

ADDITIONAL CIRCULATION



Community Planning Aberdeen Board

The undernoted item is circulated in connection with the meeting of the **COMMUNITY PLANNING ABERDEEN BOARD** to be held here in the Town House on **MONDAY, 3 JULY 2017 at 2.00 pm.**

B U S I N E S S

- 2.4 National Update, Scottish Government (Pages 1 - 4)

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

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Community Planning Aberdeen Board Meeting 3 July 2017

Scottish Government National Update

Location Director for Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire

Neil Rennick, Director of Justice, will become the new Location Director for Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire. Neil has been Director of Justice since 2014, prior to this, Neil was Deputy Director of Criminal Law and Licensing Division.

He was previously Executive Director of Strategy and Infrastructure for the Scottish Court Service (SCS). Before joining the SCS he worked in a variety of roles within the Civil Service, including as private secretary to the Permanent Secretary and Head of Public Bodies Division.

Neil will be in touch in due course as he gets up to speed with this new role.

Enterprise and Skills Review

Significant progress has been recorded across the nine projects within the Review, with plans now in place to establish a new Strategic Board to drive a step-change in Scotland's economic performance, and for the creation of an enterprise agency for the South of Scotland.

This is in addition to a range of specific new actions that will enhance support for enterprise and innovation, harness more international opportunities and further improve learning and skills systems. Details on these outcomes from the Review were published on 22 June. <http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2017/06/4042>

As the Review itself comes to a close, the hard work of delivery is already underway. A number of immediate steps will be taken to drive forward the necessary changes, including the establishment of an Implementation Board that will meet for the first time next week. This Board will lay the groundwork for the new Strategic Board and Strategic Plan, and for the new performance framework that will galvanise economic ambition. Contact: Craig McQueen, Enterprise & Skills Programme Office - Craig.Mcqueen@gov.scot

Hate Crime and Cohesive Communities

Community engagement and reassurance following terrorist incidents:

You will be aware that there have been a number of terrorist incidents recently in Manchester and London. As well as causing anxiety to wider communities, it has also negatively impacted on our Muslim communities who may be feeling more vulnerable at this time. The most recent incident, where a van was driven into a crowd of worshippers outside Finsbury Park Mosque, has caused particular concern.

The Scottish Government and partners have been working closely with communities to provide reassurance and address any concerns. We have distributed core messages through our Prevent Network, including the Local Authority single points of contact, following incidents, and have asked them to work with communities to provide reassurance; feed back to us with details of any response; identify those powerful voices locally who are engaged in countering extremist behaviour; and ensure that their local plans to tackle threats are up to date.

We would encourage you to continue to reflect on responses to recent events, seek reassurance on these through their networks and to keep in touch with us around community sentiment on the ground in localities. Contact: Stuart Fletcher
stuart.fletcher@gov.scot

Response to Grenfell Tower Fire

Background: Following the Grenfell Tower Fire (early hours Wednesday 14 June), the Scottish Government convened a Ministerial Working Group to examine building and fire safety regulations. The Group is chaired by Communities Secretary Angela Constance with Housing Minister Kevin Stewart and Community Safety Minister Annabelle Ewing. They are joined by officials from fire and rescue, building standards, local government and housing.

This group is overseeing a review of building and fire safety regulations with an initial focus on high rise domestic buildings. Thereafter, it expects to consider these issues for other buildings led by the emerging evidence. It will agree any improvements or actions identified as appropriate.

Nature of checks – Aluminium Composite Material (ACM): The current focus, in Scotland and across the UK, has been on checking whether buildings have used Aluminium Composite Material (ACM) in their cladding systems – the category of material used in the Grenfell Tower. We don't know at this stage what combination of factors contributed to the fire at Grenfell, and the evidence continues to emerge. At this point, we have checked for the presence of ACM only, as is the case in England, because that is the only substance that has been disclosed so far as a potential cause for concern from the Grenfell fire.

Scope of checks: Scottish Government have sought and received assurance about the use of ACM in cladding systems in high rise domestic properties (over 18 metres) in Scotland from all 32 local authorities.

Scottish Government has also asked local authorities, health boards and education authorities to check for the use of ACM in a number of different types of buildings, including hospitals and schools. Checks are continuing and at a meeting on Wednesday 28 June the Ministers recognised and praised the work of local authorities in carrying out these resource intensive checks of their buildings.

Contact: Cameron Stewart, Local Government Division Cameron.stewart@scot.gov

More Homes Scotland and delivering 50,000 affordable homes

As part of the More Homes Scotland approach, the Scottish Government is committed to delivering 50,000 affordable homes over this Parliament (of which 35,000 are to be homes for social rent). We are dependent on local authorities and housing associations to share this commitment and to take appropriate action to support the programme. Specifically, we need to ensure that projects are in place this year, so that a sufficient volume of building can take place from 2018/19 onwards. Our area teams are working closely with the housing officials in each local authority to this end.

To help local authorities and house-builders plan their investment and provide certainty on the amount of funding available, in June we confirmed how much each of the 32 local authorities will have available to invest in affordable homes for the next three years. This investment will total £1.75 billion. Contact: Andy Pope, More Homes Division – Andrew.pope@gov.scot.

Please contact Ruth Christie, Aberdeen City Location Team, on ruth.christie@gov.scot, if you require any further information.

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