To ensure the provision of a means of access and turning space to an adequate standard in the interests of road safety.

8. No individual dwellinghouse or building shall be erected onsite unless an Energy Statement applicable to that dwellinghouse or building 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.
- 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.

9. That prior to the occupancy of the 192nd dwellinghouse within the development hereby approved, a 3rd access into the site is to be provided unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Planning Authority in consultation with Infrastructure Services (Roads Development).

Reason: To ensure the provision of a 3rd access into the site in the interests of road safety and the amenity of the area;

- c) That the reason for departing from the Local Development Plan 2017 is the proposal is considered to conform to the overall vision of the Local Development Plan 2017 and is therefore deemed to be acceptable; and

- d) to request that officers continue to encourage the development of a Masterplan for the site.

5. ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL BUILT HERITAGE STRATEGY 2018-2021

A report dated 22 August, 2018 by the Director of Infrastructure Services was circulated, seeking consideration of the proposed aims and key priorities of the Built Heritage Strategy 2018-2021 and associated Action Plan.

The Head of Service, Planning and Building Standards introduced the report and explained that the strategy outlines the work of the Planning & Building Standards Environment Team in relation to built heritage in Aberdeenshire for the period 2018 to 2021 and delivery of the strategy would be facilitated by an annual action plan for each year of operation. The strategy focussed on the efficient and effective management of the work carried out by the Environment Team on built heritage and outlined aims and objectives with a focus on conservation and management, enhancement, promotion and continuous improvement and additionally it set out how the strategy linked with wider Council and Scottish Government priorities. It was noted that the Environment Team work in partnership with a number of other teams, Council Services and with other bodies to deliver high quality work on the built heritage of Aberdeenshire.

Having noted that the strategy had been considered and welcomed by all the Area Committees and that external funding generated from other funds was in the region of £10 for every £1 spent, the Committee **agreed** the proposed aims and key priorities of the Built Heritage Strategy 2018-2021 and associated Action Plan, subject to amendment of the Environment Team Objectives 2 within the Built Heritage Strategy Document, page 11, from 'Council owned' to 'Council controlled' in respect of non-operational historic assets.

6. FESTIVE LIGHTS POLICY

With reference to the Minute of Meeting of the Committee of 21 June 2018 (Item 9) when the Committee had referred to the Procedures Committee the issue of an appeals process for the location of festive lights in the event of a disagreement on main footfall areas in communities, a report dated 17 September, 2018 by the Director of Infrastructure Services was circulated confirming that the matter had been referred to the Procedures Committee on 7 September, 2018 (Item 5). The Procedures Committee had proposed that, from 2019, in advance of the festive season, Area Committees should be asked to determine the areas of main footfall in their communities and that applications from community groups would be assessed against the agreed areas of main footfall. In the event of an application for a display outwith the defined main footfall areas, officers would refer the application to the Area Committee for a decision.

The Principal Solicitor advised the Committee that due to timescales, there was not enough time to implement the proposals prior to the upcoming festive season and it was proposed that the Committee should agree to the adoption of interim arrangements that should there be a dispute between roads officers and community groups, power should be delegated to Area Managers, following consultation with the Chair of the relevant Area Committee and local Ward Members, to determine any application in dispute specifically on whether the area would be classed as falling within the area of main footfall.

The Committee **agreed**:

- (1) that Area Committees will determine the areas of main footfall in their communities in advance of the festive season in 2019 and that applications from community groups will be determined in accordance with the proposals set out in the report; and

- (2) in the interim to delegate authority to the Area Managers, following consultation with the Chair of the Area Committee and the local Ward Members, to determine any applications for Festive Lights during the current (2018) winter season that are the subject of dispute between the applicant and the roads service on whether the application site falls within an area of main footfall.

7. LANDSCAPE SERVICES INDIGENT BURIAL POLICY

A report dated 20 September, 2018 by the Director of Infrastructure Services was circulated, informing members that the National Assistance Act 1948 places a statutory duty on all local authorities to inter (bury) or cremate any person who dies within its boundaries and, at the time of death, has insufficient funds to cover the interment cost, and seeking approval of the Indigent Burial Policy, which confirmed that Aberdeenshire Council would provide a simple, dignified funeral for all persons dying within Aberdeenshire's boundaries where no relatives were known or traceable or where relatives were unable or unwilling to fund the interment or cremation.

The Head of Service (Roads, Landscape Services and Waste) introduced the report and advised the Committee that the policy document sought to formalise existing arrangements that were in place where indigent burials were required, and had been developed in order to evidence that the Council had taken steps to minimise indigent funeral related costs.

Officers responded to questions from Members in relation to the standard of opting for cremation, where there is no knowledge of the deceased's preference, and noted that across the UK the first choice was for cremation, and it was considered to be an acceptable route to follow, the potential misunderstanding of the reference to 'blood relatives' in the guidance and the option for providing a service of interment for the deceased.

The Committee **agreed** to approve the Policy as attached in Appendix 1 to the report, subject to the following:

- (1) Officers to clarify use of the term 'blood relatives' and if appropriate and acceptable in legal terms that the word be removed from the policy;
- (2) To make clear whether the referral of the death to the National Ultimus Haeres Unit (NUHU) is the responsibility of Police Scotland or the Procurator Fiscal in the policy document; and
- (3) That provision should be made to ensure that an appropriate service of interment is provided for the deceased.

8. THE SUPPLY OF LIQUID PETROLEUM GAS (LPG) TO ABERDEENSHIRE QUARRIES

A report dated 20 September, 2018 by the Director of Infrastructure Services was circulated, seeking approval of a business case for the installation of liquid petroleum gas (LPG) infrastructure within three quarries operated by Aberdeenshire Council to enable a switch from the use of kerosene to LPG, used in the production of bituminous materials for road construction and maintenance.

The Head of Service (Roads, Landscape Services and Waste) introduced the report and advised the Committee that the proposal to switch from use of kerosene to LPG had been developed in conjunction with the Climate Change Team and based on recent production figures, carbon emissions would be reduced by approximately 250 tonnes or 13% per annum from the burners. He confirmed that the switch to LPG use involved a contract that covers the installation of LPG infrastructure and a 5 year supply agreement and the total value of the contract was estimated at £1,500,000, of which £180,000 would be used for the installation of the infrastructure.

The Committee **agreed** to approve the Business Case for the installation of infrastructure within Aberdeenshire Quarries to enable Liquid Petroleum Gas (LPG) to be used, and for the supply of LPG for a 5 year period.

9. WASTE MANAGEMENT – RECYCLING AND WASTE COLLECTIONS POLICY AND PROCEDURES

With reference to the Minute of Meeting of the Committee of 24 August, 2017 (Item 18), when the Committee had agreed to sign the Household Recycling Charter and had asked officers to review the Council's Waste and Recycling Services against the essential requirements of the associated Code of Practice, a report dated 20 September, 2018 by the Director of Infrastructure Services was circulated seeking the Committee's approval of the proposed Recycling and Waste Collections Policy and Operational Procedures.

The Head of Service (Roads, Landscape Services and Waste) introduced the report and referred to the procedural documents which had been drafted to control the day to day work on the street, and which set out what the Council would do and what was expected of its customers. He explained that the policy document as set out in Appendix 4 outlined the Council's statutory requirements with regard to household and commercial waste and how the relevant legislation affects this and details the measures the Council will take and the requirements of domestic and commercial customers in using the service. He further indicated that the procedures document as set out in Appendix 5 detailed the relevant procedures relating to the Council's recycling and waste collection service.

Officers responded to questions from Members on the use of communal bins, the need to work with residents to ensure there is a clear understanding of the requirements of the recycling and waste collections policy, progress on the implementation of recent lorry safety measures, the definition of 'charities' for the purposes of free bin collections and issues relating to the placement of bins after collections have been made.

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

- (1) to approve the proposed Recycling and Waste Collections Policy and Procedures as contained in Appendix 4 and 5 to the report;
- (2) that blue non-recyclable waste sacks should be replaced with a different colour when current stocks are exhausted; and
- (3) a reference to 'bank' holidays in the operational procedures document be changed to 'public' holidays, in line with custom and practice in Scotland.

10. REVIEW OF ROADS WINTER SERVICES

With reference to the Minute of Meeting of the Committee of 10 May, 2018 (Item 8), when the Committee had received a mid-season review of the winter service provided by the Roads Service, a report dated 20 September, 2018 by the Director of Infrastructure Services was circulated updating the Committee on progress on a number of short and medium-term improvements that had been proposed to improve the delivery of winter services.

The Head of Service (Roads, Landscape Services and Waste) introduced the report and updated the Committee on a number of improvements which were in place and others that were progressing, including (1) a dedicated communications team had been set up within the Roads Service and had developed a communications plan and that a pro-active approach would be taken to provide appropriate weather related information at relevant times; (2) live gritter tracking information was proposed to be provided on the Council's website from 1 November 2018; (3) following a community engagement exercise designed to actively support

members of the local community who wish to offer their spare time to manually clear snow from publicly-adopted footways and footpaths, the Snow Warden Scheme had been refreshed and relaunched, and snow clearing equipment would be provided to interested groups of volunteers along with personal protective equipment and shovels as well as training and guidance; (4) revised grit bin provision criteria had been drawn up with a view to making the location of grit bins more targeted to local need and road or footway gradient; (5) the proposed provision of one tonne bags of salt/grit at strategic locations during severe storm events, which would be a quick and cost-effective way of getting material to locations when conditions were poor; (6) the introduction of protocols to make better use of the 3 to 5 day and 5 to 10 day forecasts so that early readiness could be implemented; (7) work had been carried out to improve planning on the non-primary road network routes, to guide treatments of the wider road network during spells of prolonged wintry conditions; and (8) an 'out of hours' working group had been established by the Service to consider how best to utilise labour resources across the Service, including the delivery of winter maintenance activities, which had included a review of stand by rotas and measures had been taken to ensure a more robust driver resource during periods of need.

Officers responded to issues raised by Members in relation to the benefits, as well as the cost of maintaining grit bins throughout the winter, the need for remote rural settlements to be considered within the grit bin criteria in order to be able to provide self help, the need to promote the availability of grit at household waste recycling centres during bad weather and advising residents of the need to bring suitable containers and shovels to collect the grit, the positive aspects to tracking gritter operations, with the suggestion that gritting vehicles could be given names, to help raise the profile of the gritter teams and their operations.

It was noted that a range of information would be made available and updated on the Council's website and news channels including maps showing the primary road network, gritting information, a list of grit bin locations and other useful information.

After consideration, the Committee **agreed** to note the progress of the Roads Service's review of winter services.

11. ABBEYTON BRIDGE DEMOLITION

A report dated 20 September, 2018 by the Director of Infrastructure Services was circulated asking the Committee to note the award of a contract made under the special urgency arrangements of Clause 5.3.24 of the Financial Regulations within the Scheme of Governance in respect of the proposed demolition of Abbeyton Bridge, north east of Fordoun, following a recent inspection which had indicated that the bridge was beginning to fail, which had resulted in the closure of the bridge to all traffic.

The Committee **agreed** to note the contract award to AMCO made under the special urgency arrangements of Clause 5.3.24 of the Financial Regulations within the Scheme of Governance.

12. ITEMS FOR NOTING

The Committee had before them and **noted**:-

- (a) Minute of Meeting of Waste Management Working Group of 14 February, 2018 (Appendix A).
- (b) Minute of Meeting of North East Scotland Fisheries Development Partnership of 16 February, 2018 (Appendix B).
- (c) Minute of Meeting of Rural Affairs Working Group of 14 March, 2018 (Appendix C).

- (d) Minute of Meeting of Strategic Development Planning Authority (SDPA) of 21 March, 2018 (Appendix D).
- (e) Minute of Meeting of Waste Management Working Group of 18 April, 2018 (Appendix E).
- (f) Minute of Meeting of the North East Scotland Agriculture Advisory Group (NESAAG) of 18 April, 2018 (Appendix F).
- (g) Minute of Meeting of Fisheries Working Group of 16 May, 2018 (Appendix G).
- (h) Minute of Meeting of NESTRANS of 20 June, 2018. (Appendix H)
- (i) Minute of Meeting of Aberdeen City Joint Deal Committee of 22 June, 2018 (Appendix I).
- (j) Minute of Meeting of Strategic Development Planning Authority (SDPA) of 27 June, 2018 (Appendix J).

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