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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 22 May 2018 08:51
To: Claire McArthur
Subject: FW: Strategic Development Plan Consultation - Castlehill and Pittodrie Community Council (May, 2018)
Attachments: SDP Consultation (Main Issues Report) - CPCC Response, May 2018.doc

From: Smith, Jonathan Aitken [REDACTED]
Sent: 20 May 2018 22:28
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Strategic Development Plan Consultation - Castlehill and Pittodrie Community Council (May, 2018)

Good evening,

As Chairperson, on behalf of Castlehill and Pittodrie Community Council, please find attached and included response to the current consultation of the Strategic Development Plan.

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If there would be any further information required and updates to the developments that would be helpful for members to consider and consult on with our communities and plan progresses, you are also very welcome to get in contact and let us know.

Sincerely,
Jonathan Smith

Jonathan Aitken McLeod Smith

Castlehill and Pittodrie Community Council



Strategic Development Plan – Main Issues Report, 2018

Spatial Strategy

- It is important that we continue to consider ways in which the AWPR can lead to increased footfall to the city whether for business, education, leisure or visiting the city while also reducing levels of congestion and traffic. This will require ongoing monitoring throughout and after its development, particularly in the first 2 – 3 years to monitor actual and active use, rather than only baseline measurements.

- It is important than any areas identified for further, future development or 'Regeneration' is carried out and consulted on at the earliest possible stages and throughout their formation and implementation in consultation with the communities, institutions and businesses in which they will be taking place. This should all take place in a participative, inclusive and consultative process.

Economy

- The current Economic Strategy only makes mention of 'Knowledge and High-Value Industries including... Energy, Bio-Pharmaceuticals, Tourism, Food & Drink'.

There must also be account taken of emerging and developing industries which are of city-wide, regional and national importance including Technology and Engineering, Aerospace and Space and Creative Industries.

The University of Aberdeen, Robert Gordon's University, North-East of Scotland College and other institutions of learning are already on the leading edge and forefront of research in these areas and without the support of the city around them, we will inevitably lose skills, ideas, innovation and commercial success from the city.

There are also many SMEs (Small and Medium Sized Enterprises) who are beginning to focus on these sectors.

It is vital that we also have a strategy in place for those who may not have highly skilled degrees or qualifications, such as apprenticeships, entrepreneur support and other methods.

This presents us with a real opportunity to develop an inclusive and sustainable economy for the future.

In addition to our flagship industries, we must seek to develop an economy that benefits all of our communities and population, whatever their levels of wealth, education or qualification may be.

Housing

- We strongly support the recommendation that there is more 'Affordable Housing' and 'Social Housing' provided above the minimum projected need. This will ensure that there is an improvement on the supply for those of all ages and circumstances who will be in requirement of such housing, whether through necessity, choice or otherwise.

Energy

- We strongly support the identified priority of a 'More Balanced Energy Mix' for homes, businesses and other premises throughout Aberdeen and surrounding regions. However, this is taken in the context of the 'Mix' including a greater amount of sustainable, environmentally stable energy sources.

- It is vital that we also consider Energy & Fuel Poverty as part of this strategy, as the methods of generation, supply and delivery can have a substantial impact upon the price and cost of energy at the most local, family and invidious level.

We must seek for this balanced supply to also lead to more affordable costs over the longer term, particularly including the use of sustainable energy sources which should lead to increasingly lower prices in real terms, for those who are currently least able to afford and are most in need

This will also have the potential to make being based and located in Aberdeen and even more attractive offer for local and international businesses, as there will be access to more reliable and lower cost energy sources.

- In relation to 'Managing Flood Risk', we also recommend further exploration and assessment of areas which are not currently considered as 'Potentially Vulnerable Areas' by the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency, but nonetheless have been faced with severe flooding in recent past, such as Fittie / Foot-Dee, Torry and Culter in Aberdeen.

Minerals and Waste

- It is excellent to see that there is identified priority and promotion of 'Recycling' and 'Zero Waste' throughout Aberdeen and North-East.

As part of this, it is important to raise awareness for our communities of how they can take part in contributing to this, from how to make use of recycle bins and boxes, to safe disposal and collection of household appliances and other large items.

This should also include support and advice where needed, particularly for older people and those who may be in vulnerable positions or more socially isolated.

- As part of 'Zero Waste' we must also ensure further engagement and support from the Local Authorities, Chamber of Commerce, Opportunity North-East, Aberdeen Inspired, Federation of Small Businesses and other businesses, from international firms to local independent businesses who may feel that this model could lead to less frequency, volume or value of sales. Instead, we must find ways for them to take part in the regions economy and continue to be successful, while adopting a 'Zero Waste' model to promote re-use and reduce waste of materials.

Transport

- Greater connectivity between communities, as well as through central transport hubs. This is particularly important when certain routes and transport links have faced reduction of frequency, times of operation or even being withdrawn altogether. In ongoing consultation and engagement with our community, we hear often how relied upon these public transport links are to many within our communities and particularly for those who have little to no other option of alternative travel.

- It is good to see that there is the recommendation of connecting Regional Centres, Town Centres, District Centres, Neighbourhood Centres and Commercial Centres with public transport and other transport. This should also include connections to pockets of communities and rural location where required.

- Consideration given rail links throughout Aberdeen and branching further into North and North-East, to secure Aberdeen's place as a 'Gateway' destination, as well as a place to visit, learn and do business in, in its own right. If this proceeds, there must be account taken to ensure that there is not a detrimental impact on the environment, on ecosystems or on those living and travelling near the potential rail lines.

- Particularly in relation to the Aberdeen Harbour expansion, there should be further consideration given to the management of sustainable tourism, to ensure that there is adequate provision in place for those visiting the city and to ensure that this does not result in a detrimental impact to those living in areas of interest such as Fittie / Foot Dee and other areas in the city. This is especially important as tourism is an identified priority within the City Council's Economic Strategy and the Regional Economic Strategy.

- prepared by Jonathan Smith, as Chairperson on behalf of Castlehill and Pittodrie Community Council

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