



To: Councillor Cooney, Convener; Councillors Jean Morrison MBE and Graham, Vice Conveners; and Councillors Allan, Blackman, Corall, Cormie, Crockett, Delaney, Dickson, Jackie Dunbar, Finlayson, Grant, Laing, McCaig, Milne, Samarai, Thomson and Yuill

Town House,
ABERDEEN, 10 March 2015

COMMUNITIES, HOUSING AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

The Members of the **COMMUNITIES, HOUSING AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE** are requested to meet in the Council Chamber - Town House on **WEDNESDAY, 18 MARCH 2015 at 2.00 pm.**

JANE G. MACEACHRAN
HEAD OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

BUSINESS

DETERMINATION OF EXEMPT BUSINESS

- 1.1 Members are requested to determine that any exempt business be considered with the press and public excluded

REQUESTS FOR DEPUTATIONS

- 2.1 None at this time

MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

- 3.1 Minute of Previous Meeting of 13 January 2015 (Pages 1 - 18)

COMMITTEE BUSINESS, MOTIONS AND ANNUAL REPORTS LIST

- 4.1 Committee Business Statement and Annual Reports List (Pages 19 - 32)
- 4.2 Motions List (Pages 33 - 34)

MOTIONS

- 5.1 Motion by Councillor Yuill - Referred from Council meeting of 4 March 2015
“That this Council:-
 1. Notes the recent decision by the City of Edinburgh Council to introduce a 20mph speed limit covering most of Edinburgh and similar moves by a number of English local authorities.
 2. Notes the positive effect on pedestrian and cyclist survivability in accidents involving vehicles travelling at 20mph rather than 30mph
 3. Instruct officers to report on the feasibility, desirability and implications of introducing a similar arrangement in Aberdeen.”

REFERRALS

- 6.1 There are no items under this heading

FINANCE

- 7.1 2014-2015 General, Revenue and Capital Monitoring (Pages 35 - 52)
- 7.2 2014-2015 Housing Revenue Account (Pages 53 - 62)
- 7.3 2014-2015 Trading Services Budget Monitoring (Pages 63 - 66)

PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT AND SERVICE ISSUES

- 8.1 Communities, Housing and Infrastructure Performance Report (Pages 67 - 108)

COMMUNITIES

- 9.1 Police Performance Reporting 2015/2016 (Pages 109 - 112)
- 9.2 Update and Review of the Housing for Varying Needs Review (Pages 113 - 140)

- 9.3 Review of Voids Processes (Pages 141 - 148)
- 9.4 Funded Projects and Leased Community Centres (Pages 149 - 160)
- 9.5 HMO Fee Setting 2015-2016 (Pages 161 - 166)
- 9.6 Short Term Housing for Key Workers (Pages 167 - 174)

PLANNING AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

- 10.1 There are no items under this heading

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- 11.1 Aberdeen Hydrogen Strategy and Action Plan 2015-2025 (Pages 175 - 202)
- 11.2 Bi-Annual Sector Skills Needs Audit (Pages 203 - 238)

TRANSPORT

- 12.1 Roads and Transport Related Budget Programme 2015-2016 (Pages 239 - 266)
- 12.2 Exemption from the Council's Standing Orders relating to Contracts and Procurement in relation to the Ellon Road Cycle Links (Balgownie Road to The Parkway) (Pages 267 - 270)
- 12.3 Public Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Development in Aberdeen City (Pages 271 - 300)
- 12.4 Various Small Scale Traffic Management and Development Associated Proposals (New Works) (Pages 301 - 350)
- 12.5 Various Small Scale Traffic Management and Development Associated Proposals (Public Advert) (Pages 351 - 408)
- 12.6 Garthdee - Proposed Controlled Parking Zone - Extension (Initial Statutory Consultation) (Pages 409 - 418)
- 12.7 Parking Issues around Hill of Rubislaw Office Developments - Business Case and Preliminary Design (Pages 419 - 448)

- 12.8 Review of Wayfinding Pilot Scheme (Pages 449 - 456)
- 12.9 Footway Crossing Extension (Appeal against refusal) - 46 Newburgh Crescent (Pages 457 - 462)

ENVIRONMENT

- 13.1 Infant Cremation Commission Report and Recommendations (Pages 463 - 486)
- 13.2 Environmental Noise Action Plan Update (Pages 487 - 492)
- 13.3 Environmental Health Food and Feed Regulatory Service Plan 2015-16 (Pages 493 - 526)
- 13.4 Occupational Health and Safety Intervention Plan 2015-16 (Pages 527 - 546)
- 13.5 Management of Events and Commercial Lets in Aberdeen's Parks and Open Spaces (Pages 547 - 578)
- 13.6 City Play Areas (Pages 579 - 586)

ITEMS WHICH THE COMMITTEE MAY WISH TO CONSIDER IN PRIVATE

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- 14.1 Accelerate Aberdeen Update and Future Plans (Pages 587 - 598)

TRANSPORT

- 15.1 Roads and Transport Related Capital Budget Programme 2015-16 (Pages 599 - 628)

ENVIRONMENT

- 16.1 Social Enterprise Partnership Working (Pages 629 - 632)

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Should you require any further information about this agenda, please contact Stephanie Dunsmuir, tel 01224 522503 or email sdunsmuir@aberdeencity.gov.uk

Briefing for Elected Members on the Importance of EHRIAs

As an elected member, you will know you have an important role to play in championing equality within and outside Aberdeen City Council. There is also a scrutiny role for you to ensure that equality considerations are included in the decision making and governance of the council.

In exercising your duties as an elected member, you will make decisions which shape the council budget as well as the practice, strategies, plans and policies of the council. You have to make sure that the relevant equality implications are considered and so need to have sufficient information to satisfy our legal requirement to pay “due regard” to equality. Since public authorities subject to the equality duties are also likely to be subject to the obligations under the Human Rights Act, our impact assessment tool also considers the potential impact our decisions could have on human rights – Equality and Human Rights Impact Assessment (EHRIA).

EHRIA forms are included in the agenda pack, and this is important as it ensures that the impact of any proposals being considered by the Committee is clear at the point of decision making. These are included at the back of the report, as an appendix. Committee members should feel able to ask questions of report authors in relation to EHRIA forms, including questions about why an impact assessment has not been carried out/is not included.

There is an onus on elected members to make sure that EHRIAs are robust and give appropriate weighting in decision-making processes. In recent guidance from the Equality and Human Rights Commission, relevant case law examples show the Courts stating that, the public authority had to demonstrate that it had paid ‘due regard’ to its equality obligations.

Policies and practices should be assessed for impact across the three parts of the public sector duty (eliminate unlawful treatment, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relationships).

These duties do not prevent us from taking many difficult decisions such as reorganisations and relocations, redundancies, and service reductions, nor do they stop us from making decisions, that may affect one group more than others. Whilst we have a duty to involve groups of people who have protected characteristics, this does not give them the right of veto regarding any of our budget proposals or other council decisions.

What the equality duties do is enable us to demonstrate that we are making decisions in a fair, transparent and accountable way, considering the needs and the rights of different members of our communities.

The EHRIA will allow you to see that people with protected characteristics are enjoying equal access to our services, and where they are not, or are over/under-represented, or are not getting as good a service, the EHRIA gives the opportunity to do something to resolve the situation.

The equality target groups, or people with protected characteristics, include age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage or civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex (gender) and sexual orientation.

The sort of questions to ask yourself as you read an EHRIA might include:

- How might the proposal impact on ethnic minority communities, including Gypsy / Travellers?
- How might the proposal impact on people with a disability?
- Would the impacts on women and men or the Transgender community differ?
- Would the proposal affect ethnic minority women and men in the same ways?
- Would the proposal affect women and men with disabilities in the same ways?
- What about age considerations when thinking about impacts?

It is important to remember that the potential impact is not just about numbers. Evidence of a serious impact on a small number of individuals is just as important as something that will impact on many people. You should also think about how individual proposals might relate to one another. This is because a series of changes to different policies or services could have a severe impact on particular protected groups.

The EHRIA is therefore an invaluable tool to assist you in ensuring that the interests of all groups are properly taken into account when difficult choices about resources are required.

A case study on “Southall Black Sisters – the need to impact assess decisions” is set out below.

Southall Black Sisters (SBS) provides specialist services to Asian and Black Caribbean women, particularly in relation to domestic violence issues.

In June 2007, Ealing council announced proposals to move away from funding particular organisations (such as SBS), towards commissioning services (including domestic violence services) following a competitive bidding exercise.

During discussions about criteria for commissioning domestic violence services SBS had highlighted the adverse impact the criteria could have on pre-existing domestic violence services provided to women from ethnic minority communities, and so an equality impact assessment should be carried out.

Ealing carried out belated impact assessments on proposals before deciding to proceed with the existing domestic violence services commissioning criteria, resulting in two SBS service users launching a judicial review of the decision.

Ultimately, Ealing conceded these submissions and withdrew from the case. However, in an oral judgement, Lord Justice Moses reiterated the importance of undertaking an equality impact assessment, and also the importance of carrying out an impact assessment before policy formulation.

Should you require any help with EHRIAs please contact me at sandrab@aberdeencity.gov.uk or 01224 523039 or Faiza at fnacef@aberrdeencity.gov.uk or 01224 523183