

GOVERNANCE

COMMITTEE DECISION SHEET

COMMUNITIES, HOUSING AND PUBLIC PROTECTION COMMITTEE - TUESDAY, 14 JANUARY 2025

| | Item Title | Committee Decision | Services Required to take action | Officer to Action |
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| 1 | <u>Minute of the Previous Meeting of 21 November 2024</u> | <u>The Committee resolved:-</u> to approve the minute as a correct record. | Governance | Lynsey McBain |
| 2 | <u>Committee Business Planner</u> | <u>The Committee resolved:-</u> (i) to request that the Chief Officer – Corporate Landlord, circulate to members by way of email, the intended timeline for various reports coming to Committee in regards to Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC); (ii) to note the reason for delay for item 7 (Aberdeen Local Housing Strategy); and (iii) to otherwise note the committee business planner. | Corporate Landlord Governance | Stephen Booth Lynsey McBain |
| 3 | <u>Police Scotland Performance Report - POL/25/004</u> | <u>The Committee resolved:-</u> (i) to welcome Divisional Commander Kate Stephen to her new role and to thank Chief Inspector Andy Scott for his work with members over the last 19 months, who would now be moving on to a new post within Police Scotland; (ii) in terms of the number of Hate Crime complaints recorded since the introduction of the Hate Crime Bill, to request that Police Scotland circulate this information to members | Police Scotland | Kate Stephen |

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| | | <p>via the clerk;</p> <p>(iii) to note that the Convener would liaise with the Divisional Commander on topics to be reported at future committee meetings, which may include local police officer numbers, the local estate plan and also actions undertaken around mental health and wellbeing support for police officers, with the timeline for reporting to be agreed with the Convener and the Divisional Commander;</p> <p>(iv) in regards to information available to members of the public on Acquisitive Crime and measures that could be undertaken to help prevent crime, to request that a Service Update be issued to members of the committee, so members can share the information with constituents; and</p> <p>(v) to otherwise note the report.</p> | <p>Police Scotland</p> <p>Police Scotland</p> | <p>Kate Stephen/ Councillor Radley</p> <p>Kate Stephen</p> |
| 4 | <u>Performance Report - CORS/25/003</u> | <p><u>The Committee resolved:-</u></p> <p>(i) in regards to re-let figures, to request that the Chief Officer – Corporate Landlord, circulate to members by way of email, clarity on NTBR and UTBR figures;</p> <p>(ii) to request that the Chief Officer – Digital and Technology, send information to Councillor van Sweeden by way of email, in regards to any recruitment challenges within the service; and</p> <p>(iii) to otherwise note the report.</p> | <p>Corporate Landlord</p> <p>Digital and Technology</p> | <p>Stephen Booth</p> <p>Steve Roud</p> |
| 5 | <u>Space Within Libraries for Post Offices - F&C/25/005</u> | <p><u>The Committee resolved:-</u></p> <p>to note the content of the report and take no further action at this time.</p> | Corporate Landlord | Stephen Booth |
| 6 | <u>RAAC update - verbal update at</u> | <u>The Committee resolved:-</u> | | |

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| | <u>Committee</u> | to note the verbal update provided. | | |
| 7 | <p><u>Notice of Motion by Councillor Watson - referred by Council on 11 October 2024</u></p> <p>Notes that Council passed a notice of motion on 13 December 2023 recognising the importance of holding out a hand to those outwith our direct area. It called for an immediate ceasefire in Palestine/Israel, and for urgent humanitarian relief for the citizens of Gaza.</p> <p>Since then, nine months have passed and tens of thousands more civilians have died. In March 2024 the United Nations Special Rapporteur found that “There are reasonable grounds to believe that the threshold indicating the commission of the crime of genocide...has been met.” In July 2024, the prestigious medical journal The Lancet stated that “it is not implausible to estimate that up to 186,000 [7.9% of the total population in the Gaza strip] or even more deaths could be attributable to the current conflict in Gaza”. Later in July, the International Court of Justice, the United Nations' highest court, ruled that “Israel's continued presence in the Occupied Palestinian Territory is unlawful” and that Israel “is under an obligation to bring to an end its unlawful presence in the Occupied Palestinian Territory as rapidly as possible” and “is under an obligation to cease immediately all new settlement activities, and to evacuate all settlers from the Occupied Palestinian Territory”.</p> <p>This Council reaffirms its place as part of the common family of humanity, and:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reiterates our call for a permanent ceasefire; 2. Calls on the Lord Provost to fly the Palestinian Flag on 29 November 2024, International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People; 3. Follows Barcelona and other cities and instructs the Chief Officer - Governance to report to Council by the end of 2024 on any direct or indirect links that Aberdeen City Council have with the State of Israel, | <p><u>The Committee resolved:-</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (i) to note that this Council is proud of its first mission of serving local people, but also of its international solidarity in holding out a helping hand to those in need elsewhere, and hosting many refugees; (ii) to note that the conflict in the State of Palestine, the State of Israel and the Republic of Lebanon has caused huge suffering and following the horrific acts of terror by Hamas on 7th October 2023, the escalation of violence in Gaza and Lebanon has led to the death and suffering of many civilians; (iii) to note that Aberdeen City Council recognises the need for justice to underly a sustainable peace, and the internationally accepted need for a two-state solution to be implemented. All human lives should be valued equally, and human rights respected for all; and (iv) to call for an immediate cessation of all hostilities in the State of Palestine, State of Israel and Republic of Lebanon, the immediate release of hostages, and for international support for huge and urgent UN-led humanitarian relief for citizens of Gaza. | | |

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| | <p>with a view to stopping these;</p> <p>4. Asks the North East Scotland Pension Fund to commission a study to identify any investments in companies that supply arms to Israel, as these investments may be at high risk due to the political instability;</p> <p>5. Recognises the UK Labour Government's suspension of 30 licences for arms sales to Israel;</p> <p>6. Endorses the Scottish Government's 2024 call for an arms embargo on Israel, and calls for the Scottish Government to act in all its available capacities to help prevent the production and transfer of weapons components for Israel from arms companies in Scotland; and</p> <p>7. Instructs the Chief Executive to write to other Scottish Local Authorities informing them of this motion, and encouraging them to take similar actions.</p> | | | |
| 8 | <p><u>Notice of Motion from Councillor Kuszniir - referred from Council on 11 December 2024</u></p> <p>That the Council:</p> <p>(1) Notes with regret that new British citizens are not able to bring along guests to group citizenship ceremonies held by Aberdeen City Council;</p> <p>(2) Understands that group ceremonies are held approximately every 3 weeks in the Grant Room at Marischal College to meet demand, yet individuals' guests cannot routinely attend and need to wait outside due to capacity in the Grant Room, unless they book a private ceremony;</p> <p>(3) Is aware from Officers that refreshments are no longer provided due to concerns over cost and waste, yet notes the cost is £3.50 per head for tea, coffee and biscuits plus £50 delivery fee per event, and considers this is a small cost as part of</p> | <p><u>The Committee resolved:-</u></p> <p>(i) to note the Grant Room at Marischal College was used to facilitate civil marriages, civil partnerships and British Citizenship ceremonies by Aberdeen City Council;</p> <p>(ii) to understand that group ceremonies were held approximately every 3 weeks in the Grant Room at Marischal College to meet demand and notes that there is an option for a private ceremony, at cost, which allows for up to 50 guests to attend; and</p> <p>(iii) to recognise the effort and commitment required to become a British citizen and welcomes the contribution of all who choose to live in Scotland, including naturalised British citizens, to society both locally and nationally.</p> | People and Citizens | Bruce Reid |

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| | <p>welcoming new citizens in Aberdeen;</p> <p>(4) Considers not allowing guests at group ceremonies nor providing refreshments is a penny-pinching attitude, which fails to properly respect and promote the effort to become a British citizen and presents an unnecessarily unwelcoming attitude to new citizens;</p> <p>(5) Recognises the contribution of naturalised Brits and believes the small expenditure on recognising their citizenship represents value for money for the City of Aberdeen;</p> <p>(6) Therefore, directs the Chief Officer - People and Citizen Service from 2025/26 to:</p> <p>(a) reinstate refreshments of tea, coffee, water and biscuits and provision for any other dietary requirements to ensure inclusion;</p> <p>(b) allow citizenship applicants to invite two guests to group citizenship ceremonies;</p> <p>(c) change the room as required to meet the required increased capacity;</p> <p>(7) Confirms that any expenditure (estimated by Officers to be in the region of £5,000 per annum) and loss of income (estimated by Officers to be in the region of up to £20,000 per annum) associated with this change will be referred to the 2025/26 Budget process."</p> | | | |
| 9 | <p><u>Notice of Motion from Councillor Bonsell - referred from Council on 11 December 2024</u></p> <p>That the Council:</p> <p>(1) Notes with concern that the "A" Listed Building Aberdeen Royal Infirmary, latterly known as Woolmanhill Hospital, has fallen into a state of disuse; and</p> <p>(2) Instructs the Chief Officer - Strategic</p> | <p><u>The Committee resolved:-</u></p> <p>(i) to note the Woolmanhill Hospital, Skene Street site was not owned by Aberdeen City Council;</p> <p>(ii) to note that planning permission was granted by the planning authority in 2019 (reference: 160801) for residential and hotel development on the site; and</p> <p>(iii) to instruct the Chief Officer – Strategic Place</p> | Strategic Place | David Dunne |

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| | <p>Place Planning to:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) identify the current owners; (b) contact the owners to seek assurances in respect of making the buildings safe, secure, and watertight in the first instance; (c) ascertain what are the owners' plans and timescales for the redevelopment of the site in a manner compatible with its "A" listed status; (d) identify the enforcement powers available to the Council should the owners fail to co-operate; (e) seek the support and advice of Historic Environment Scotland, the Scottish Government and the King's Trust in relation to the restoration of what is a building of national importance; and (f) report to the relevant committee(s) in relation to the instructions within no more than two meeting cycles." | <p>Planning to liaise with the developer around site security and development progress and to provide a service update to this Committee by August 2025.</p> | <p>Planning</p> | |

Should you require any further information about this agenda, please contact Lynsey McBain, lymcbain@aberdeencity.gov.uk or 01224 067344