

Public Document Pack



To: Councillor Wheeler, Convener; Councillor Lesley Dunbar, Vice Convener; Councillors Boulton, Cameron, Copland, Councillor Donnelly, the Depute Provost, Duncan, Flynn, Greig, Henrickson, Hutchison, Imrie, Laing, Lumsden, Catriona MacKenzie, Malik, Nicoll, Samarai and Jennifer Stewart and Mrs Stephanie Brock (Third Religious Representative), Mrs Louise Bruce (Parent Representative (Primary Schools)), Mr John Murray (Roman Catholic Religious Representative), Mr Colm O'Riordan (Parent Representative (Secondary Schools)), Mr Mike Paul (Teacher Representative (Secondary Schools)), Miss Pamela Scott (Teacher Representative (Primary Schools)) and Reverend Hutton Steel (Church of Scotland Representative).

Town House,
ABERDEEN 8 November 2017

EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE

The Members of the **EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE** are requested to meet in **Council Chamber - Town House** on **THURSDAY, 16 NOVEMBER 2017 at 2.00 pm.**

FRASER BELL
HEAD OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

BUSINESS

PRESENTATION

- 1.1 Aberdeen Care Experienced Young People Presentation

DETERMINATION OF URGENT BUSINESS

- 2.1 There are no items of urgent business at this time.

DETERMINATION OF EXEMPT BUSINESS

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

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- 4.1 Members are requested to intimate any declarations of interest (Pages 5 - 6)

REQUESTS FOR DEPUTATION

- 5.1 There are no requests for deputation at this time

MINUTES OF MEETINGS

- 6.1 Minute of the Meeting of 14 September 2017 - for approval (Pages 7 - 16)

COMMITTEE BUSINESS STATEMENT, TRACKER AND MOTIONS LIST

- 7.1 Committee Business Statement (Pages 17 - 22)

- 7.2 Committee Report Tracker (Pages 23 - 26)

NOTICES OF MOTION

- 8.1 There are no reports under this heading.

REFERRALS FROM COUNCIL, COMMITTEES AND SUB COMMITTEES

- 9.1 There are no reports under this heading.

FINANCE, PERFORMANCE, RISK AND SERVICE WIDE ISSUES

- 10.1 Education and Children's Services Directorate Performance Improvement Report (Pages 27 - 90)

GENERAL BUSINESS - EDUCATION

- 11.1 Early Learning and Childcare Financial Template (Pages 91 - 98)

- 11.2 Subsidised Transport and Safe Walking Routes to Lochside Academy (Pages 99 - 138)

- 11.3 St Peter's School - Long Term Educational Provision (Pages 139 - 152)

EXEMPT / CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS - EDUCATION

- 12.1 Early Learning and Childcare Financial Template - Exempt Appendix - to follow
- 12.2 Subsidised Transport and Safe Walking Routes to Lochside Academy - Exempt Appendix (Pages 153 - 156)
- 12.3 Garthdee Alpine Sports - Internal Audit Report (Pages 157 - 176)
- 12.4 Aberdeen International Youth Festival Updated Business Plan 2017-2020 (Pages 177 - 242)

AT THIS JUNCTURE, EXTERNAL MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE WILL DEPART

GENERAL BUSINESS - CHILDREN'S

- 13.1 Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 (Pages 243 - 248)

EHRIA's related to reports on this agenda can be viewed at
[Equality and Human Rights Impact Assessments](#)

To access the Service Updates for this Committee please use the following link:
<https://committees.aberdeencity.gov.uk/ecCatDisplayClassic.aspx?sch=doc&cat=13450&path=0>

Website Address: www.aberdeencity.gov.uk

Should you require any further information about this agenda, please contact Allison Swanson, tel 01224 522822 or email aswanson@aberdeencity.gov.uk

This page is intentionally left blank

Agenda Item 4.1

You must consider at the earliest stage possible whether you have an interest to declare in relation to any matter which is to be considered. You should consider whether reports for meetings raise any issue of declaration of interest. Your declaration of interest must be made under the standing item on the agenda, however if you do identify the need for a declaration of interest only when a particular matter is being discussed then you must declare the interest as soon as you realise it is necessary. The following wording may be helpful for you in making your declaration.

I declare an interest in item (x) for the following reasons

For example, I know the applicant / I am a member of the Board of X / I am employed by...
and I will therefore withdraw from the meeting room during any discussion and voting on that item.

OR

I have considered whether I require to declare an interest in item (x) for the following reasons however, having applied the objective test, I consider that my interest is so remote / insignificant that it does not require me to remove myself from consideration of the item.

OR

I declare an interest in item (x) for the following reasons however I consider that a specific exclusion applies as my interest is as a member of xxxx, which is

- (a) a devolved public body as defined in Schedule 3 to the Act;
- (b) a public body established by enactment or in pursuance of statutory powers or by the authority of statute or a statutory scheme;
- (c) a body with whom there is in force an agreement which has been made in pursuance of Section 19 of the Enterprise and New Towns (Scotland) Act 1990 by Scottish Enterprise or Highlands and Islands Enterprise for the discharge by that body of any of the functions of Scottish Enterprise or, as the case may be, Highlands and Islands Enterprise; or
- (d) a body being a company:-
 - i. established wholly or mainly for the purpose of providing services to the Councillor's local authority; and
 - ii. which has entered into a contractual arrangement with that local authority for the supply of goods and/or services to that local authority.

OR

I declare an interest in item (x) for the following reasons.....and although the body is covered by a specific exclusion, the matter before the Committee is one that is quasi-judicial / regulatory in nature where the body I am a member of:

- is applying for a licence, a consent or an approval
- is making an objection or representation
- has a material interest concerning a licence consent or approval
- is the subject of a statutory order of a regulatory nature made or proposed to be made by the local authority.... and I will therefore withdraw from the meeting room during any discussion and voting on that item.

This page is intentionally left blank

EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE

ABERDEEN, 14 September 2017. Minute of Meeting of the EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE. Present:- Councillor Wheeler, Convener; Councillor Lesley Dunbar, Vice-Convener; and Councillors Boulton, Cameron, Copland, Councillor Donnelly, the Depute Provost, Jackie Dunbar (as substitute for Councillor Flynn), Greig, Henrickson, Hutchison, Imrie, Laing, Lumsden, Malik, Nicoll, Samarai, Jennifer Stewart and Townson (as substitute for Councillor Catriona MacKenzie). External Members (to article 15 only):- Mrs Stephanie Brock (Third Religious Representative), Mrs Louise Bruce (Parent Representative (Primary Schools)), Mr John Murray (Roman Catholic Religious Representative), Mr Anthony Rafferty (Parent Representative (Secondary Schools)) and Reverend Hutton Steel (Church of Scotland Representative).

The agenda and reports associated with this minute can be located at the following link:-

<https://committees.aberdeencity.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=504&MId=4331&Ver=4>

Please note that if any changes are made to this minute at the point of approval, these will be outlined in the subsequent minute and this document will not be retrospectively altered.

DETERMINATION OF EXEMPT BUSINESS

1. The Committee was requested in terms of Section 50(A)(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 to determine that items 11.1 (Aberdeen Performing Arts Business Plan 2018-2021) and 11.2 (Tender for SPECTRA – Light Festival) on today's agenda be considered with the press and public excluded.

The Committee resolved:

in terms of Section 50(A)(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, to exclude the press and public from the meeting during consideration of items 11.1 (Aberdeen Performing Arts Business Plan 2018-2021) and 11.2 (Tender for SPECTRA – Light Festival) so as to avoid disclosure of exempt information of the classes described in paragraphs 6 and 8 of Schedule 7(A) of the Act.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

2. Members were requested to intimate any declarations of interest in respect of the items on today's agenda.

Thereafter, the following declarations of interest were intimated:

- (i) Councillor Nicoll declared an interest in relation to item 10.5 (Cordyce School Consultation Timetable) by virtue of his previous appointment to the Scottish Government's School Closure Review Panel. Councillor Nicoll considered that

EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE
14 September 2017

- the nature of his interest did not require him to leave the meeting and therefore chose to remain in the meeting for consideration of this item;
- (ii) Councillor Nicoll declared an interest in relation to item 11.1 (Aberdeen Performing Arts Business Plan 2018-2021) by virtue of his previous appointment as a Council appointed Director to the Board of Aberdeen Performing Arts. Councillor Nicoll considered that the nature of his interest did not require him to leave the meeting and therefore chose to remain in the meeting for consideration of this item;
- (iii) Councillors Boulton, Duncan and Imrie declared an interest in relation to item 11.1 (Aberdeen Performing Arts Business Plan 2018-2021) by virtue of their positions as Council appointed Directors to the Board of Aberdeen Performing Arts but all chose to remain in the meeting as Aberdeen Performing Arts was a body being a company established wholly or mainly for the purpose of providing services to the local authority, and which had entered into a contractual arrangement with the local authority for the supply of goods and/or services to the local authority, as set out in paragraph 5.18(2)(d)(i) and (ii) of the Councillors' Code of Conduct; and
- (iv) The Convener declared an interest in relation to item 12.1 (Review of Residential Childcare) by virtue of his previous employment with Action for Children. The Convener considered that the nature of his interest did not require him to leave the meeting and therefore chose to remain in the meeting for consideration of this item.

MINUTE OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF 1 JUNE 2017

3. The Committee had before it the minute of its meeting of 1 June 2017, for approval.

The Committee resolved:

to approve the minute as a correct record.

COMMITTEE BUSINESS STATEMENT

4. The Committee had before it a statement of pending and outstanding committee business which had been prepared by the Head of Legal and Democratic Services.

The Committee resolved:

- (i) in relation item 1 (Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014), to request that the date on which the letter was sent to the Scottish Government be added to the business statement and to request the Head of Children's Services to advise Councillor Nicoll, by way of email, of the reason for the delay in the letter being sent to the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education;

EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE
14 September 2017

- (ii) to delete items 3 (Review of Residential Childcare), 4 (Attainment Fund and Pupil Support Assistant), and 6 (Future Plans for Pupil Support Services and Cordyce School) subject to the decisions taken later on the agenda; and
- (iii) to otherwise note the updates provided.

COMMITTEE REPORT TRACKER

5. The Committee had before it a tracker of future committee business.

The Committee resolved:

to note the information contained in the committee report tracker.

EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES - 2016-17 ANNUAL PERFORMANCE (STATUTORY PERFORMANCE INDICATOR) REPORT - ECS/17/047

6. With reference to article 9 of the minute of the meeting of the Education and Children's Services Committee of 26 January 2017, the Committee had before it a report by the Director of Education and Children's Services which provided a summary of the 2016-17 Annual Performance (Statutory Performance Indicator) outcomes covering the work of the Education and Children's Services Directorate.

The report recommended –

that the Committee

- (a) note the content of the report; and
- (b) note the detailed Education and Children's Services 2016-17 Annual Performance (Statutory Performance Indicator) outcomes contained within Appendices A and B of the report.

The Committee resolved:

to approve the recommendations.

E&CS FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE - QUARTER 1, 2017/18 - CG/17/114

7. With reference to article 7 of the minute of the meeting of the Education and Children's Services Committee of 1 June 2017, the Committee had before it a report by the Head of Finance which advised members of the full year forecast position of the Education and Children's Services Directorate for the financial year 2017/18.

The report recommended –

that the Committee note the projected revenue and capital position for Education and Children's Services as detailed in Appendix 1.

EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE
14 September 2017

The Committee resolved:

- (i) to approve the recommendation;
- (ii) to instruct the Director of Education and Children's Services to advise Councillor Cameron, by way of email, of the current fundraising figure for the Art Gallery redevelopment; and
- (iii) to instruct the Head of Finance to advise all members of the Committee, by way of email, which budget the spend on the Music Hall refurbishment was reported through.

EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES ANTI-WEAPON / KNIFE CRIME POLICY - ECS/17/041

8. The Committee had before it a report by the Director of Education and Children's Services which sought approval to implement the draft Anti-Weapon/Knife Crime Policy in Aberdeen City Council schools.

The report recommended –

that the Committee approve the Anti-Weapon/Knife Crime Policy to be implemented immediately.

The Committee resolved:

to approve the recommendation.

EARLY LEARNING AND CHILDCARE DELIVERY PLAN - ECS/17/042

9. The Committee had before it a report by the Director of Education and Children's Services which sought approval to submit the statutory Draft Early Learning and Childcare Delivery Plan to the Scottish Government by 29 September 2017.

The report recommended –

that the Committee

- (a) approve the Draft Early Learning and Childcare Delivery Plan attached as Appendix A to the report;
- (b) instruct the Director of Education and Children's Services to submit the Early Learning and Childcare Delivery Plan to the Scottish Government by 29 September 2017; and
- (c) instruct the Director of Education and Children's Services to present the final Early Learning and Childcare financial plan attached as Appendix B to the Education and Children's Services Committee on 16 November 2017 for approval.

EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE
14 September 2017

The Committee resolved:

- (i) to approve the Draft Early Learning and Childcare Delivery Plan attached as Appendix A to the report;
- (ii) to delegate authority to the Director of Education and Children's Services, in consultation with the Conveners of the Education and Children's Services Committee and the Finance, Policy and Resources Committee, to submit the proposed Draft Early Learning and Childcare Delivery Plan to the Scottish Government by 29 September 2017, along with a covering letter seeking confirmation that the financial costs of implementation of the Plan would be fully covered by the Scottish Government and highlighting that the figures contained in this version of the Plan were provisional;
- (iii) to instruct the Director of Education and Children's Services to present the updated Early Learning and Childcare Delivery Plan to the Education and Children's Services Committee at its meeting on 16 November 2017 for consideration of the Plan at this time;
- (iv) to note that the Director of Education and Children's Services would submit a further version of the Early Learning and Childcare Delivery Plan to Committee in 2018 following the period of scrutiny by the Scottish Government; and
- (v) to instruct the Director of Education and Children's Services to submit a report to the Committee in 2018 providing an update on progress and plans for workforce planning for early learning and childcare.

POLICY REFRESH - ECS/17/043

10. The Committee had before it a report by the Director of Education and Children's Services which sought approval to implement the revised Children Missing from Education Policy in Aberdeen City schools.

The report recommended –

that the Committee approve the refreshed Children Missing from Education Policy contained at Appendix A and that this be implemented immediately.

The Committee resolved:

to approve the recommendation.

ALLOCATION OF ADDITIONAL PUPIL SUPPORT ASSISTANTS - ECS/17/044

11. With reference to article 3 of the minute of the meeting of Council of 22 February 2017, the Committee had before it a report by the Director of Education and Children's Services which advised of the allocation of the additional funding of £976,000 for Pupil Support Assistants.

EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE
14 September 2017

The report recommended –

that the Committee note how the resource of £976,000 had been allocated, as detailed at section 4 of the report, in order to raise attainment by meeting the needs of children and young people.

The Committee resolved:

to approve the recommendation.

CORDYCE SCHOOL CONSULTATION TIMETABLE - ECS/17/045

12. With reference to article 14 of the minute of the meeting of the Education and Children's Services Committee of 1 June 2017, the Committee had before it a report by the Director of Education and Children's Services which provided an update on the planned timescale for the statutory public consultation on the future of Cordyce School, following advice received on this from Education Scotland.

The report recommended –

that the Committee agree to the amended timetable for the statutory public consultation on the proposal to close Cordyce School, and instruct the Head of Education to report to the Committee on the outcome of the consultation at its meeting in January 2018.

The Committee resolved:

to approve the recommendation.

In accordance with the decision taken at article 1 of this minute, the Committee considered the following two items of business with the press and public excluded.

ABERDEEN PERFORMING ARTS BUSINESS PLAN 2018-2021 - ECS/17/061

13. The Committee had before it a report by the Head of Legal and Democratic Services which sought approval of the Aberdeen Performing Arts (APA) 2018-2021 Business Plan.

The report recommended –

that the Committee

- (a) approve the APA three Year Business Plan for the Council's interest; and
- (b) note the contribution that APA made to the delivery of the 365 Events Programme including Granite Noir and True North.

The Committee resolved:

to approve the recommendations.

EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE
14 September 2017

TENDER FOR SPECTRA - LIGHT FESTIVAL - ECS/17/048

14. The Committee had before it a report by the Director of Education and Children's Services which sought approval (1) to tender for a provider to deliver SPECTRA, festival of light, in 2019 with the option to extend for 4 further periods of 1 year depending on available budget and (2) of the total estimated expenditure.

The report recommended –
that the Committee

- (a) delegate authority to the Cultural Policy and Partnerships Officer following consultation with the Head of Commercial and Procurement Services, to undertake a tender process for the procurement and thereafter award of a contract for the delivery and programming of SPECTRA, the festival of light, in 2019 with the option to extend for 4 further periods of 1 year depending on available budget;
- (b) delegate authority to the Head of Commercial and Procurement Services, to conclude a contract with the successful bidder;
- (c) approve the total estimated expenditure of the sum detailed in the report per annum for a maximum period of 5; and
- (d) note the proven benefits of the festival as outlined in the body of the report.

The Committee resolved:

- (i) to approve the recommendations (a), (b) and (d); and
- (ii) to approve the total estimated expenditure of up to the sum detailed in the report per annum for a maximum period of 5 years.

VALEDICTORY

15. The Convener advised that this was Mr Rafferty's last meeting as parent representative – secondary schools, and took the opportunity to thank him for his valuable input throughout his tenure on the Committee.

The Committee resolved:

to echo the comments of the Convener.

At this juncture, the external members of the Committee departed.

REVIEW OF RESIDENTIAL CHILDCARE - ECS/17/048

16. With reference to article 5 of the minute of the meeting of the Education and Children's Services Committee of 1 June 2017, the Committee had before it a report by the Director of Education and Children's Services which provided an update on the

EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE
14 September 2017

progress of the Children's Residential Service Redesign, originally outlined and agreed at the Education and Children's Services Committee on 17 November 2016.

The report recommended –

that the Committee

- (a) note the progress in relation to progressing the staffing restructure within the Children's Residential Service; and
- (b) note the impact of change on work practices and implications for improved outcomes.

The Committee resolved:

- (i) to approve the recommendations; and
- (ii) to note that the Head of Children's Services would provide a service update on the review if necessary.

SCOTTISH CHILD ABUSE INQUIRY - ECS/17/049

17. The Committee had before it a report by the Director of Education and Children's Services which (1) advised of the resource implications arising as a result of responding to statutory notices issued by the Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry and (2) highlighted the potential financial and legal implications for the Council arising from the Limitation (Childhood Abuse) (Scotland) Act 2017.

The report recommended –

that the Committee

- (a) note the resource required to support Aberdeen City's response to the Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry;
- (b) note the financial and legal implications for the Council arising from the Limitation (Childhood Abuse) (Scotland) Act 2017.

The Committee resolved:

to approve the recommendations.

- COUNCILLOR JOHN WHEELER, Convener

EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE
14 September 2017

DRAFT

This page is intentionally left blank

EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

16 NOVEMBER 2017

Please note that this statement contains a note of every report which has been instructed for submission to this Committee. All other actions which have been instructed by the Committee are not included, as they are deemed to be operational matters after the point of committee decision.

Reports which are overdue are shaded.

	<u>Minute Reference</u>	<u>Committee Decision</u>	<u>Update</u>	<u>Lead Officer(s)</u>	<u>Report Due</u>
1.	Education and Children's Services Committee 8 September 2016, article 16	<p><u>Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014</u></p> <p>The Committee resolved, amongst other things, to note the Scottish Government's programme for Scotland 2016/2017; further note the financial implications as set out in paragraph 3; and instruct the Chief Executive to write to the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills, asking for a guarantee that the funding provided by Scottish Government for the implementation of delivering the new statutory duties imposed by the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 would be sufficient to cover the costs imposed by statute and for the Chief Executive to report back on the response received.</p>	A letter was sent on 16 August 2017, and a response is awaited.	Head of Children's Services	On receipt of response.
2.	Education and Children's Services 17/11/16 article 18	<p><u>Children and Young People (Scotland) Act</u></p> <p>The Committee resolved, amongst other things, to request a report to the Committee in autumn 2017 providing an update on the anticipated financial implications.</p>	A report is on the agenda.	Head of Children's Services	16/11/17

5.	Education and Children's Services 1/6/17 article 18	<p><u>ALEO Funding 2017/2018</u></p> <p>The Committee resolved, amongst other things, to instruct the Head of Policy and Performance to submit the internal audit report regarding Garthdee Alpine Sports to the Committee following its consideration by the Audit, Risk and Scrutiny Committee.</p>	<p>The internal audit report on Garthdee Alpine Sports will be considered by the Audit, Risk and Scrutiny Committee on 26 September. A report will then be submitted to this Committee on 16 November 2017.</p> <p>A report is on the agenda.</p>	Head of Policy, Performance and Resources	16/11/17
6.	Education and Children's Services 1/6/17 article 21	<p><u>Allocation of Work in Children's Social Work</u></p> <p>The Committee resolved, amongst other things, to instruct the Head of Children's Services to submit a report on the implementation of Reclaiming Social Work to the Committee by the end of 2017.</p>	<p>The Committee on 1 June 2017 received an update on Reclaiming Social Work that described the hybrid team unit that the Service had implemented due to recruitment issues. The Service is now in the process of consulting with staff, HR and Trades Unions on a model that would see the full implementation of units rather than the interim position of hybrid teams. In light of the ongoing consultation, the Service is not in a position to provide a comprehensive picture on the implementation of the Reclaiming Social Work for the Committee's meeting on 16 November 2017, however will report to the Committee's meeting on 25 January 2018 in this regard.</p> <p>A report will be submitted to the Committee's meeting on 25 January 2018.</p>	Head of Children's Services	16/11/17
7.	Education and Children's Services 1/6/17 article 22	<p><u>Continuing Care</u></p> <p>The Committee resolved, amongst other things, to request the Head of Children's Services to submit a report to the Committee in March 2018 detailing the costs of continuing care during the first full year of implementation of Part 11 of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014.</p>		Head of Children's Services	March 2018

8.	Communities, Housing and Infrastructure 29/8/17 article 12	<p><u>Feasibility Study on a Safe Route to the New Lochside Academy</u></p> <p>The Committee resolved:</p> <p>(i) to refer the content of the report to the 16 November 2017 meeting of the Education and Children's Services Committee for inclusion within the report on the proposals being considered to provide pupil transport to and from Lochside Academy; and</p> <p>(ii) to ensure that appropriate consultation takes place with stakeholders prior to this Committee meeting.</p>	A report is on the agenda.	Head of Policy, Performance and Resources	16/11/17
9.	Education and Children's Services 14/9/17 article 9	<p><u>Early Learning And Childcare Delivery Plan</u></p> <p>The Committee resolved, amongst other things:</p> <p>(i) to instruct the Director of Education and Children's Services to present the updated Early Learning and Childcare Delivery Plan to the Education and Children's Services Committee at its meeting 16 November 2017 for consideration of the Plan at this time;</p> <p>(ii) to note that the Director of Education and Children's Services would submit a further version of the Early Learning and Childcare Delivery Plan to Committee in 2018 following the period of scrutiny by the Scottish Government; and</p> <p>(iii) to instruct the Director of Education and Children's Services to submit a report to the Committee in 2018 providing an update on progress and plans for workforce planning for early learning and childcare.</p>	A report is on the agenda.	<p>Director of Education and Children's Services</p> <p>Director of Education and Children's Services</p> <p>Director of Education and Children's Services</p>	<p>16/11/17</p> <p>March/April 2018</p> <p>March/April 2018</p>

10.	Finance, Policy and Resources 20/9/17 article 27	<p><u>Condition & Suitability 3 Year Programme/ Braeside School Maintenance - CHI/17/227</u></p> <p>The Finance, Policy and Resources Committee resolved, amongst other things, that maintenance concerns in relation to Braeside School including the overgrown condition of the playground be remitted to the Education and Children's Services Committee for consideration.</p>		Head of Policy, Performance and Resources	25/01/18
-----	---	---	--	---	----------

Annual Reports

This page is intentionally left blank

CYCLE 5 - COMMITTEE STATISTICS					
The Tracker Shows the Reports Which are Expected to be Submitted to Future Committee Meetings					
Report Title	Committee date	Report author	Head of Service	Purpose of Report	Explanation if delayed or withdrawn
Appraisal exercise of the long term future education provision at St Peter's School	16.11.17	Maria Thies	Euan Couperwhite	Committee on 1.3.17 instructed the Director of Education and Children's Services to submit an option appraisal report to the Education and Children's Services Committee to determine the long term future of education provision at the existing St Peter's School; Committee on 1.3.17 instructed the Director of Education and Children's Services to submit an option appraisal report to the Education and Children's Services Committee before the end of 2017 to consider the potential future uses of the existing Riverbank School site, which should take into account the current and future needs of the communities in the area of the city with regards to education, social care and early learning and childcare provision.	
Children & Young People Act	16.11.17.	Graeme Simpson	Bernadette Oxley	Committee on 17.11.16 requested a report to the Committee in autumn 2017 providing an update on the anticipated financial implications.	
Implementation of Reclaiming Social Work Update	16.11.17.	Graeme Simpson	Bernadette Oxley	Committee on 01/06/17 instructed the Head of Children's Services to submit a report on the implementation of Reclaiming Social Work to the Committee by the end of 2017	Delayed to 25/1/2018 - The Committee on 1 June 2017 received an update on Reclaiming Social Work that described the hybrid team unit that the Service had implemented due to recruitment issues. The Service is now in the process of consulting with staff, HR and Trades Unions on a model that would see the full implementation of units rather than the interim position of hybrid teams. In light of the ongoing consultation, the Service is not in a position to provide a comprehensive picture on the implementation of the Reclaiming Social Work for the Committee's meeting on 16 November 2017, however will report to the Committee's meeting on 25 January 2018 in this regard.

Cultural Strategy and Action Plan	14.09.17.	Mark Bremner	Helen Shanks	To present the strategy for approval.	The Culture Strategy report will now come to full Council early in 2018 as we have received more requests for further engagement with economic development partners.
EC&S Financial Performance Quarter 2	16.11.17	Brian Dow	Steve Whyte	Report on the second quarter financial position for Education and Children's Services	Delayed to 25/1/18 - Due to the reporting arrangements the Council's quarter 2 financial report requires to be considered by the Finance, Policy and Resources Committee meeting in December 2017 in the first instance, thereafter the Service specific finance report will be submitted to the Education and Children's Services Committee meeting on 25 January 2018.
Internal audit report regarding Garthdee Alpine Sports	16.11.17	Euan Couperwhite	Gayle Gorman	Committee on 1.6.17 instructed the Head of Policy and Performance to submit the internal audit report regarding Garthdee Alpine Sports to the Committee following its consideration by the Audit, Risk and Scrutiny Committee.	
Education and Children's Services Performance Report	16.11.17	Alex Paterson	Euan Couperwhite	To report the Service's performance for the specified reporting period.	
Pupil Transport Report - Subsidised Transport and Safe Walking Routes to Lochside Academy	16.11.17.	Euan Couperwhite	Euan Couperwhite	The CHI Committee on 290817 resolved to refer the content of the report to the 16 November 2017 meeting of the Education and Children's Services Committee for inclusion within the report on the proposals being considered to provide pupil transport to and from Lochside Academy.	
Early Learning and Childcare Delivery Plan	16.11.17	Eleanor Sheppard	Helen Shanks	The Committee on 14/9/17 agreed to present the updated Early Learning and Childcare Delivery Plan to the Education and Children's Services Committee at its meeting 16 November 2017 for consideration of the Plan at this time	
AIYF	16.11.17	Fiona Clark	Helen Shanks	This report brings to Elected Members for their scrutiny/review the Aberdeen International Youth Festival (AIYF) 2017-2020 Business Plan including their plans for transitioning to a SCIO and report on current festival activity as requested at the Council meeting of the 21st June 2017.	

CYCLE 1 - COMMITTEE STATISTICS

The Tracker Shows the Reports Which are Expected to be Submitted to Future Committee Meetings

Report Title	Committee date	Report author	Head of Service	Purpose of Report	Explanation if delayed or withdrawn
Cordyce School	25/01/2018	Andrew Jones	Euan Couperwhite	The Committee on 14/9/17 agreed to the amended timetable for the statutory public consultation on the proposal to close Cordyce School, and instruct the Head of Education to report to the Committee on the outcome of the consultation at its meeting in January 2018	
Parent Involvement Strategy	25/01/2018	Donna Cuthill	Helen Shanks	TBC	
Maintenance of Braeside School	25/01/2018	Andrew Jones	Euan Couperwhite	The Finance, Policy and Resources Committee on 20/9/17 agreed that maintenance concerns in relation to Braeside School including the overgrown condition of the playground be remitted to the Education and Children's Services Committee for consideration.	
Education and Children's Services Performance Report	25/01/2018	Alex Paterson	Euan Couperwhite	To report the Service's performance for the specified reporting period.	
Carer's Strategy	25/01/2018	Dave Bliss	Bernadette Oxley	Consideration of the Carer's Strategy	

CYCLE 2 - COMMITTEE STATISTICS

The Tracker Shows the Reports Which are Expected to be Submitted to Future Committee Meetings

Report Title	Committee date	Report author	Head of Service	Purpose of Report	Explanation if delayed or withdrawn
Early Learning And Childcare Delivery Plan	TBC	Eleanor Sheppard	Helen Shanks	At its meeting on 14/9/17 the Committee agreed: (i) to note that the Director of Education and Children's Services would submit a further version of the Early Learning and Childcare Delivery Plan to Committee in 2018 following the period of scrutiny by the Scottish Government; and (ii) to instruct the Director of Education and Children's Services to submit a report to the Committee in 2018 providing an update on progress and plans for workforce planning for early learning and childcare.	
Continuing Care	TBC	Graeme Simpson	Bernadette Oxley	At its meeting on 1/6/17 the Committee requested a report be submitted to the Committee in March 2018 detailing the costs of continuing care during the first full year of implementation of Part 11 of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014.	

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Education and Children's Services
DATE	16 th November 2017
TITLE OF REPORT	Education and Children's Services Directorate Performance Improvement Report
REPORT NUMBER	ECS/17/059
DIRECTOR	Gayle Gorman
REPORT AUTHOR	Reyna Stewart

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to provide Elected Members with:

- (a) A briefing paper in respect of the first release Insight data relating to the 2017 SQA examination diet, and:
- (b) A summary of the Education and Children's Services (E&CS) Directorate performance improvement measures and outcome data from 1st April up to and including 30th June 2017

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

The Committee is asked to:

- (a) Acknowledge the hard work and dedication of pupils and staff which has resulted in continued progress and successes in 2017, as reflected in the report content; and otherwise
- (b) Note the content of the report.

3. BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES

- 3.1 The performance report draws an effective reporting line under the 2016-17 ECS Directorate Business Plan and reflects forwards, through continuing core and strategic metrics, to the improvement outcomes captured in the 2017-18 Directorate Improvement Plan which was presented to this Committee in June.
- 3.2 Appendix A captures first release data, benchmarked through the national Insight comparator tool, against senior phase attainment and achievement outcomes from the 2017 SQA examination diet.

- 3.3 N.B. Members may wish to note that, in September, the Directorate provided a Service Update in regards to wider SQA data from this diet, which is available in the Committee Library. [2017 SQA Data Service Update](#)
- 3.4 The detail contained within Appendix B relates to a core selection of Improvement Indicators, reflecting outcomes aligned with the Education and Children's Services Directorate Improvement Plan 2017-18, along with Directorate performance measures linking to Shaping Aberdeen themes.
- 3.5 Appendix C provides drill-down narrative and comparative tables relating to the above improvement indicators and measures (where identified in Appendix B)

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendations of this report

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

6. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

- 6.1 Consistency and transparency of performance reporting to Elected Members, and in the public domain, forms part of the Directorate's approach to risk mitigation through enhancing scrutiny of, and accountability against, the delivery of services to the community.
- 6.2 The report identifies areas of performance improvement which are aligned to the delivery of Directorate priorities. This delivery is subject to the assessment and management of risk identified below:

Risk Mitigation Assessment

6.2.1 Financial Resources

Proper reporting of performance information provides assurance to Elected Members, and the public, that the Directorate is managing its resources efficiently in order to deliver its commitments and service improvements as effectively as possible.

Risk Level: Low

6.2.2 Employees

The report contains information relating to the Directorate commitment to improving the staff experience.

Risk Level: Low

6.2.3 Customers / Citizens / Stakeholders

The report contains information to support our commitment to improving customer experience, as well as delivering outcome improvement in accordance with our strategic priorities. The report also provides our other stakeholders, including partners and Government agencies, with evidence on the rate of progress.

Risk Level: Low

6.2.4 Environment

Risk Level: No risks have been identified against this theme

Reputation

The Council's reputation could be at risk of damage if timely, relevant information on the management of resources and the delivery of service improvement is not adequately reported. This report mitigates that risk.

Risk Level: Low

6.2.5 Legal

(i) Public Performance Reporting

Public performance reporting is a statutory duty placed on local authorities. This report therefore serves to mitigate the risk that this duty is not met.

Risk Level: Low

(ii) Duty of Due Regard

From August 1st 2017, all Education Authorities must consider and evidence how strategic decisions will help to reduce the poverty related attainment gap.

This legal duty is demonstrated through consultation, and the analysis of available evidence. In effect, the duty requires that education authorities continually consider whether they can do more to help those pupils impacted by socio-economic disadvantage to achieve equality of outcome and to give due weight to the outcome of those considerations when delivering school education.

Through the provision, analysis and reporting of comparative detail of the current, and historical, attainment outcomes of children and young people across all SIMD deciles, the report supports the 'arrangements for monitoring the standards and quality of school education in a given area'.

This information also assists the Directorate in ‘the identification of improvement activity designed to raise standards and address known challenges across an education authority area’, such as those priorities set out in the National Improvement Framework, and Directorate Improvement Plan.

Risk Level: Low

7. IMPACT SECTION

- 7.1 The outcomes and measures contained within this Report are materially aligned, through the ECS Directorate Improvement Plan, with the strategic improvement themes from the Aberdeen City Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2016-2026, and Aberdeen City Council Strategic Business Plan, 2017-18 Refresh.

This latter document, was reviewed to encapsulate the Council’s policy statement for 2017-2022, ‘Stronger Together - Prosperity for Aberdeen, and presented at the Council meeting of 11th October 2017.

Performance measures relating to the Directorate’s delivery of Service are linked directly to the respective ‘Shaping Aberdeen’ impacts.

- Improving Customer Experience
- Improving Staff Experience
- Improving our Use of Resources

7.2 Economy

The Directorate takes cognisance of the positive impact that effective delivery of its services can impart to the Council and the Community in terms of transforming its provision and facilitating greater access to the benefits of economic stability and employment for those the Directorate supports.

7.3 People

The Directorate is committed to improving the key life outcomes of all people in Aberdeen, with a specific focus on our children and young people, taking cognisance of the importance of promoting equality and diversity as a foundation for improvement.

Within the report, this is recognised in terms of the Directorate’s focus on:

- increased access to, and quality within, childcare and education settings, providing our children with the best start in life.
- enhancing the employment outcomes for our young people.

- providing enhanced and sustained support of children, young people and families from communities experiencing socio-economic disadvantage through improving educational outcomes and experiences
- offering encouragement, support and protection for our most vulnerable children and young people.

The report is designed for information purposes only and no Equalities and Human Rights Impact Assessment has been prepared.

7.4 Place

The report identifies outcomes which contribute to an enhanced sense of place by improving personal resilience, protecting individuals and the community from harm, and enabling citizens to both understand and contribute to their communities.

Alongside the direct 'intervention and education' role that the Directorate delivers, the report content evidences that the Directorate is improving the experience of the City's residents and visitors through enhanced recreational and cultural provision.

7.5 Technology

The Directorate, through its Improvement Plan, recognises that technology is central to innovative, integrated and transformed public services.

In this context, the Directorate has a direct role to play in the application of technology and also in terms of developing the future skills infrastructure necessary to engage with, and support use of, technology both in the workplace, and as a means of increasing public access to services

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Aberdeen City Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2016-2026

ACC Strategic Business Plan Update, 11th October 2017

Education and Children's Services Directorate Improvement Plan 2017-18

Education and Children's Services Directorate Health and Safety Improvement Plan 2017-18

Standards in Scotland's Schools etc. Act 2000 (as amended by Part 1 of the Education (Scotland) Act 2016

9. APPENDICES

Appendix A: Aberdeen City 2017 Insight Briefing

Appendix B: Directorate Improvement Report Scorecard, Quarter 1, 2017

Appendix C: Directorate Improvement Report Trendcharts, Quarter 1, 2017

10. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

Co-ordinated by

Reyna Stewart
Service Manager (Policy and Performance)
reystewart@aberdeencity.gov.uk
01224 523826

Alex Paterson, Development Officer, (Performance Improvement),
apaterson@aberdeencity.gov.uk
01224 522317

11. HEAD OF SERVICE DETAILS

Euan Couperwhite, Head of Policy, Performance and Resources,
ecouperwhite@aberdeencity.gov.uk
01224 522073

Aberdeen City 2017 Insight Briefing

1. PURPOSE OF BRIEFING

- 1.1. The purpose of this briefing is to update Committee of the most recent Aberdeen City attainment data in the Scottish Government senior phase (S4 to S6) national benchmarking tool, Insight.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1. Note the information provided in this briefing

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1. Overview

The Insight tool, created by the Scottish Government and its partners, has been developed to assist local authorities and secondary schools to analyse, compare and improve the performance of pupils in the senior phase of Curriculum for Excellence (CfE).

The new tool went online in August 2014 and is updated twice a year - in September to reflect the performance of all pupils following the latest examination diet and in February to reflect the attainment and achievement of leavers.

It should be noted that the February Insight Update will continually impact and supersede any figures which are presented in advance of this Update.

The tool continues to encourage:

- engagement in school performance data to be available to a wider group of educational professionals in secondary schools including class teachers,
- professional reflection by comparing schools to a “virtual” comparator allowing users to see how the performance of their pupils compares to a similar group of pupils from across Scotland in each subject area or course,
- better alignment of data with the aims of CfE by measuring best achievement at point of exit and recognising wider achievement by including a range of SCQF credit-rated awards and learning programmes,
- a greater focus of the information on educational outcomes, including post-school destinations and attainment in literacy and numeracy

General information on Insight is available at <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Education/Schools/curriculum/seniorphasebenchmarking>.

3.2. Benchmarking

The main focus of the Insight tool is to provide data on four key measures which go beyond the traditional numerical achievement of awards reported elsewhere.

The measures aim to provide understanding on:

- 1. Improving Attainment in Literacy and Numeracy:** Reflects the importance placed on these crucial skills which unlock learning in all other areas of the curriculum and are therefore vital for success in learning, life and work in the modern world and workplace.
- 2. Improving Attainment for All:** The overall aim, together with measure four, is to have pupils attain as highly as possible 'across the board' by considering the average tariff score of the top-attaining 20%, middle attaining 60% and lowest-attaining 20% groups.
- 3. Increasing Post-School Participation:** Positive destinations for our leavers are a vital measure of the success of CfE in our schools.
- 4. Tackling Disadvantage by Improving the Attainment of Lower Attainers Relative to Higher Attainers:** The overall aim, together with measure two, is to have our pupils attain as highly as possible 'across the board' by considering attainment across deprivation deciles.

3.3 Performance Improvement in Schools

Insight aims to support the key principles and purposes of CfE by helping local authorities and schools to focus on understanding and reducing the gap between higher and lower attainers. Insight's key benchmarking features measure attainment at the point of exit from school which demonstrate the impact of effective programme routes through the senior phase.

The Virtual Comparator takes results from statistically similar pupils across Scotland.

For each pupil in the cohort of interest (e.g. S4 pupils in School A), 10 matching pupils are randomly selected without replacement from other local authorities based on four key characteristics which go into the makeup of an Authority or school:

- gender balance;
- staying-on rate;
- percentage of time spent in mainstream; and
- relative deprivation based upon the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD).

From these four characteristics, Insight matches ten pupils from around Scotland to every one pupil in Aberdeen City, or in the school in question, and treats this matched group as the Virtual School or Authority (Virtual Comparator).

It is worth noting that certain additional contexts need to be taken into account, such as presentation policies, senior phase models and localised intervention models, to form a comprehensive picture.

3.4 Insight Commentaries

Commentaries are provided in Insight to offer the teaching profession, schools and education authorities an indication of key comparisons which they may wish to drill into in more detail.

When a commentary is displayed for a comparison between a school/education authority and its national/virtual comparator this expresses that the difference is significant and that it is large enough to be considered of interest educationally.

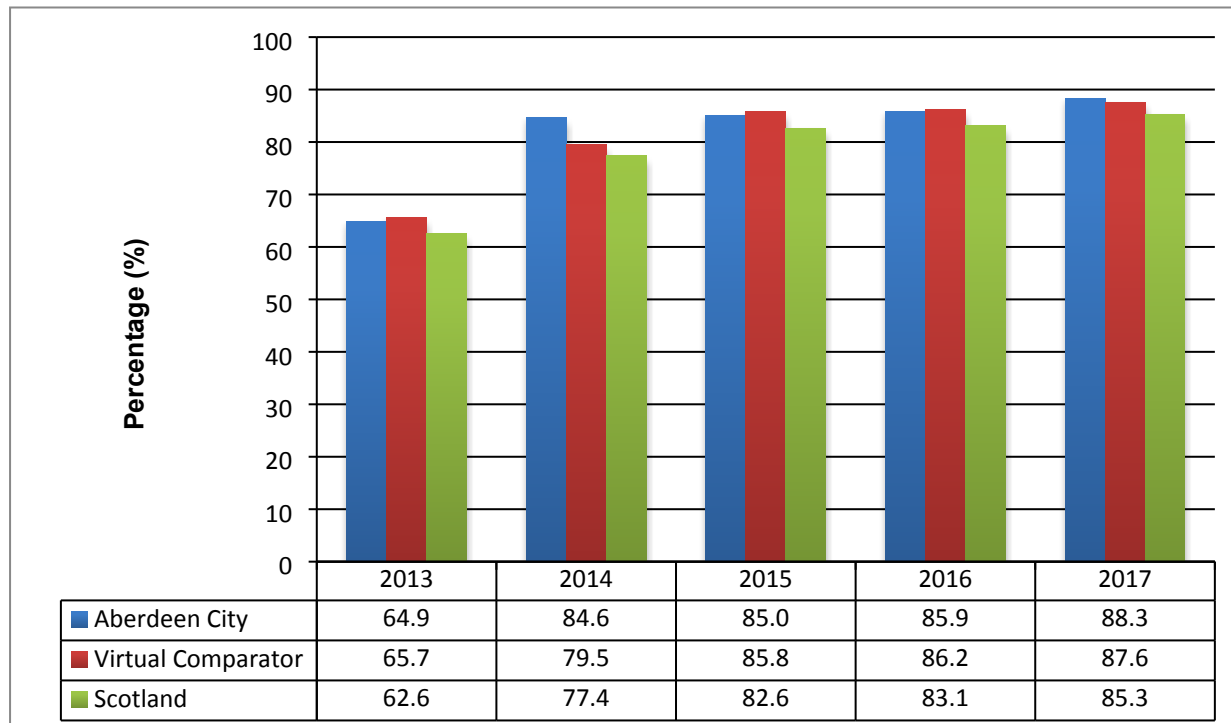
However, professional judgement, local knowledge and understanding of the context of each school/authority should also be taken into account.

This information, along with the historical comparison and cohort tracking taken from the detailed data is used to define and adjust Schools Improvement planning at both Directorate and establishment levels.

4. Improving attainment in Literacy and Numeracy

Number in the Cohort	2015	2016	2017
Aberdeen City	1696	1652	1577
Virtual Comparator	16960	16520	15770
Scotland	52297	51297	50336

Figure 1: Improving Attainment in Literacy and Numeracy: Percentage of candidates attaining literacy and numeracy, SCQF Level 4, S4, 2013-2017

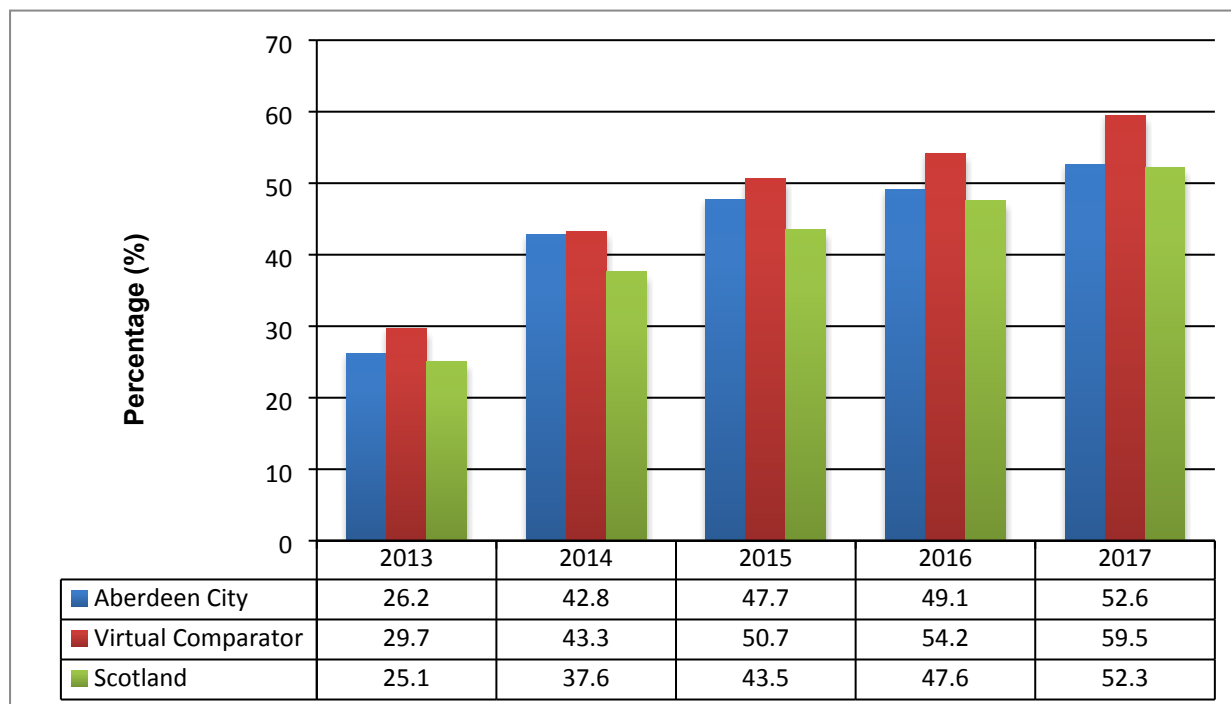


Data Commentary:

The percentage of S4 candidates attaining literacy and numeracy at SCQF Level 4 in 2017 rose significantly to 88.3%, which was higher than the National Establishment

figure and records an improvement rate in advance of both the National Establishment and Virtual Comparator.

Figure 2: Improving attainment in literacy and numeracy: Percentage of candidates attaining literacy and numeracy, SCQF Level 5, S4, 2013-2017



Data Commentary:

The percentage of S4 candidates attaining literacy and numeracy at SCQF Level 5 in 2017 rose significantly to 52.6%, which was higher than the National Establishment figure although the improvement rate was lower than the National Establishment and Virtual Comparator.

Section Narrative:

- (i) Development work on this area has been highlighted in the local authority’s National Improvement Framework (NIF) Plan for 2017/2018. In partnership with secondary head teachers, an in-depth analysis of city wide data has taken place and a number of identified actions have been planned. With regards to improving, performance in literacy and numeracy, in particular at National 5, a number of key actions have been identified. These include:
 - consideration of the need for an City wide presentation policy;
 - the collation and sharing of identified good practice from quality assurance visits; and
 - specific development work with the numeracy and literacy network groups.
- (ii) Longer term improvement actions include local authority and Northern Alliance projects which are focused on development work in the Broad General Education (BGE).

5. Improving Attainment for All

This measure allows us to examine how different cohorts are attaining in relation to the virtual and national cohorts.

Attainment is measured using the tariff scale, developed for Insight, which allocates a specified number of points to each qualification (including units), with more demanding qualifications gaining more points than less demanding ones. Three ability cohorts are identified for the authority, its virtual equivalent and Scotland as a whole:

- those in the lowest 20% of tariff points scored;
- those in the top 20% of tariff points scored;
- and those that fall within the middle 60% of tariff points scored.

The function of using the S6 cohort exam performance as a measure is that it (a) allows for considering the cumulative attainment from S4 to S6, a core principle of Curriculum for Excellence and (b) falls in line with national comparative performance reporting frameworks.

Number in the Cohort	2015	2016	2017
Aberdeen City	858	950	909
Virtual Comparator	8580	9500	9090
Scotland	34258	34062	32759

Figure 3 : Improving attainment for all for S6 Cohort based on their cumulative attainment from S4 to S6, 2015

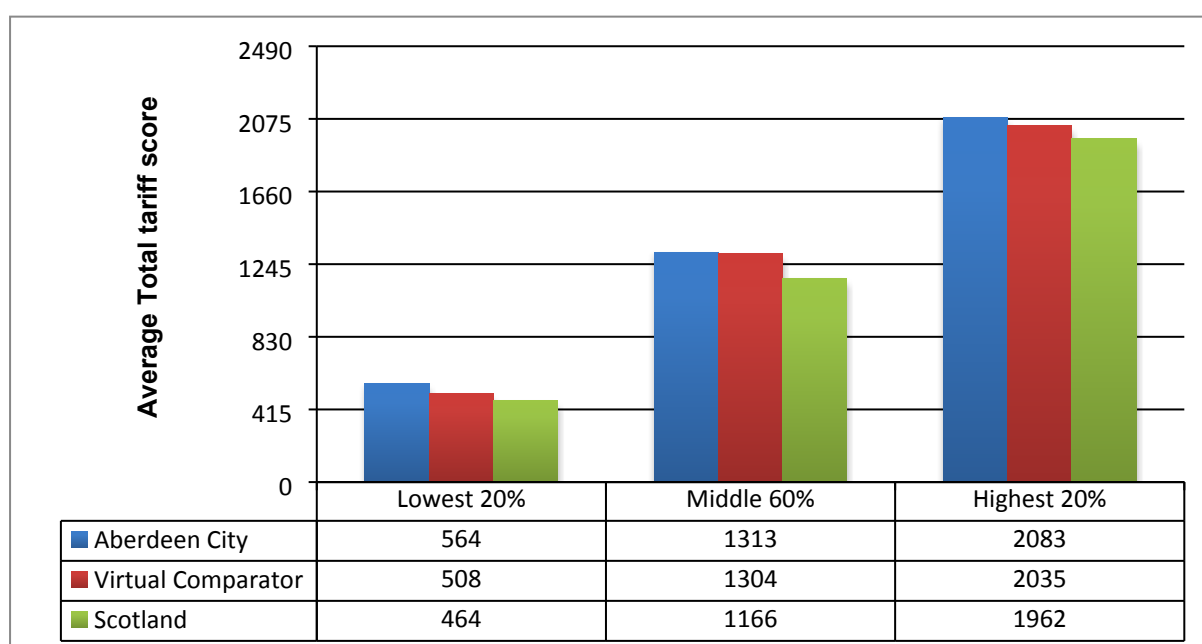


Figure 4: Improving attainment for all for S6 Cohort based on their cumulative attainment from S4 to S6, 2016

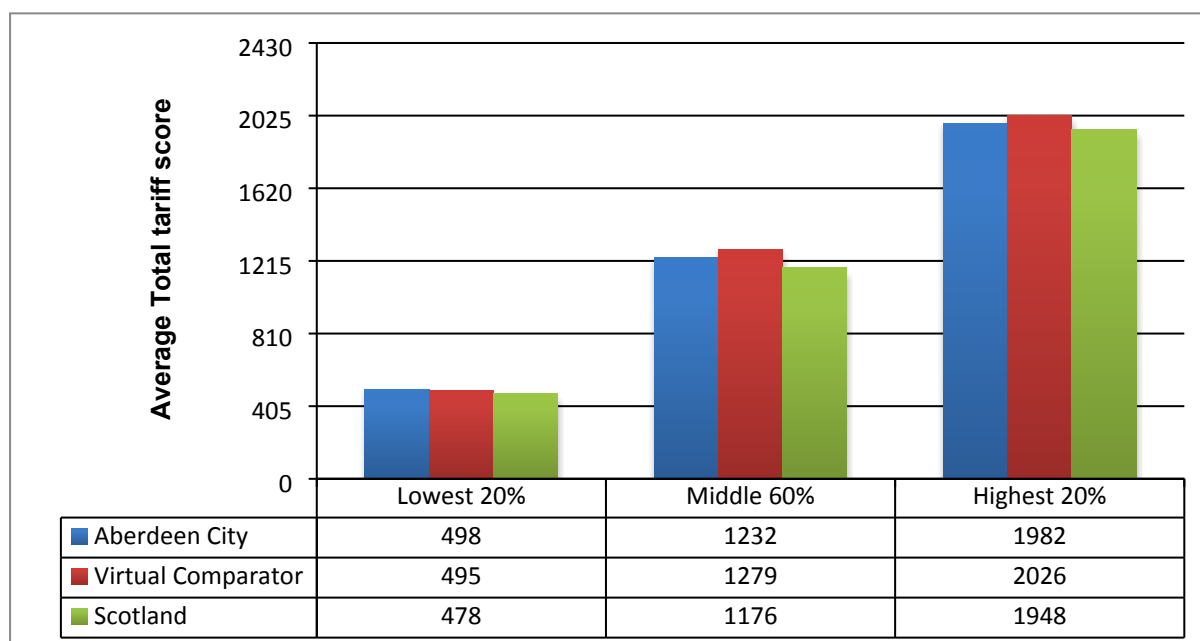
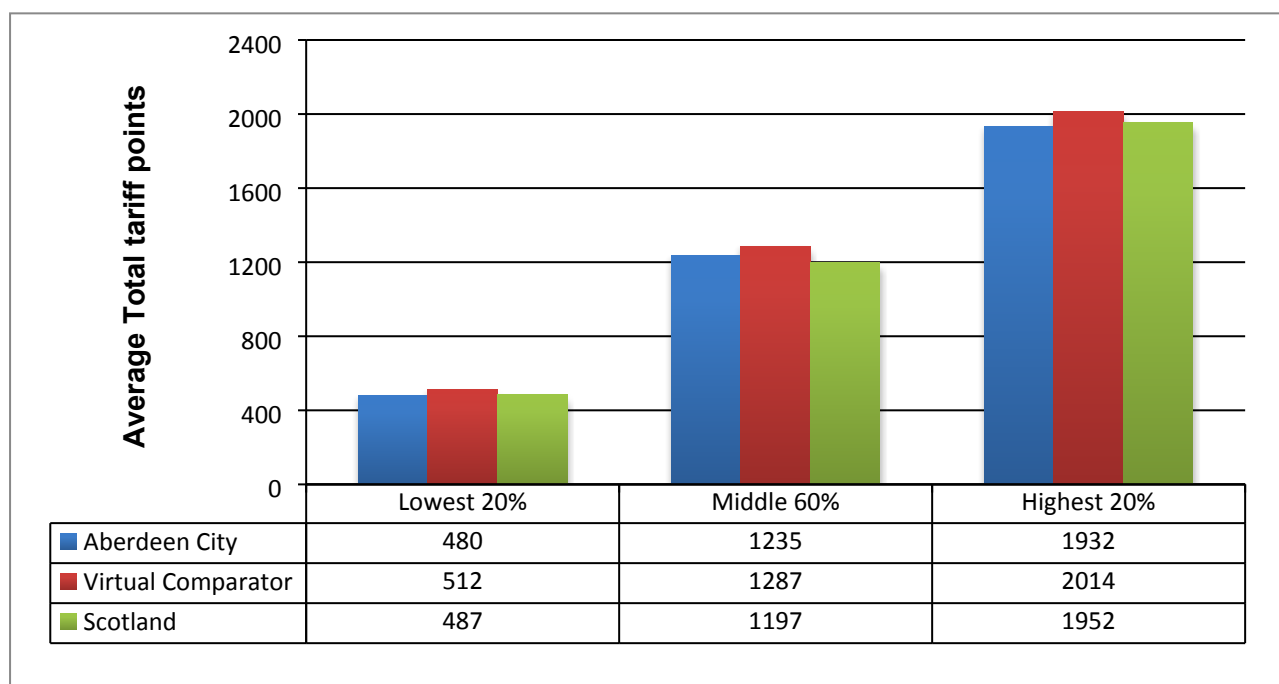


Figure 5: Improving attainment for all for S6 Cohort based on their cumulative attainment from S4 to S6, 2017



Data Commentary:

The City's Average Total Tariff score for the Middle 60% and Highest 20% of pupil candidates was lower than the Virtual Comparator with the outcomes for all three groupings closely matching, or exceeding, the National Establishment figure.

Attainment for All – Closing the Gap

Performance of Lowest 20% relative to Highest 20%

The City's Average Tariff Score outcomes for both the lowest and highest 20% of candidates have experienced a reduction of 2.5% on 2016. However, this masks a significant* closing of the Average Tariff Score gap between these two cohorts within the City. This sustains a continuous four year period over which the differential between the two cohorts, based on the new CfE measures, has recorded an improvement.

The attainment gap in 2017, based on this sub-measure, has narrowed by 2.2% in contrast to 1.9% for the Virtual Comparator and 0.3% for the National Establishment figure. Comparative change figures for 2015 to 2017 record the City having achieved an improvement of 4.4%, higher than the Virtual Comparator (1.6%), with the National data showing a positive change of just over than 2.0%

Performance of Lowest 20% relative to Middle 60%

The City's Average Tariff Scores for the Middle 60% were largely static in 2017 resulting in a widening of the gap to the Lowest 20%. This trend pattern is repeated at the National level whilst the Virtual Comparator gap showed a marginal closing of the two cohort Tariff Scores. The three year pattern for the City parallels the national picture with the attainment gap between the Middle 60% and Lower 20% being largely static whilst the Virtual Comparator noted a reduction over the same period.

Section Narrative:

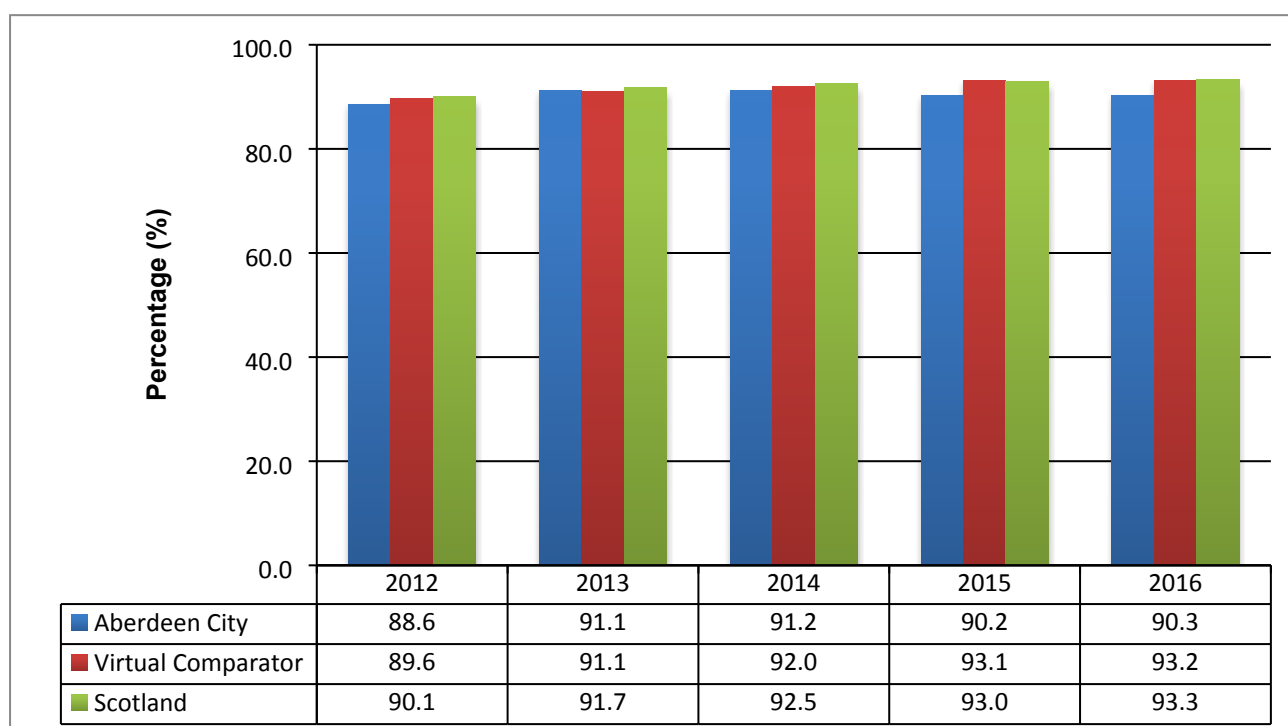
- (i) As previously noted, development work in this area has been highlighted within the local authority's NIF Plan 2017/2018 and an in-depth analysis of city wide data has resulted in the planning of a number of identified actions. With regards to improving performance for all, the following actions have been identified:
 - collation and sharing of good practice from quality assurance visits throughout the academic year, leading to a range of opportunities for collaborative working across schools;
 - formal review of curricular structures within our secondary schools, exploring the possibility of a common school week thus increasing opportunities for accessing a wider curriculum offer for our young people;
 - the creation of a vision of aspiration for all young people within Aberdeen City to be shared with schools;
 - review of the current network structure identifying areas of change which are required in order to raise attainment; and
 - development of a strategic approach to our work with all partners to ensure that appropriate pathways are developed which meet the requirements of

our schools.

6. Increasing Post-School Participation

Number in the Cohort	2015	2016	2017
Aberdeen City	1594	1619	1673
Virtual Comparator	15940	16190	16730
Scotland	51335	52433	52249

Figure 6 : Percentage of school leavers in a positive destination



Data Commentary:

The City's initial destination outcome for school leavers from the 2016 academic year was static in comparison with 2015 and lower than both the National Establishment and Virtual Comparator.

Section Narrative:

- (i) Data from the wider scoping Participation Measure, covering all 16-19 year olds, is presented in Appendices B and C within this Report and supersedes the previous official statistical publication of school leavers' participation (known as sustained destinations)
- (ii) The Achieving Outcome Group has developed a plan based on the outcomes set out in the Integrated Children's Plan 2017/2020. The group has identified key projects that will be taken forward, focussing on

targeting key indicators agreed with Community Planning Partnerships and Local Outcome Improvement Plans. These include:

- Development of an enhanced transition programme to college for Care Experienced Young People and vulnerable learners with a focus on developing their aspirations prior to starting college to ensure they have an appropriate course choice;
- Support programme for young people with Additional Support Needs, with a focus on skills for living, learning and work and ensuring the quality of destination;
- extended work placements for the most vulnerable young people; and
- an Activity Agreement Award developed in partnership with young people and local business to recognise the complex and subtle skills young people have developed through the activity agreement.

The projects listed will be developed and delivered in partnership with agencies across the city including Skills Development Scotland (SDS), the Foyer and North East Scotland College (NESCOL), the outcome will be to deliver a programme for young people to support their transition into a positive destination at each stage of 16-19, ultimately increasing the number of young people moving into a positive destination and reducing the barriers to positive destinations for the most vulnerable young people.

- (iii) The Achieving Outcome group have also agreed to develop a tracking tool for young people who have received Pupil Equity Funding (PEF), after they have moved onto to S4 or have left school the tracking tool will enable more accurate data gathering on the impact the PEF has made to the young person.

It is hoped that an individual school will be used to test this method and feedback into the group over the next academic year on the impact PEF has had on young people. The data will also provide guidance on transition planning and what improvements can be made to the process in individual schools.

- (iv) As part of the Quality Assurance Calendar for schools, a Head Teacher event is being planned for February 2018, focussing on improving positive destinations and Developing the Young Workforce (DYW). This is being planned with partners, and will include head teachers from all sectors.

The projects outlined above will support the continued work and partnerships in place across the city including Career Ready, Keen4Work, Activity Agreements and the Youth Employment Activity Plan.

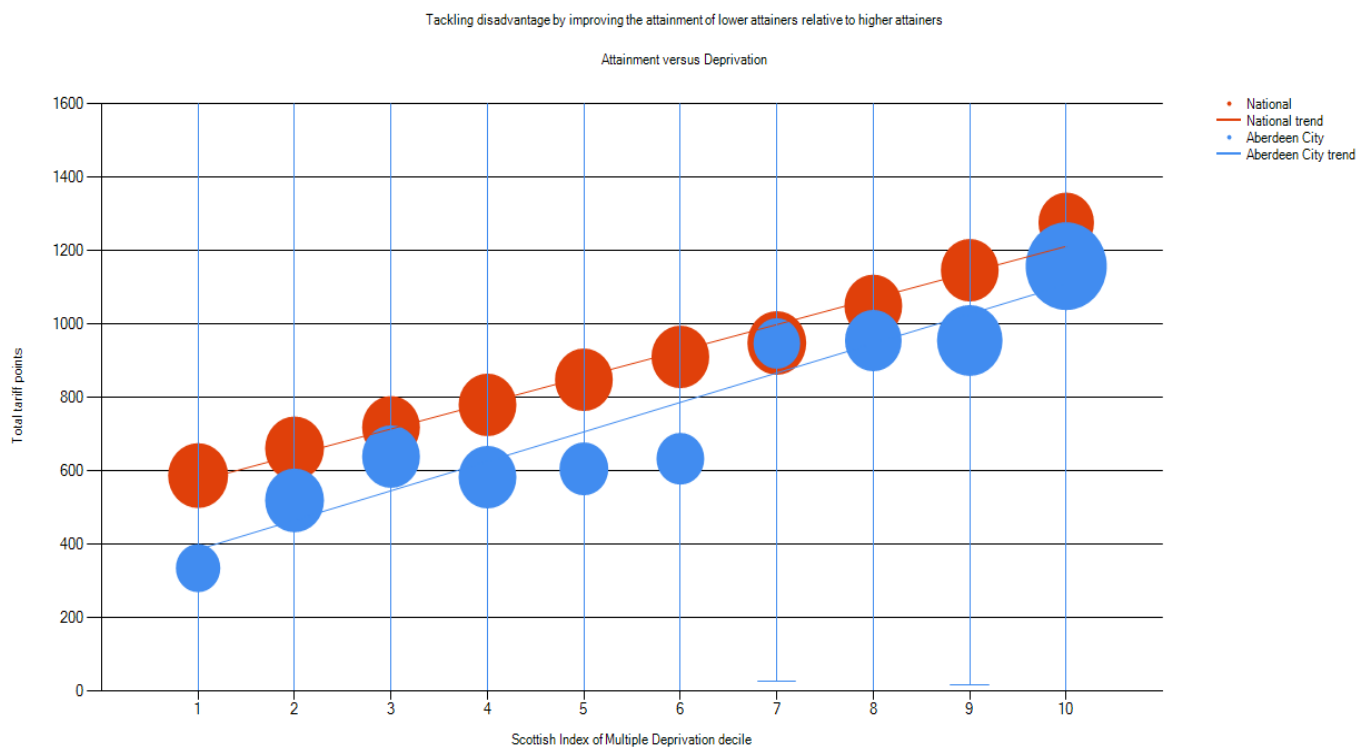
7. Tackling Disadvantage by Improving the Attainment of Lower Attainers Relative to Higher Attainers

Number in the Cohort	2015	2016	2017
Aberdeen City	1723	1795	1718
Virtual Comparator	17230	17950	17180
Scotland	55673	54632	52975

The following graphs display attainment (measured using the same tariff point scale as referred to in point 5) for Aberdeen City (blue shaded circles), its virtual comparator (grey) and nationally (red), broken down into ten deciles according to Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) data.

Decile 1 refers to the attainment of young people with the home post codes within data zones identified as being the 10% most deprived in Scotland as defined by the seven SIMD measures of deprivation. Decile 10 refers to those young people with post codes in the top 10% of the least deprived datazones according to the SIMD. The size of the circle is an indicator of the group size in each decile.

Figure 7: Attainment versus Deprivation for Aberdeen City and National, S6 cumulative, 2017

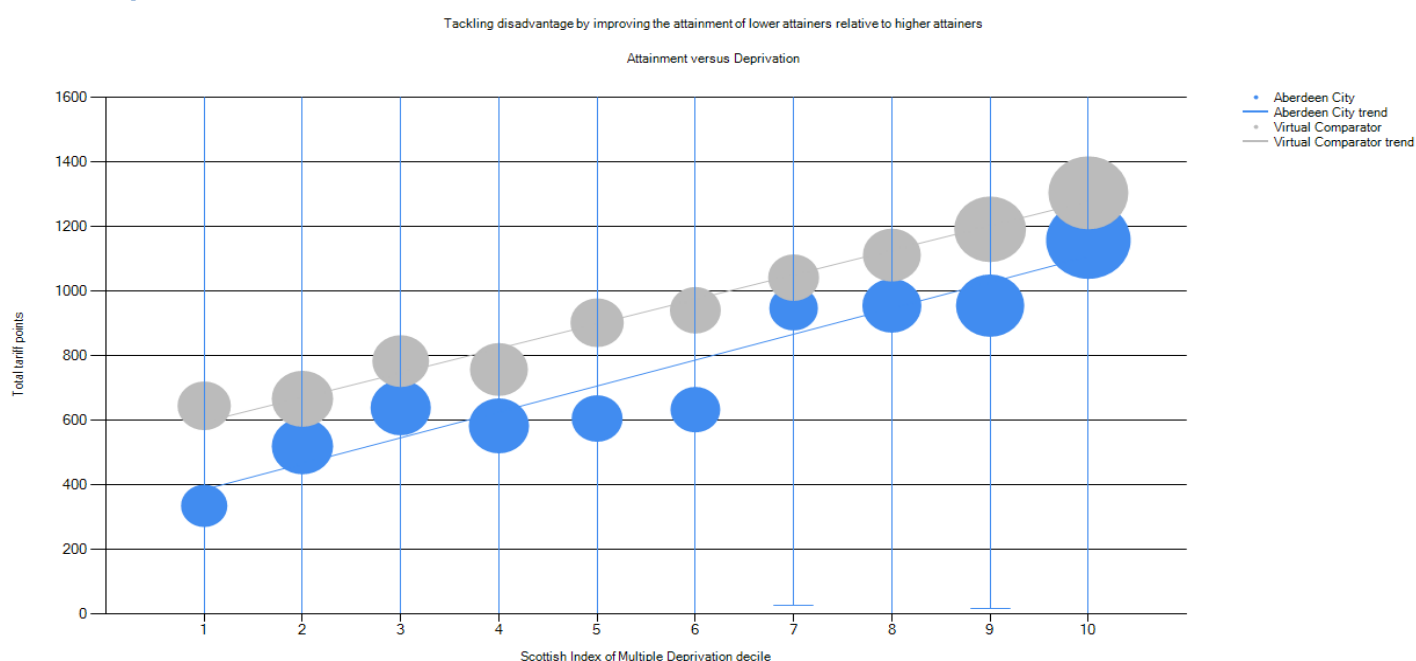


Data Commentary:

In most instances, the City's outcomes closely match the national figures but with Deciles 1, 4, 5 and 6 being lower than the National Establishment in terms of Insight confidence level variance.

Publication, in January 2017, of the Scottish Local Government Benchmarking Framework Average Tariff Score data, providing inter-authority and quintile comparisons, and post service outcomes from Insight in February will offer additional context to this information, enabling a final and comprehensive analysis of relative outcomes.

Figure 8: Attainment versus Deprivation for Aberdeen City and Virtual Comparator S6 cumulative, 2017



Data Commentary:

In most instances, the City's outcomes were statistically below the Virtual Comparator figures for 2017 but testing in Insight found that there were no significant variations for these measures.

National Improvement Framework

The Scottish Government, in recognition that there is no single poverty-related metric available against attainment data that can measure the impact of the education system as a whole, is currently undertaking a consultation on National Improvement Framework proposals for measuring the poverty-related gap and milestones towards closing it which encompass 8 key measures and 17 sub-measures.

This suggests that, in the future, the Government intends that Average Tariff-Score based evaluations are to be supplanted by a more multi-textured approach to the benchmarking of attainment in the context of deprivation at local authority and regional level.

Section Narrative:

In terms of closing the poverty related attainment gap, there are a number of key strategic work streams which are identified and which are documented within our NIF Plan 2017/2018. These include:

- professional development sessions with senior leadership teams on identifying the gap and setting clear measures and outcomes;
- cross service working to evaluate the impact of current interventions;
- ensuring that this is a consistent agenda item on all quality assurance visits to schools;
- developing strategic approaches ensuring that all our partners are upskilled in this area and the need for ensuring academic performance is a key priority in work with young people; and
- continued engagement with young people

In addition, we have currently 3 Scottish Attainment Challenge (SAC) secondary schools that have clear plans to address the poverty attainment gap. Our identified Quality Improvement Officer and Improvement Advisor work in partnership to ensure that interventions are being effectively implemented and impacting on performance.

Finally the strategic approach that we have taken with schools regarding the implementation of the pupil equity fund has resulted in all our schools having a clear focus on the poverty related attainment gap and the identification of a range of interventions to address this. The work related to this will be evaluated at year end and updated guidance will be sent to all schools.

8. BRIEFING SUMMARY

When considered alongside the early release attainment data contained in the 2017 SQA Service Update and other measures contained within this Report, the performance, and outcomes, of the City's senior phase pupils against the majority of indicators of attainment and achievement is continuing to improve.

In some instances, (e.g. Average Tariff Scores), the improvement trend for this year has slowed in comparison with the national and virtual whilst in others, such as literacy and numeracy, the outcomes of the City's pupils show a sustained improvement over time and in comparison with the national picture in particular.

The Directorate is mindful of these trends and through the actions above, the strategic approaches outlined in the Excellence and Equity report to this Committee in June, (link attached below) and the Directorate Improvement Plan 2017-18, the Directorate will fully evaluate the influences behind this movement through ongoing data analysis.

At a regional level, in partnership with colleagues across the Northern Alliance, the Directorate will be working to facilitate the pooling of expertise and resource to support the Improving Attainment for All and Closing the Gap agendas which will see the development of a widened scope of benchmarking that will assist the City to evidence outcomes against our regional and local priorities.

9. AUTHOR DETAILS

Reyna Stewart
Service Manager (Policy and Performance)
reystewart@aberdeencity.gov.uk
01224 523826

Lynn Scanlon
Quality Improvement Manager (Schools)
lyscanlon@aberdeencity.gov.uk
01224 522044

Maxine Jolly
Service Manger (Professional Learning)
mjolly@aberdeencity.gov.uk
01224 522784

This page is intentionally left blank

Appendix B – ECS Directorate Performance Improvement Scorecard - Quarter 1 April to June 2017

Report Author: Alex Paterson
Generated on: 2nd October 2017

Performance Data Traffic Light	
Red	2
Green	8
Data Only	21

Directorate Improvement Plan - Economy

Performance Measure	2016/17	April 2017	May 2017	June 2017	Q2 2016/17	Q3 2016/17	Q4 2016/17	Q1 2017/18	Status	Long Trend
	Value	Value	Value	Value	Value	Value	Value	Value		
Number of visits to libraries - person	896,491	71,683	81,434	75,126	227,315	212,504	231,266	228,243		
Number of visits in person to museums	104,407	10,341	8,509	9,968	38,286	20,412	19,121	28,818		

Directorate Improvement Plan - People

Performance Measure	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	Status	Long Trend	2017/18 Target
	Value	Value	Value			
Percentage of 16-19 year olds in a positive participation destination- Annual National Participation Measure (Skills Development Scotland)	87.3%	88.9%	89.4%			89.3%

Performance Measure	2016/17	April 2017	May 2017	June 2017	Q2 2016/17	Q3 2016/17	Q4 2016/17	Q1 2017/18	Status	Long Trend
	Value	Value	Value	Value	Value	Value	Value	Value		
Percentage of Activity Agreement completers entering a Positive Destination	78.4%	Data not presented for months			88.9%	55.6%	90.9%	81.8%		
% of positive inspections of local authority and partner provider Early Learning and Childcare centres by Education Scotland and the Care Inspectorate per financial year	91.7%	Data not presented for months			100.0%	81.8%	85.7%	100.0%		
Looked After Children looked after at home (%)	Data not presented for months	Data not presented for months			19%	19%	20%	19%		
Number of Looked After Children looked after at home					123	126	136	128		
Looked After Children looked after in Kinship (%)					21%	21%	19%	20%		
Number of Looked After Children looked after in Kinship					131	136	129	131		
Looked After Children looked after in Foster Care (%)					43%	44%	43%	45%		
Number of Looked After Children looked after in Foster Care					272	289	293	299		

Directorate Improvement Plan – Enabling Technology										
Performance Measure	2016/17	April 2017	May 2017	June 2017	Q2 2016/17	Q3 2016/17	Q4 2016/17	Q1 2017/18	Status	Long Trend
	Value	Value	Value	Value	Value	Value	Value	Value		
Number of visits to libraries - virtual	581,215	47,393	46,691	46,974	148,706	141,277	146,191	141,058		
Number of visits to/usages of council funded or part funded museums -	1,257,999	133,640	128,530	130,229	289,288	288,889	378,854	392,399		

Performance Measure	2016/17	April 2017	May 2017	June 2017	Q2 2016/17	Q3 2016/17	Q4 2016/17	Q1 2017/18	Status	Long Trend
	Value	Value	Value	Value	Value	Value	Value	Value		
virtual										
Number of PC terminal and Netloan Wi-Fi access uses within Libraries and Library Learning Centres	228,890	17,932	20,529	18,917	59,899	53,199	56,590	57,378		

Shaping Aberdeen - Improving Customer Experience

Performance Measure	2016/17	April 2017	May 2017	June 2017	Q2 2016/17	Q3 2016/17	Q4 2016/17	Q1 2017/18	Status	Long Trend
	Value	Value	Value	Value	Value	Value	Value	Value		
The total number of complaints received per quarter	214	Data not presented for months			126	25	32	59		
% of complaints resolved within time	53.2%	Data not presented for months			51.9%	47.8%	56.7%	79.3%		
% of complaints upheld against closed (Stage 1 & 2 combined)	36.7%	Data not presented for months			25.9%	39.1%	56.7%	31%		
% of FOISA requests replied to within timescale - Education and Children's Services	89%	100%	100%	100%	94%	88%	100%	100%		
Percentage of MP/MSP Enquiries dealt with on time - Education & Children's Services	72.7%	41.7%	66.7%	66.7%	82.1%	70.3%	81.0%	54.2%		
Percentage of Members' Enquiries dealt within time	74.1%	63.6%	92.3%	84.2%	67.4%	70%	79.1%	81.4%		
Number of late reports per quarter - Education & Children's Services	3.4%	Data not presented for months			5.8%	3.7%	1.9%	6.6%		

Supported children with an allocated social worker (%)		Data not presented for months	94%	91%	94%	93%		
Number of supported children			1731	1650	1717	1679		
Looked After Children with an allocated social worker (%)		Data not presented for months	86%	81%	85%	85%		
Number of Looked After Children			637	659	675	671		












Shaping Aberdeen - Improving Staff Experience

Performance Measure	2016/17	April 2017	May 2017	June 2017	Q2 2016/17	Q3 2016/17	Q4 2016/17	Q1 2017/18	Status	Long Trend
	Value	Value	Value	Value	Value	Value	Value	Value		
Average number of days lost through sickness absence per employee in a rolling 12 month period (Corporate Comparative Targets)	8.2	8.7	8.8	8.9	Data not presented for quarters					
Absence Long Term Per Employee Per Month (Corporate Comparative Targets)	4.6	5.1	5.1	5.3	Data not presented for quarters					
Absence Short Term Per Employee Per Month (Corporate Comparative Targets)	3.6	3.6	3.7	3.6	Data not presented for quarters					
H&S Employee Non Reportable - Education and Children's Services	577	Data not presented for months			75	244	179	93		
H&S Employee Reportable Incidents - Education and Children's Services	1	Data not presented for months			0	1	0	0		

Improving Our Use Of Resources

Performance Measure	2016/17	April 2017	May 2017	June 2017	Q2 2016/17	Q3 2016/17	Q4 2016/17	Q1 2017/18	Status	Long Trend
	Value	Value	Value	Value	Value	Value	Value	Value		
Headcount of Agency Staff - Education & Children's Services	199	1	8	9	54	54	55	18		

Legend – Narrative against data shaded in orange is provided within Appendix C. Figures shaded in grey are provided for background purposes only.

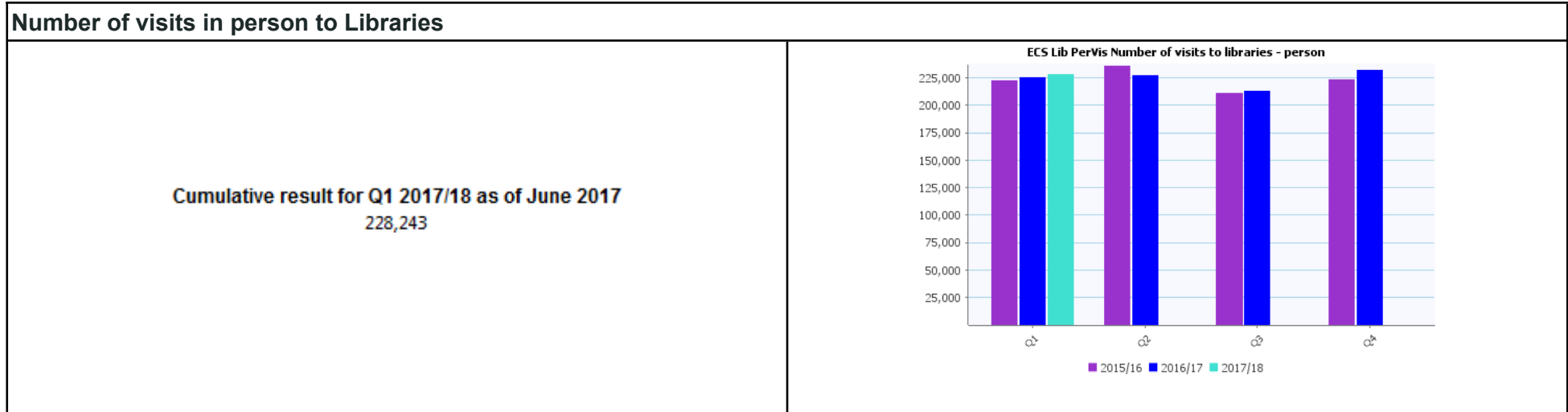
PI Status		Long Term Trends		Short Term Trends	
	Alert		Improving/Increasing		Improving/Increasing
	Warning		No Change		No Change
	OK		Getting Worse/Decreasing		Getting Worse/Decreasing
	Unknown				
	Data Only				

This page is intentionally left blank

Appendix C – ECS Directorate Performance Improvement Trendcharts

Directorate Improvement Plan - Economy

1. **Improvement Objective - We will work with partners and the community to develop iconic tourism attractions to capitalise on non-business tourism and leisure markets, and stimulate diverse culture and creative offerings**



Why is this important?

The extent to which the City is able to offer an accessible and diverse public library provision, supporting cultural and learning activity in the community, is a 'foundation' service on which the potential for enhancing creativity and the attractiveness of the City as a place to live, has been built and will continue to be central to supporting wider strategic People, Economy and Place objectives

Benchmark Information:

The capacity for operational benchmarking of Library and Information Services outcomes and outputs at a national level is provided through an annual CIPFA publication which is released in March of each subsequent fiscal year.

Public libraries across Scotland continue to use the Strategic Aims set out in Ambition and Opportunity: A National Strategy for Public Libraries in Scotland as a benchmarking tool and the SCoPL consortium also continues to be used as a benchmarking group to look at identifying service

improvements and driving these forward.

The How Good is our Public Library Service (HGIOPLS) framework and assessment process have been fully revised and are now being used to assess our own performance against benchmarking indicators agreed across public library services within Scotland.

Target:

The number of visits to Libraries is a direct contributing metric towards the original 2016-17 Strategic Objective which aimed to increase attendances and visits to places of culture by 70,000 by the end of 2017. In this instance, whilst no specific target for this lower level metric has been set, the Service seeks to increase active use of the Library and Information Service annually as an intermediate aim towards meeting of the above Objective.

Intelligence:

Visits in person to the Library and Information Service showed a small decrease (-1.3%) against the prior quarter although the figure of 228,243 was above that recorded in Quarter 1 of 2016-17. (+ 1.25%). This is the highest Quarter 1 outcome in the 3 year tracking period and represents a third consecutive quarterly period where visits have improved on previous year figures which is re-assuring in the context of a national picture of reducing library in person use. The rolling 12 month outcome to Quarter 1 for visits was just under 900,000, a marginal advance on both the rolling position at Quarter 4 and the 2016-17 fiscal year.

Responsible officer:

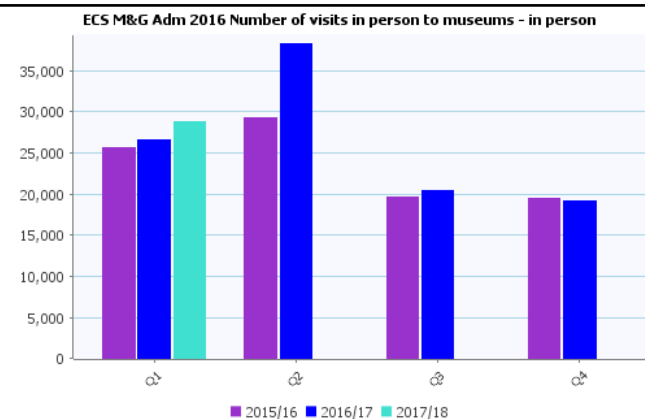
Helen Shanks

Last Updated:

Q1 2017/18

Number of visits in person to Museum and Galleries venues

Cumulative result for Q1 2017/18 as of June 2017
28,818



Why is this important?

The Local Outcome and Directorate Improvement Plans contain the objective which aims to increase the overall number of visits to Museum and Galleries venues, linked with re-development of Aberdeen Art Gallery, and re-opening of Provost Skene's House whilst also contributing to the wider Economy and Place themes based on current provision.

Benchmark Information:

The capacity for a degree of operational benchmarking of the Museums and Galleries Service outcomes and outputs against comparator authority and national levels is provided through an annual CIPFA publication normally released in June of each subsequent fiscal year.

Limited benchmarking of a restricted suite of measures relating to spend per visit is also published through the Scottish Local Government Benchmarking Framework (SLGBF) with information linking to comparative user satisfaction being made available through release of the Scottish Household Survey outcomes. This information is normally released in January of the subsequent fiscal year,

Through the SLGBF Family Group network, local authorities are discussing development of a range of potential alternative measures which will better capture and enable reflection against comparative impacts delivered by museum and gallery services

Target:

The number of visits to Museum is a direct contributing metric towards the original 2016-17 Strategic Plan Objective which aims to increase

attendances and visits to places of culture by 70,000 by the end of 2017. In this instance, whilst no specific target for this lower level metric has been set, the Service seeks to increase active engagement annually as an intermediate aim towards meeting of the above Objective. The Directorate Improvement Plan 2017-18 contains a specific measure of improvement against annual visits to the Aberdeen Treasure Hub.

Intelligence:

Visits in person to the three museum venues noted a positive increase of around 2,200 attendances on the same quarter in 2016-17 with a total footfall of 28,818 (+8%) maintaining both short and long term improvement trends. Underlying this figure, the Maritime Museum generated >21,600 visits, the Tolbooth recorded >6,800 visits and the Treasure Hub just under 300. The two former outcomes are both improved on previous year visit figures whilst visits to the Treasure Hub are being presented on a quarterly basis for the first time.

Responsible officer:

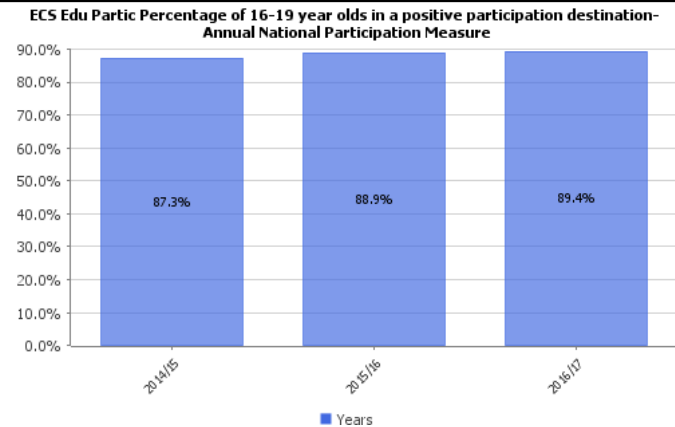
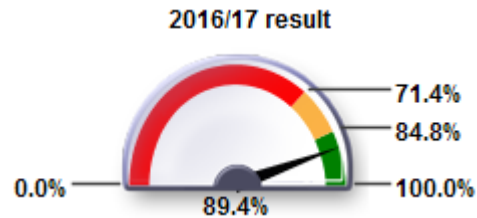
Helen Shanks

Last Updated:

Q1 2017/18

1. Improvement Objective - We will deliver excellence and equity in order to raise attainment and close the outcome gap

Percentage of 16-19 year olds in a positive participation destination- Annual National Participation Measure



Why is this important?

This measure, establishing the participation levels amongst 16-19 year olds in the City, relates directly to the national Developing The Young Workforce and Opportunities For All agendas and, in part, evidences outcomes delivered through local authority and partner support (e.g. Aberdeen Guarantees, Employability Pipeline) in providing positive participation opportunities.

Benchmark Information:

Inter-authority benchmarking of this outcome is provided directly through annual publication of the National Participation Measure report by Skills Development Scotland with intermediate comparisons against national and Virtual Comparator figures being available through use of the Insight

Tool.

Target:

The 2016-17 target was 89.3%. The objective for 2017-18, based on the linked measures within the Strategic Business Plan Refresh and 2017-18 Directorate Outcome Improvement Plan is to improve this outcome by a further percentage point and close the gap with the national figure

Intelligence:

89.4% of 16-19 year olds in Aberdeen City were recorded as participating in on-going Education, Training or Employment, an increase of 0.5% on 2015/16, which is largely an unchanged overall position from the previous year, given variations in cohort size. Whilst Education continued to be the most prevalent destination (70.3% from 67.6%), the proportion in Employment fell by 2% with Training being a static destination year-on-year at just under 2%.

Those who were economically inactive fell to 3.9% from 4.6% in 2015/16, with a reduction in those who were Unemployed and Seeking Work to 2.5% from 3.3% the previous year. Comparable national figures for participation were 91.1% in a positive destination and 3.7% being economically inactive although it needs to borne in mind that, in Aberdeen, the proportion of this age group who had an unconfirmed status (i.e. those who couldn't, or hadn't elected to, engage with the surveying) was above the national average and may have influenced the differential negatively.

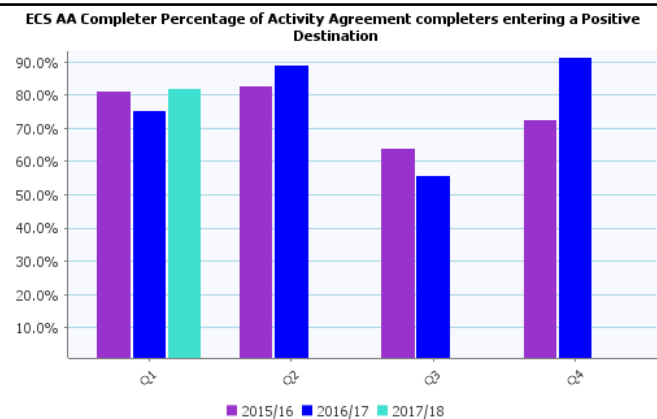
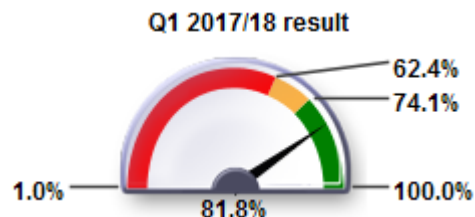
Responsible officer:

Integrated Children's Services Board

Last Updated:

2016/17

Percentage of Activity Agreement Completers Entering a Positive Participation Destination



Why is this important?

This is a core outcome which links directly to the National Performance Benchmark Participation Measure for education in Scotland, and the Aberdeen Guarantees agenda, evidencing the extent to which the local authority and partners, through direct intervention and support, can assist those who are identified at an early stage as being at risk of entering a negative destination on leaving formal education, into positive participation outcomes.

Benchmark Information:

Benchmarking of a range of leaver destination outcomes is provided through publication of Scottish Government data-sets covering initial, sustained and specific cohort outcomes on an annual basis. Presently, this information is published through several separate releases at different levels of detail by the Scottish Government <http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2016/06/4523>

Target:

The 2017-18 Improvement objective is to increase the proportion of Activity Agreement completers in a positive destination in line with the wider Participation Measure related objective which is to achieve a 3% point improvement (82%) over the course of the full year.

Intelligence:

Of the eleven participants engaged by the Activity Agreement team, and completing the Agreement term, over the course of Quarter 1, nine individuals had achieved a positive destination at conclusion of the period, providing for an outcome of 81.8%. This provides for a rolling year to date outcome of 79.3% that is in line with the annual target figure.

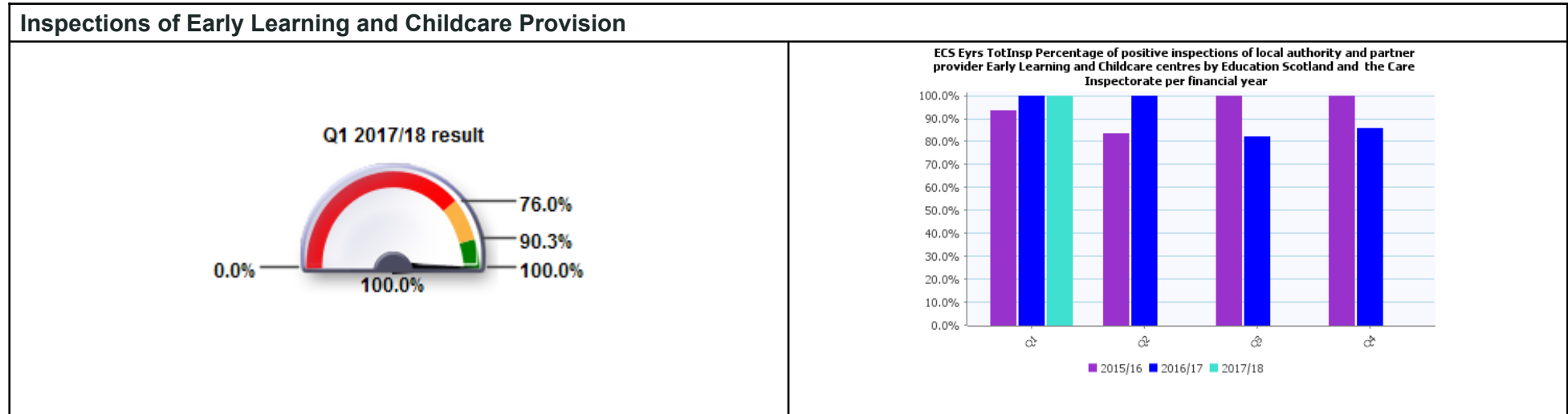
Responsible officer:

Helen Shanks

Last Updated:

Q1 2017/18

2. Improvement Objective - We will ensure continued quality of childcare provision



Why is this important?

This measure serves as a formal indicator of the quality of education, support and care provision afforded to children within local authority and funded partner provider Early Years settings, through a combination of peer-based and self-evaluation evidence and links directly to Local Outcome and Directorate Improvement Plan Objectives under the People thematic.

Benchmark Information:

There is presently no direct capacity for benchmarking of this combined measure although Education Scotland outcomes for schools and early years establishments in each academic year from 2012 onwards, including those for 2016, are compared with the national baseline and where made available, against the Authority’s formal HMle benchmark group. <http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk>

Information relating to the drill-down national outcomes of Care Inspectorate work, which can be used as a point of comparison, is beginning to be shared with local authorities but has yet to be presented in a consistent publication format that is accessible enough to allow inter-authority comparison. <http://www.careinspectorate.com>

Target:

The target for this measure, which combines outcomes from Education Scotland and Care Inspectorate inspections of both local authority and partner provider early learning and childcare settings, is set at an averaged 98% for the 2017-18 academic year. The target figure for sub-indicators against each inspection regime, relating to local authority provision alone, is 100% for the current academic year.

Intelligence:

The outcome for Quarter 1 was 100% which encompassed a single inspection of a partner provider Early Years and Childcare establishments by the Care Inspectorate over the three-month period. There were no publications of Education Scotland inspections during the quarter.

The Scottish Government has announced that, as of April 2018, there will be an enhanced national programme of Education Scotland inspection which, once in place, will enhance the scope and value of this metric and support providers in planning for improvement.

Linked to this improvement theme, Education Scotland has recently published an evaluation report which considers the effectiveness of the Big Noise projects in Raploch, Govanhill and Torry and highlights some of the work being done in Early Years settings that may assist in providing schools with supporting evidence, at inspection, of how they are meeting the requirements of HGIOS 4.

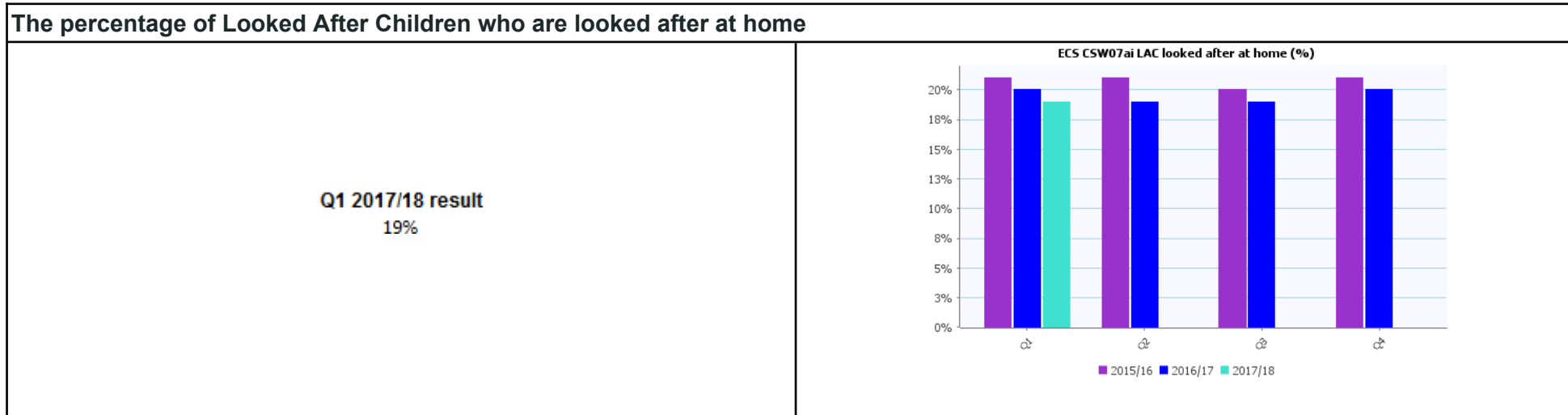
Responsible officer:

Helen Shanks

Last Updated:

Q1 2017/18

3. Improvement Objective: - We will consolidate the implementation of Reclaiming Social Work



Why is this important?

The principle of assisting families to remain together in a supported environment is key to delivery of the Directorate's improvement objectives around the care and support of vulnerable children. However, the needs of the child are always prioritised and a child is kept at home with their family only when safe to do so.

Benchmark Information:

National benchmark data relating to looked after children are collated during July of each year. It is published during the course of the national information release through the Children's Social Work Statistics report (often referred to as the CLAS return) in March of the following year.

Target:

At present Aberdeen City Council is slightly below the national average for the percentage of looked after children supported at home. However, the implementation of Reclaiming Social Work (RSW) has at its heart the intended outcome of supporting families to care for their children and it is envisaged that, as RSW beds in across the structure we will begin to see an increase in both the proportion and the numbers of looked after children supported to remain at home, bringing Aberdeen in line with the national average

Intelligence:

Of the 671 children looked after placements of 639 individuals, 128 (19%) were recorded as being looked after at home. This was marginally less than in previous quarters, although the rate has remained relatively constant for the last five quarters, fluctuating by 1-2% around a baseline 20% figure. The proportion at July 2016, reported through the CLAS Return, was 21% for Aberdeen City and although this local measure is staying broadly the same over an extended period, the national proportion of children looked after at home has been reducing.

Responsible officer:

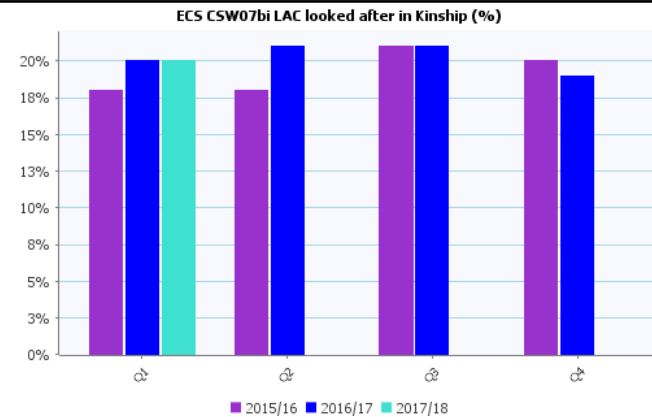
Bernadette Oxley

Last Updated:

Q1 2017/18

The percentage of Looked After Children who are looked after in a Kinship Care Arrangement

Q1 2017/18 result
20%



Why is this important?

Aberdeen City Council in collaboration with partners, the Scottish Government and CELCIS is participating in the PACE (Permanence & Care Excellence) programme. This is aimed at improving the decision making for children who cannot be cared for by their parents and enhance the use of Kinship Care arrangements

Benchmark Information:

As above

Target:

At present, the proportion of looked after children in Aberdeen living in a kinship placement is lower than the annual proportion for comparator areas and the national average by 3% and 6% respectively. One of the aims of Reclaiming Social Work is that there will be fewer children accommodated in foster care and residential and that more remain with family and in a kinship arrangement over the longer term.

Intelligence:

131 looked after children were in a kinship care arrangement (i.e. with friend/relatives) at the snapshot point This equates to 20% of the total of 671 child placements This matches the same period in 2016-17, when 126 placements out of a total of 640 child placements were in a kinship arrangement, maintaining the upwards trend for this measure with an increase in the comparable rolling year-to-date figure from 19.5% and 19.75% in the previous two years, to 20.25% for this 12 month period.

Responsible officer:

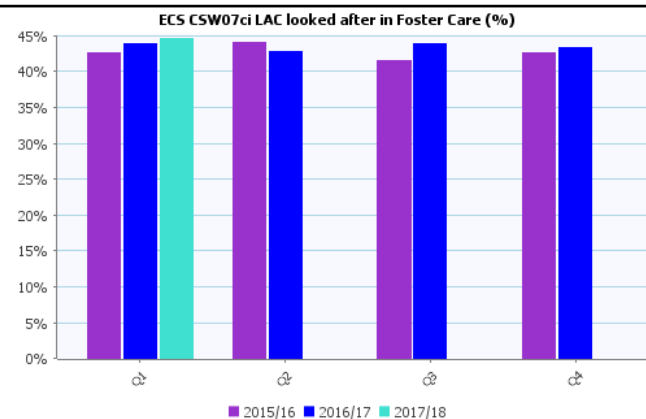
Bernadette Oxley

Last Updated:

Q1 2017/18

The percentage of Looked After Children who are looked after in foster care

Q1 2017/18 result
45%



Why is this important?

Wherever possible and appropriate to the needs of the child, we would seek to place children who cannot be cared for at home or by kin in a family –

based placement. This recognises that the outcomes for children in such an environment are generally better than in alternative care settings in these circumstances.

Benchmark Information:

As above

Target:

There is no specific target for the percentage of looked after children in foster care, although in recognition of the potential benefits for those children placed in this type of provision, the Service aims to ensure accessibility to quality foster care where staying at home with family or in kinship arrangements is not possible. The Service continues to increase the supply of local foster carers to ensure children are placed near to their family and communities and also to maximise cost benefits against this type of local provision.

Intelligence:

At the Quarter 1 snapshot, the proportion of looked after children who were placed in foster care was 45%, the highest quarterly figure over the reporting period against a background of an increased number of looked after children in the City. Of the total of 671 looked after children placements, 299 were in foster care settings

The development of fostering services has been taken forwards in 2017 to support foster carers to provide high quality care for vulnerable children who exhibit challenging behaviours as a result of their early life experiences. It is hoped this will reduce the numbers of placements that breakdown which can require a different and more expensive care placement and this outcome offers early signs of progress in this area.

Like the Kinship data above, this is also supported by the rolling improvement trend which at Quarter1 saw the 12 month average figure rise to 43.75%, in contrast to the figure from the same period in 2015-16 which was 40.5%.

Responsible officer:

Bernadette Oxley

Last Updated:

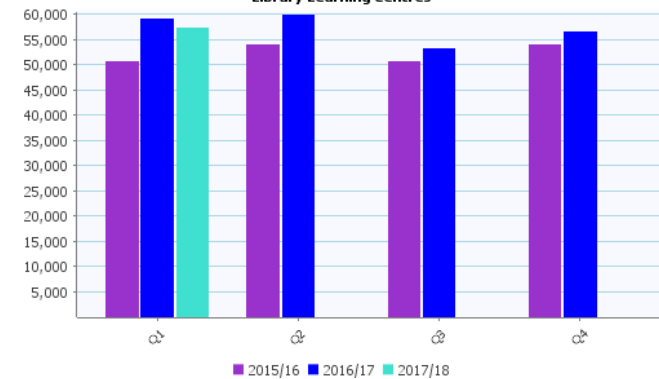
Q1 2017/18

1. Improvement Objective – Citizens have access to learning opportunities to develop their digital skills and literacy

Level of PC and Wi-Fi platform access use within Library Centres

Cumulative result for Q1 2017/18 as of June 2017
57,378

ECS Lib PC/Wifi Number of PC terminal and Netloan Wi-Fi access uses within Libraries and Library Learning Centres



Why is this important?

This reflects the access to IT facilities that Library & Information Services deliver to the wider community of Aberdeen that supports literacy and learning and provides essential lifelines to employment, health information and access to government and community services, which are increasingly only available via use of digital technology.

Benchmark Information:

Public libraries across Scotland continue to use the Strategic Aims set out in Ambition and Opportunity: A National Strategy for Public Libraries in Scotland as a benchmarking tool and the SCoPL consortium also continues to be used as a benchmarking group to look at identifying service improvements and driving these forward. The How Good is our Public Library Service (HGIOPLS) framework and assessment process have been fully revised and are now being used to assess our own performance against benchmarking indicators agreed across public library services within Scotland.

Target:

The Service aims to increase the scope and number of uses linked to digital engagement over the course of the next two years as a qualitative indicator evidencing improvement in the context of the national strategy and HGIOPL evaluations, alongside the Directorate Improvement Plan objective to provide support against the Enabling Technology theme (see below)

Intelligence:

Although marginally below the outcome for Quarter 1 in 2016-17 (-3%) the level of usage linked to both PC and Wi-Fi supported engagement continues to demonstrate long term improvement with rolling year Wi-Fi use rising to c.58,000 'registrations' (+30%) and growth being continuously sustained over 8 quarters. At the same time, PC usage, although similarly below the same period in the previous year, provides the overwhelming majority of recorded uses (41,800) over the quarter and shows only a limited reduction over time suggesting that transference from one mode of use to another is not as substantive as might have been expected from expansion of the Wi-Fi infrastructure.

Responsible officer:

Helen Shanks

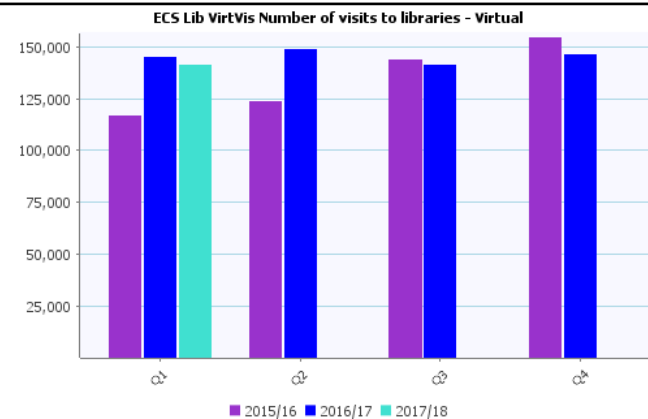
Last Updated:

Q1 2017/18

2. Improvement Objective – We will enhance the accessibility of digital cultural participation and learning platforms

Virtual Visits to the Library and Information Service

Cumulative result for Q1 2017/18 as of June 2017
141,058



Why is this important?

This measure evaluates the extent to which the Service is providing widened digital access to its offering against the Enabling Technology theme - 'Enhancement of the accessibility of cultural participation and learning platforms within the Directorate' contained within the Directorate Improvement Plan and contributing to the Economy Outcome 3 - 'We will work with partners and the community to develop iconic tourism attractions to capitalise on non-business tourism and leisure markets and stimulate diverse culture and creative offerings'

Benchmark Information:

Public libraries across Scotland continue to use the Strategic Aims set out in Ambition and Opportunity: A National Strategy for Public Libraries in Scotland as a benchmarking tool and the SCoPL consortium also continues to be used as a benchmarking group to look at identifying service improvements and driving these forward. The How Good is our Public Library Service (HGIOPLS) framework and assessment process have been fully revised and are now being used to assess our own performance against benchmarking indicators agreed across public library services within Scotland.

Target:

The Service aims to increase the scope and number of uses linked to digital engagement over the course of the next two years as a qualitative indicator evidencing improvement in the context of the national strategy and HGIOPL evaluations, alongside the Directorate Improvement Plan objective to provide support against the Enabling Technology theme.

The number of visits to Libraries (in person and virtual) is a direct contributing metric towards the original 2016-17 Strategic Plan Objective which aims to increase attendances and visits to places of culture by 70,000 by the end of 2017. In this instance, whilst no specific target for this lower level metric has been set, the Service seeks to increase active engagement annually as an intermediate aim towards meeting of the above Objective

Intelligence:

The outcome for Quarter 1 reflects both short and long term deterioration against prior and more recent previous quarters with 141,058 visits, some 4,000 visits than the same quarter in 2016-17. At the same time, the rolling year baseline (average) for virtual visits, which offers a more robust oversight, is only marginally below the comparative 12 month period from 2016-17. The Library Management team continue to monitor usage of the individual contributing web platforms to establish patterns that may be influencing these quarterly trend patterns.

Responsible officer:

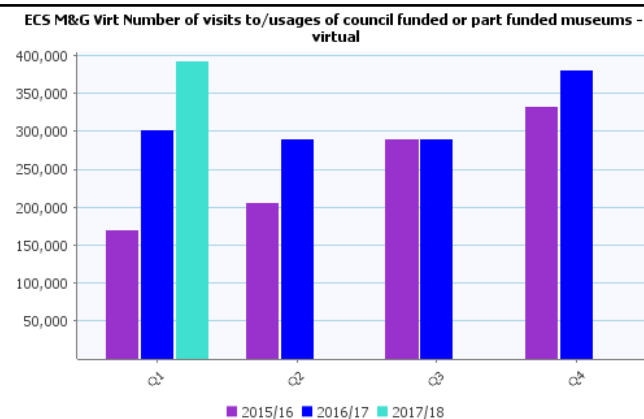
Helen Shanks

Last Updated:

Q1 2017/18

The number of Virtual Visits to the Museums and Galleries Service

Cumulative result for Q1 2017/18 as of June 2017
392,399



Why is this important?

The Local Outcome, and the Directorate Improvement, Plans contain objectives which aim to increase the overall number of visits (including virtual) to Museum and Galleries venues, linked with re-development of Aberdeen Art Gallery and re-opening of Provost Skene's House whilst also contributing to the wider Economy and Place themes based on current provision

This measure also evaluates the extent to which the Service is providing widened digital access to its offering, supporting the current and future venue capacity to enhance use of the City's visitor attractions and tourism levels related to the above thematic, and also against the Enabling Technology objective - 'Enhancement of the accessibility of cultural participation and learning platforms within the Directorate'

Benchmark Information:

The capacity for a degree of operational benchmarking of the Museums and Galleries Service outcomes and outputs against comparator authority and national levels is provided through an annual CIPFA publication normally released in June of each subsequent fiscal year.

Limited benchmarking of a restricted suite of measures relating to spend per visit is also published through the Scottish Local Government Benchmarking Framework (SLGBF) with information linking to comparative user satisfaction being made available through release of the Scottish Household Survey outcomes. This latter information is normally released in December, and January of the subsequent fiscal year,

Through the SLGBF Family Group network, local authorities are discussing development of a range of potential alternative measures which will better capture and enable reflection against comparative impacts delivered by museum and gallery services

Target:

The number of visits to Museums (in person and virtual) is a direct contributing metric towards the original 2016-17 Strategic Plan Objective which aims to increase attendances and visits to places of culture by 70,000 by the end of 2017. In this instance, whilst no specific target for this lower level metric has been set, the Service seeks to increase active engagement annually as an intermediate aim towards meeting of the above Objective

Intelligence:

The number of virtual visits to Museums and Galleries Service platforms continues to develop strongly with substantive and sustained improvements on previous quarterly outcomes which mirror the trend set over the course of the 2016-17 fiscal period. This reflects increased interest in the main AGGM website in particular but with various of the Services digital platforms also recording a rise in site landings and use.

Responsible officer:

Helen Shanks

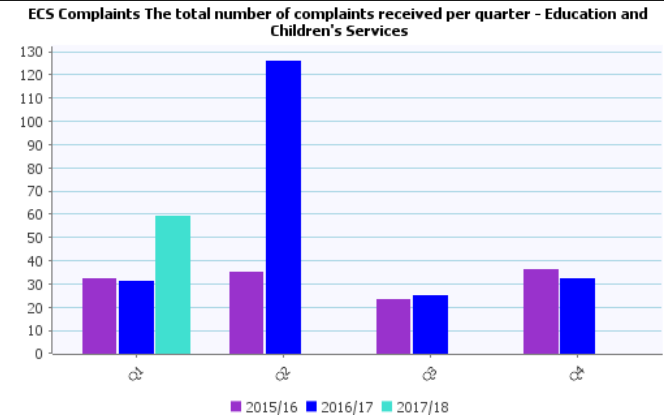
Last Updated:

Q1 2017/18

Shaping Aberdeen – Improving Customer Experience

The total number of complaints received

Q1 2017/18 result
59



Why is this important?

The information provided by the corporate Complaints Handling process is used to inform service improvements and planning. It should be noted that this information excludes complaints addressed through formal statutory frameworks related to school education and children's social work

Benchmark Information:

The Scottish Complaints Handling Procedure specifies several measures including handling times, types of complaints and outcomes as well as lessons learned. It is presently not possible to identify relevant benchmark comparisons for the number of complaints for the Directorate outwith tracking of trend patterns.

Target:

The Directorate aims to minimise the number of complaints received as part of the engagement and communication frameworks reflected within its Improvement planning.

Intelligence:

The number of complaints received over Quarter 1 rose significantly in comparison with both the previous quarter and comparative quarters, totalling 58 complaints as opposed to 32 and 31 respectively. This increase is driven by a rise in the number of complaints received against the majority of themes although, in part, is also due to multiple coding of individual complaints which cover different aspects of service provision.

Responsible officer:

Euan Couperwhite

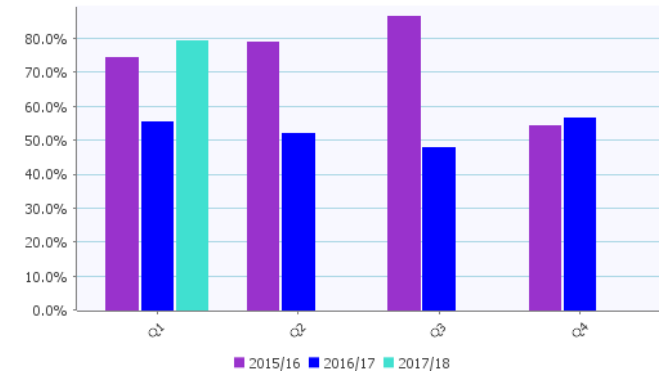
Last Updated:

Q1 2017/18

Percentage of submitted complaints resolved within time

Q1 2017/18 result
79.3%

ECS % ComRes Percentage of complaints resolved within time - Education and Children's Services



Why is this important?

The Scottish Complaints Handling Procedure specifies that all complaints must be acknowledged within 3 working days. Frontline complaints (Stage 1) should be completed in 5 working days and Investigation complaints (Stage 2) within 20 working days.

Benchmark Information:

Where appropriate, the Directorate seeks to benchmark its performance against this measure in the context of trend analysis and through comparison with both Council and other Directorate performance

Target:

The Directorate aims to maximise the proportion of complaints which are resolved within the specified timescales for Stages 1 and 2

Intelligence:

In Quarter 1, the Directorate received 59 complaints, of which 79.3% were addressed within the prescribed timescale. This shows a significant improvement on more recent quarterly outcomes despite the numbers of complaints received being relatively high over this period. The corporate figure for this quarter was recorded at 62.9%.

Responsible officer:

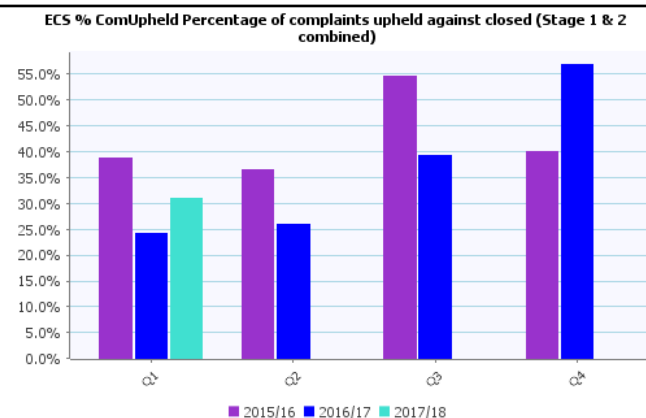
Euan Couperwhite

Last Updated:

Q1 2017/18

Percentage of submitted complaints upheld against closed (Stage 1 & 2 combined)

Q1 2017/18 result
31.0%



Why is this important?

In combination with assessment of the number of complaints and timelines for the provision of responses, the proportion of complaints which are upheld is a measure of the extent to which the Council is meeting the provisions of the Scottish Handling Complaints Procedure and, more critically, the quality of service being provided

Benchmark Information:

Where appropriate, the Directorate seeks to benchmark its performance against this measure in the context of trend analysis and through comparison with both Council and other Directorate performance. In this context, the Quarter 2 outcome is ahead of both the corporate figure and the majority of

other Directorates

Target:

The Directorate aims to minimise the proportion and number of complaints which are upheld at Stages 1 and 2 received as part of the engagement and communication frameworks reflected within its Service Business Plans

Intelligence:

The Directorate figure for the percentage of complaints upheld against closed for Stages 1 and 2 were 31%. This is amongst the lowest quarterly outcomes for the Service's, reverses a previous upwards trend. In this context, the Quarter 1 outcome is ahead of both the corporate figure (37.8%) and the majority of other Directorates. Of the 59 complaints received, 18 were upheld or partially upheld with a single escalated complaint being upheld against closed.

Responsible officer:

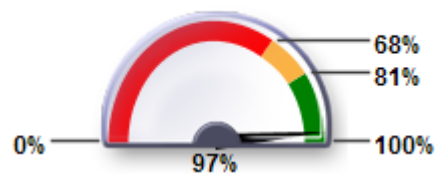
Euan Couperwhite

Last Updated:

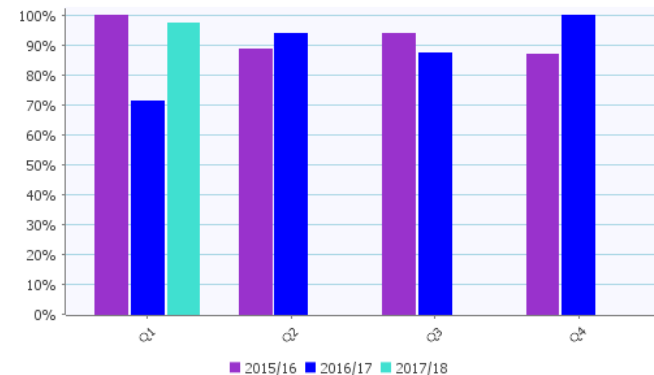
Q1 2017/18

Percentage of submitted Freedom Of Information requests replied to within timescale

Cumulative result for Q1 2017/18 as of June 2017



ECS % FOI Percentage of FOISA requests replied to within timescale - Education and Children's Services



Why is this important?

The purpose of this Indicator is to capture and reflect the Directorate's capacity for meeting the obligatory response timelines relating to the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act that requires responses to be provided within 20 working days

Benchmark Information:

At present, there is no suitable external benchmark information relating to the Directorate's performance although internal comparisons are made against both corporate level performance and that of other Directorates.

Target:

The Directorate level improvement aim is to deliver an annual outcome which improves on the annual 2016-17 figure of 89%.

Intelligence:

97% (37 from 38) of FOISA requests received by the Directorate were responded to within the specified timescale over the course of Quarter 1 with a monthly range of between 95% in May to 100% in April and June.

This reflects a substantive improvement against the rolling year-to-date average (96%) with fewer delays in responses, less need for revisions to responses submitted to the FOISA team. This is amongst the highest percentage of quarterly outcomes for the Directorate to date.

Responsible officer:

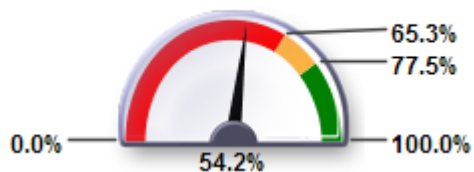
Euan Couperwhite

Last Updated:

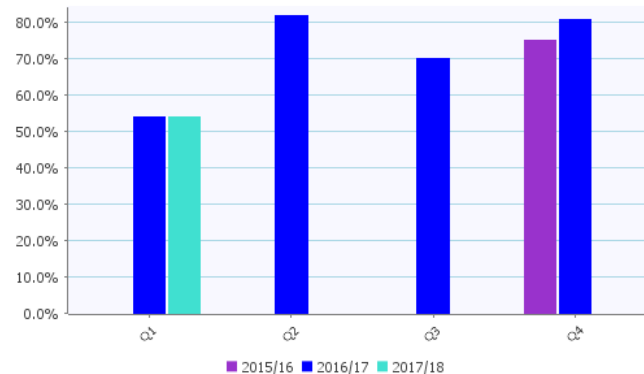
Q1 2017/18

Percentage of submitted enquiries from MP's and MSP's responded to within the prescribed timescale

Cumulative result for Q1 2017/18 as of June 2017



ECS % MP/MSP Enq % of MP/MSP Enquiries replied to within timescale - Education & Children's Services (DIP Target)



Why is this important?

The extent to which Members are enabled to be provided with accurate and timely responses to enquiries, either on behalf of constituents or in scrutinising the work of the Council, is an important measure of the effectiveness of the collaborative approach to information sharing.

Benchmark Information:

At present, there is no suitable external benchmark information relating to the Directorate's performance although internal comparisons are made against both corporate level performance and that of other Directorates.

Target:

2017-18 Directorate Improvement Target – 80%

Intelligence:

Although similar to the outcome from Quarter 1 in 2016-17, the outcome for 2017-18 is below that of most previous quarterly periods with 13 of 24 enquiries being responded to within the prescribed period. Whilst this largely arises due to the monthly outcome in April, the Directorate Leadership Team has been monitoring this figure closely and has discussed options for reducing delays in responding that might be resulting from distribution and processing of enquiries. Outwith this, the complexity of a number of the enquiries submitted over the period has been an influencing factor in reducing the figure for this quarter although at 54.2%, the outcome is substantially above the corporate figure of 33.3% for the same period.

Responsible officer:

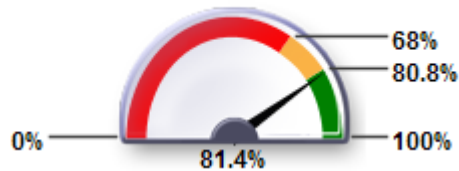
Euan Couperwhite

Last Updated:

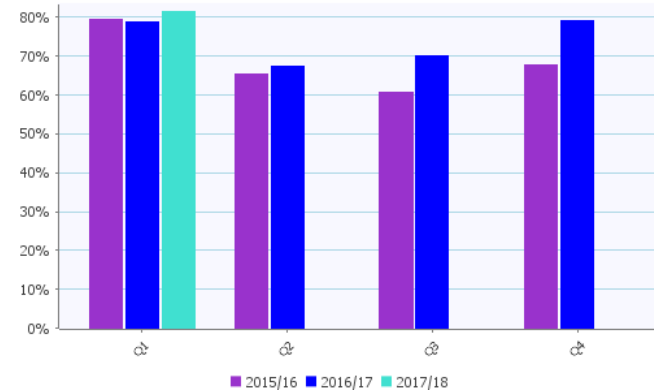
Q1 2017/18

Percentage of Members' Enquiries responded to within timescale

Cumulative result for Q1 2017/18 as of June 2017



ECS Member Enq Percentage of Members' Enquiries responded to within timescale



Why is this important?

The extent to which Members are enabled to be provided with accurate and timely responses to enquiries, either on behalf of constituents or in scrutinising the work of the Council, is an important measure of the effectiveness of the collaborative approach to information sharing.

Benchmark Information:

Presently there is no direct formal capacity for inter-authority benchmarking of this measure. From desk-top research, it is understood that a number of Councils gather information which is related to this indicator although none consistently publish this information on a comparable basis.

Target:

The Directorate aims to meet the corporate target for responses to Members' Enquiries, which is set at 85%, on a consistent basis

Intelligence:

The outcome for Quarter 1 represents the highest proportion of responses within timescale to Members' Enquiries delivered by the Directorate to date and maintains a continuous period of improvement since July 2016. In total, of the 43 enquiries received, 35 (81.4%) were responded to within the

required timeline with delays to responses arising during April being an influence. The Directorate is reviewing the monthly outcomes regularly to ensure that this trend is maintained and developed upon to meet the target figure of 85% on a consistent basis.

Responsible officer:

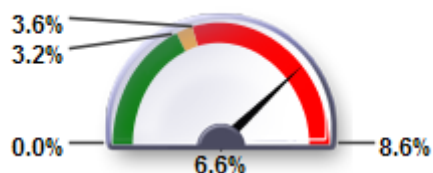
Euan Couperwhite

Last Updated:

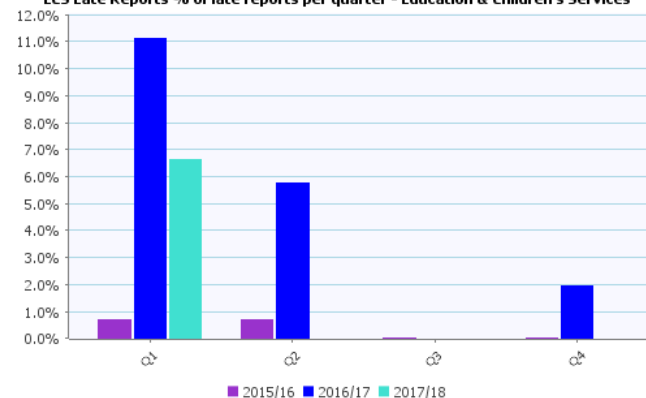
Q1 2017/18

Percentage of late reports per quarter

Cumulative result for 2017/18 as of Q1 2017/18



ECS Late Reports % of late reports per quarter - Education & Children's Services



Why is this important?

Receiving and issuing committee reports on time ensures that we are meeting our statutory responsibilities in terms of making copies of reports available and open to inspection by Elected Members and members of the public. It is essential for good governance and for the efficient and effective running of the Council. It also facilitates greater transparency, accountability and openness across the Council's decision making processes.

Benchmark Information:

Benchmarking has shown that information on this PI is not currently collected by our comparator authorities. However, it is proposed that, corporately, contact be made via the SOLAR group to ask that other authorities participate in a benchmarking exercise around late reports so that we can see how performance in Aberdeen compares to other local authorities.

Target:

2017-18 Directorate Improvement Target - 3%

Intelligence:

Both education and children’s services are experiencing an unprecedented level of legislative and policy change directed by Scottish Government’s programme(s) often with multiple guidance and direction releases from Government which provide limited time for officers to evaluate and report against these issues and which it is felt important that Members have detail against at the earliest stage given the impacts that these programmes may, or will, have on the Directorate’s financial and operational delivery.

On this basis, and whilst introduction of the new Committee processes has influenced the number of reports being recorded as Late Reports in Quarter 1 (8 reports from a total 121 submitted) it is anticipated that, moving forwards, and with the intended corporate review of the revised Committee processes in mind, the Directorate will reduce the number of Late Reports being submitted over time.

Responsible officer:

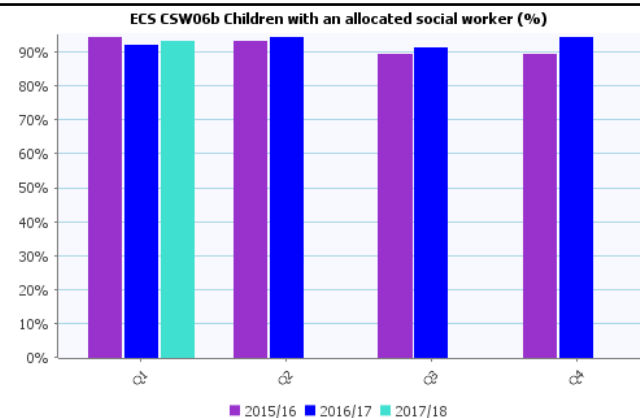
Euan Couperwhite

Last Updated:

2017/18

Percentage of children with an allocated social worker

Q1 2017/18 result
93%



Why is this important?

The extent to which children under the oversight of CSW are supported by an allocated social worker is one of a suite of core customer experience measures reflecting (a) the Service’s support of this population of vulnerable children and (b) enhancements in delivery arising from Reclaiming Social

Work which in turn will facilitate meeting of the Directorate's strategic objectives linked to Children's Social Work

Benchmark Information:

National benchmark data relating to children under the remit of Children's Social Work services are collated during July of each year. It is published during the course of the national information release through the Children's Social Work Statistics report (often referred to as the CLAS return) in March of the following year.

Target:

The Service aims, where appropriate to need, to maximise the percentage of children under its remit with an allocated social worker, taking into account changes in status and case transfer times at the snapshot point, which can result in minor (+/- 1-2%) variations in quarterly outcomes.

Due to staff turnover and operational pressures there will always be a small number of cases which do not have an allocated social worker at the snapshot point although operational overview of these cases is maintained through para-professionals and Team Management to ensure that increasing need is responded to appropriately.

The Service continues to ensure that children with the greatest need and vulnerability are prioritised in terms of allocation

Intelligence:

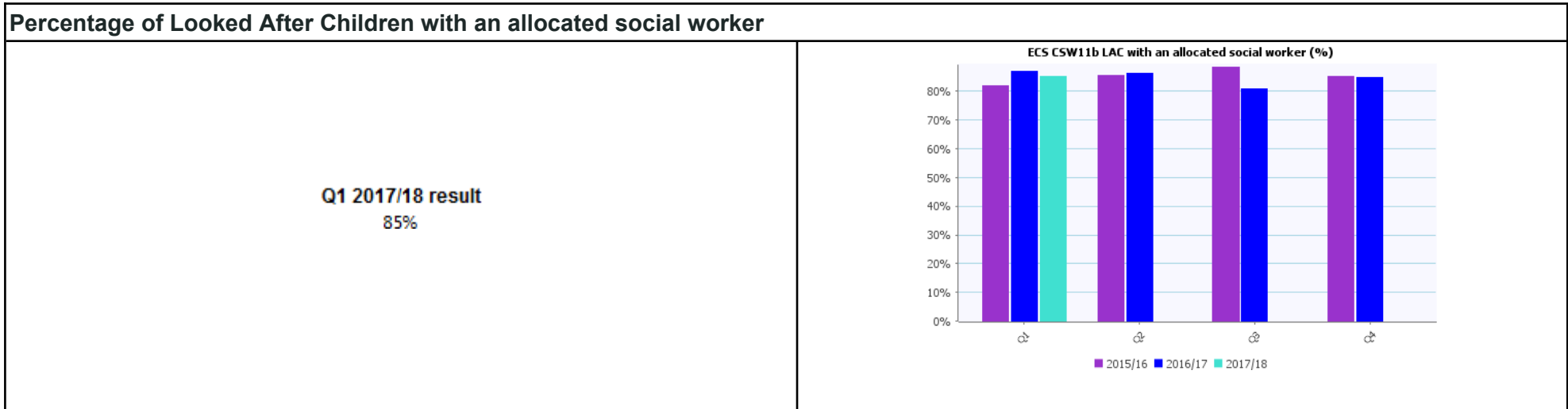
93% (1,567) of the 1,678 children supported by Children's Social Work as at 30th June 2017 had an allocated social worker. This outcome consolidates the sustained long term improvement in performance against this measure which has been evidenced over the past 12 months.

Responsible officer:

Bernadette Oxley

Last Updated:

Q1 2017/18



Why is this important?

The extent to which Looked After Children are supported by an allocated social worker is one of a suite of core customer experience measures reflecting (a) the Service’s support of this population of vulnerable children and (b) enhancements in delivery arising from Reclaiming Social Work which in turn will facilitate meeting of the Directorate’s strategic objectives linked to Children’s Social Work

Benchmark Information:

National benchmark data relating to children under the remit of Children’s Social Work services are collated during July of each year. It is published during the course of the national information release through the Children’s Social Work Statistics report (often referred to as the CLAS return) in March of the following year.

Target:

The Service aims, where appropriate to need, to increase the percentage of Looked After Children with an allocated social worker, taking into account changes in status and case transfer times at the snapshot point, which can result in minor (+/- 1-2%) variations in quarterly outcomes.

Intelligence:

85% of Looked After Children cases (586 from 689) were recorded as having been assigned a social worker at Quarter 1 end with the related monthly operational outcomes being in the high percentage decile (90% +) throughout the period. This outcome sustains the long and short term improvement trend recorded against the previous quarterly period and is above the median for the most recent 12 months

Responsible officer:

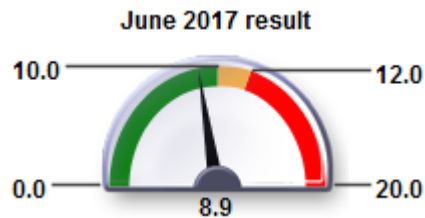
Bernadette Oxley

Last Updated:

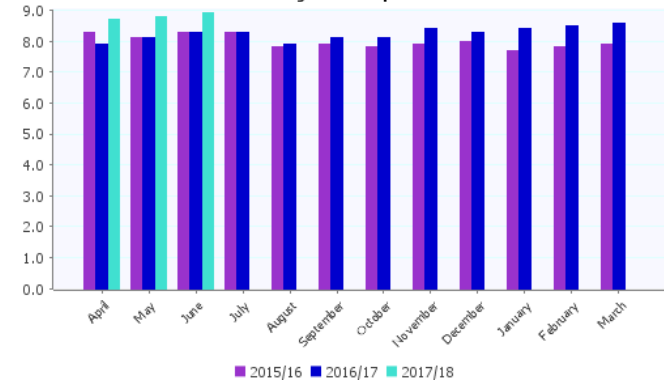
Q1 2017/18

Shaping Aberdeen - Improving Staff Experience

Average number of days lost through sickness absence



ECS Absence Average number of days lost through sickness absence per employee in a rolling 12 month period



Why is this important?

The extent to which employee’s health and wellbeing is maintained and staff are supported, through the application of Council policies, to prevent and militate against the impacts of ill-health, is central to the Council’s relationship with its employees. This measure is one of a suite of indicators on this theme which is captured in the Directorate’s general and Health and Safety Improvement Plans 2017-18

Benchmark Information:

The Directorate aims to consistently reduce the number of days lost through illness absence in comparison with previous patterns, the corporate target and other Directorates within the Council.

The Council, corporately, is part of a Local Government Benchmarking Forum with other Scottish Local Authorities looking at absence levels. The

forum will be meeting on a regular basis and seeks to learn from best practice in other Local Authorities. Lessons learned from this exercise will be developed and implemented as appropriate at Directorate level.

Target:

The corporate target for the average number of days lost through illness is 10 days. For this quarterly period, the corporate figure for the Council sits at 10.6 days

Intelligence:

At the snapshot point on 30th June, the Directorate recorded an average number of days lost per employee on a rolling 12 month period of 8.9 days which was marginally higher than in May and above that of most monthly outcomes measured through this metric over the past 9 months.

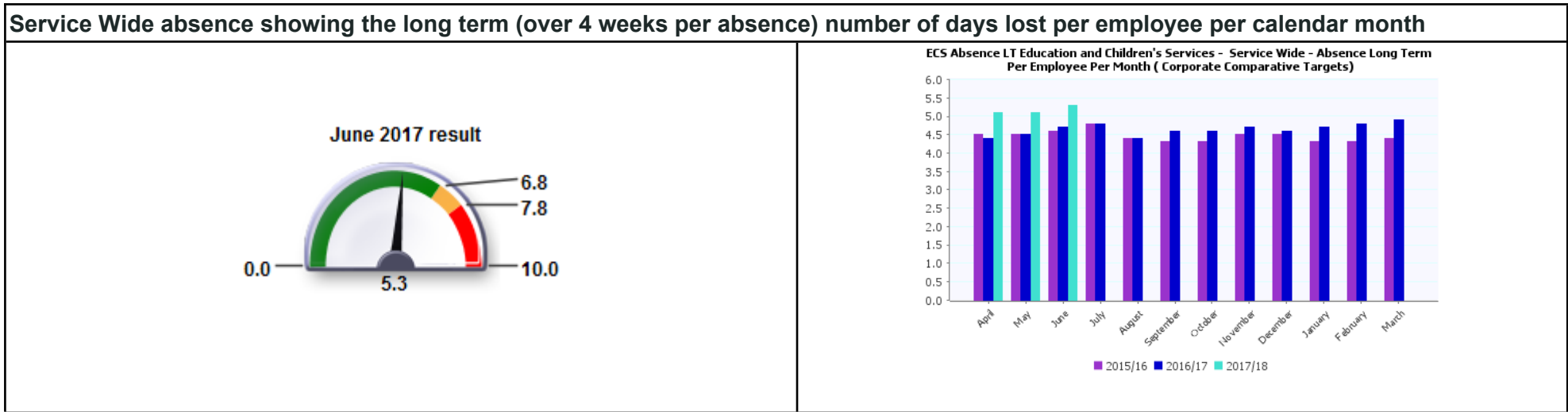
This provides for a mean financial year to date figure of 8.8 days, 0.7% higher than that recorded against the same periods both in in 2016-17 and 2015-16. At this level, the outcome for the Directorate compares favourably against those Council services involved in 'front line delivery' and the wider corporate metric (10.6 days) but is demonstrating a deteriorating short term trend.

Responsible officer:

Euan Couperwhite

Last Updated:

June 2017



Why is this important?

As above

Benchmark Information:

As above

Target:

The Directorate aims to align its Long Term Absence outcomes at a level which is below the Council average whilst reducing the overall figure over the course of each year. The Directorate is presently reviewing a variety of aims, measures and targets through the development of discrete and detailed Maximising Attendance Improvement planning

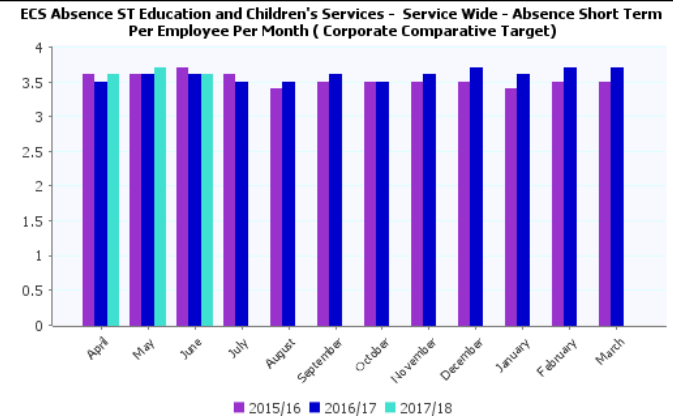
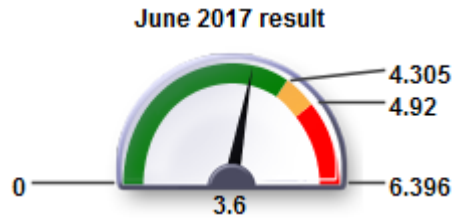
Intelligence:

The outcome for June at 5.3 days Long term Absence per employee is indicative of an upwards movement in the past three months. Having noted this, the figure compares well to the corporate outcome of 6.5 days.

Responsible officer:

Last Updated:

Service Wide absence showing the short term (less than 4 weeks per absence) number of days lost per employee per calendar month



Why is this important?

As above

Benchmark Information:

As above

Target:

As above

Intelligence:

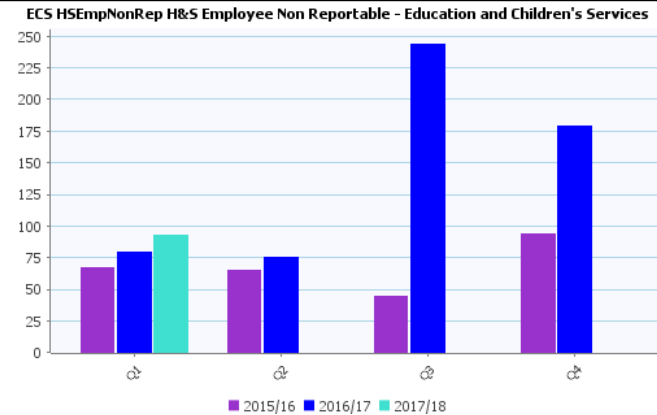
Short Term Absence levels for the month remain static at 3.6 days absence per employee. This is below the corporate figure of 4.1 days although the Directorate is aware that there has been some closing of the gap with this figure which, it is intended, the above Improvement Planning will examine

Responsible officer:

Last Updated:

H&S Employee Non Reportable by Directorate

Q1 2017/18 result
93



Why is this important?

The Directorate is committed to making health safety and wellbeing a high priority in all our activities and establishing a positive health and safety culture. This is reflected in a number of drivers and improvement measures within the Directorate's 2017-18 Improvement and Health and Safety Improvement Plans.

Benchmark Information:

The Directorate's extended suite of reportable and non-reportable accidents, incidents and near miss outcomes are considered and benchmarked through the Corporate Health and Safety Committee on a regular basis.

Target:

The Directorate aims to minimise the number of non-reportable and near miss events on a consistent basis over the course of the next two years and establish the potential for additional benchmarking against comparator Services within other authorities. Through the Directorate Health and Safety Improvement Plan, Senior Management teams have identified particular measures and actions which are critical to delivering both improved outcomes and embedding an enhanced Health and Safety culture.

Intelligence:

The outcome for Quarter 1 records 93 non-reportable incidents. This represents a material reduction on the previous two quarterly periods that were elevated by a combination of increased reporting of near miss incidents. Although at an early stage, the Directorate is developing a review process to report and scrutinise trends within near miss reporting.

Responsible officer:

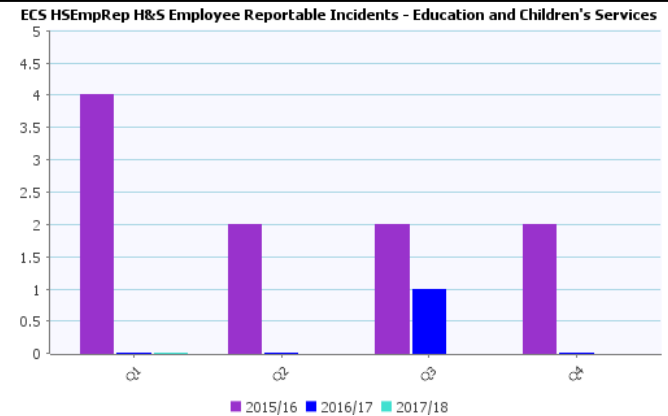
Euan Couperwhite

Last Updated:

Q1 2017/18

H&S Employee Reportable Incidents

Q1 2017/18 result
0



Why is this important?

As above

Benchmark Information:

As above

Target:

The Directorate aims to minimise the number of reportable events on a consistent basis over the course of the next two years and establish the

potential for additional benchmarking against comparator Services within other authorities.

Intelligence:

There were no reportable incidents recorded during Quarter 1. Through the 2017-18 Directorate Health and Safety Improvement Plan, Senior Management teams have identified particular measures and actions which are critical to delivering both improved outcomes and embedding an enhanced Health and Safety culture.

Responsible officer:

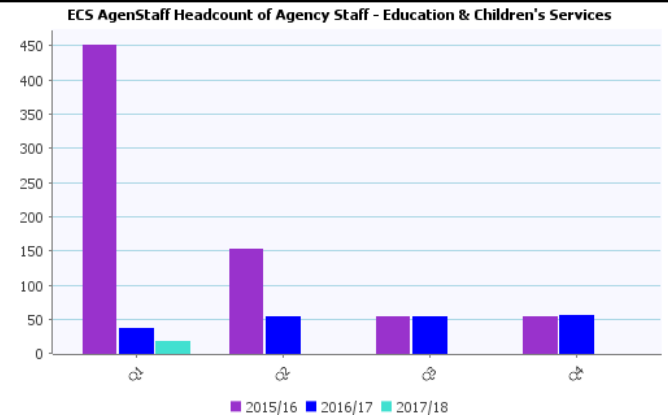
Euan Couperwhite

Last Updated:

Q1 2017/18

Headcount of Agency Staff

Cumulative result for Q1 2017/18 as of June 2017
18



Why is this important?

Use of external staff resource is sometimes unavoidable, for example where permanent employees are absent due to long-term ill-health. In general terms, however, use of external support should be minimised and more efficient methods of filling essential posts for prolonged periods found.

Benchmark Information:

At present, there is no comparable Directorate level benchmark information available against this measure. Corporately, efforts are being made to identify peer- based opportunities for comparison with other authorities through the Scottish Local Government Benchmarking Framework.

Target:

The Directorate is presently reviewing the relevance of applying a target figure for quarterly outcomes as some operational aspects of front line service delivery are impacted directly by seasonal influences which are most effectively addressed through use of short term agency employment. At this time, the Directorate aim is to minimise the use of agency employees as an average across each 12-month period

Intelligence:

The Directorate has substantially reduced the use of agency employed workers in the first quarter of 2017-18. This use is exclusively limited to critical delivery functions which are central to the support of Directorate improvement programmes, e.g. Reclaiming Social Work.

Although improving, recruitment to some posts within Children's Social Work proves to be an on-going challenge with appointments against Consultant Social Worker positions being key. Over the past number of months, the Service has been working with colleagues in HR on a development programme for staff keen to move to being Consultant Social Workers with the aim of beginning the programme in late 2017. If successful, the selected applicants, would complete the development programme in approximately 6 months before moving to take up the role of Consultant Social Worker on a permanent basis.

Responsible officer:

Last Updated:

Euan Couperwhite

Q1 2017/18

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Education and Children's Services
DATE	16 th November 2017
REPORT TITLE	Early Learning and Childcare Financial Template
REPORT NUMBER	ECS/17/057
DIRECTOR	Gayle Gorman
REPORT AUTHOR	Eleanor Sheppard and Brian Dow

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT:-

The purpose of this report is to provide Committee with an updated Early Learning and Childcare Delivery Plan including the completed indicative financial template.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

It is recommended that Committee:

- (i) note the content of the current version of the Early Learning and Childcare Delivery Plan including the indicative financial template contained at the exempt appendix to the report;
- (ii) instruct the Head of Education and Inclusion to present a further updated Early Learning and Childcare Delivery Plan to the appropriate Committee once notification of capital and revenue grants are received from Scottish Government;
- (iii) endorse the interim Memorandum of Understanding between Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Council in relation to the provision of Early Learning and Childcare for Cross Border Split Placements as detailed at section 3.8 of the report; and
- (iv) delegate authority to the Head of Education and Inclusion to allocate the 17/18 early years expansion revenue and capital grants, and in utilising the grant to instruct the Head of Education and Inclusion to ensure that the many assumptions made in the financial template are rigorously tested to support more accurate financial planning.

3. BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES

3.1 The National Expansion of Early Learning and Childcare (ELC)

The Scottish Government is committed to expanding the provision of funded early learning and childcare (ELC) from 600 hours to 1140 hours by 2020. The Scottish Government recognises that existing ELC provision will have to be transformed to deliver 1140 hours in line with the Ministers' Blueprint for 2020 and encourages Local Authorities to innovate to improve service delivery.

3.2 Submission of the Early Learning and Childcare Plan

All Local Authorities submitted an Early Learning and Childcare Delivery Plan and Financial Template in September 2017. Prior to submission The Early Learning and Childcare Delivery Plan was presented to the Education and Children's Services Committee in September 2017, however the indicative Financial template was not available at that time and Committee requested early sight of the template.

3.3 Submission of the Financial Template

The Financial Template has been developed by The Scottish Government to give an indication of the costs of the expansion and to support the Scottish Government to distribute funding allocations. The template comprised core data fields with additional optional fields to be continually developed over time. The Aberdeen City template was populated as fully as possible and submitted with a letter from the Director of Education and Children's Services to highlight the indicative nature of the data enclosed within the template. The transformational nature of the expansion has led to the Financial Plan being based on a number of untested assumptions which limit the robustness of the submission.

The Scottish Government Delivery Team began scrutinising the financial plan on November 1st 2017 and provided some feedback on the optional fields and amendments have been made in light of this feedback. The Scottish Government will continue to engage with Local Authorities to scrutinise the assumptions used to reach decisions on the expansion of ELC. This will allow Scottish Government to make robust decisions on funding allocations. This is likely to result in both the Delivery Plan and Financial Template being subject to ongoing amendment. Indicative allocations of both capital and revenue funding are anticipated at the end of January 2018 and these allocations will lead to a further review of the Plans to ensure that a sustainable model is built.

3.4 Capital Funding

The Scottish Government has guided Local Authorities to fully utilise the infrastructure across the city to ensure that low unit costs are established. This need for controlled unit costs has partially contributed to our plan to offer provision from 8am to 6pm. The National Team has also advised Local Authorities to use what they have and consider making better use of infrastructure already well established in communities, with new builds only being considered when they offer best value to meet local need.

Data around supply and demand changes routinely. For the purposes of planning a cut-off date at the end of July 2017 was chosen to support the development of the Delivery Plan. A comprehensive Early Learning and Childcare Data Dashboard has been developed to ensure that we track supply and demand carefully. This dashboard will guide final decision making and ensure the best use of public funds.

Anticipated costs have been developed using the formula within the spreadsheet and baseline metrics provided by Scottish Government. Design Team costs to cover associated planning costs run at 15% and this anticipated additional cost has been flagged up to The Scottish Government.

3.5 Revenue Funding

The Scottish Government are keen to ascertain the cost of delivering the Blueprint for Early Learning and Childcare and have suggested the use of a number of assumptions. A provisional staffing formula has been developed to inform planning. The formula is currently untested and will be refined over the coming months as early tests of change guide our work.

The redesign of the Early Years' Service will bring about efficiencies and more locality based support is current being tested. This early test will help us develop more robust costings for central teams as we work towards 2020.

Our current provision of Me2 for eligible 2 year olds sits separately from provision for 3 and 4 year olds. This separation has a negative impact on uptake and doesn't allow for a continuum of ELC provision. It is likely that the Me2 provision will be mainstreamed within our offer of ELC and this should lead to increased uptake, the costs of which will be partially offset by operating a more efficient continuum of provision.

Many Local Authorities make use of ELC settings to offer wraparound care for older children with income offsetting costs. This has not been the delivery model in Aberdeen City and this section has been left empty while we scope the potential of this model for Aberdeen City.

3.6 Work to date on the expansion of Early Learning and Childcare

Work has progressed since the plan was presented to Committee in September 2017. Highlights include:

- Stakeholder groups being established including practitioners and professional associations with engagement events for practitioners planned for November 2017
- Schools developing proposed tests of change to test some of our assumptions and include local authority staff in shaping the expansion
- A Communications and Engagement Plan being implemented resulted in regular updates being available to both internal and external customers
- The establishment of an Early Learning and Childcare Academy with a launch anticipated before the end of 2017
- Working with colleagues in Human Resources to ensure clarity for the workforce
- Quality Leadership Training being procured to support the expansion

- Cross boundary agreements being put in place, as a result of working with other local authorities in the Northern Alliance and with another urban local authority
- The early review of policies to support processes and high quality provision
- On-going consultation in the three priority areas
- Surveys of infrastructure and potential sites both within and out with the Education and Children's Services account.

3.7 **Review of the Early Learning and Childcare Delivery Plan in January**

The Scottish Government anticipate that minimal levels of funding for the next 5 years will be shared with the local authority at the end of January. These minimal levels of capital and revenue funding will lead to a review of the ELC Delivery Plan and associated Financial Plan to ensure that the future model is affordable. The updated plans will be presented to Committee in early 2018.

3.8 **Interim Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)**

Local Authorities were historically discouraged from making any inter-authority arrangements regarding charging for Early Learning and Childcare placements as an element of movement was incorporated into the calculations for Grant Aided Expenditure. Local Authorities are now able to make local agreements to support split placements as allocations are made to the Local Authority the child resides in.

Aberdeenshire Council allow families to split their entitlement to Early Learning and Childcare provision between a provider in Aberdeenshire and a partner provider in Aberdeen City Council.

Where Aberdeenshire families choose to make use of a private or third sector partner provider, Aberdeen City Council pay the provider for the hours used in accordance with our Partnership Agreement and require a mechanism to recharge these costs to Aberdeenshire.

During 2016/17 15 Aberdeenshire children accessed their Early Learning and Childcare provision through a cross border, split placement arrangement. This has increased to 19 in the current session.

Aberdeen City Council currently pays each provider £4.10 per hour for the provision of Early Learning and Childcare for each child. The introduction of the Memorandum of Understanding will allow Aberdeen City Council to be reimbursed by Aberdeenshire Council for this expenditure which could amount to a £20,000 recharge for this session.

Aberdeen City Council's policy currently does not allow families to access Early Learning and Childcare in this way but plans to build on this initial agreement to develop a more comprehensive document to ensure that we have clear policies in place to support the expansion to 1140 hours.

4. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 Additional funding to support the revenue and capital costs associated with the Delivery Plan will be allocated from the Scottish Government and from the

re-design of existing service budgets. This is in addition to the money already received for implementation in 17/18.

- 4.2 The actual level of funding from the Scottish Government is expected at the beginning of 2018. Clarity around levels of Scottish Government funding in January will result in the review of the Delivery Plan and associated Financial Plan.
- 4.3 This is a major change initiative and it will be important to closely monitor the financial implications of such changes as the Delivery Plan will be implemented to ensure that expenditure is in line with available funding.
- 4.4 The Finance Service is represented on the Project Board to ensure that any financial deviations are quickly identified and addressed.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act guides our consultation and engagement with communities to ensure that the expanded provision impacts positively on longer term outcomes.
- 5.2 All Local Authorities will have a duty to provide 1140 hours of Early Learning and Childcare for eligible two year olds and all three and four year olds by August, 2020. The ELC Delivery Plan will help us manage the transformational change necessary to deliver expanded services by 2020.

6. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

6.1 Financial

The Scottish Government has indicated that a total of £400 million capital funding will be available across Scotland, up to 2020. The Scottish Government has yet to confirm how much revenue funding will be available.

Scottish Government has provided Funding amounting to £1.035 million (capital) and £725,000 (revenue) to Aberdeen City Council in 2017/2018. Future levels of revenue and capital funding from The Scottish Government are anticipated in January 2018.

The expansion of funded Early Learning and Childcare will require very careful budget monitoring and financial planning to mitigate the risk of funding being insufficient to realise the expansion. The service is working with Finance staff to ensure careful monitoring of budgets.

The Project Manager will monitor progress on a daily basis and advise the Project Sponsor of any emerging risks to ensure that risks are mitigated at the earliest opportunity. The Early Learning and Childcare Project Board will oversee financial planning and spending to further mitigate the risks so that they remain low.

6.2 Employee

An inability to recruit sufficient numbers of practitioners to support the delivery of the expansion is a high risk. A detailed workforce development plan has been included within the Delivery Plan. This plan includes the establishment of an Early Learning and Childcare Academy to increase the number of practitioners and also increase the number of routes into the profession. The workforce plan will be reviewed and amended on a six monthly basis and this will ensure that the risk remains low.

6.3 Customer/citizen

Our youngest children and eligible 2s will benefit most from the expansion of Early Learning and Childcare through the provision of local high quality services. There are significant benefits for families who will be able to use the extended hours to enable them to take up or return to employment or to access training.

There is a need to undertake research to determine how best to design services that will have the greatest impact on children and families to ensure that we maximise the impact of the expansion of ELC. The Educational Psychology Service is supporting this work by identifying the features of expanded provision that are most likely to improve outcomes for vulnerable families. This will ensure that we capitalise on the opportunities offered through this expansion to directly improve outcomes for children and families. Inter-generational approaches will be supported wherever possible as this has been proved to have a significantly positive impact on all parties.

This approach will ensure that the risk remains low.

6.4 Environmental

Full environmental assessments will be undertaken prior to confirming any sites for expansion or extension and feasibility studies will be undertaken where appropriate. This level of scrutiny will ensure that environmental risks remain low.

6.5 Technological

There is a risk that the technology is not in place to support the transformation and particularly the 'funding follows the child' model being advocated. Work is on-going across the Scottish Government and the Northern Alliance to mitigate this risk to ensure it remains low.

6.6 Legal and Reputational

The reputational risks of not being in a position to roll out 1140 hours from August, 2020 are considerable. This is being mitigated through early planning, clear governance arrangements and close working between teams across Aberdeen City Council to ensure that the expansion of Early Learning and Childcare is effectively planned, coordinated and implemented.

7. IMPACT SECTION.

7.1 Economy

The expansion of Early Learning and Childcare will be an economic enabler for many parents and carers and will positively impact on those who wish to retrain, take up employment or return to work.

7.2 People

The Directorate is committed to improving the life outcomes for all people in Aberdeen, especially the most vulnerable. For this reason, the initial focus of the expansion will be on the three Community Planning Partnership Priority Areas to support families to enter the workforce.

7.3 Place

In the first instance the Delivery Plan will impact positively on families living in the three Priority Areas identified by the Community Planning Partnership.

7.4 Technology

A technological application will be required to support the 'funding follows the child' model and this is currently not available. This presents a high risk to delivering flexibility for parents and carers. This is being mitigated by working with The Scottish Government and Northern Alliance to develop an appropriate solution. This approach will ensure that the risk is managed.

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

9. APPENDICES (if applicable)

Aberdeen City Early Learning and Childcare Delivery Plan Financial Planning template - Exempt Appendix

10. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

Name	Eleanor Sheppard
Job title	Transformation and Improvement Manager
Email address	esheppard@aberdeencity.gov.uk
Phone number	01224 522707

Name	Brian Dow
Job title	Finance Business Partner
Email address	bdow@aberdeencity.gov.uk
Phone number	01224 346352

HEAD OF SERVICE DETAILS

Name	Helen Shanks
Job title	Head of Inclusion and Education Services
Email address	hshanks@aberdeencity.gov.uk
Phone number	01224 522473

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Education & Children's Services
DATE	16 November 2017
REPORT TITLE	Subsidised Transport and Safe Walking Routes to Lochside Academy
REPORT NUMBER	ECS/17/060
DIRECTOR	Gayle Gorman
REPORT AUTHOR	Andrew Jones

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT:-

This report sets out options for providing subsidised or free transport to school for pupils attending the new Lochside Academy from August 2018, and includes a report on the outcomes of a feasibility study regarding safe walking routes to the school.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

It is recommended that Committee:

(i) notes that the Head of Public Infrastructure and Environment will proceed to implement an at-grade Toucan crossing over the A956 Wellington Road, as originally stipulated in the planning consent, as it is the most suitable option in terms of providing a safe route to the new Lochside Academy for pupils, and to endorse this measure for their interest;

And

(ii) in order to support the transition to the new school, approves Option 2a in the report, to provide free-of-charge transport (using public transport services) to the new Lochside Academy, for pupils living in Torry and Kincorth only (i.e. those pupils whose home address includes one of the Torry or Kincorth postcodes listed at Appendix 4), to take effect from August 2018 and initially for a period of three years, subject to approval of the appropriate funding by the Finance, Policy and Resources Committee;

And

(iii) subject to approval of the required funding of option 2 by the Finance, Policy and Resources Committee: (1) approves the total estimated expenditure per annum (as detailed in the exempt appendix) for a maximum period of three years as detailed in this report; (2) delegates authority to the

Interim Head of Planning and Sustainable Development following consultation with the Head of Commercial and Procurement Services, to undertake a tender process for the procurement and thereafter award of a contract for the delivery of a supported bus service to operate between Deeside Bae, Leggart, Balnagask and Lochside Academy, from August 2018; and (3) delegates authority to the Head of Commercial and Procurement Services, to conclude a contract with the successful bidder;

And:

(iv) refers the financial implications of the above recommendation (ii) (as detailed in the exempt appendix) to the next meeting of the Finance, Policy and Resources Committee, in order to seek approval from that Committee for the allocation of the appropriate budget to support the agreed arrangements for pupil transport to the new school, to commence from August 2018 and initially for a period of three years;

And

(v) instructs the Head of Policy, Performance and Resources to undertake a review of the arrangements for subsidised transport to Lochside Academy after three years of its operation, and subsequently to present a report to the appropriate committee with any necessary recommendations for ending or changing these arrangements.

3. MAIN ISSUES

3.1 Background

3.1.1 At its meeting on 12 September 2013, the then Education, Culture and Sport Committee considered a report on the proposal to establish a new school to replace Torry Academy and Kincorth Academy. In addition to agreeing to proceed with the construction of the new school, which was later named Lochside Academy, the Committee instructed officers to:

- *work with local transport providers to provide subsidised dedicated transport for pupils resident in the catchment area of Torry to the proposed new school whereby the Council will support the service and pupils may pay a fare for each journey made; and*
- *Investigate the potential transport needs of all other pupils within the catchment areas of the new school.*

3.1.2 In addition, at the Council meeting of 8 October 2014, elected members considered a report on the proposed disposal of the former Victoria Road School, and agreed:

- *that a sum of £125,000 be earmarked for the necessary asset base and startup costs to be put in place for the new south of the city transportation of children costs.*

- 3.1.3 To date the Victoria Road School site has not been disposed of, and as a result the above funding is not currently available to support transportation to the new school.
- 3.1.4 Further, at its meeting on 29 August 2017, the Communities, Housing and Infrastructure Committee considered a report on a feasibility study regarding safe walking routes to the new Lochside Academy. The Committee resolved to:
- *refer the content of the report to the 16 November 2017 meeting of the Education and Children’s Services Committee for inclusion within the report on the proposals being considered to provide pupil transport to and from Lochside Academy; and*
 - *ensure that appropriate consultation takes place with stakeholders prior to this Committee meeting.*
- 3.1.5 Taking the above decisions into account, this report seeks to provide the Education and Children’s Services Committee with a summary of the options for establishing an appropriate level of subsidy for pupils travelling to Lochside Academy when it opens in August 2018. It also includes as an appendix the report from Communities, Housing and Infrastructure on safe walking routes to the school.

3.2 Safe walking routes to Lochside Academy

- 3.2.1 A report was submitted to the Communities, Housing and Infrastructure Committee on 29 August 2017, providing details of a feasibility study which had been carried out by officers regarding safe routes to school for pupils attending the new Lochside Academy.
- 3.2.2 The report highlighted that safe walking and cycling routes had been identified within the previously agreed Transport Assessment, which formed part of the planning consent for the new school. It also noted that Condition 6, part F of this planning consent requires that the development includes “Provision of a controlled pedestrian/cyclist crossing (“toucan”) on Wellington Road, just south of Souter Head Roundabout”. This was agreed by the Planning Development Management Committee on the 29 October 2015.
- 3.2.3 The report confirmed that the identified safe routes for all pupils of the new school, as highlighted in the Transport Assessment, had been reviewed by officers and had been found to be both appropriate and suitable. It also stated that the installation of a toucan crossing as described in the planning condition would provide a safe means of crossing Wellington Road for pupils travelling from the north of Cove, whilst an existing toucan crossing at the Balmoral Business Park would provide for pupils attending the school from the south of Cove.
- 3.2.4 A copy of the full report to the Communities, Housing and Infrastructure Committee is included at Appendix 2, and maps detailing the identified safe walking routes to school are appended to that report.

3.2.5 It is therefore recommended that Committee notes that an at-grade Toucan crossing will be implemented over A956 Wellington Road, as originally stipulated in the planning consent, as it is the most suitable option in terms of providing a safe route to the new Lochside Academy for pupils.

3.3 The Council's statutory obligations

3.3.1 Section 51 of the Education (Scotland) Act 1980 states that an Education Authority shall make such arrangements as they consider necessary for:-

- the provision of free school transport for the whole or part of the journey
- making bicycles or other suitable means of transport available to the pupils
- paying some or all of pupils' reasonable travelling costs
- or any combination of the above

3.3.2 In considering whether to make any arrangements, Section 51 (2C) of the Act states that an education authority shall have regard to the safety of such pupils.

3.3.3 Section 51 of the Act also gives power to Authorities to charge the parent of a pupil using a vacant place on school transport or to allow a vacant place to be so used without charge. It further states that a charge for a vacant place may not be made, unless, having had regard to the financial circumstances of the parent to be charged, the authority consider that the charge can be paid by the parent without undue hardship.

3.3.4 Transport Scotland's *Guide to Improving School Transport Safety* states that Authorities must consider the safety of walking and cycling routes to school for pupils living within statutory walking distances from their designated school. If the routes could be considered unsafe, then transport should be provided, even when distances fall short of the eligibility criteria.

3.3.5 Statutory walking distances to school are set out in Section 42 of the Act, and are defined as three miles for children aged eight years and over.

3.3.6 In addition, from 1 August 2017, all education authorities must consider and evidence how strategic decisions will help to reduce the poverty related attainment gap. Section 3B of the Standards in Scotland's Schools etc. Act 2000 places a duty on education authorities to have due regard to the need to carry out school education functions in a way which is designed to reduce inequalities of outcome for those pupils experiencing them as a result of socio-economic disadvantage.

3.3.7 In effect, this legal duty requires that education authorities continually consider whether they can do more to help those pupils impacted by socio-economic disadvantage to achieve equality of outcome and to give due weight to the outcome of those considerations when delivering school education.

3.3.8 In order to demonstrate due regard, education authorities must seek and have regard for the views of a range of people the Local Authority deems appropriate, including pupils and parents.

3.4 The Council's policy on subsidising travel to school

3.4.1 The Council's policy on the provision of free school transport is set out in its *Guide to Education and Children's Services 2017-18*, where it is stated that the Authority provides free school transport: *where a child is enrolled at his/her zoned secondary school and lives three or more miles from that school.*

3.4.2 The policy also states that an exception to this policy would be: *where a child lives less than the prescribed distance from his/her zoned school (that is, less than the... three miles indicated above) but cannot reach that school either by an available transport service or by an available safe walking route accompanied if necessary by an adult.*

3.4.3 With the exception of six properties at the eastern edge of Balnagask (which records indicate are not currently inhabited by any children who would be attending the new school), all residential properties within the new Lochside Academy school zone are within three miles' walking distance of the school, and as indicated in Section 3.2 above, all parts of the school zone have access to a safe walking route to school.

3.5 Existing transport costs for Kincorth Academy and Torry Academy

3.5.1 There are currently arrangements in place to support pupils' transport from Cove to Kincorth Academy, where a transport service is required to supplement the local bus network due to the number of pupils making the journey each day. This takes the form of a supported bus service which operates between Cove and Kincorth Academy. Whilst pupils pay a fare to use these services, the Council also pays a fee to the bus operator, in order to ensure the services remain viable and to secure the vehicle resource. Shuttle buses also run between Kincorth and Torry for pupils attending shared classes at the two existing schools.

3.5.2 The Council currently pays approximately £83,000 per annum to support these services, but when Lochside Academy opens and Torry and Kincorth Academies close, there will no longer be a need for these services, resulting in a saving for the Council. It is anticipated that this saving will be used to help offset some or all of the costs of any new arrangements to subsidise travel to Lochside Academy.

3.6 Options for subsidised travel to Lochside Academy

3.6.1 As noted above, the original instruction from the Education, Culture & Sport Committee in 2013 was for officers to work with local transport providers to provide subsidised dedicated transport to the new school for pupils in Torry, where pupils may pay a fare for each journey made.

- 3.6.2 Officers were also instructed to consider the transport needs of pupils in all other parts of the school's catchment area. This would therefore include pupils living in Kincorth and Cove, which together with Torry make up the entirety of the new catchment area for Lochside Academy. A map indicating the school's catchment area, which includes information on the current pupil population density in each of the three areas, is included at Appendix 3. For the avoidance of doubt and for the purposes of this report, lists of the postcodes which are considered to fall within the communities of Torry, Kincorth and Cove, are provided at Appendix 4.
- 3.6.3 Since the instruction was issued in 2013, there have been a number of consultations with parents, community members and elected members from all three communities, to establish the types and levels of subsidy which would be appropriate for pupils in each of these areas. A summary of the feedback received from these consultations is provided in section 3.7 below.
- 3.6.4 Officers have established that the most cost effective method of providing subsidised travel to the new school would be through the use of existing public bus services, where available. Subsidies would be delivered to pupils in the form of a bus pass, which would be provided to pupils free of charge, or at a discount.
- 3.6.5 The bus pass would be valid Mondays to Fridays during term time, from 7.00am to 6.00pm (to give pupils the option to travel to school early or travel home later, in order to take part in extra-curricular activities). The full cost of such a bus pass, if no discount were offered, is estimated to be £190.00 per year.
- 3.6.6 Existing bus services operate throughout Cove (First Bus Services 3 and 18) and through most of Kincorth (First Bus Service 18), and both services run along Wellington Road past the site of the new school. Service 3 also runs from Victoria Bridge in Torry and along Menzies Road, and would be accessible by some of the pupils living in Torry.
- 3.6.7 However for some parts of Torry and Kincorth, there is currently no accessible bus service to or from the new school. In Torry this includes the areas to the east of Mansefield Road and / or south of Balnagask Road (hereafter referred to collectively as Balnagask), and in Kincorth this includes Leggart Terrace and adjoining residential streets (hereafter referred to collectively as Leggart), and the nearby new housing development at Deeside Brae.
- 3.6.8 To ensure that pupils living in these areas also have access to an appropriate service, it is proposed that a new supported bus service is established.
- 3.6.9 This would be a new public bus service running between Deeside Brae, Leggart, Balnagask and Lochside Academy, at the appropriate times at the start and end of each school day, which would be available for all members of the public including school pupils.

- 3.6.10 Establishing a supported bus service for these areas would require a tendering exercise to be carried out, to identify a transport operator to provide the appropriate vehicles and to run the service. The estimated costs of this service are outlined in the confidential Appendix 1.
- 3.6.11 Operating this new service as a supported public service, which all members of the public including school pupils could use, as opposed to a dedicated school transport service for pupils only, would allow for existing public buses to be used by the operator to deliver the service.
- 3.6.12 For a dedicated school transport service, additional vehicles would be required to be used. Forthcoming legislation (set out in the Seat Belts on School Transport (Scotland) Bill) is likely to place a requirement on local authorities to use only vehicles which are fully fitted with seatbelts, for all of their dedicated school transport services. This requirement would add considerable additional costs, compared to those for a supported public bus service. These costs are outlined in the confidential Appendix 1. Officers' recommendation, therefore, is for the proposed additional service for Deeside Brae, Leggart and Balnagask to be operated as a supported public bus service.
- 3.6.13 Having established the above principles for providing support for transport to the new school, officers identified a number of options for the level of subsidy which could be provided to pupils. These options are described below.

Option 1 : Free transport for all Lochside pupils

- 3.6.14 This option would involve the provision of free transport (100% subsidy for a bus pass) for all children attending Lochside Academy.
- 3.6.15 Pupils would be expected to use existing bus service 18 from Cove and the majority of Kincorth, and in Torry the existing bus service 3/3G which runs from Victoria Bridge and along Menzies Road and Wellington Road would also be used. For children living in Deeside Brae, Leggart and Balnagask, a new supported public bus service would be required.
- 3.6.16 This is the second highest cost option. The estimated costs are outlined in the confidential Appendix 1.
- 3.6.17 Providing free transport to all pupils in the school's catchment zone would not be in line with the Council's policy on subsidising school transport, as safe walking and cycling routes have been identified, and pupils in Cove in particular could be reasonably expected to walk to school.
- 3.6.18 Consequently this option is not recommended.

Option 2a: Free transport for Torry and Kincorth pupils only (using public bus services)

- 3.6.19 An alternative option would be to provide free transport (100% subsidy for a bus pass) to Torry and Kincorth pupils only, and to provide no subsidies for pupils living in Cove, who could more reasonably be expected to walk to school.
- 3.6.20 Pupils would be expected to use existing bus service 18 from the majority of Kincorth, and in Torry the existing bus service 3/3G which runs from Victoria Bridge and along Menzies Road and Wellington Road would also be used. For children living in Deeside Brae, Leggart and Balnagask, a new supported public bus service would be required.
- 3.6.21 This is the third highest cost option. The estimated costs are outlined in the confidential Appendix 1.
- 3.6.22 All pupils living in Torry and Kincorth are expected to be living within three miles' walking distance of the new school, and safe walking and cycling routes have been identified. However, the safe walking and cycling routes which have been identified are not the shortest routes to school for pupils living in Torry and Kincorth.
- 3.6.23 During recent consultation meetings, parents and pupils at Torry Academy and Kincorth Academy expressed concern that, if required to walk to school, the majority of pupils would choose to take the shortest walking route, rather than the longer identified safe route.
- 3.6.24 For pupils living in Torry the shortest walking route would be mainly along Wellington Road. The pavements on Wellington Road become narrow in places, particularly at the points where bus shelters are located, and given the large number of pupils (up to 413) who could potentially be walking this route within a short space of time, particularly at the end of the school day, officers have considered that this could put pupils at risk.
- 3.6.25 For the journey from Kincorth, pupils and parents have indicated that many pupils may be tempted to walk across Kincorth Hill, rather than take the longer, safe walking route to school. The route over Kincorth Hill is not paved or lit, and may involve cutting across privately owned land. Given the large number of pupils who could be tempted to take this route (up to 246 pupils), officers again considered that this could put pupils at risk.
- 3.6.26 For the reasons described above, officers are of the opinion that exceptional circumstances apply for pupils living in Torry and Kincorth, which the Council would be required to take into consideration when determining whether subsidised transport to school should be provided for these pupils.
- 3.6.27 For pupils living in Cove, the identified safe walking route to school (subject to Committee's decision on the recommendation for a new toucan crossing over Wellington Road), is considered to be the shortest walking route to the new school. Officers are therefore satisfied that the majority of pupils living in Cove would be likely to use the safe walking and cycling route, and that no subsidised transport to school from Cove is required.

3.6.28 Taking the above factors into account, this is the option which is recommended for consideration by Committee.

Option 2b: Free transport for Torry and Kincorth pupils only (using dedicated school transport only)

3.6.29 Having listened to feedback from consultation meetings, in which parents expressed the view that only dedicated school transport should be used, as opposed to the use of existing public bus services and a new supported public bus service for Deeside Brae, Leggart and Balnagask, officers have estimated the costs for providing free transport for Torry and Kincorth pupils only (for the reasons described under Option 2a above), but using only dedicated school transport.

3.6.30 This would involve the commissioning of a new, dedicated service, using seat-belted coaches, to serve the whole of Torry, and Kincorth, including Deeside Brae, Leggart and Balnagask. The service would operate at the appropriate times at the start and end of each school day only.

3.6.31 Under this option, there would be no requirement to provide pupils with a bus pass for use on existing public bus services, and consequently there would be no provision for pupils to travel between school and home free of charge outwith standard school hours, following after-school activities for example.

3.6.32 This is the highest cost option. The estimated costs for this option are outlined in confidential Appendix 1.

3.6.33 Taking into consideration the considerable additional costs which are associated with this option, and also that this option would not meet parents' requests for subsidised transport to be extended until 6.00pm, this option is not recommended.

Option 3 : Supported bus service for Deeside Brae, Leggart and Balnagask pupils only

3.6.34 A further option would be to provide a supported public bus service for pupils living in Deeside Brae, Leggart and Balnagask only, given that these are the only pupils who do not already have access to an available transport service to the school, and to require pupils using this service to pay the standard fare.

3.6.35 Under this option no subsidies for pupils living in Cove or the remainder of Kincorth and Torry would be provided, as these pupils do have access to an existing bus service, and in some cases could more reasonably be expected to be able to walk to school.

3.6.36 This is the lowest cost option. Providing a supported bus service for Deeside Brae, Leggart and Balnagask, but requiring pupils to pay a fare, would be in line with the Council's policy on providing transport to school and would allow it to meet its statutory obligations.

- 3.6.37 This would also be in line with the current arrangements for pupils living in Cove who travel to Kincorth Academy, where a supported bus service is in place but pupils pay a fare for each journey.
- 3.6.38 This option would not help to address the potential risks to pupils living in the remainder of Kincorth and Torry, as identified in Option 2 (above).
- 3.6.39 Consultation with stakeholders has indicated that parents would not welcome a proposal which requires them to make part-payment for a bus pass, and that parents living in Torry in particular had been given assurances that the full cost of travel to the new school for their children would be provided by the Council.
- 3.6.40 Consequently, this option is not recommended.

Option 4 : Varied level of subsidy depending on location

- 3.6.41 Under this option, the bus services described above would be used, and eligibility for a varying level of subsidy for a bus pass would be based on the area in which pupils live, and would be determined by their postcode:

Pupils living in Torry:

- Given that they live the farthest distance from the school, pupils living in Torry would be offered the highest level of subsidy, at **75%** of the cost of the bus pass.
- This would mean that pupils would each be required to pay approximately **£47.50** per year for a bus pass.

Pupils living in Kincorth:

- Pupils living in Kincorth would be offered a **50%** subsidy on the cost of a bus pass.
- This would mean that pupils would each be required to pay approximately **£95.00** per year for a bus pass.

Pupils living in Cove:

- Pupils living in Cove would have the shortest distance to travel to the new school, and would be offered a **25%** subsidy on the cost of a bus pass.
- This would mean that pupils would each be required to pay approximately **£142.50** per year for a bus pass.

- 3.6.42 This is the second lowest cost option. Consultation with stakeholders has indicated that parents would not welcome a proposal which requires them to make part-payment for a bus pass, and that parents living in Torry in

particular had been given assurances that the full cost of travel to the new school for their children would be provided by the Council.

3.6.43 Having considered the feedback received through consultation, this option is not recommended.

3.7 Consultation with Stakeholders

3.7.1 As part of the work undertaken to identify the options for supporting transport to the new school, officers attended a number of meetings between March 2017 and September 2017: with representatives of the community councils in Torry, Kincorth and Cove; with representatives of the parent councils of the schools in each of those areas; and with pupils at Torry Academy and Kincorth Academy. The meetings were arranged in order for officers to understand the views of the communities, parents and pupils who will be attending the new school, and to demonstrate due regard as described in section 3.3 above. A summary of the feedback received at these meetings is provided below:

- The majority of feedback was in relation to the identified safe walking and cycling routes to the new school, and parents and community members expressed concern that these were not safe routes. It was felt, therefore, that bus transport was required to ensure children could travel to school safely.
- There was also concern that the proposed new toucan crossing would not be sufficient to ensure pupils can cross the road safely.
- There was a suggestion that free or subsidised bus passes should be valid at weekends and during school holidays, to allow pupils to access the community and sports facilities at the new school during these times.
- Members of the Torry community expressed the view that a dedicated bus service should be provided for all Torry pupils, as opposed to a supported public service. There was concern that public buses would not provide sufficient capacity for school pupils as they would be used extensively by members of the public.
- Pupils suggested that it was likely that many pupils would choose to take the shortest walking or cycling route to school, which from Torry and Kincorth had not been identified as the safe routes to the school.

3.7.2 In response to the comments made at the meetings, officers explained that the safe walking routes and requirement for a toucan crossing had been assessed by the Council's Roads officers, who were content that the arrangements were safe and sufficient for the needs of the school.

3.7.3 Bus passes for weekends and school holidays are not currently provided for travel to schools in any other part of the City, and it would therefore not be appropriate to propose this for the new Lochside Academy.

3.7.4 Due to the costs involved in commissioning a new dedicated bus service, officers recommend that a more cost effective solution is to make use of existing bus routes and, for Deeside Brae, Leggart and Balnagask, to provide a supported public service which runs between these locations and the new school only. It is anticipated that transport providers would ensure there are sufficient buses running at the peak times of day to meet demand.

3.8 Proposed review of arrangements for subsidised travel

3.8.1 The recommendations on supporting school transport outlined within this report are intended to help support the transition from Torry Academy and Kincorth Academy to the new Lochside Academy. It is therefore proposed that following this period of transition, the arrangements for free or subsidised travel to the new school should be reviewed, to ensure that they remain appropriate.

3.8.2 It is therefore recommended that officers are instructed to carry out a survey of pupils' travel to school, following the first three years of the new school's operation, and to present recommendations to the relevant committee at that time, with a view to ceasing or changing the arrangements for subsidised or free travel, should it be considered necessary.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Following the opening of Lochside Academy in August 2018 and the closure of Kincorth Academy and Torry Academy, the Council will realise a saving of approximately £83,000 per year, from the current transport costs associated with Kincorth Academy and Torry Academy.

4.2 The estimated costs associated with the recommended option are outlined in the confidential Appendix 1.

4.3 These costs would take effect from August 2018, and would be funded through the Council's transport revenue budget, subject to the applicable cost pressures being identified and approved by the Finance, Policy and Resources Committee and through the budget setting process for 2018/19.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 As described in Section 3.3 above, Section 51 of the Education (Scotland) Act 1980 states that an Education Authority must exercise its judgement as to what, if any, transport provision is required (regardless of pupils' walking distances to school). Where an Authority forms the view that arrangements are necessary, it has a statutory duty to make the necessary provision.

5.2 The provision of subsidised or free transport for Lochside Academy creates a precedent upon which other parents in the city may seek to rely. If the Council refuses to exercise its discretion to provide free or subsidised transport in similar circumstances for other schools, this may be legally challengeable.

- 5.3 This could result in the Council being required to provide similar levels of subsidy for pupils' transport to other schools in the City.
- 5.4 In considering providing subsidised transport for Lochside Academy pupils, the Council would therefore be required to demonstrate that it has formed the view that transport arrangements are necessary, and that there are reasons which underpin this conclusion which can be justified in the event that parents from other parts of the City ask it to exercise discretion to provide transport to school for their children.
- 5.5 As explained in Section 3.6 above, officers consider that the risks of large numbers of pupils (up to 400) living in Torry and Kincorth choosing not to take the identified safe walking route to school, would justify the need to provide subsidised transport to the new school. It is unlikely that there would be any similar circumstances elsewhere in the city, where a large number of pupils would be choosing a walking route which is not considered to be safe. It is therefore unlikely that providing similar subsidies for school transport within the three mile limit in other areas of the city would be considered necessary.
- 5.6 Section 3B of the Standards in Scotland's Schools etc. Act 2000 places a duty on education authorities to have due regard to the need to carry out school education functions in a way which is designed to reduce inequalities of outcome for those pupils experiencing them as a result of socio-economic disadvantage.
- 5.7 The feedback received from parents and pupils with regards to the proposed arrangements for subsidised transport to the new school have therefore been taken into account by officers when putting forward the recommendations in this report.
- 5.8 The legal implications associated with the recommendation to install a toucan crossing, are outlined within the Legal Implications section of the original report to Communities, Housing and Infrastructure Committee, a copy of which is provided at Appendix 2.

6. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

Financial

- 6.1 The financial implications of these proposals are described in Section 4 above.
- 6.2 Forthcoming legislation (set out in the Seat Belts on School Transport (Scotland) Bill) is likely to place a requirement on local authorities to use only vehicles which are fully fitted with seatbelts, for all of their dedicated school transport services. The bill proposes for this legislation to be implemented for secondary school transport from August 2021. There is a risk that the recommended option within this report, to use a supported public bus service for pupils in Deeside Brae, Leggart and Balnagask, where these pupils are not required to pay a fare, in the future may be regarded under the new

legislation as a dedicated school transport service, in which case the Council would be required to introduce new seat-belted vehicles for this service.

- 6.3 This would increase the costs of running the Deeside Brae, Leggart and Balnagask service significantly. The estimated increases in costs which would result from the legislation are outlined in the confidential Appendix 1. The recommendation within this report is for the proposed transport subsidies to be reviewed after the first three years of the school's operation, which would be prior to August 2021. If the new legislation leads to increased costs for the supported service, there would be an opportunity for this to be taken into account as part of that three-year review.
- 6.4 By providing subsidised or free travel to school for pupils within the Lochside Academy catchment zone, where these pupils live within three miles' walking distance of the school, the Council would be going beyond the level of support provided to pupils attending any other school in the city, as set out in its policy on the provision of free school transport. Providing pupil bus passes which are valid for use outwith school hours (i.e. up to 6.00pm) is also beyond the level of support normally provided by the Council.
- 6.5 If the proposals within this report are accepted, there is a risk that parents of pupils at other schools in the city who live within three miles of their school may seek similar levels of support for school transport. This could potentially lead to an increased financial burden on the Council.
- 6.6 However, the proposal to subsidise transport for Lochside Academy pupils living in Torry and Kincorth is based on the identified risk that in the absence of a subsidy, large numbers of pupils (up to 400) may choose to walk to school via the shortest available route, which is not the designated safe walking route to school. The large number of pupils walking along such a route at the same time is likely to add additional risks to pupil safety, for example where footpaths are not wide enough to accommodate groups walking together.
- 6.7 It is unlikely that there would be any similar circumstances elsewhere in the city, where a large number of pupils would be choosing a walking route which is not considered to be safe. It is therefore unlikely that providing similar subsidies for school transport within the three mile limit in other areas of the city would be considered necessary.

Customer / citizen

- 6.8 As described above, the recommended arrangements for subsidising travel to the new school outlined in this report are intended to minimise risks to pupils when travelling to school. If the recommendations are not accepted, there is a risk that large numbers of pupils living in Kincorth and Torry may choose to walk or cycle to school via a route which has not been identified as a safe route.

Legal

- 6.9 The legal implications and risks associated with the transport proposals are set out in Section 5 above.

Reputational

- 6.10 If no subsidised transport to Lochside Academy is provided, parents of pupils due to attend the new school are likely to feel that assurances provided to them previously have not been fulfilled, and this may also lead to reputational damage for the Council.
- 6.11 The risks associated with the recommendation to install a toucan crossing, are outlined within the Management of Risk section of the original report to Communities, Housing and Infrastructure Committee, a copy of which is provided at Appendix 2.

7. IMPACT SECTION

Economy

- 7.1 The recommendations within this report if accepted would result in an increased use of existing public bus services in the south of the city, which would help to ensure the viability of these services.

People

- 7.2 An equality and human rights impact assessment has been carried out for the recommendations included within this report.
- 7.3 Providing free travel to school for pupils living in Kincorth and Torry would impact positively on pupils living in these communities, and their families, in that the pupils would be able to travel to and from the new school at no additional cost.
- 7.4 By ensuring that all pupils at the school have appropriate means by which to travel to school, the Council will be helping to improve equity in educational outcomes, and contributing to the drive to close the poverty-related attainment gap, as outlined in the Scottish Government's Scottish Attainment Challenge.

Place

- 7.4 No significant impacts on Place have been identified as a result of the recommendations in this report.

Technology

- 7.5 No significant impacts on Technology have been identified as a result of the recommendations in this report.
- 7.6 The impacts associated with the planned installation of a toucan crossing, are outlined within the Impact section of the original report to Communities, Housing and Infrastructure Committee, a copy of which is provided at Appendix 2.

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

A Guide to Education and Children's Services 2017-18

http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/web/files/SchoolsColleges/A_Guide_to_ECS_2017_2018.pdf

Education (Scotland) Act 1980 (Section 51)

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1980/44/section/51>

A Guide to Improving School Transport Safety

https://www.transport.gov.scot/media/6116/improving_school_transport_safety_guide_final.pdf

Seat Belts on School Transport (Scotland) Bill

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/103627.aspx>

9. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 (CONFIDENTIAL): Subsidised Transport to Lochside Academy – Estimated Costs

Appendix 2: Communities, Housing & Infrastructure Committee, 29 August 2017 – Agenda Item 7.3: *Motion by Ex-Councillor Finlayson - Feasibility study on a safe route to school for pupils attending the new Lochside Academy from Cove across Wellington Road.*

Appendix 3: Map of Lochside Academy Catchment zone including pupil population density and existing bus routes

Appendix 4: Postcodes considered to fall within the areas of Torry, Kincorth and Cove

10. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

Andrew Jones
Service Manager, Assets & Finance
ajones@aberdeencity.gov.uk
01224 523042

HEAD OF SERVICE DETAILS

Euan Couperwhite
Head of Policy, Performance & Resources
ecouperwhite@aberdeencity.gov.uk
01224 522073

COMMITTEE	Communities, Housing and Infrastructure
DATE	29 August 2017
REPORT TITLE	Motion by Ex-Councillor Finlayson Feasibility study on a safe route to school for pupils attending the new Lochside Academy from Cove across Wellington Road.
REPORT NUMBER	CHI/17/192
DIRECTOR	Bernadette Marjoram
REPORT AUTHOR	Jack Penman

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT:-

- 1.1 To advise and update members on the work carried out by officers in relation to a motion by Ex-Councillor Finalyson at the Council meeting on 15th March 2017. The motion was:

“To instruct the Interim Director of Communities, Housing and Infrastructure to arrange for the carrying out of feasibility study on a safe route to school for all pupils attending the new Lochside Academy. The Interim Director should include in the options for either a pedestrian bridge over, or a pedestrian underpass under Wellington Road dual carriageway in the vicinity of the A956 Wellington Road/Souter Head Road roundabout.

It is essential to consider these options due to the fast moving very large volumes of traffic, including HGVs, currently using Wellington Road which will substantially increase with the opening of the Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route vehicles serving the new Recycling Plant, the new Energy from Waste Plant and the new Harbour”.

- 1.2 To advise members that the safe routes to school were previously highlighted and agreed in the Transport Assessment, which formed part of the planning consent. Officers have carried out a feasibility study on the options proposed in the motion.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that members:

- (i) Note the content of the report.
- (ii) Instruct officers to implement an at-grade Toucan crossing over A956 Wellington Road, as originally stipulated in the planning consent, as it is the most suitable option in terms of providing a safe route to the new Lochside Academy for pupils.

3. MAIN ISSUES

3.1 Ex-Councillor Finlayson raised a notice of motion at the council meeting on the 15th March 2017 requesting that the feasibility of several options are considered for a safe route to the new Lochside Academy for pupils crossing the A956 Wellington Road in vicinity of the Souter Head Road Roundabout.

3.2 School Details

3.2.1 From the school role, there are 256 pupils who currently attend Kincorth Academy or Torry Academy who are likely to attend the new school once open. Pupils from the southern area of Cove are most likely to cross Wellington Road at the new traffic signal controlled junction at the Balmoral Business Park. Pupils in the northern area of Cove are more likely to cross Wellington Road in close proximity to Langdykes Road.

3.2.2 School start and finishing times have not yet been established but based on other local schools these are expected to be around 08:25 – 15:15, although some schools have a flexible finish time of either 14:50 or 15:40. These times will impact on when the likely peak demand at the crossing will be.

3.3 Current Crossing Facility

The total crossing distance at the current uncontrolled crossing point on Wellington Road is 27 metres. The central island has a width of approximately 7 – 10 metres.

3.4 Conditions attached to Planning Consent for the new Academy

Condition 6, part F of the planning consent for the development of the new school requires that the development includes “Provision of a controlled pedestrian/cyclist crossing ("toucan") on Wellington Road, just south of Souter Head Roundabout”.

This was agreed by the Planning Development Management Committee on the 29th October 2015.

3.4.1 The safe routes for all pupils highlighted in the Transport Assessment, which informed the planning consent, have been reviewed by officers following the motion and have been found to be appropriate and suitable.

The walking and cycling routes for all pupils are shown in Appendix 1.

3.4.2 The two routes from Cove (north and south) have been found to be adequate in terms of providing a safe route for secondary school pupils. The footpaths are of suitable width and are well lit. As per the planning condition noted above, the upgrading of the crossing point to a toucan crossing would provide a safe means of crossing Wellington Road for pupils travelling from the north of Cove. This has been considered to be the most effective method of delivering the crossing. It is as the existing crossing facility which is provided for pupils attending the Academy from the South of Cove, with the Toucan Crossing at the Balmoral Business Park.

3.5 Current Traffic Conditions

A review of current traffic volumes and speeds was conducted on Wellington Road in close proximity to the proposed toucan crossing site. The survey was carried out in July 2017. Table 1 outlines the average figures for work week during the predicted school peak period:

North Bound	Volume	85 ^{th%} *	Average		South	Volume	85 ^{th%} *	Average
-------------	--------	---------------------	---------	--	-------	--------	---------------------	---------

		(mph)	Speed (mph)		Bound		(mph)	Speed (mph)
AM (07:00-09:00)	2144	38	31		AM (07:00-09:00)	839	41	35
PM (14:00-16:00)	996	40	31		PM (14:00-16:00)	1517	42	35

Table 1 Results from survey carried out on Wellington Road (Speed figures rounded).

**The 85th % speeds are the speeds at which 85% of vehicles recorded have been found not to be exceeding.*

Traffic flow volumes are higher northbound in the AM than the PM as more people are entering the city with the reverse in the evening, with higher southbound volumes. Traffic speeds, as demonstrated by the above table, are within the mandatory 40mph speed limit.

3.6 Crossing Options

The planning conditions stipulate the provision of a controlled toucan crossing however this Motion asks officers to investigate the feasibility of grade separating pedestrians and vehicles either by a fully enclosed overbridge or underpass.

It should be noted that current guidance in Designing Streets and Manual for Streets recommends maintaining pedestrians at ground level as it provides the most direct route.

Officers conducted a feasibility study comparing two options suggested in the motion and the toucan crossing as per the planning condition. The proposed options are discussed below:

3.6.1 At-Grade Toucan Crossing (as outlined in the Planning condition)

The toucan crossing would be located in close proximity to the existing uncontrolled crossing point and would allow both pedestrians and cyclists to use it.

The proposal for the toucan crossing will form part of the Road Safety Audit for the new Academy.

An indicative plan and comments on this proposal are found in Appendix 2. The exact location and layout would need to be agreed with the Traffic Management and Road Safety Team and the Intelligent Transport Systems Team.

Estimated Cost: £30,000.

3.6.2 Pedestrian Underpass

A proposed design for the shared-use underpass is provided in Appendix 3 which illustrates the proposed footprint of the scheme. It is assumed the proposal would be 4 metres deep and would require the acquisition of land on the western side of Wellington Road.

Estimated Cost: £1.5 million - based upon the depth of structure being 4 metres and the relocation of utilities as deemed necessary (See Appendix 5 for utilities map).

Additional costs of land negotiation and purchasing, installing lights and detailed environmental study would need to be agreed.

3.6.3 Pedestrian Overbridge

A proposed design for the pedestrian overbridge is provided in Appendix 4 which illustrates the proposed footprint of the scheme. It is assumed the bridge clearance over the A class road would be 7 metres. Limited room on the western side of

Wellington Road for the ramp to be installed would mean the structure is very close to the SSE electricity substation.

Estimated Cost: £1.1 million – estimated from Transport Scotland for shared use over bridge crossing dual carriageway.

Additional costs of land negotiation and purchasing would need to be agreed.

3.7 Wellington Road Study

3.7.1 Aberdeen City Council is currently undertaking a study on the Wellington Road. The objectives of the study are to improve travel for people and goods along the corridor and promote a modal shift to less carbon-intensive modes of transport such as public transport and active travel.

3.7.2 One of the proposed options for improving the corridor is to consider the replacement of the Souterhead Road and Hareness Road Roundabout's with signalised junctions. If this proposal is progressed it will include pedestrian crossing facilities on all arms of the junction.

3.8 Summary

Following the Feasibility study and considering the above and appendices it is recommended that the proposed toucan crossing, as has been outlined in the planning condition, continues to be the most appropriate option. The toucan crossing meets the needs of pedestrians and cyclists seeking to travel to and from the school by the most direct route possible. It meets the Planning requirements for the site and meets current guidance for pedestrian provisions.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The recommendation of this report is to proceed with the proposed toucan crossing as per the conditions of the planning consent. As such there are no additional financial implications arising from this report. The funding for the toucan crossing will be met by capital funding for the school build as outlined in the original traffic assessment.

4.2 If the recommendation of this report is not followed and one of the other proposals is to be proceeded with, an appropriate budget would have to be set and funding secured to carry out detailed design, land purchase, where required, and contract implementation.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

5.2 If the recommendations are not followed and the recommended works are not to be implemented prior to occupation, the Council would be in breach of condition 6 of its planning permission, ref. 151082.

5.2.1 If an over bridge/underpass were to be pursued there would need to either be (a) a fresh application for planning permission for the school based on delivery of an alternative form of crossing to ensure adequate accessibility; or (b) an application under section 42 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act (as amended) to change or remove the relevant planning condition (condition 6).

5.2.2 The planning authority is required to ensure that planning conditions satisfy the policy tests as set out in the Scottish Government's Circular 4/1998. If the crossings

recommended in the Transport Assessment are sufficient to allow for safe access to the site, then it would normally be considered unreasonable to utilise a condition to oblige an applicant to go beyond that in terms of delivering something excessively costly or otherwise unreasonable. In considering any revised application, officers would be obliged to consider whether any conditions or planning obligations relating to the provision of an over-bridge or underpass would satisfy the relevant tests, including that of reasonableness.

6. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

Financial

- 6.1 Estimated £1000 Per Annum maintenance cost if recommendation is accepted, this impact is likely to be low and funds will need to be agreed and added on to the existing maintenance budgets. This risk level is deemed to be low.
- 6.1.1 If the recommendations are not accepted an adequate budget for these works would have to be identified. Other capital schemes would be delayed or withdrawn from existing programmes. This has been deemed to have a high potential impact and deemed highly likely to occur. It was proposed by Ex-Councillor Finlayson that some of this funding could come from a bid to the Bus Lane Enforcement fund. This funding programme has been agreed for the coming year with budget being spent as it becomes available. This risk level has been deemed to be high.

Employee

- 6.2 N/A

Customer/Citizen

- 6.3 Many pedestrians prefer not to use underpasses or overbridges owing to increased distances and being taken off their desire lines. They can be difficult for those with mobility issues. Additionally there can be concerns over personal safety when using unobserved underpasses. This has been deemed to have a potentially high impact with and the likelihood of this occurring is deemed to be medium. Design features that ensure the schemes are inclusive for all and likely to be used. CCTV and lighting should be provided to mitigate fears of personal safety. The risk level has been deemed to be high.

Environmental

- 6.4 The underpass and overbridge will require extensive engineering, which may have a negative impact on the local environment, e.g. water table rests at 2 metres below ground proposed underpass would be 4 metres underground. The impact of this has been deemed to be high with a likelihood occurrence rating of medium. The steps to mitigate this would involve a detailed environmental statement to be carried out and recommendations from this adhered to. The risk level has been deemed medium.

Technological

- 6.5 N/A

- 6.6 **Legal**

Should the recommendations of this report not be accepted, applications to the Planning Authority as outlined in Section 5.2.1 of this report would need to be considered. The risk level has been deemed high with a high likelihood of occurring if the recommendations of this report are not followed.

Reputational

6.7

May result in additional requests for similar schemes at other sites in the city. The impact of this has been deemed to be medium with a low likelihood of occurrence. To mitigate this publicity and communications would have to be managed to ensure expectations were controlled. The risk level has been deemed to be low.

7. IMPACT SECTION

7.1 Economy

The recommendation provides a safe route across the A956 linking a significant community with a business and retail area. Furthermore it will provide a link between the community and a significant education complex.

7.2 People

The proposed toucan crossing will ensure pedestrians and cyclists are provided with a safe means of crossing the A956 Wellington Road. It will ensure they are kept on their desire lines as it provides the shortest means of crossing the road. This will ensure that those peoples with mobility issues are not required to travel a further distance than is necessary. Furthermore it will facilitate a safe route to school for pupils attending the new Lochside Academy.

The Equality and Human Rights Impact Assessment (EHRIA), has been completed. The recommendations contained within this report have been assessed and determined to have no adverse implications in relation to any groups or bodies

7.3 Place

This report will be of interest to residents/proprietors/businesses within the proposed area.

As the recommendation is to proceed with the at-grade toucan crossing, as per planning consent, there will be a positive impact on current customer experience in terms of road safety in addition to supporting active travel and safe routes to schools and businesses in our communities.

7.4 Technology

N/A

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Minutes of Council meeting:

<https://committees.aberdeency.gov.uk/documents/g4324/Printed%20minutes%2015th-Mar-2017%2010.30%20Council.pdf?T=1>

Planning and Development Committee minutes:

<https://committees.aberdeency.gov.uk/documents/g3608/Printed%20minutes%2029th-Oct-2015%2010.00%20Planning%20Development%20Management%20Committee.pdf?T=1>

Decision Notice Planning:

<https://publicaccess.aberdeency.gov.uk/online->

[applications/files/F76DDAE5FB4F5AAEAD2781F010A8CD1B/151082-Decision_Notice-1058875.doc](https://www.gov.scot/Publications/1998/02/circular-4-1998/circular-4-1998-a)

Circular 4/1998 Annex A THE USE OF CONDITIONS IN PLANNING PERMISSIONS:

<http://www.gov.scot/Publications/1998/02/circular-4-1998/circular-4-1998-a>

South of the City Campus, Aberdeen Transport Assessment July 2015 (Fairhurst):

https://publicaccess.aberdeencity.gov.uk/online-applications/files/0680F45368D35C0E0E560EE0BDCC047B/pdf/151082-TA_-_FINAL_July_2015-940634.pdf

9. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 - Walking and Cycling Accessibility Routes as per Transport Assessment.

Appendix 2 – Indicative plan of toucan crossing and Officers observations.

Appendix 3 – Indicative plan of shared use underpass and Officers observations.

Appendix 4 – Indicative plans of shared use overbridge and officers observations.

Appendix 5 – SSE utilities map.

10. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

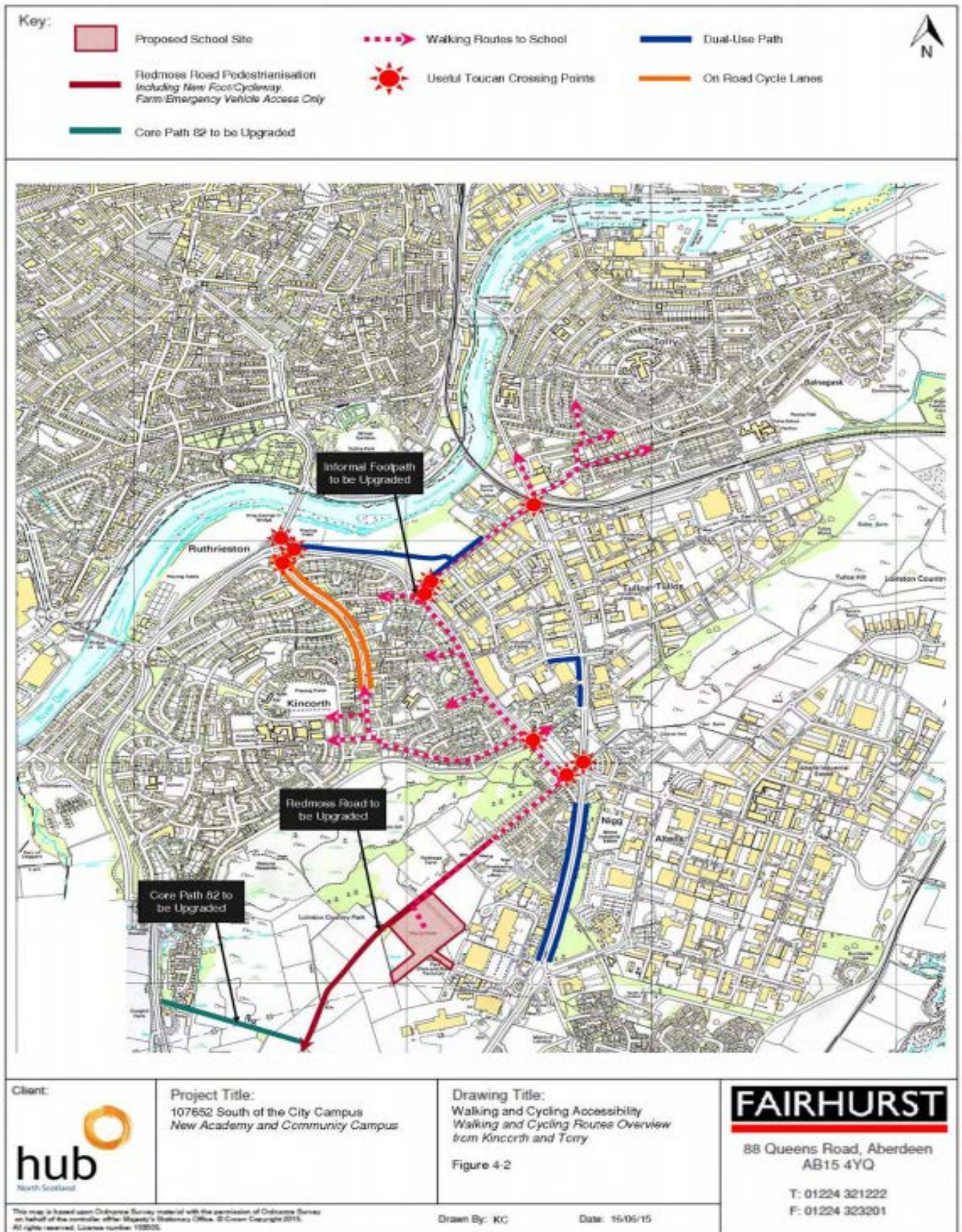
Jack Penman
Engineering Assistant
jpenman@aberdeencity.gov.uk
(01224) 522303

HEAD OF SERVICE DETAILS

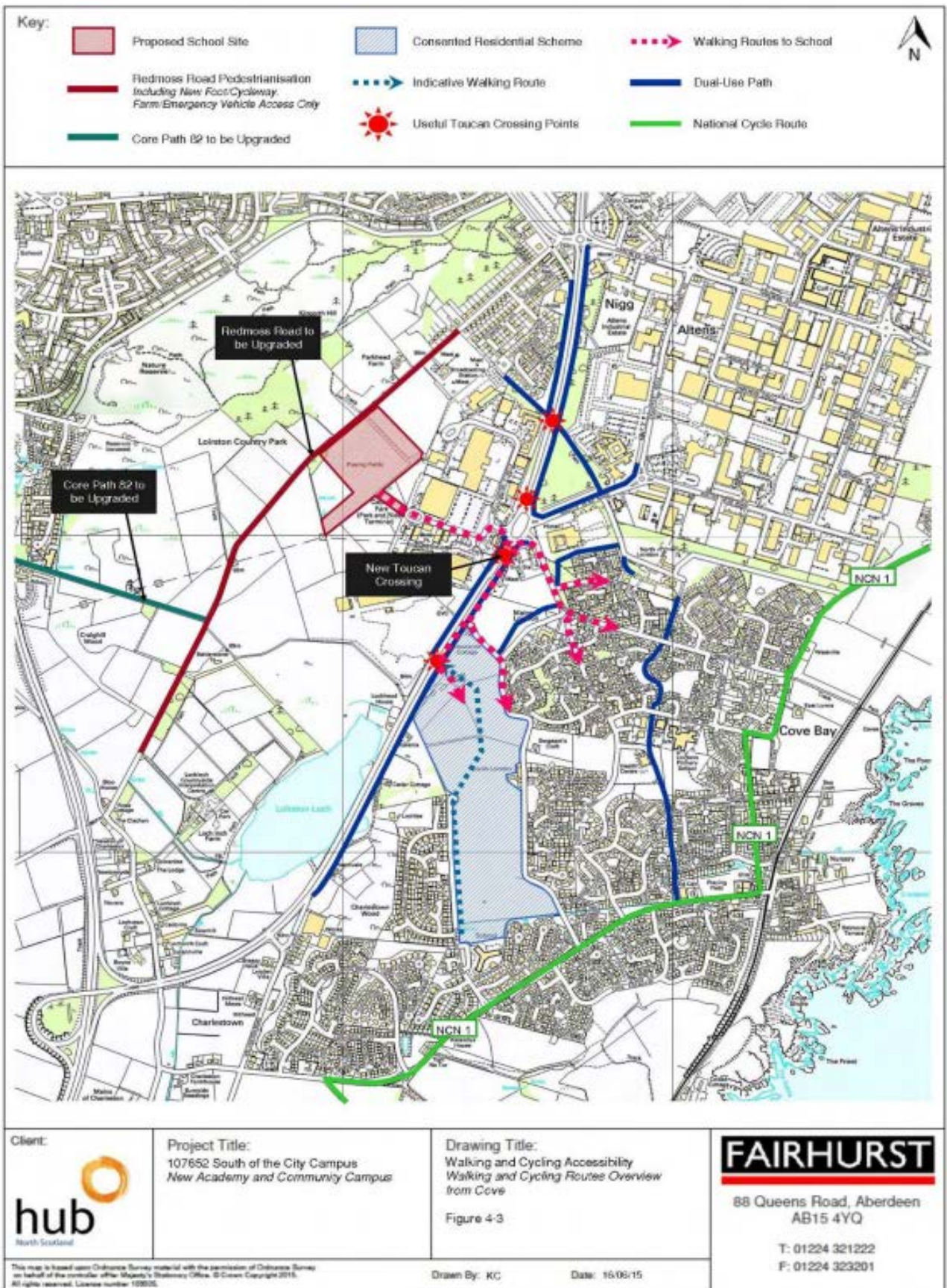
Mark Reilly
Head of Public Infrastructure and Environment
mareilly@aberdeencity.gov.uk
(01224) 523096

Appendix 1

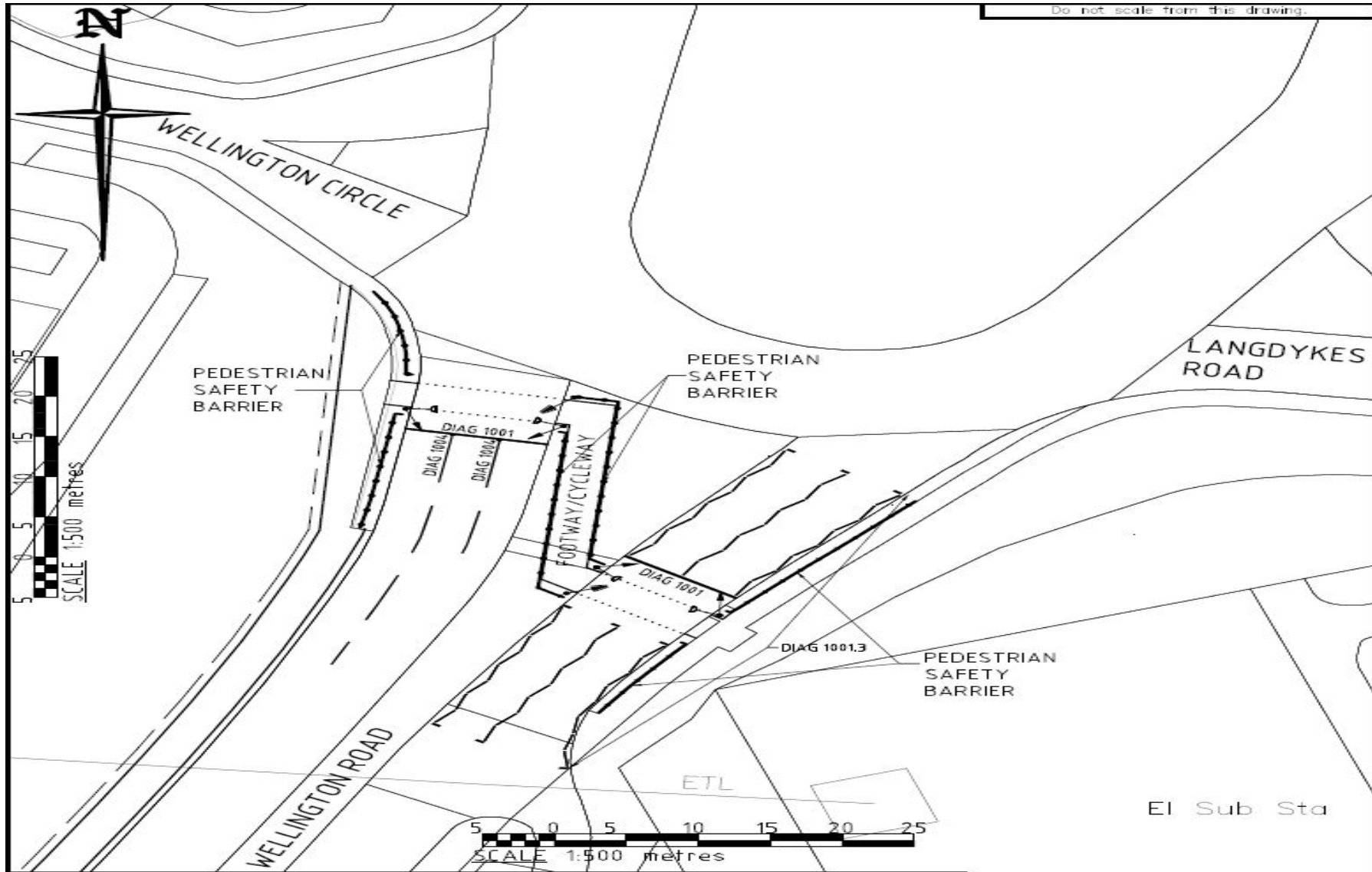
Walking and Cycling Accessibility – Routes overview Kincorth and Torry.



Walking and Cycling Accessibility – Routes overview Cove.



Appendix 2



At-grade Toucan crossing:

The toucan crossing will follow roughly the route of the existing uncontrolled crossing point. The exact design and layout will need to be approved by the Intelligent Transport Systems team. It is proposed that this be set back a minimum of 20 metres from the roundabout.

Guidance states that if a single direct crossing point is greater than 15 metres a staggered crossing should be provided. The distance across Wellington Road A956 is approximately 27 metres.

The crossing will have guard rails in place to channel pedestrians to the controlled crossing point.

Pros:

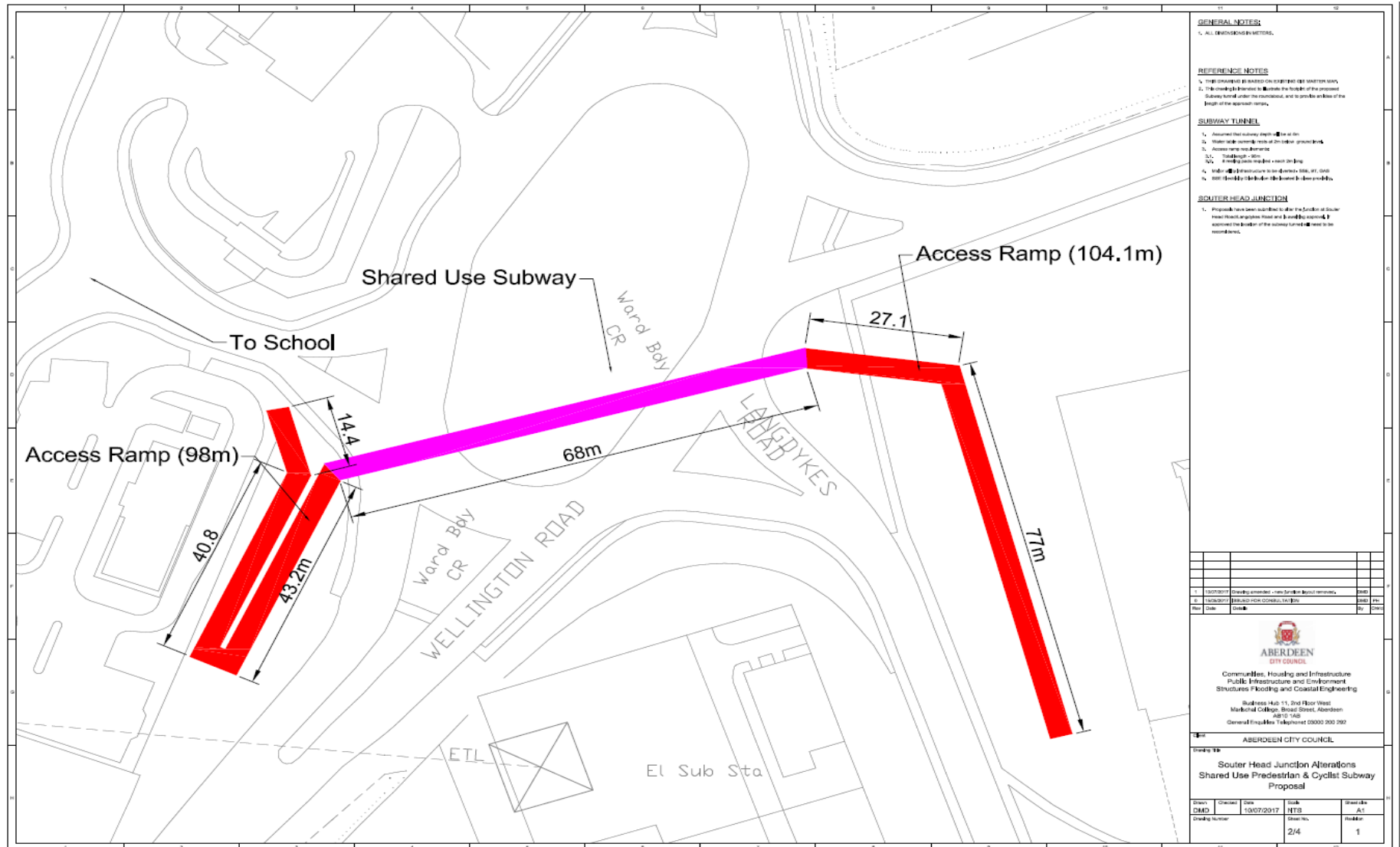
- Shortest route following pedestrian/ cycle desire lines.
- Links to existing pedestrian and cycle infrastructure.
- Detailed checks would be required but it is not anticipated that there would need to be any major diversion of utilities.

Cons:

- Crossing at-grade does not fully separate pedestrians and vehicles.
- Traffic flows will be impacted at times of high usage.

Desirable Additional Design Features to be considered in the detailed design process and through the Road Safety Audit Process:

- Part time 20mph during school peak time.
- High Friction Surfacing at approaches to crossing.



GENERAL NOTES:

1. ALL DIMENSIONS IN METERS.

REFERENCE NOTES:

1. THIS PROPOSAL IS BASED ON THE 2017 STREET MAP.
2. THE PROPOSAL IS BASED ON THE 2017 STREET MAP.
3. THE PROPOSAL IS BASED ON THE 2017 STREET MAP.
4. THE PROPOSAL IS BASED ON THE 2017 STREET MAP.

SUBWAY TUNNEL:

1. Assumed that subway depth is 1.5m at 0m.
2. Water table assumed to be at 2m below ground level.
3. Assumed to be 1.5m diameter.
4. Total length - 100m.
5. Proposed to be 1.5m diameter.
6. Material of construction to be 1.5m diameter.
7. Cost of construction to be 1.5m diameter.

SCUTER HEAD JUNCTION:

1. Proposals have been submitted to alter the location of Scuter Head Junction and to be approved by the Council.

1	10/07/2017	Checked	10/07/2017	HTS	2/4
2	10/07/2017	Checked	10/07/2017	HTS	2/4

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

Communities, Housing and Infrastructure
Public Infrastructure and Environment
Structures, Flooding and Coastal Engineering

Business Hub 11, 2nd Floor West
Marshall College, Broad Street, Aberdeen
AB9 1QB
General Enquiries Telephone: 01224 200 292

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

**Scuter Head Junction Alterations
Shared Use Pre-Stran & Cyclist Subway
Proposal**

Drawn	Checked	Date	Scale	Sheet No.
DMD	HTS	10/07/2017	HTS	A1
Check/Revised				
			2/4	1

Pedestrian Underpass:

A shared-use (Pedestrian and Cyclist) underpass would have to be built at depth of approximately 4 metres. There would need to be shallow approach ramps to ensure the structure was accessible to cyclists and pedestrians, inclusive of those with mobility issues.

The underpass would need to have hand rails and contrasting surfaces and a maximum gradient of 5% with appropriate resting platforms to ensure it complied with the Equality Act 2010 and was accessible to all.

There would be a requirement to ensure adequate lighting was provided.

Pros:

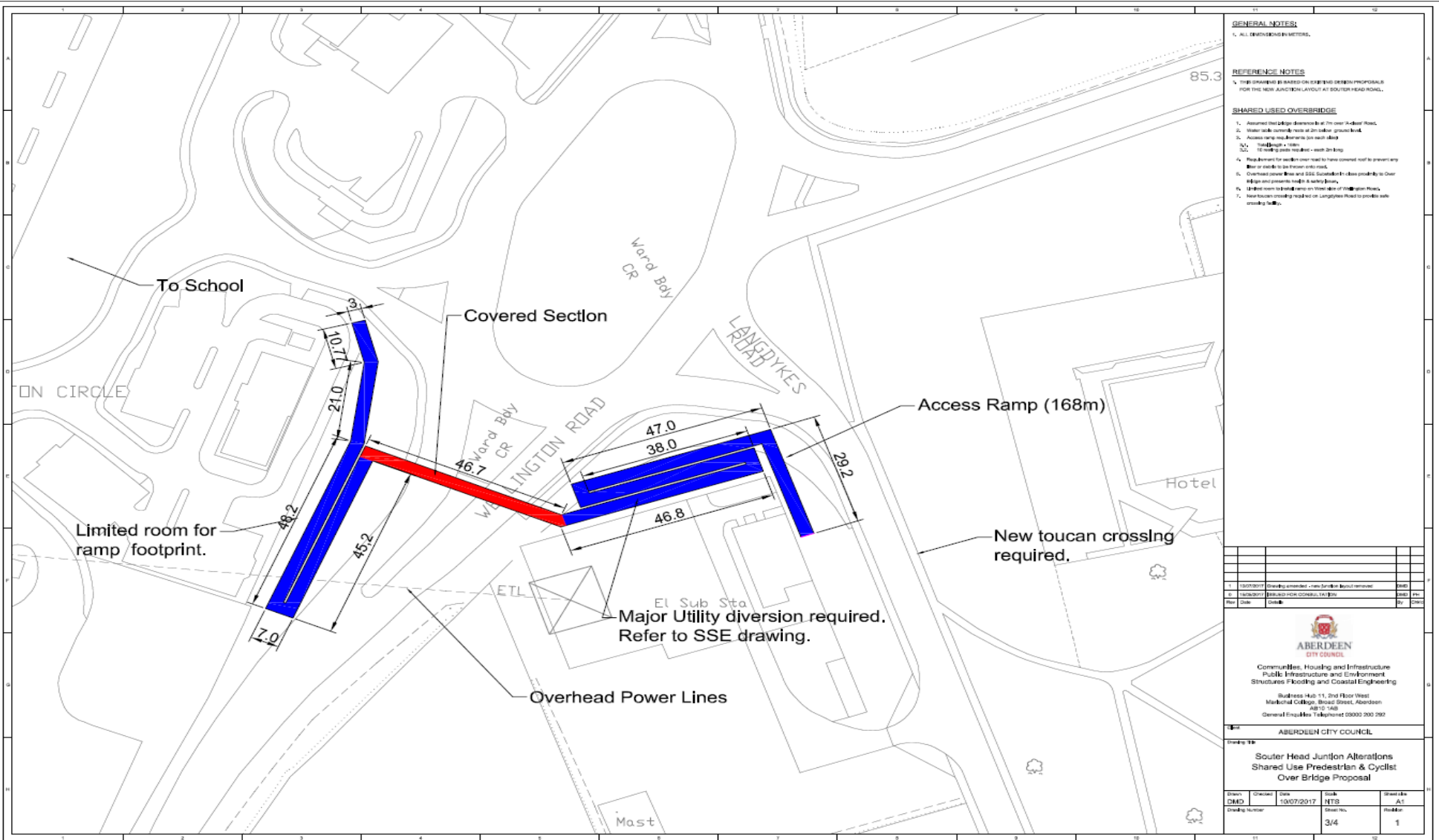
- No delays to vehicles.
- Grade separation of pedestrians and vehicles creates a safe route for pedestrians and cyclists.

Cons:

- Land negotiations and purchase would be required owing to the footprint of the scheme. This could have significant time implications for the project and would not meet the proposed opening date of August 2018.
- Perceived threat to personal security owing to secluded nature of underpasses with no natural surveillance.
- Existing underpasses within the city have been prone to vandalism.
- Increased distance for pedestrians to travel, around 256 metres compared to 27 metres. This may result in pedestrians avoiding using the facility and crossing at an uncontrolled crossing point. The extra distance may negatively impact those with mobility issues.
- Construction of the underpass would require major diversion of utility infrastructure – SSE, BT and GAS. (See Appendix 5 for SSE utility map.)
- Close proximity to SSE Electricity Distribution site.
- Current water table resting at 2 metres below ground level may create issues with flooding and will require regular maintenance. Furthermore a detailed environmental study would be required.

Additional Design Features to Consider:

- Based on the length of the underpass there would be a requirement for lighting to be provided day and night.
- CCTV should be installed to increase perceived security when using the underpass.
- Consideration should be given to the installation of lifts for those with mobility issues; this would have significant cost implications for installation and maintenance.
- Rest spots should be included.



GENERAL NOTES
1. ALL DIMENSIONS IN METRES.

REFERENCE NOTES
2. THIS DRAWING IS BASED ON THE DESIGN PROPOSAL FOR THE NEW JUNCTION LAYOUT AT SOUTER HEAD ROAD.

SHARED USED OVERBRIDGE

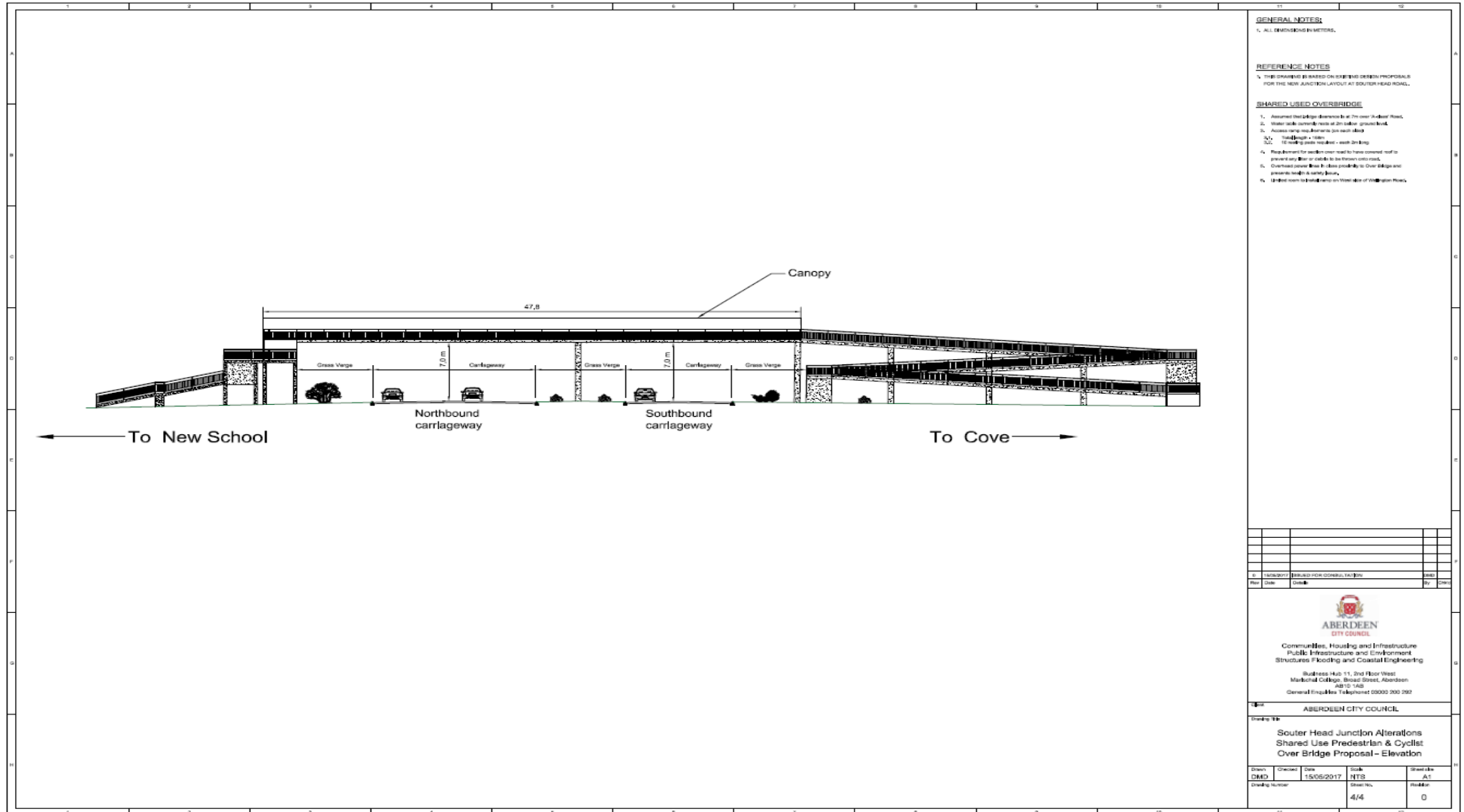
1. Assumed that bridge dimensions are at 7m over A-Beam Road.
2. Water table currently noted at 2m below ground level.
3. Access ramp req. Barriers on each side.
4. Total length = 168m.
5. Handicap grade required - each 2m long.
6. Requirement for section over road to have covered roof to prevent any rain or snow to get through onto road.
7. Overhead cover 2m and SSE Scotland to allow possibility to Over bridge and presents height to safety barrier.
8. 1.5m deep to bridge over on the side of Washington Road.
9. New toucan crossing road on to Langbykes Road to provide safe crossing facility.

1	15/07/2017	Drawing amended - new junction layout removed	2000
2	15/07/2017	Revised from CONSULTATION	2000
Rev	Date	Description	Scale

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL
Communities, Housing and Infrastructure
Public Infrastructure and Environment
Structures, Flooding and Coastal Engineering
Business Hub 11, 2nd Floor West
Marshall College, Broad Street, Aberdeen
AB9 1AQ
General Enquiries Telephone 0500 200 292

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL
Drawing Title
Souter Head Junction Alterations
Shared Use Pedestrian & Cyclist
Over Bridge Proposal

Drawn	Checked	Date	Scale	Sheet No	Sheet No
CHD	HTS	15/07/2017	A3	3/4	1
Drawing Number	Sheet No.	Sheet No.	Sheet No.	Sheet No.	Sheet No.



GENERAL NOTES:
 1. ALL DIMENSIONS IN METERS.

REFERENCE NOTES
 1. THIS DRAWING IS BASED ON EXISTING DESIGN PROPOSALS FOR THE NEW JUNCTION LAYOUT AT SOUTHER HEAD ROAD.

SHARED USED OVERBRIDGE
 1. Assumed that bridge dimensions to be 2m over A-roads Road.
 2. Water table contours exist at 2m below ground level.
 3. Access ramp and barriers for each bridge.
 4. Road Design + Notes
 5. 10m wide grass verges on each bridge.
 6. Requirements for weather cover need to have covered roof to prevent any rain or debris to be thrown onto road.
 7. Overhead power lines to be provided by Over Bridge and present height & safety barrier.
 8. Under road to be 4m from West side of Over Bridge Road.

1	15/05/2017	DESIGNED FOR CONCRETE FACINGS	DATE	BY
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				


ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL
 Communities, Housing and Infrastructure
 Public Infrastructure and Environment
 Structures, Flooding and Coastal Engineering
 Business Hub 11, 2nd Floor West
 Marischal College, Broad Street, Aberdeen
 AB10 1AB
 General Enquiries Telephone 0800 300 395

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

Project Title
 Souter Head Junction Alterations
 Shared Use Pedestrian & Cyclist
 Over Bridge Proposal - Elevation

Drawn DMD	Checked HTS	Date 15/05/2017	Scale 1:1	Sheet No. 4/4	Sheet Size A1
Drawing Number					0

A proposed design layout and elevation drawing for the pedestrian overbridge is provided above. This illustrates the proposed footprint of the scheme. It is assumed the bridge clearance over the A class road would be 7 metres.

The overbridge would need to have hand rails and contrasting surfaces and a maximum gradient of 5% with appropriate resting platforms to ensure it complied with the Equality Act 2010 and was accessible to all.

Concerns that litter or other debris could be dropped onto the carriageway would require the structure to be enclosed with a roof.

To fit the structure in the desired location would involve locating it to close to the SSE substation. This would be very unlikely to get permission due to safety concerns.

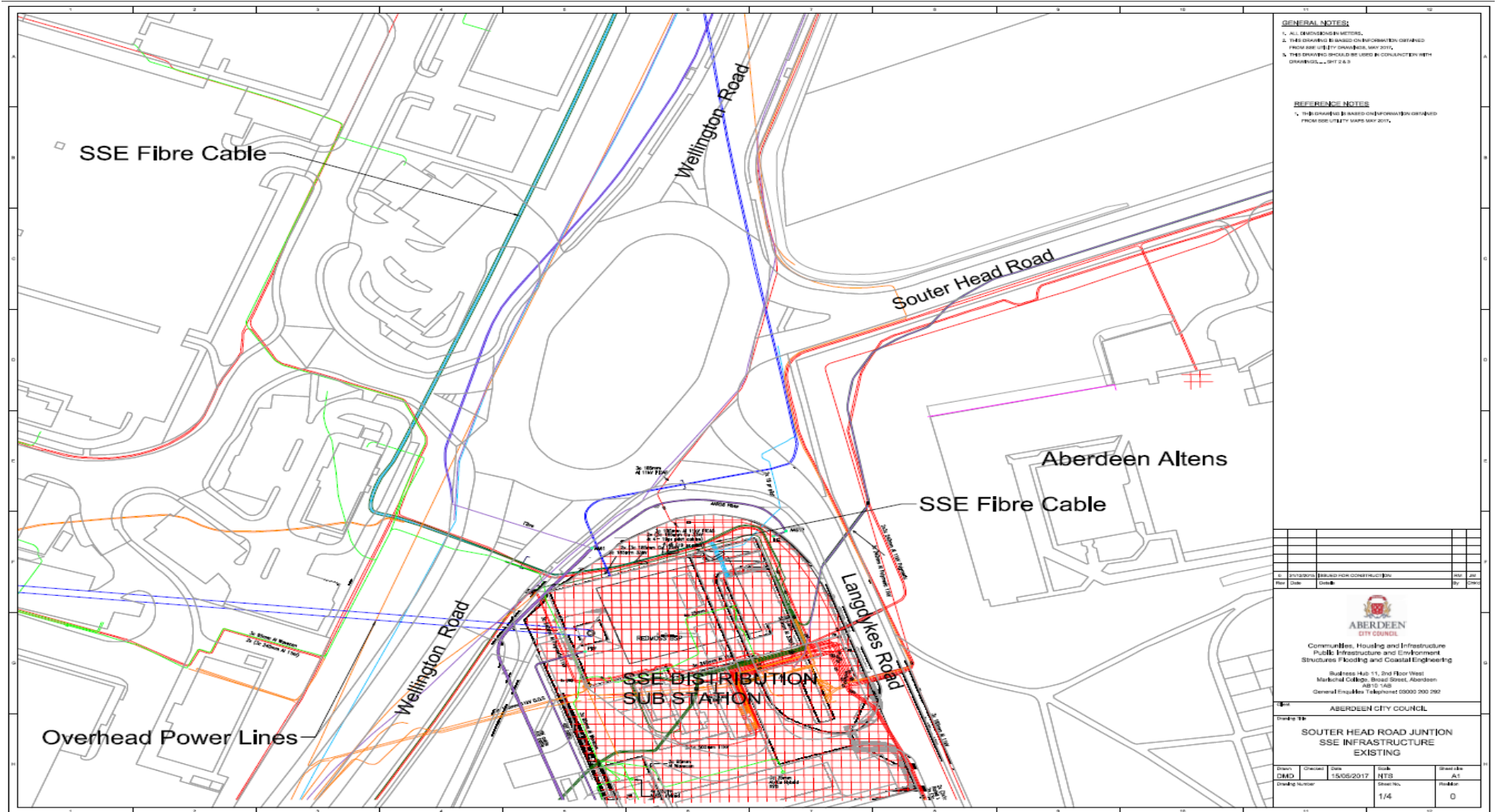
Pros:

- Grade separation of pedestrians and vehicles creates a safe route for pedestrians.
- No delays to vehicles.

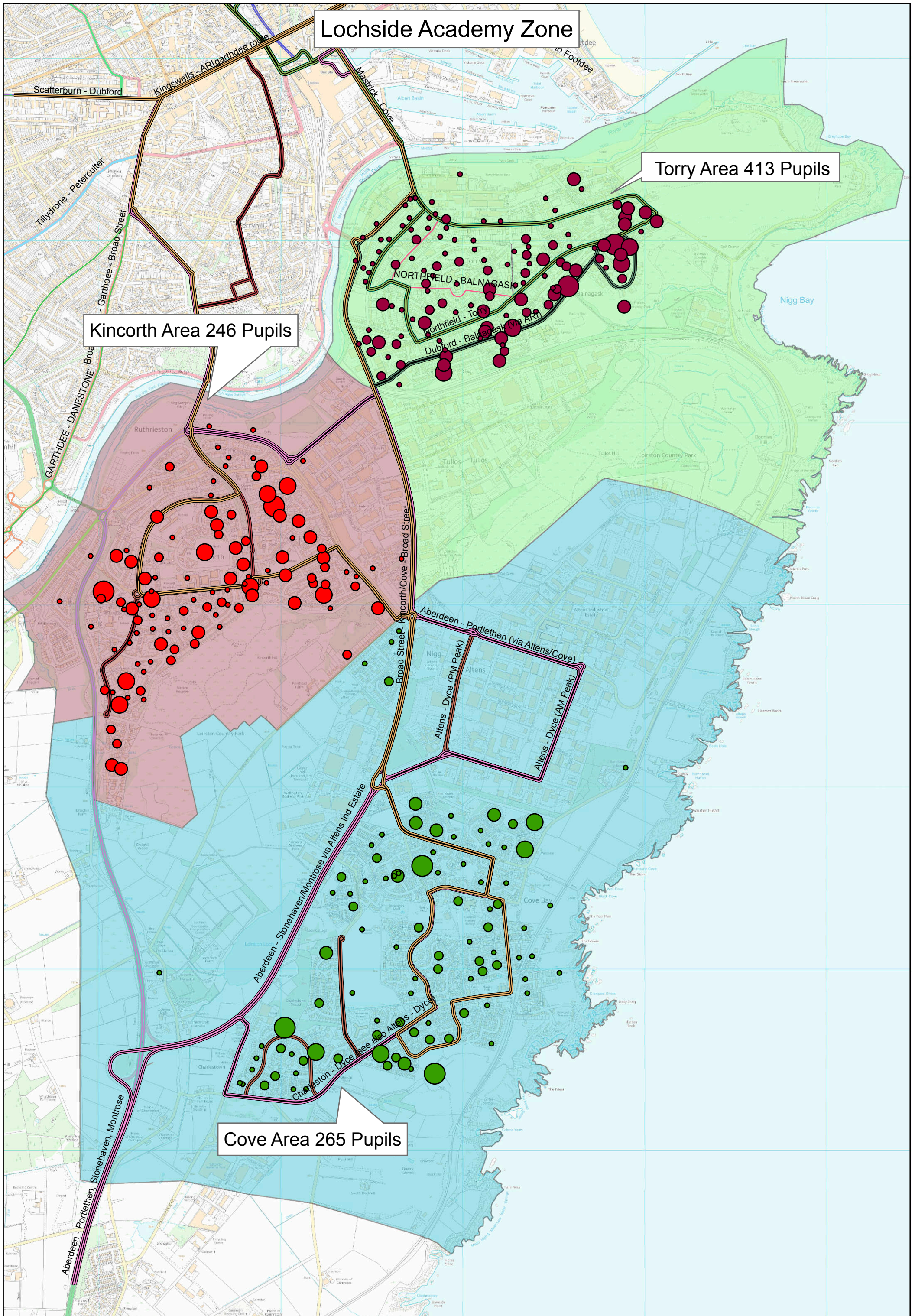
Cons:

- Increased distance for pedestrians to travel, around 168 metres compared to 27 metres. This may result in pedestrians avoiding using the facility and crossing at uncontrolled crossing points.
- The extra distance may negatively impact those with mobility issues.
- Close proximity to SSE Electricity Distribution site, with overhead power lines constitutes a health and safety concern.
- Visually intrusive.
- Land negotiations and purchase required. This could have significant time implications for the project and would not meet the proposed opening date of August 2018

Appendix 5



Lochside Academy Zone



Torry Area 413 Pupils

Kincorth Area 246 Pupils

Cove Area 265 Pupils

This page is intentionally left blank

Cove Area Postcodes

AB12 3AU	AB12 3HJ	AB12 3NF	AB12 3QS	AB12 3UE
AB12 3BA	AB12 3HT	AB12 3NG	AB12 3QT	AB12 3UG
AB12 3BH	AB12 3HW	AB12 3NH	AB12 3QU	AB12 3UH
AB12 3BL	AB12 3HX	AB12 3NJ	AB12 3QW	AB12 3UJ
AB12 3BP	AB12 3HY	AB12 3NL	AB12 3QX	AB12 3UL
AB12 3BU	AB12 3HZ	AB12 3NN	AB12 3QY	AB12 3UP
AB12 3BW	AB12 3JA	AB12 3NP	AB12 3RA	AB12 3UQ
AB12 3BY	AB12 3JD	AB12 3NQ	AB12 3RE	AB12 3UR
AB12 3BZ	AB12 3JE	AB12 3NR	AB12 3RF	AB12 3US
AB12 3DG	AB12 3JF	AB12 3NS	AB12 3RG	AB12 3WD
AB12 3DH	AB12 3JG	AB12 3NT	AB12 3RH	AB12 3WE
AB12 3DU	AB12 3JH	AB12 3NU	AB12 3RU	AB12 3WF
AB12 3DW	AB12 3JJ	AB12 3NW	AB12 3RW	AB12 3WG
AB12 3DY	AB12 3JP	AB12 3NX	AB12 3RX	AB12 3WH
AB12 3DZ	AB12 3JQ	AB12 3NY	AB12 3RY	AB12 3WJ
AB12 3EF	AB12 3JR	AB12 3NZ	AB12 3SD	AB12 3WL
AB12 3EG	AB12 3JS	AB12 3PA	AB12 3SE	AB12 3WN
AB12 3EH	AB12 3JT	AB12 3PB	AB12 3SF	AB12 3YN
AB12 3EY	AB12 3JU	AB12 3PD	AB12 3SG	AB12 4GH
AB12 3EZ	AB12 3JW	AB12 3PE	AB12 3SH	AB12 5UT
AB12 3FA	AB12 3JX	AB12 3PF	AB12 3SJ	AB12 5XJ
AB12 3FD	AB12 3JY	AB12 3PG	AB12 3SL	
AB12 3FH	AB12 3JZ	AB12 3PH	AB12 3SN	
AB12 3FJ	AB12 3LA	AB12 3PJ	AB12 3SP	
AB12 3FL	AB12 3LB	AB12 3PL	AB12 3SQ	
AB12 3FQ	AB12 3LD	AB12 3PN	AB12 3SR	
AB12 3FR	AB12 3LE	AB12 3PP	AB12 3ST	
AB12 3FS	AB12 3LF	AB12 3PQ	AB12 3SU	
AB12 3FT	AB12 3LG	AB12 3PR	AB12 3SW	
AB12 3FU	AB12 3LH	AB12 3PS	AB12 3SX	
AB12 3FX	AB12 3LJ	AB12 3PT	AB12 3SZ	
AB12 3FZ	AB12 3LL	AB12 3PU	AB12 3TD	
AB12 3GD	AB12 3LN	AB12 3PW	AB12 3TE	
AB12 3GJ	AB12 3LP	AB12 3PX	AB12 3TF	
AB12 3GL	AB12 3LR	AB12 3PY	AB12 3TG	
AB12 3GN	AB12 3LS	AB12 3PZ	AB12 3TJ	
AB12 3GP	AB12 3LT	AB12 3QA	AB12 3TN	
AB12 3GT	AB12 3LU	AB12 3QB	AB12 3TQ	
AB12 3GW	AB12 3LW	AB12 3QD	AB12 3TR	
AB12 3GX	AB12 3LX	AB12 3QE	AB12 3TS	
AB12 3GY	AB12 3LY	AB12 3QF	AB12 3TT	
AB12 3HA	AB12 3LZ	AB12 3QG	AB12 3TU	
AB12 3HD	AB12 3NA	AB12 3QJ	AB12 3TX	
AB12 3HE	AB12 3NB	AB12 3QN	AB12 3TY	
AB12 3HF	AB12 3ND	AB12 3QP	AB12 3TZ	
AB12 3HG	AB12 3ND	AB12 3QQ	AB12 3UB	
AB12 3HH	AB12 3NE	AB12 3QR	AB12 3UD	

Kincorth Area Postcodes

AB12 5AR	AB12 5QS	AB12 5TS	AB12 3BD	AB12 3AE
AB12 5QD	AB12 5SF	AB12 5TD	AB12 5RD	AB12 5AX
AB12 5PF	AB12 5RG	AB12 5PJ	AB12 5RR	AB12 5AT
AB12 5QL	AB12 3BE	AB12 5QN	AB12 5PQ	AB12 5TT
AB12 5QJ	AB12 3AH	AB12 5UJ	AB12 5PD	AB12 5RB
AB12 5AH	AB12 3AJ	AB12 5UB	AB12 5PB	AB12 5SL
AB12 5JL	AB12 3AL	AB12 5TX	AB12 5RA	AB12 5QX
AB12 5JN	AB12 3AP	AB12 5UN	AB12 5RJ	AB12 5RE
AB12 5BB	AB12 3DJ	AB12 5UL	AB12 5AY	AB12 5HP
AB12 5SN	AB12 3DF	AB12 5LA	AB12 5NJ	AB12 5HN
AB12 5AD	AB12 3DB	AB12 5SJ	AB12 5NL	AB12 5BP
AB12 5AU	AB12 5DP	AB12 5JX	AB12 5BU	AB12 5NA
AB12 5BD	AB12 5DA	AB12 5JY	AB12 5HQ	AB12 5SE
AB12 5AQ	AB12 5ED	AB12 5SD	AB12 5HL	AB12 5BA
AB12 5AP	AB12 3QH	AB12 5DR	AB12 5HB	AB12 5NB
AB12 5BN	AB12 5NT	AB12 5DB	AB12 5PT	AB12 3JN
AB12 5JD	AB12 5NX	AB12 5DS	AB12 5QB	AB12 5RY
AB12 5JP	AB12 5ND	AB12 5NR	AB12 5LL	AB12 5DT
AB12 5RU	AB12 5RH	AB12 5LT	AB12 5LN	AB12 5AA
AB12 5RZ	AB12 5PX	AB12 5RF	AB12 5LB	AB12 5AN
AB12 5PS	AB12 5ES	AB12 5UD	AB12 5LJ	AB12 5HX
AB12 5RQ	AB12 3AD	AB12 5LQ	AB12 5SP	AB12 5HT
AB12 5HS	AB12 3AG	AB12 5JQ	AB12 5SS	AB12 5JB
AB12 5EQ	AB12 3AR	AB12 5BS	AB12 5SQ	AB12 5QA
AB12 5ER	AB12 3AS	AB12 5BY	AB12 5SR	AB12 3AB
AB12 5ET	AB12 5BL	AB12 5HR	AB12 5PA	AB12 3DD
AB12 5HD	AB12 5EP	AB12 5UA	AB12 5AE	AB12 3JL
AB12 5QU	AB12 5DD	AB12 5US	AB12 5AJ	AB12 3DE
AB12 5RL	AB12 5DE	AB12 5TP	AB12 5BQ	AB12 3DA
AB12 5EJ	AB12 5JJ	AB12 5TQ	AB12 5DF	AB12 3AN
AB12 5PN	AB12 5EX	AB12 5UP	AB12 5BX	AB12 5BR
AB12 3BF	AB12 5HA	AB12 5UR	AB12 5BT	AB12 5AS
AB12 5TN	AB12 5QR	AB12 5UQ	AB12 5JA	AB12 3LQ
AB12 5YLB	AB12 5QQ	AB12 5QP	AB12 5PP	AB12 5UG
AB12 5UT	AB12 5LD	AB12 5XB	AB12 5DL	AB12 5UE
AB12 5JS	AB12 5RX	AB12 5TL	AB12 5DJ	AB12 5UF
AB12 5LE	AB12 5LS	AB12 5TR	AB12 5QT	
AB12 5LP	AB12 5RT	AB12 5SZ	AB12 5JU	
AB12 5DQ	AB12 5SA	AB12 5DN	AB12 5EN	
AB12 5BJ	AB12 5JT	AB12 5PR	AB12 5RN	
AB12 5LR	AB12 5NN	AB12 5XD	AB12 5RP	
AB12 5LX	AB12 5NP	AB12 5HJ	AB12 5NS	
AB12 5EA	AB12 5JR	AB12 5AB	AB12 5NQ	
AB12 3AF	AB12 5AL	AB12 5XA	AB12 5PL	
AB12 5TB	AB12 5DH	AB12 5DX	AB12 5BE	
AB12 5TA	AB12 5EL	AB12 5EB	AB12 5BH	
AB12 5SX	AB12 5TJ	AB12 3AW	AB12 5RW	

Torry Area Postcodes

AB11 9LS	AB12 3AZ	AB11 9JX	AB11 8BY	AB11 8HN	AB11 9QY
AB11 9JY	AB11 9DT	AB11 9LA	AB12 3JB	AB11 8HW	AB11 9QA
AB11 8AA	AB11 9PS	AB11 8EN	AB11 8HP	AB11 9LP	AB11 9QF
AB11 8JW	AB11 9ND	AB11 9PB	AB11 8EB	AB11 8SD	AB11 9RD
AB11 9JT	AB11 9AH	AB11 9AA	AB11 9DR	AB11 8HE	AB11 9QD
AB11 9NW	AB11 8TZ	AB12 3HB	AB11 9NT	AB11 8HB	AB11 9QB
AB11 9JQ	AB11 9AE	AB11 8EP	AB11 8TB	AB11 8HF	AB11 9PR
AB11 9JS	AB11 9BD	AB11 8JB	AB11 8ST	AB11 9LD	AB12 3BS
AB11 9BB	AB11 9BE	AB11 9AN	AB11 8SJ	AB11 9LB	AB11 9NU
AB11 9JD	AB11 8EX	AB11 8TA	AB11 8EG	AB11 8DN	AB11 8JA
AB11 9JE	AB11 8DJ	AB11 8SH	AB11 8EQ	AB11 8EA	AB11 9QR
AB11 9JJ	AB11 9PL	AB11 8LN	AB11 8EJ	AB11 8RE	AB11 9QH
AB11 8SW	AB11 9PP	AB11 8FX	AB11 8DL	AB11 8BL	AB11 8DF
AB11 9NL	AB11 8JU	AB11 8QX	AB11 8HA	AB11 8BN	
AB11 8SL	AB11 8BU	AB11 8RS	AB11 8FP	AB11 8DQ	
AB11 8SU	AB11 8LH	AB11 8TN	AB11 8HL	AB11 9DU	
AB11 8TL	AB11 8BW	AB11 8DS	AB11 9AY	AB11 8RQ	
AB11 8TW	AB11 9LY	AB11 8FA	AB11 9BA	AB11 8RR	
AB11 8SQ	AB11 9NB	AB11 8GA	AB11 9DS	AB11 9PE	
AB11 8SX	AB11 9NE	AB11 8TU	AB11 8TR	AB11 8SP	
AB11 9AU	AB11 9NN	AB11 8TY	AB11 8RY	AB11 8TT	
AB11 9AX	AB11 9NP	AB11 8SB	AB11 8DH	AB11 8RU	
AB12 3GZ	AB11 9NH	AB11 8RZ	AB11 8DE	AB11 9NA	
AB11 8TF	AB11 9LT	AB11 8TX	AB11 8DA	AB11 9NJ	
AB11 8RH	AB11 8FR	AB11 9JH	AB11 9AP	AB11 8RL	
AB11 8RJ	AB11 8DB	AB11 8BQ	AB11 9AQ	AB11 8RX	
AB11 8SS	AB11 8DD	AB11 9AS	AB11 8FT	AB11 9QP	
AB11 8LG	AB11 8ES	AB11 8EY	AB11 8TE	AB11 9BH	
AB11 8TQ	AB11 8BS	AB11 8ER	AB11 8RG	AB11 9AR	
AB11 8HT	AB11 9JP	AB11 8ED	AB11 9LF	AB11 8HD	
AB11 8HJ	AB12 3BG	AB11 9AT	AB11 9NF	AB11 8HH	
AB11 8FB	AB12 3BJ	AB11 8DP	AB11 8RN	AB11 8HY	
AB11 8FD	AB12 3BQ	AB11 8BJ	AB11 8SN	AB12 3AX	
AB11 8EL	AB12 3BT	AB11 8EE	AB11 8RP	AB12 3DN	
AB11 8FJ	AB11 8BP	AB11 8EH	AB11 8SA	AB12 3DP	
AB11 8SF	AB11 8BR	AB11 9NQ	AB11 8SR	AB11 8DG	
AB11 8DR	AB11 9NR	AB11 8EW	AB11 8LL	AB11 8DU	
AB11 8DT	AB11 9NS	AB11 8DX	AB11 8LQ	AB11 9LU	
AB11 9AD	AB11 8JR	AB11 8EU	AB11 9QE	AB11 9PN	
AB11 9LE	AB11 9RB	AB11 8DY	AB11 8BX	AB11 8HX	
AB11 8DZ	AB11 9PA	AB12 3BB	AB11 9AL	AB11 9LX	
AB11 9JZ	AB11 8HR	AB12 3BN	AB11 9JN	AB11 9QG	
AB11 8SY	AB11 8HS	AB11 8TD	AB11 8FL	AB11 9QQ	
AB11 9QN	AB11 8TJ	AB11 8TS	AB11 8FS	AB12 3HL	
AB11 9QJ	AB11 8TP	AB11 9PJ	AB11 8BT	AB11 9NY	
AB11 8FQ	AB11 8TH	AB11 9AJ	AB11 8HU	AB11 9NX	
AB12 3AY	AB11 8RT	AB11 8ET	AB11 8SE	AB11 9QT	

This page is intentionally left blank

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Education & Children's Services
DATE	16 November 2017
REPORT TITLE	St Peter's School – Long Term Educational Provision
REPORT NUMBER	ECS/17/062
DIRECTOR	Gayle Gorman
REPORT AUTHOR	Maria Thies

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT:-

- 1.1 This report provides details and conclusions of the option appraisals carried out in relation to the planning of future options to be considered for the delivery of the long term education provision at St. Peter's Roman Catholic School in Aberdeen as requested by Committee at its meeting on 1 March 2017.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Committee

(a) considers the outcome of the option appraisal work to date which concluded that:

- The current Riverbank School site is the most viable site for a new build replacement for St. Peter's School, and;
- The current Riverbank School building is the most suitable existing school building for the long term delivery of RC educational provision at St. Peter's, and that within currently available resources this is the most viable option for the future of St Peter's School.

(b) instructs the Director of Education and Children's Services to commence a programme of formal consultation in accordance with the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act, the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 and section 22D of the Education (Scotland) Act 1980 regarding the proposal to relocate St. Peter's RC School to the current Riverbank School building, once the New Tillydrone Primary School becomes operational, and

(c) instructs the Director of Education and Children's Services to report back to a future meeting of the Committee regarding the outcome of the consultation, which will take place in early 2018.

3. BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES

3.1 In response to a report submitted to the Education and Children's Services Committee on 1 March 2017, which summarised the outcomes of a public consultation on proposals to construct a new primary school in Tillydrone, elected members instructed officers to prepare an options appraisal to help determine the long term future of education provision at the existing St Peter's School.

3.2 Officers were also instructed to consider the potential future uses of the existing Riverbank School site with due consideration to the future needs of the communities in this area of the city with regards to education, social care and early learning and childcare provision. This report outlines the work which has been undertaken so far, and the next steps which are required should committee approve the recommendations.

3.3 The existing St Peter's School site

3.3.1 The main school building on the existing St Peter's School site includes four classrooms, a gym / dining hall, library, general purpose room and offices. Due to continued increases in the pupil roll at the school over a number of years, the library and general purpose room in the main building are currently also used as classrooms.

3.3.2 A further three rooms on the first floor of Old Aberdeen House (which shares the same site) have also been converted for use as classrooms, and a double modular classroom unit has been installed in the playground of the school, to provide an additional two classrooms. There are therefore a total of eleven rooms currently in use as classrooms at the school.

3.3.3 Currently, there is a growing over capacity issue at St. Peter's school; a short term capacity action plan was submitted to the Education & Children's Services committee in June this year detailing a number of actions which will help alleviate these capacity issues in the short term. A number of actions have been successfully completed which have provided improved teaching and ancillary spaces for the pupils and staff of St. Peter's. There is a need to strategically rethink how best we can deliver the future educational provision at St. Peter's school and consider the best options for determining the future sustainability and growth of RC educational provision within the city. Capacity pressures will remain an issue for the future unless we can provide a fit for purpose solution to address this in the long term.

3.4 Option Appraisal (New Build Option)

3.4.1 Following the instruction from Education & Children's Services Committee in March 2017, a joint working group was established. The working group included the St. Peter's Head Teacher, St. Peter's parent council, The Roman Catholic (RC) Diocese, and various council officers from Communities, Housing & Infrastructure and Education & Children's Services. The purpose of the group was to collectively review the long term educational requirements for St. Peter's and identify site options for a future new build two stream

school. The working group provided opportunities for officers to continue to work collaboratively with St. Peter's Community and the RC Diocese.

- 3.4.2 Regular meetings of the group were held over the last 5 months to facilitate discussion regarding the initial site selection. The initial site selection was based on the following requirements:
- The site must be within the RC catchment area
 - The site area to be a minimum of 1.4 hectares (for the provision of a two stream school plus early learning childcare facilities)
- 3.4.3 Following this exercise the process of identifying appropriate sites commenced. Initial work was undertaken by the Estates Team using available data bases to identify Council owned sites within the RC zone for St. Peters RC Primary School catchment area. Sites were selected that were either vacant or were likely to become available within a reasonable timescale. This list was supplemented by an additional site that is owned by the University of Aberdeen and extended to privately owned sites.
- 3.4.4 The eight identified sites were subject to further information gathering (desk top studies, planning and roads input) so that an initial assessment of the options could be undertaken.
- 3.4.5 The first stage of the options appraisal consisted of clearly defining the criteria against which all of the potential sites would be assessed. The resulting selection criteria were:
- Site Area
 - Site Characteristics (Topography)
 - Site Characteristics (Ground Conditions)
 - Site Location/Neighbourhood
 - Site Access: - Roads
 - Accessibility (Communications, bus routes etc.)
 - Development Potential (Planning Constraints, Ecological Issues)
 - Redevelopment Opportunities/Regeneration/Shared Use
 - Site Services/Sustainability Issues
 - Site Availability/Existing Use
 - Site Value/Acquisition Costs/Displacement Costs
 - Fit with Service Delivery Model
- 3.4.6 Under the headings of the main criteria a series of specific points against which sites would be measured were developed.
- 3.4.7 The sites were assessed and scored by officers from Education and Children's Services and Communities, Housing and Infrastructure in accordance with the evaluation criteria and methodology described. The results of the scoring show that all of the sites assessed are large enough to accommodate a two-stream school with provision of early learning services and all associated external spaces and playing fields. The appraisal however

did highlight that some of the sites may prove challenging to develop due to their shape, topography and site conditions.

3.4.8 Upon conclusion of the new build site scoring exercise, the existing Riverbank School site scored the highest for a new build option with the site at Golf Road scoring second (see appendix 1 site location map).

The other sites considered which did not score as highly were (in no particular order):

- The existing AECC site
- The site of the former Dunbar Halls of Residence
- Land at Froghall Terrace
- The Grandhome housing development
- Land at North Denmore
- Land at North Donside.

3.4.9 The attached map (appendix 1) shows the location of each of these sites. It is important to note that not all of these sites are currently within Council ownership, and they were assessed and scored on the assumption that they would be available to purchase. Any decision to proceed with considerations for these sites would require discussion with the site owners to determine whether or not they would be available for sale.

3.5 Option Appraisal (Other Options)

3.5.1 All other potential options to be duly considered for the future long term education provision at St. Peter's RC School were subject to an additional options appraisal which was conducted by officers from Education & Children's Services and Communities Housing & Infrastructure.

3.5.2 The objectives of the appraisal were:

- To provide a fit for purpose learning establishment suitable for the delivery of the modern curriculum
- To meet the future growing capacity of the RC school zone
- To provide a school within a residential setting in the RC zone.
- To operate from a building that is fit for purpose (suitability rating A or B) and in appropriate condition (rating A or B) which is in line with the Property Framework.
- To provide improved outdoor education

3.5.3 The following options were considered and scored on how they met each of the above objectives (i.e. 3=fully delivers, 2=mostly delivers, 1=delivers to a limited extent, 0=does not deliver and -1 will have a negative impact on objective). This methodology and approach is in accordance with the Council's approved governance arrangements for all capital projects.

- 3.5.4 **Option 1 – Do nothing/minimum:** - “**To continue to deliver St. Peter’s educational provision at its current site**” i.e. at Dunbar Street. Whilst the current ongoing short term action plan will help resolve the current capacity issues at St. Peter’s it will not alleviate future capacity issues which are forecast for future years. This option will not deliver any long term benefits to St. Peter’s and will only continue to be an interim solution. The current location however has well established links to the University and its surrounding area.
- 3.5.5 The ongoing costs that will be generated year on year to help alleviate future capacity issues will be a drain on revenue and capital budgets whilst providing no long term solution or realisation of benefits.
- 3.5.6 If this option is recommended, there is a high likelihood of reputational risk to the Council, as future growing capacity issues would impact negatively on staff, pupils and parents. There are no significant advantages to this option as it will not meet the desired benefits and the long term capacity requirements of St. Peter’s school.
- 3.5.7 **Option 2 – “Reconfigure, Refurbish & extend Old Aberdeen House”:**
This option looked at reconfiguring, refurbishing and extending Old Aberdeen House, demolishing the existing school building and replacing it with additional playground space.
- 3.5.8 The current overall GIFA (gross internal floor area) of Old Aberdeen House is currently not sufficient for a two stream school which is required for St. Peter’s current and future capacity needs. Additional space (approximately 1,500sqm) in Old Aberdeen House would be required in order to comply with the space regulations for a two stream school. The overall site area (0.8 hectares) just falls short of what is required for a two stream school according to the current 1967 School Premises Regulations (this excludes the provision of playing fields and an Early Year’s service). The current site size is 0.74 hectares.
- 3.5.9 A sensitive reconfiguration/extension would be required to Old Aberdeen House as the building is located in a conservation area and is surrounded by residential properties. This may require additional project delivery time and resource. Due to the fact that it was a former school building, planning in principal would be supported at this stage. Consideration would need to be given to the provision and location of playing fields in close proximity to the site along with Early Years delivery if this option was to be progressed.
- 3.5.10 Currently the condition and suitability of Old Aberdeen House are graded as B however there are various condition works identified to date that will need to be progressed to ensure it is kept to an acceptable standard.
- 3.5.11 Relocation/decant costs of the school alongside the Aberdeenshire Archives Team and the Scientific Services Team which currently occupy Old Aberdeen House would need to be factored into the overall project budget and delivery times.

- 3.5.12 Detailed costs would need to be fully scoped out in line with the proposed design and extension plans.
- 3.5.13 The main risk to this option would be that the new reconfigured school design would not fully meet all aspects of the curriculum for excellence from this site i.e. provision for playing fields and early years education.
- 3.5.14 The main advantage to this option is that the current St Peter's school remains long term at its current site which strengthens the well-established links to the University of Aberdeen and the Old Aberdeen community.
- 3.5.15 The main disadvantage to this option is that no provision of playing fields / multi-use games areas and early years provision cannot be provided on site due to the current site constraints.
- 3.5.16 **Option 3 – “Relocate St. Peter’s RC school into Riverbank School building” (post completion of the new Tillydrone School):** The current Riverbank school building has a capacity for a two stream school with an overall site area of 1.52 hectares. The adjoining site which also sits under Education has an area of 0.52 hectares which could be used for any future required extension to the school should it be required. The current building includes a recent modular extension comprising modern classrooms, general purpose space, and toilet and cloakroom facilities. Its current capacity of 420 would cater for St. Peter’s expanding roll.
- 3.5.17 The overall condition rating is B. Within the condition survey there are no elements of the building which fall into a C or D category which means that there are no current capital requirements for improving the condition of the building however, there may be ad hoc ongoing repairs and maintenance items required to maintain the condition of the building. Suitability of the building is also a category B and no significant issues have been identified.
- 3.5.18 **Potential Future Uses of the Riverbank School/site:**
- As this property is an operational school which was purpose built, our Estates Team has advised there is currently no known demand for the property out with Education & Children Services.
- 3.5.19 The planning of our expansion of Early Learning and Childcare provision is currently underway and it is recognised that Tillydrone will have a high demand and need for this service to meet the current growing population of under 5s in the area. It is envisaged that future provision of ELC will be delivered at the new Tillydrone School alongside some provision at the new Community Hub. If additional provision is required (depending on overall demand and uptake) to deliver the expanded offer in Tillydrone, the vacated Riverbank School could be a viable option however this is difficult to determine at this point in time.
- 3.5.20 **Current Market Demand:** Due to the ongoing challenges in the residential property market, the Council’s Estates Team has advised that currently there

would be limited demand for this site from private housing developers with the likely interested purchasers being social landlords. Although difficult to project future demand over the next 3 years, it is recognised that this position would not significantly change in the near future.

- 3.5.21 The Estates Team has carried out a valuation of this site should the Council wish to consider sale of the site on the open market once declared vacant and surplus to requirement. The current market value (with achievement of planning for residential purposes) is currently deemed relatively low and any potential planning obligations, demolition and further abnormal demolition costs would reduce the overall value.
- 3.5.22 Any costs associated with future suitability/condition would be determined once a scope of works (feasibility study) was carried out. Decant costs would need to be accounted for. This option would release an asset but there would also be an opportunity cost of the Riverbank site.
- 3.5.23 The main advantage of this option is that it would address the long term capacity issues of St. Peter's RC school and it would remain within the current RC zone.
- 3.5.24 It should be noted however that this option was strongly opposed to at a St. Peter's community consultation in November 2016 and therefore may be met with dissatisfaction by the St Peter's community. The community highlighted several issues regarding this option; reference was made to the lack of available public transport links to Tillydrone from King Street, the increased walking distances for pupils living in the Seaton area, alongside the risk of losing the strong established links with the University if this option was pursued. The option was also opposed by the RC Diocese of Aberdeen.
- 3.5.25 **Option 4 – “To build a new two stream school on a suitable site within the current RC school zone”:** As detailed earlier in this report, a separate options appraisal was carried out to determine the feasibility of a new build option for St. Peter's RC school. The purpose of this study was to carry out an appraisal of various sites located in the existing catchment area of St. Peter's RC Primary School, to assess their suitability to replace and increase the overall education capacity at St. Peter's RC Primary School. Desk top studies formed part of this appraisal study which informed initial site conditions to be taken into consideration at this stage. Following the assessment and scoring of each site (eight in total), a ranking order of sites was determined which highlighted the most viable sites for taking forward to the next stage. The two sites that scored the highest were the Riverbank site (as a cleared site) and the site at Golf Road.
- 3.5.26 A full budget cost report would be required to determine the exact capital cost required for a new build for St. Peter's RC school. This would need to consider both the future capital and revenue requirements. The updated Non-Housing Capital programme was approved by the Finance, Policy & Resources committee on 9 March 2017, committing available financial resources to the current project list. The overall programme and available financial resources would need to be reassessed if an emerging project was deemed to have a higher priority than the currently approved projects.

Currently the Non-Housing Capital programme is fully committed until financial year 2021/22.

- 3.5.27 The main advantage of this option is that a purpose new built school would be designed to meet the long term requirements of St. Peter's. Whole life cycle maintenance costs alongside energy costs could be potentially reduced if factored into the new build design. This would ensure maximum efficiency of our Schools Estate in the future.
- 3.5.28 **Option 5 – “Relocate to a former school premises or other non-council owned available property”**: This option identified the former Bucksburn school building which is currently empty following relocation to the new Brimmond School in October 2015. However, due to the size of the building it does not meet the criteria requirements and therefore was discounted.
- 3.5.29 Similarly, once the new Stoneywood school opens next year, this building and site will become available. Due to the constraints of the building and site, this option was also discounted.
- 3.5.30 Our Estates Team has undertaken a review of the open market and have been unable to identify any appropriate buildings currently on the market for sale or lease in the RC catchment zone which could be adapted for use by the Council for a school of this size. It is anticipated that this is likely to remain the status quo over the next few years.
- 3.5.31 **Scoring and Ranking of Options**: The options were assessed and scored by Officers from Education and Children's Services and Communities, Housing and Infrastructure in accordance with the evaluation criteria and methodology described. The results of the scoring were as follows:

Joint first ranking were options 3 & 4 -

1. **Option 3**: Relocate St. Peter's RC school into Riverbank School building – **15 points**
1. **Option 4**: To build a new two stream school on a suitable site within the current RC school zone: - **15 points**
2. **Option 2**: Reconfigure, Refurbish & extend Old Aberdeen House - **11 points**
3. **Option 5**: Relocate to a former school premises or other non-council owned available property = **6 points**
4. **Option 1**: Do nothing/do minimum – **1 point**

4.0 Conclusions & Recommendations:

- 4.1 Having duly considered both the overall conclusions and scoring of the option appraisal work to date and the Council's fully committed capital programme until 2022, it is recommended that the Committee -
- (a) considers the outcome of the option appraisal work to date which concluded that:

- The current Riverbank School site is the most viable site for a new build replacement for St. Peter's School, and;
 - The current Riverbank School building is the most suitable existing school building for the long term delivery of RC educational provision at St. Peter's, and that within currently available resources this is the most viable option for the future of St Peter's School.
- (b) instructs the Director of Education and Children's Services to commence a programme of formal consultation in accordance with the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act, the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 and section 22D of the Education (Scotland) Act 1980 regarding the proposal to relocate St. Peter's RC School to the current Riverbank School building, once the New Tillydrone Primary School becomes operational, and
- (c) instructs the Director of Education and Children's Services to report back to a future meeting of the Committee regarding the outcome of the consultation, which will take place in early 2018.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Any future costs associated with future options described in this report will need to be further evaluated and reported on once an approved final option has been determined.

6.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from the recommendations of this report. Should Council approve the recommendations set out in section 2 of this report, the formal consultation process will comply fully with the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014, and section 22D of the Education (Scotland) Act 1980 as amended.
- 6.2 It is also necessary to submit the proposal to Scottish Ministers for their consent in accordance with section 22D of the Education (Scotland) Act 1980 as the proposal involves the change of site of a denominational school.

7.0 MANAGEMENT OF RISK

7.1 Reputational Risks

- 7.2 There is a high likelihood of reputational risk to the Council if the long term educational provision at St. Peter's School is further delayed, as future capacity issues at the school would likely impact negatively on staff, pupils and parents.
- 7.3 Should Committee agree the recommendations set out in section 2 of this report; a formal consultation process will follow. Stakeholder feedback received from the previous consultation on the future of St Peter's School, in November 2016, demonstrated a strong opposition amongst the St Peter's

School community to proposals to relocate St Peter's School to the current Riverbank School building. There is therefore a high likelihood that a similar response could be received if similar proposals are put forwards in any new consultation.

- 7.4 **Financial Risks:** There are no financial risks arising directly from the recommendations in this report.
- 7.5 **Employee Risks:** There are no employee risks arising directly from the recommendations in this report.
- 7.6 **Customer/Citizen:** See paragraph 7.3; there is a risk that the recommended proposal could be strongly opposed to.
- 7.7 **Environmental Risks:** There are no environmental risks arising directly from the recommendations in this report.
- 7.8 **Technological Risks:** There are no technological risks arising directly from the recommendations in this report.
- 7.9 **Legal Risks:** There is no legal risk arising directly from the recommendations in this report. Should Council approve the recommendations set out in section 2 of this report, the formal consultation process will comply fully with the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014, and section 22D of the Education (Scotland) Act 1980 as amended.

8.0 IMPACT SECTION

8.1 People

8.2 Determining the best option for the long term educational provision at St. Peter's School which will impact positively on the pupils and staff in the long term. This will assist the school in continuing to deliver high quality learning and teaching.

8.3 An Equality and Human Rights Impact Assessment has been submitted for this report but will be revisited once the statutory consultation has been completed.

8.4 Place

8.5 Implementation of the recommendations described in this report will help determine and improve the physical environment in the long term for St Peter's School.

8.6 Economy

There are no direct implications on the economy arising from the recommendations in this report.

8.7 Technology

There are no direct implications on technology arising from the recommendations in this report

9.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 9.1 Committee Report to E&CS, March 1st 2017 - “Statutory Consultation – Consultation Report on the proposals to develop new primary school provision with early education and childcare facilities in Tillydrone” – March 1st 2017

10.0 APPENDICES

- **Appendix 1:** Location map of new build sites

11.0 REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

Maria Thies
Estates Programme Manager, Assets & Finance
mthies@aberdeencity.gov.uk
01224 346303

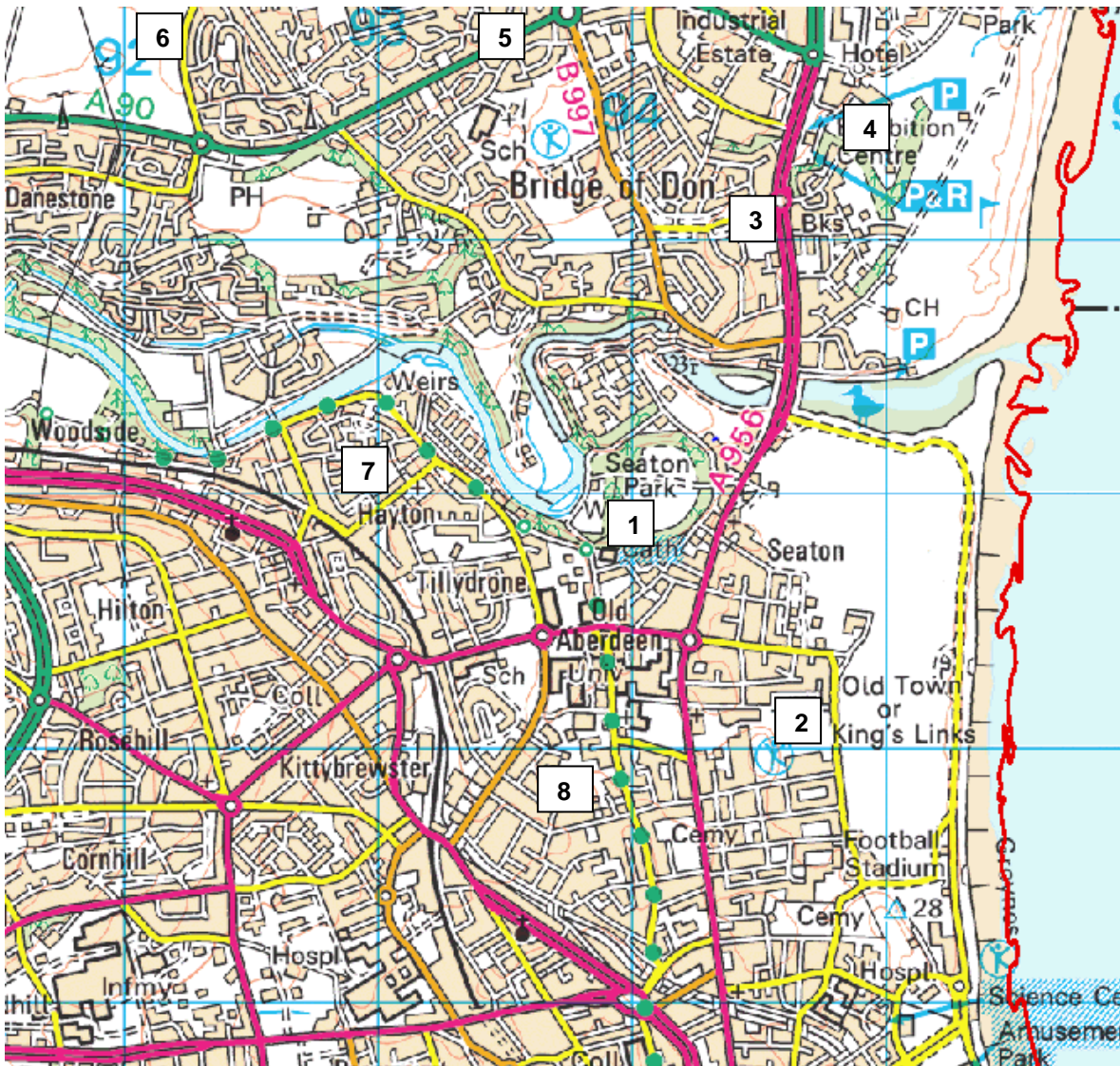
HEAD OF SERVICE DETAILS

Euan Couperwhite
Head of Policy, Performance & Resources
ecouperwhite@aberdeencity.gov.uk
01224 522073

This page is intentionally left blank

SITE LOCATIONS

- 1 Site of Dunbar Halls
- 2 Ground at Golf Road
- 3 Ground at North Donside
- 4 The current AECC site
- 5 Land at North Denmore
- 6 Grandhome Development
- 7 Riverbank Primary School
- 8 Former Dept. Froghall Terrace



This page is intentionally left blank

Exempt information as described in paragraph(s) 8 of Schedule 7A of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

Exempt information as described in paragraph(s) 6 of Schedule 7A of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

Exempt information as described in paragraph(s) 6 of Schedule 7A of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

Exempt information as described in paragraph(s) 6 of Schedule 7A of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

Exempt information as described in paragraph(s) 6 of Schedule 7A
of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

Exempt information as described in paragraph(s) 6 of Schedule 7A
of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

Exempt information as described in paragraph(s) 6 of Schedule 7A
of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

Exempt information as described in paragraph(s) 6 of Schedule 7A
of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

Exempt information as described in paragraph(s) 6 of Schedule 7A of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Education & Children's Services
DATE	16 November 2017
REPORT TITLE	Children & Young People (Scotland) Act 2014
REPORT NUMBER	ECS/17/058
DIRECTOR	Gayle Gorman
REPORT AUTHOR	Graeme Simpson

1. **PURPOSE OF REPORT:-**

This report was requested by the Committee in September 2016 to provide an update on the anticipated financial and service implications update members on the implementation of the Children & Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 as it affects children's social work.

2. **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

It is recommended that the Committee –

- (a) note how children's social work have taken forward the implementation of the new duties contained within the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014; and
- (b) note the request by the Education and Children's Services Committee in June 2017 to provide a report in March 2018 on the project costs of implementing Part 11 – Continuing Care.

3. **BACKGROUND**

3.1 The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 was given Royal Assent on 27 March 2014. Parts 10 – 14 are the aspects of the Act which have the greatest practice and financial impact for Children's Social Work. The report to Committee in September 2016 provided detail on Parts 10 – 14.

3.2 The report recognised that projecting what the financial implications of the Act was difficult given the evolving nature of some Parts of the Act which will not be fully appreciated until 2020.

3.3 **Aftercare (Part 10)**

3.3.1 Aftercare is the term used to describe the support provided to young people who were previously looked after by the local authority. The Children & Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 has extended this duty to include young people aged 16 – 26 (previously 21).

- 3.3.2 The catalyst for these legislative changes was an acknowledgement that the longer term outcomes for care experienced young people are among the poorest in society. They are more likely to:
- be unemployed
 - experience homelessness
 - be incarcerated
 - experience mental health and addiction challenges
 - die prematurely
- 3.3.3 The aim of these new duties is to improve outcomes, ensuring support remains available to care leavers up to the age of 26.
- 3.3.4 The Youth Team has a core responsibility to provide Aftercare support for care leavers. While providing a direct service to young people the Youth Team also seeks to forge positive links with other services within the Council and externally. The broadening of those who qualify for Aftercare will place increased demands on the Youth Team. In recognition of this the Service has increased the capacity of the Team.
- 3.4 Continuing care (Part 11)**
- 3.4.1 Young people accommodated by the local authority are eligible to request continuing care from the age of 16. This potentially entitles them to remain in the same placement up to the age of 21.
- 3.4.2 A report was presented to Committee in June 2017 which outlined the work and planning being progressed to support the implementation of Continuing Care. The Committee noted this and asked for a further report to be provided in March 2018 which would provide fuller detail as to the financial implications of delivering this new statutory duty.
- 3.5 Services for children at risk of being looked after (Part 12)**
- 3.5.1 The Children & Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 imposes a duty on local authorities to provide relevant services to “eligible children or qualifying persons” where there is a risk of a child becoming looked after.
- 3.5.2 This duty enshrines good social work practice and recognises the responsibility on local authorities to do all they can to support children to remain within their birth family where it is safe to do so. The act places a particular emphasis on pregnant women and their partners as well as children in informal kinship placements. The Reclaiming Social Work model emphasises the duty placed on social work staff to consider the needs of the “whole family” not solely the needs of the child whose circumstances will continue to assume primary consideration.
- 3.6 Support for Kinship Care (Part 13)**
- 3.6.1 Kinship care is when a child is “looked after” by their extended family or close friends, when they cannot remain with their birth parents. Kinship care should be the first consideration when a child requires to be accommodated. The Children & Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 formalises aspects of the support local authorities provide to kinship carers including who is eligible for financial support and that such support should be provided at the earliest opportunity.

- 3.6.2 The Children & Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 also introduces the Kinship Care Order. The Act requires the local authority to give consideration to providing financial support to kinship carers to obtain a Kinship Care Order where such costs are not covered by legal aid. An uncontested application can vary between £800/1200. A contested application can cost much more. There are clear benefits to children being legally secured out with the care system. It provides them with security and predictable care, allowing them to emotionally and psychologically invest in the placement. Within such an environment children generally have improved outcomes. The service are exploring how best to manage these costs within a commissioned framework.
- 3.6.3 The increased expectations in relation to kinship carers have resource implications. In recognition of this the Service has increased the capacity and flexibility of services to respond to the needs of kinship carers.

3.7 Adoption Register (Part 14)

- 3.7.1 In 2011 the Scottish Government established a national Adoption Register. This mirrored practice in other parts of the United Kingdom. The Children & Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 places a duty on adoption agencies to use the Register. The legislation requires that adoption agencies refer children and approved adopters to the Register within 3 months of the decision to approve the child's adoption plan or the approval of the adopters with the aim of finding adoptive families for children as soon as possible.
- 3.7.2 Like all other urban authorities Aberdeen City Council has more children who require adoption than it has approved adopters. Positive relations exist with neighbouring authorities who are often in the opposite position. This has resulted in prospective adopters approaching Aberdeen City to become adopters. The cost of purchasing an adoptive placement is nearly £30,000 per placement. As a consequence this duty is a new financial pressure for the local authority to manage.
- 3.7.3 Given this significant cost it is incumbent upon the local authority to ensure every effort is made to source a local placement within the three month timeframe. The Service has established a team whose focus is the recruitment and assessment of carers (adopters & foster carers) ensuring every effort is made to recruit carers locally for children who require adoption.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The biggest cost pressure associated with the implementation of the above parts of the Act 2014 is in relation to Continuing Care. As noted, Committee have already requested that a further report be submitted in relation to this matter in early 2018.
- 4.2 The other cost pressure is in relation to the legal costs associated with supporting kinship carers obtain a kinship order. It is the intention of the service to explore commissioning options with procurement services to best manage the demand.

4.3 The other resource pressures in terms of staff have been managed from within existing resources.

5. **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 Delivering on the above new duties is a statutory requirement of the local authority.

6. **MANAGEMENT OF RISK**

6.1 Financial – the service is continuing to work up a better appreciation of the anticipated financial costs to the local authority. This will be dependent on a number of factors which include

- The number of young people choosing to request continuing care.
- The implications this has for reducing the availability of foster and residential placements.
- The services ability to recruit more foster cares to place children in local in-house placements.
- The services ability to recruit sufficient staff to fully resource our residential homes
- An acknowledgement that some young people will be able to find employment or access their own income via the benefits agency and the implications such has for the cost of continuing care placements.

Given that the full implications are not yet known there continues to be some Level of risk - medium.

6.2 Employee – Understanding and delivering on the new duties has required support and learning opportunities to be provided to staff to ensure they understand their new duties. These have been well received and will be supported/reinforced by the Learning & Development Team Leader. Level of risk low.

6.3 Customer / citizen – The aim of all the new duties is to improve the outcomes for children and young people who become looked after by the local authority. The planning for looked after children has a statutory framework. This should ensure that planning for individual children takes account of these new duties. The service has developed an outcome measurement framework to better evidence the outcomes for looked after children. Moving forward this data will further inform service and staff development.

Aligned to this the council has established a group of care experienced young people who are actively contributing to the development of services that support the delivery of a number of the new duties – Level of risk low.

6.4 Environmental – There are no environmental risks associated with this report.

6.5 Technological – The service is continuing to explore ways in which technology can assist in demonstrating the outcomes for children and young people. Level of risk low.

- 6.6 Legal – As noted above delivering on these new duties is a statutory responsibility of the Council – Level of risk low.
- 6.7 Reputational – Aberdeen City Council has links with other local authorities and national groups to share practice experience and learn from best practice. Delivering on these duties is likely to form a focus of future inspections by the Care Inspectorate. Successful delivery of these responsibilities will enhance the City’s reputation but also contribute to improving the outcomes for children and young people. Level of risk low.

7. **IMPACT SECTION**

7.1 **Economy**

- 7.1.1 Effective management of the work across Children’s Social Work is critical to ensuring that resources are being deployed to greatest effect. The successful implementation of the new duties is fully convergent with the Councils’ Strategic Business Plan and will deliver a transformational change as to how Children’s Social Work supports care experienced young people ensuring they are safe and responsible. This vision is fully consistent with “children are our future” priority of Local Authority Outcome Improvement Plan.

7.2 **People**

- 7.2.1 The Council’s successful delivery of their new duties as set out in the Children & Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 will deliver improved outcomes for children and young people looked after by the local authority.
- 7.2.2 Evidence and direct feedback from children and young people would indicate that if they can be supported to move on at a time that is right for them then they are better placed to manage independence and hold down employment or training/learning opportunities. There will always be some young people who will want to return to the care of their birth family and our Aftercare duties will ensure that support remains available for them should they make this choice.
- 7.2.3 The EHRIA did not identify any additional risks

7.3 **Place**

- 7.3.1 The vast majority of social work services are delivered to families who are experiencing economic deprivation. Supporting young people to make a successful transition to independence, employment or training will enhance their own resilience and enable them to make a positive contribution to Aberdeen City.

7.4 **Technology**

- 7.4.1 A key driver for the delivery of social work services is to free social work staff up from unnecessary bureaucratic processes. Modern technology has a valuable contribution to play and while some significant progress has been made there is still more to be achieved. Working with colleagues in ICT we

are continuing to look at how professional social work time can be maximised to direct work with children, young people and their families.

8. **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- Committee Report – Children’s & Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 – Sept 2014
- Committee Report – Continuing Care – June 2017

9. **APPENDICES (if applicable)**

None

10. **REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS**

Name	Graeme Simpson
Job title	Lead Service Manager
Email address	gsimpson@aberdeencity.gov.uk
Phone number	01224 523496

HEAD OF SERVICE DETAILS

Name	Bernadette Oxley
Job title	Head of Service/Chief Social Work Officer
Email address	boxley@aberdeencity.gov.uk
Phone number	01224 522110