



AREA PLAN

2007 – 2010

Banff & Buchan

Buchan

Formartine

Garioch

Kincardine & Mearns

Marr

This is the Area Plan for Formartine. It sets out the Local Government's main actions for the next three years. If you have difficulty understanding this document and require a translation, or would like a copy in a larger print, please contact the Formartine Area Manager, Keith Newton on 01358 726402.



Serving Aberdeenshire from mountain to sea – the very best of Scotland

The best area

Helping to create and sustain the best quality of life for all through . . .

- happy, healthy and confident people
- safe, friendly and lively communities
- an enterprising and adaptable economy
- our special environment and diverse culture

The best council

Aiming to provide excellent services for all by . . .

- involving, responding and enabling
- finding new and more efficient ways of doing things
- providing elected leadership for our area
- working with our partners in the North East and beyond
- always looking to the future

FORMARTINE AREA PLAN 2007 - 2010

Welcome to this updated version of the Formartine Area Plan, showing our key actions and projects for the next three years. Many of these stem from ideas and suggestions made by local communities at the Formartine Forum, at Community Council meetings or through Planning for Real projects.

We hope that you will find the Plan interesting and helpful to you.

We also hope that you might want to let us have your ideas on new priorities that we should consider for the future.

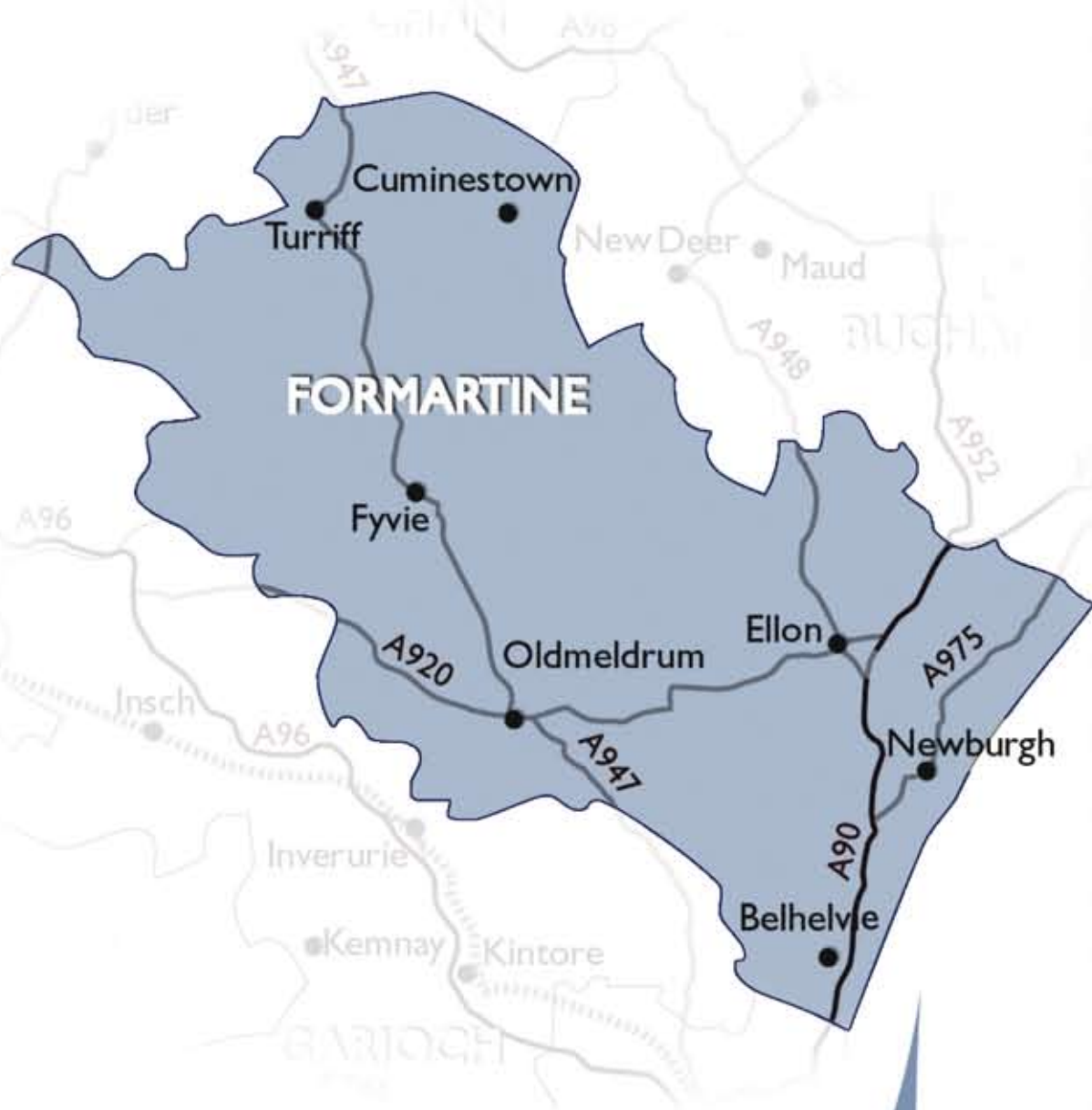
Many of the ideas in the Plan will only take place with the help from partners in public services e.g. Health and the Police and almost all will need the support of local communities and it is important to recognise the tremendous efforts of communities and community organisations, front line staff from the Council and other agencies, and service managers, to work in partnership to achieve community benefits.

Councillor John Loveday
Chairman,
Formartine Area Committee

Keith Newton
Formartine Area Manager
Aberdeenshire Council

January 2007





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1

Purpose of the Plan

- 1.1 This Plan for the Formartine Area shows the Council's intentions for developments and projects within the Area for the forthcoming three years, with particular emphasis on the coming financial year. It is drawn up by the Area Committee, based on consultation with the local communities, local community groups, our community planning partners - Grampian Fire Brigade, NHS Grampian, Grampian Police, North of Scotland Water Board, Scottish Enterprise Grampian, Scottish Homes and Scottish Natural Heritage, Councillors and Officers of the Council.
- 1.2 The Plan will be monitored regularly and updated annually. It is part of the Council's planning framework including the Community Plan, the Strategic Plan, the Service Plans and Area Plans, as well as other specific themed plans such as the Council's Sustainability Charter. The principal roots of this Plan can be found in the Council's Statement of Aims and Values.
- 1.3 It has also been influenced by the outcome of annual surveys of residents and Council staff. Commitments to Local Agenda 21 and Community Planning are also key considerations in the development of this plan.

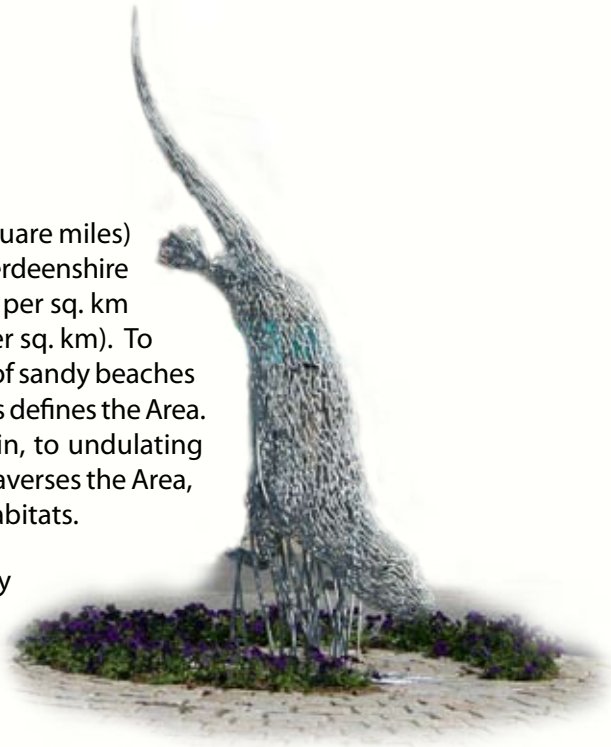


2

The Formartine Area

A The Area

- 2.1** Formartine has a land area of 827 sq. km (319 square miles) representing 13% of the land area covered by Aberdeenshire Council and a population density of 46 persons per sq. km (compared with Aberdeenshire density of 37 per sq. km). To the east, the 24 km coastline, comprised mostly of sandy beaches and dune systems, with a small proportion of cliffs defines the Area. The landscape ranges from the flat coastal plain, to undulating country in the north and west. The River Ythan traverses the Area, introducing a variety of landscape forms and habitats.
- 2.2** Formartine's built heritage spans many architectural periods, ranging from ancient villages and market towns, 'new' towns from the 17th and 18th centuries, and a recent surge in growth in the 70s and 80s.



B Population

- 2.3** The population of the area has increased dramatically over the past twenty years and now stands at 38,452. This is projected to grow by more than 1% over the period to 2006, a faster rate than Aberdeenshire overall, although nowhere near the rates of growth experienced in the last 20 years. Significant population growth is likely in Oldmeldrum, Ellon and Balmedie. As a consequence of the rate of development, services and infrastructure can come under increasing strain. Contributions are sought from developers to offset the community costs arising from their proposals.



Pitmedden Gardens



Fyvie castle

2.4 Formartine's main settlements are Ellon (9,465), Turriff (4,647), Oldmeldrum (1,981), Newburgh (1,371) and Balmedie (1,909). 7% of the Area's population are pre-school age, 16% school age, 63% working age and 13% retired. This age profile contains a higher representation of younger age groups than Aberdeenshire or Scotland overall, reflecting recent employment driven in-migration. Formartine has a very high level of car ownership (only 13% of households do not have a car).

C Economy

2.5 In south Formartine the economy is closely linked to Aberdeen and is influenced by similar factors, the most notable being the performance of the oil and gas sector. In north Formartine a more traditional rural economy exists, and although fragile, this area does not benefit from European Union structural fund assistance. Key concerns are the future of the Common Agricultural Policy, the rise in fuel taxes, and the loss of commercial enterprises in and around the rural communities.

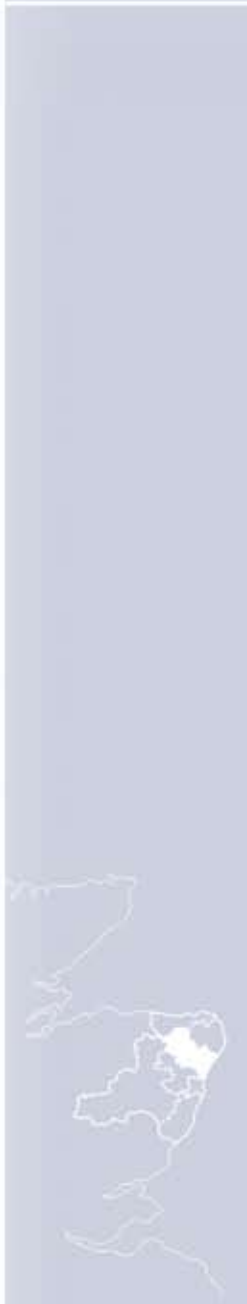
2.6 Formartine is closely integrated with the Aberdeen economy. High proportions of the working population commute to Aberdeen in south Formartine (2/3 in Balmedie/Belhelvie, 1/2 in Ellon). For reasons of economic and environmental sustainability and to lessen travel to work distances and alleviate stress on the road network it is intended to protect existing industrial land provision and to encourage industrial, office and business park development in Formartine and plans are under development for such provision in Ellon. The Park & Ride facility in Ellon continues to attract an increasing number of passengers.

2.7 There are an estimated 198 unemployed persons in the Area (Jan 2006), 12.1% of Aberdeenshire's unemployed. This represents an unemployment rate of 0.8%, the second lowest of Aberdeenshire's six areas.



D Tourism

2.8 Historically, tourism has been a small part of Formartine's economy. By developing the Area's latent attractions there is potential to attract special interest and 'niche' tourism. Existing attractions include Balmedie Country Park, Forvie Sands National Nature Reserve, Haddo House and Fyvie Castle. Linking these with attractions in other Areas to form trails (e.g. the Castle Trail and Coastal Trail) creates sufficient 'pull' to attract and retain more visitors. Following the publication of a series of leaflets highlighting the attractions of the area and the service and facilities available to the visitor and a booklet highlighting walks throughout the Area, the Formartine Partnership, supported by funding from the Area Top Up Budget, is producing a Tourist Map for the area to be published in spring 2007.



E Services and Facilities

- 2.9** Ellon and Turriff are the Area's main centres, serving south and north Formartine respectively. Both have a full range of facilities (out of 15 retail and social facilities monitored by Aberdeenshire Council). In common with other rural areas, the number of key facilities has fallen by 26% since 1981, raising concern about the social and commercial health of the smaller villages.
- 2.10** The Area (especially the southern part) is highly dependent upon Aberdeen City for services. The planning strategy aims at greater self-sufficiency, particularly in retail facilities, bringing economic and environmental benefits to Aberdeenshire. Population growth in settlements such as Ellon, Oldmeldrum and Balmedie will facilitate this. Public facilities include 26 primary schools, 3 secondary schools, 2 swimming pools and 4 public libraries. The new Secondary School in Oldmeldrum opened in August 2002. This is in the form of a "Community School" and provides a public library, a Police Office and Community Learning facilities alongside the more traditional classroom etc elements. A new Primary School at Rothienorman was completed in December 2005.

F Land Development

- 2.11** An average of around 300 new dwellings have been built annually in Formartine over the last five years, roughly 21% of the Aberdeenshire total in this period. Ellon accommodated the largest proportion of new development with 41% of the new dwellings located here. Turriff, Balmedie and Pitmedden also saw a considerable number of new houses.
- 2.12** Over the last five years, an average of around 1.5 hectares per annum of land has been developed on designated industrial estates in Formartine, roughly 11% of the Aberdeenshire total over this period. Most of this development was in Ellon and Oldmeldrum. In terms of future developments, the area has nearly 37 hectares of marketable industrial land, although only 3.4 hectares of this is immediately available for development. Again, almost all of the marketable land is found in Ellon and Oldmeldrum.



Delgate Castle



Meldrum House

G Housing

2.13 44% of Formartine's housing falls within Council Tax Bands A, B and C, 51% in D, E and F and 5% in G and H. This profile is similar to Aberdeenshire overall, reflecting the diversity of the Area, in the south influenced by commuters to the affluent Aberdeen labour market, with the traditional rural economy in the north. Rising house prices can result in the exclusion of some members of the community from the housing market. Affordable housing elements are therefore required as a condition of planning permission in all significant housing developments. 73% of the Area's housing is owner occupied, 14% rented from the local authority, 7% privately rented, the remainder consisting of other tenures.

H Future Challenges

2.14 Key challenges to be addressed by the Council and its partner organisations are:

- the dependence upon Aberdeen for jobs and services;
- the requirement to accommodate continuing high population and household growth while protecting the Area's unique built and natural heritage;
- the need to sustain the more fragile rural communities in the Area,; and
- to take advantage of the potential opportunities presented by a future Western Peripheral Route around Aberdeen.

2.15 The launch of the Council's Environmental Charter has focused attention on the delivery of sustainability. This is a key theme for this Plan.



Ellon River



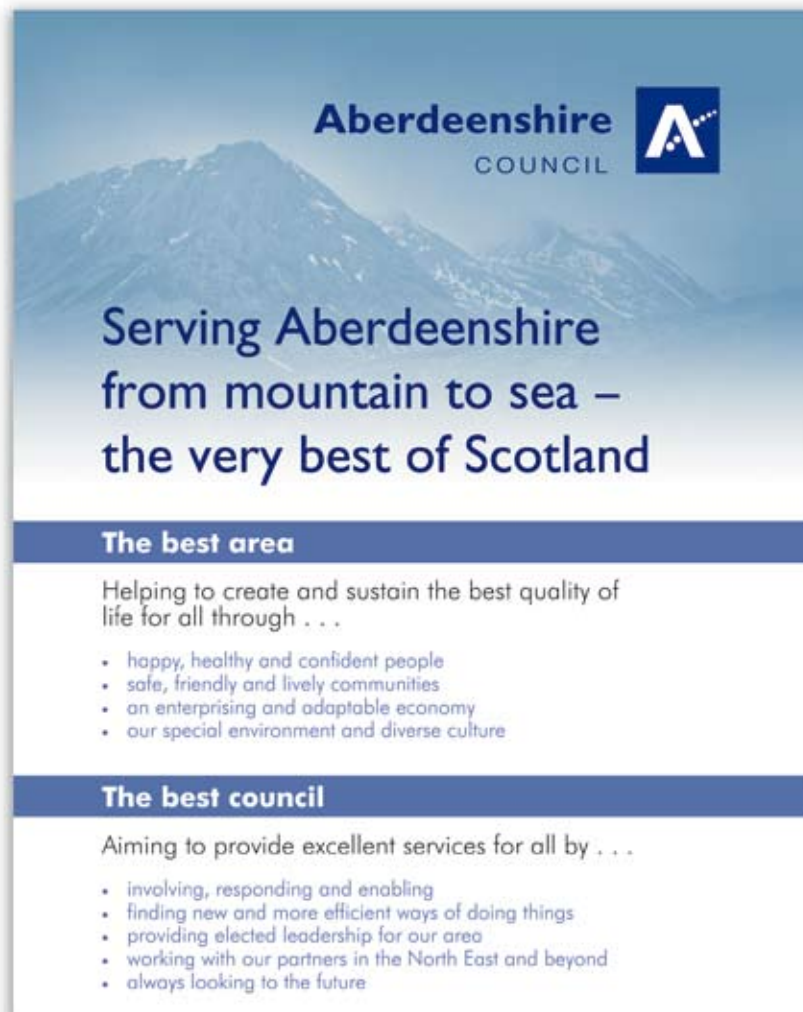
Collieston Harbour



3

Aims & Operational Objectives

- 3.1 In 2006 the Council adopted a new vision for Aberdeenshire. The vision is set out at the front of this Plan.
- 3.2 The Area Plan is directed towards achieving the Council's vision of the best area and the best Council by providing a sustainable economic, environmental and social future for communities in the Formartine Area and aiming to deliver the very best services.
- 3.3 Objectives that reflect the specific issues and challenges described above have been identified against which progress and achievement can be measured. These are set out in section 10 and are organised round the five themes which are linked with the Community Plan for the Aberdeenshire Area and the Council's own Strategic Plan: community well being, learning, sustainable environment, jobs and the economy and quality services/developing our Partnership.



- 3.4 Cross service working and working in partnership with other agencies and bodies, the private sector and local communities, is essential to the successful achievement of the Plan's objectives. The new Community Plan now has 'Developing Our Partnership' as a specific theme. In all we do, we intend to promote equality of opportunity for all of Formartine's residents.
- 3.5 The Area Plan represents a corporate approach to the needs and aspirations of the Area. Cross Service working, and working in partnerships with other agencies and bodies, is essential to the successful realisation of the Plan's objectives.
- 3.6 The principal aim of this Area Plan is to secure a sustainable economic, environmental and social future for our communities and area.
- 3.7 To assist in this a series of "Broad Objectives" (and supporting "Plan Objectives") have been identified against which we can measure progress and achievement. These are grouped under the main themes outlined above and are set out below. For each of these objectives a series of actions have been identified. These provide the focus for future monitoring of the Plan and performance measures or targets have been identified for each of these and lead officer responsibility agreed. These are detailed in the Section 10 of this Plan.
- 3.8 The "Broad Objectives" are:

Community Plan Theme: Community Wellbeing

1. To increase the general health and wellbeing of the community through education and increased opportunity for health promoting activity and leisure, with co-ordinated agency effort.
2. To increase and improve the quality, quantity and range of the public and private housing stock of the area, including the provision of good, affordable, well-integrated private rented accommodation, to meet the needs of its inhabitants.
3. To improve community safety in partnership with other agencies and local communities

Community Plan Theme: Jobs & the Economy

4. To proactively support economic activity in Formartine.





Community Plan Theme: Learning

5. To provide first class learning opportunities for all ages which address local needs and aspirations in partnership with the community and other agencies.

Community Plan Theme: Sustainable Environment

6. To enhance and promote the environment of the area and encourage environmental consciousness in the community.
7. To improve accessibility within Formartine and reduce the need for car based journeys through promotion of affordable public transport and pedestrian and cycle journeys and by appropriate allocation and promotion of new development.

Community Plan Theme: Quality Services

8. To develop effective partnership working with community planning partners and the local community through better communications and support and a closer understanding of the issues
9. To improve the integration of young people by increasing their involvement in their communities and in the democratic process through increased co-ordinated community and agency effort.
10. To develop closer more co-ordinated working within Aberdeenshire Council and with other relevant agencies to improve the effectiveness of the services provided within the area.

4

Recent Achievements

4.1 A number of Actions and Projects in the 2005-2008 Formartine Area Plan have been delivered or taken a big step forward. These are highlighted below, grouped under the headings listed above

4.2 Community well being

Broad Objective 1

- Meadows, Ellon All Weather pitch resurfaced
- Football pitch at Gallowshill, Newburgh completed

Broad Objective 2

- Upgrading of a number of properties in Formartine area by installing new kitchens, windows and heating.
- Various upgrades to Sheltered Housing Complexes.
- Adaptations & Equipment provided to 42 tenants to the value of £38,000 (eg Level-access showers, Access Ramps, Grab-rails etc).
- 2 Special Community Care Projects in progress, adapting properties to enable tenants to remain in their homes. These projects are being carried out with funds obtained from Section 75 consent.
- Affordable housing projects underway in Ellon and Oldmeldrum
- Family Resource Centre under construction at Hatton Road, Turriff with replacement play facilities provided

Broad Objective 3

- Sunnybrae, Methlick - 500m of Footway provided
- Newburgh Traffic Calming on A975 through Village Rothienorman - Traffic Calming at entrances to Village Braiklay Avenue, Tarves - Traffic Calming Baker Street, Oldmeldrum - Traffic Calming
- 20mph zones introduced in Balmedie - Keith Avenue/ Crescent, Menie Crescent/Close, Robbie Close Newburgh - St. Clair Way, St. Clair Wynd Pitmedden - Atholl Rise, Beech Close, Belhaven Road, Ingleside, Cowie Crescent, Croftland, Edmondside and Breckview
- 20mph speed limit introduced in Rothienorman - Gordon Place Turriff - Forglen Crescent Belhelvie - Scott Grove Udney Station - Woodlea Gardens/Grove



- Traffic Management Reviews undertaken in Balmedie and Turriff
- Phase 1 of Oldmeldrum Bypass from the A947 to A920 completed
- Zone 98 Youth Project based in the Hut at Tarves were runners up at the Standing Up to Anti-social Behavior awards held by the Scottish Executive.

4.3 Jobs & The Economy

Broad Objective 4

- Grant/loan funding, through the Support for Aberdeenshire Business Scheme, provided to local businesses seeking to grow their business and create more employment.
- A guide to farmers markets has been produced.
- Works undertaken to improve access at Balmedie Country Park as part of NORTRAIL project
- Local tourism initiatives in Balmedie, Turriff and Oldmeldrum supported with Area Top Up budget
- Ellon continues as part of the INTERREG 111 project established with towns in Sweden, Poland and Greece
- Ellon Capacity Study "Imagine Ellon" made available for public consultation
- Ellon Heritage Trail signed and launched
- Established a new tourism group to take forward the Tourism Strategy for Ellon
- Successful Susset 2 day conference in the One Way Youth Café for Young People.
- Core funding provided to the Formartine Partnership with additional project funding to the group for tourism projects.



Continental Market



Consultation Event

4.4 Lifelong Learning

Broad Objective 5

- Turriff Academy has expanded its partnership through the development of a Motor Vehicle Project. This aims to provide alternative vocational skills, certificated through City and Guilds, for pupils experiencing problems in the mainstream curriculum.
- The Driving Ambition programme for senior pupils at Ellon Academy, which has been taken up by many schools in Scotland, has been awarded a COSLA Award for Excellence.
- Extensive building upgrades at Methlick School have been undertaken: new kitchen and dining room, new HT office, admin office, large reception area and new pupil toilet new staff toilet and three classrooms to be renovated.
- The new nursery at Rothienorman Primary was successfully opened as part of the new school in August 2006.
- During Family Learning Week in October, library staff at Turriff supported the Formartine Pirates theme by organising competitions, fun afternoons, displays, desert island books, healthy eating demonstration with NHS Grampian, talks by Formartine ranger and Aberdeenshire Heritage.
- Meldrum Library staff have been working with Surestart and have visited Toddler and Two's groups in Daviot, Methlick, Fyvie to support early literacy and promote access to library services.
- Library staff run monthly story/rhyme time sessions at Ellon with Surestart workers. Numbers attending have approximated 35 adults and 40 children at each session. This number was exceeded in November when 117 mothers and babies attended a session. As well as promoting early literacy, these sessions give staff the opportunity to welcome young mothers to the area
- The Library service ran very successful Writers Workshops at Fyvie Castle in September 2006. Five Scottish authors supported Higher Pupils enhance their writing skills.
- Tutor programme. Free One to one and small group tuition delivered to many older people in Formartine. The impact of the project for individuals was measured and found to have made a significant different to personal development and social inclusion.



4.5 Sustainable Environment

Broad Objective 6

- Development Briefs completed for site in Tarves and Ellon Town Centre (west side)
- Community Woodland At Balmacassie, Ellon planted with high degree of community involvement
- 1st phase of improvement works at Gordon Park, Ellon completed
- Successful publicity and promotion programme with communities before, during and after the changeover in refuse collection arrangements
- Summer Village Orderlies provided in Newburgh, Pitmedden/Tarves, Oldmeldrum, Turriff, Balmedie, Potterton, Ellon (now full time post)
- Village Tidy/Orderly scheme provided in Fyvie, Rothienorman, Cuminestown, Methlick, Belhelvie, Daviot and Collieston.
- The Formartine Partnership organised and ran the very successful Formartine in Bloom 2006 competition with support from Area Top Up budget. 16 communities across Formartine entered this years competition.
- Haddo Country Park Consultative Group formed with support from National Trust for Scotland, Haddo Estate, Haddo User Group and community interests to promote the management and development of the Park

Broad Objective 7

- Ellon Cycle Network - Section of off road cycleway between the old Formartine to Buchan Railway line and Western Place (Adjacent to A920)



Formartine in Bloom



Continental Market

4.6 Quality Services/ Developing our Partnership

Broad Objective 8

- Local Community Planning group established with a broad range of public sector and community representatives
- Local Community Planning Officer appointed
- Planning For Real projects undertaken in Oldmeldrum and Methlick
- Formartine Forum continues to provide focus for community planning consultation with local community.
- Community Council leaflet produced , funded through Area Top Up budget
- Town and Village Enhancement Grant and Rural Youth Transport grant schemes delegated to Formartine Partnership
- A CDG has been established at Turriff to complement CDGs at Ellon and Meldrum.

Broad Objective 9

- A Youth Forum has been successfully established at Meldrum.
- Youth projects in Ellon, Oldmeldrum and Turriff supported with Area Top Up budget

Broad Objective 10

- Area Top Up budget used to resolve variety of service provision issues in Formartine
- Oldmeldrum Town Centre Working Group established with widespread community support to examine opportunities for town centre improvement
- Open Space Strategy presented to Area Committee
- Work at Auchterless Cemetery complete and nearing completion at Udny Green



Haddo House



Rothienorman Planning

5

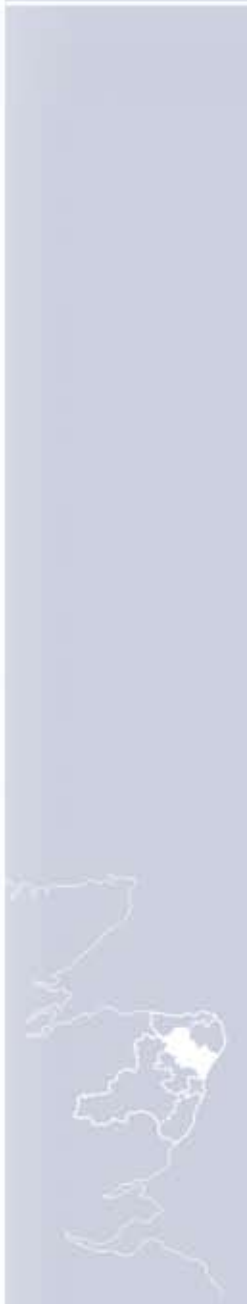
Who is the Plan for and how are they Involved?

- 5.1** The Council is responsible to the people of Aberdeenshire for delivering services to local communities according to local needs. The Area Plan informs our local service users about the priorities and projects for the Formartine Area over the next three years.
- 5.2** The Area Committee has developed this Plan for use by the following groups (not in any order of Priority):
- The Council and its Committees.
 - Community Councils and other community groups
 - All Council Services
 - Partner Organisations and agencies
 - The wider community including all groups and individuals within the Area
 - Businesses, and business agencies such as Enterprise North East Trust
 - Individual Members of the Council

- 5.3** The development of the Aberdeenshire Community Planning Partnership will also have significant consequences for the way in which services are delivered locally. The “Planning for Real” projects being undertaken by the Formartine Partnership involve local communities identifying their priorities for the development of local services and resources in their community.
- 5.4** The Formartine pilot project helped inform the review of the Community Plan and an Area-based local planning group has been formed, involving partner agencies and community/voluntary sector representatives.
- 5.5** The Formartine Partnership has a key role in assisting local communities articulate their needs and aspirations. A number of communities including Rothienorman, Turriff, Oldmeldrum, Woodhead and Udney Station/Cultercullen, have completed or embarked upon Planning for Real projects.
- 5.6** Significant multi-service/agency linkages have evolved and will continue to develop. One such example is the Formartine Partnership. This includes Aberdeenshire Council, local Community Councils, The Ythan Salmon Fishery Board, Scottish Natural Heritage, Scottish Environmental Protection Agency, Aberdeenshire Environmental Forum and other local groups and organisations
- 5.7** Considerable community development activity is ongoing throughout Formartine promoted by the Council in partnership with communities and organisations, such as the Foveran Partnership, Turriff and District Ltd, Ellon Business Initiative, and Woodhead and Windyhills Trust. Some of this involves specific development projects of a very local nature; other groups have a wider remit.
- 5.8** Considerable effort is also being put into developing community capacity. By improving a community’s ability to manage its own development the community will become stronger and more self-sufficient.



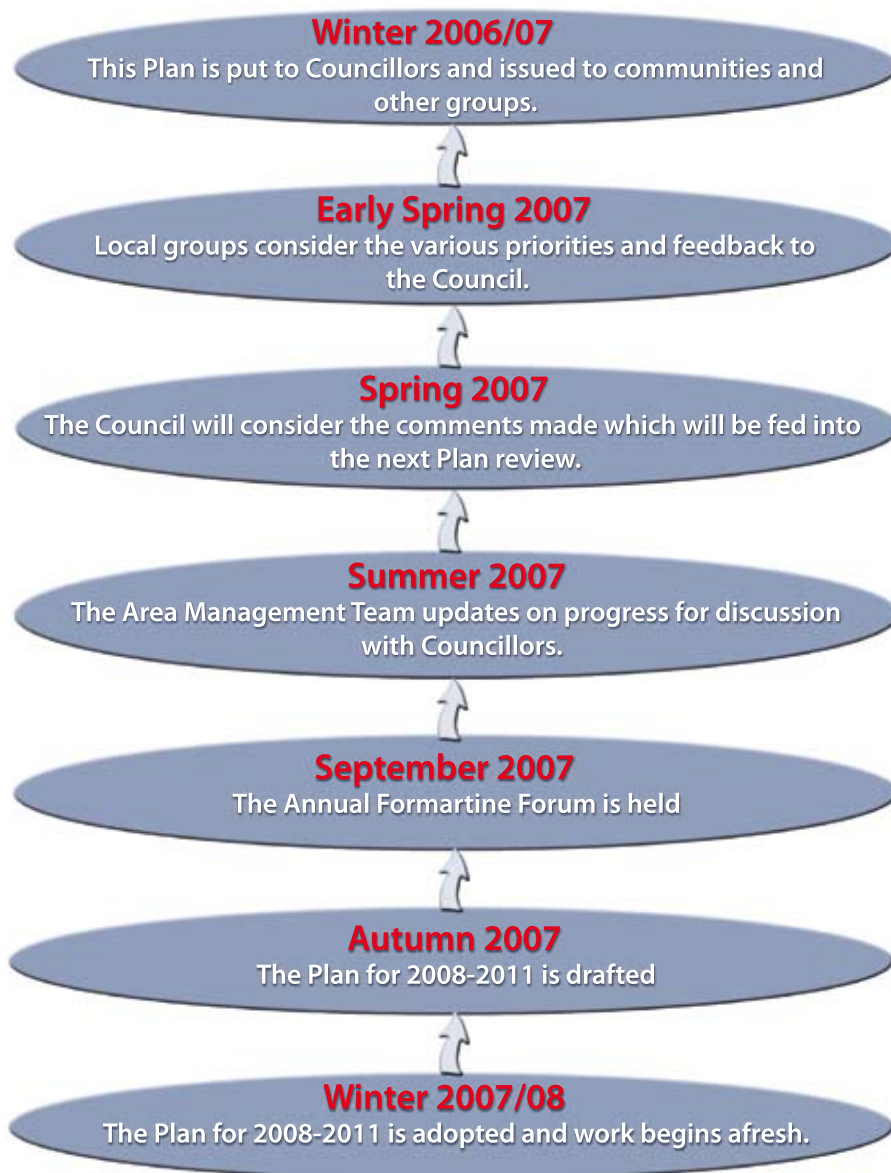
New Police Station Ellon



6

The Planning Process and Timetable

- 6.1** The process for developing the Plan is set out below. Regular contact with community councils and community organisations is maintained through the Area Manager. The Area Plan will be circulated to community councils and feedback and suggestions sought for the next review. Views are welcomed on any issue at any time.
- 6.2** User groups will be given regular opportunities to contribute to, and develop, the Area Plan, thus enabling them to build up ownership of the Plan. The results of annual residents' surveys will also have an influence on the Plan.
- 6.3** Community Councils, through the Forum, will continue be consulted on a regular basis both to keep them apprised of progress with previously agreed Actions but also to seek their input of new or adjusted Action points and objectives as may be appropriate. If the Plan is to be successful, then it needs to be a "live" document that is kept up to date and relevant. The Plan will be circulated to the Community Council Forum and to the Formartine Partnership seeking their views as an input to its on-going development.
- 6.4** A key event in the Plan calendar is the annual Formartine Forum, which brings together Council, community representatives and community planning partners. The outputs from that meeting will be key issues to be taken forward during the year with progress being reported back at the next years event. To assist in this, a leaflet highlighting the key issues identified in 2005 and indicating how these were being taken forward was produced and widely circulated prior to the 2006 Forum meeting.
- 6.5** Bringing community planning partners into discussions at this early stage provides a framework within which joint action can be progressed.
- 6.6** The timetable for reviewing the Area Plan over the coming year is set out to the right:



7

Resources

- 7.1** Implementation of the Area Plan will require a variety of resources not all of them directly in the control of the Council. There is now a strong emphasis on partnership working to secure funding from sources other than mainstream Council funding. Much will depend on community enthusiasm, private sector inputs and successful bids being made to national or European funding agencies.
- 7.2** Within the Council, the Area Management Team provides the focus for joint and cross-service working bringing appropriate expertise and agreed financial resources to assist in implementation of the Plans objectives and identified action programme.
- 7.3** The Formartine Area Committee will agree the Plan subject to amendment as necessary to reflect the Committee's priorities and representations from community organisations. The Plan is a continually evolving strategy and some actions are aspirational, and dependent on the availability of budget and other resources.
- 7.4** The Ythan Project is one example of this partnership approach in practice and the Ellon Town Strategy, developed as part of the Aberdeenshire Towns Partnership, another. Of particular note was the approval of the bid by the Formartine Partnership for LIFE funding, resulting in the draw down of some £200,000 of European monies. Aberdeenshire Council acted as Lead partner for this project. The close of the project in 2005, saw the emergence of the Ythan Volunteer Group, committed to carrying on the environmental monitoring and improvement of the river, and supported by the Partnership. The success of the project led to it being declared in 2006 by the EU as one of the top LIFE-project Award winners
- 7.5** In 2001 additional resources became available from the Liquidators of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International. These were to be utilised for economic regeneration in the Turriff/ Fyvie/Rothienorman/ Cuminestown area. A broad range of activity has been undertaken led by a private sector led organisation (with Community Council representation) - Turriff and District Ltd. With the demise of these funds, discussions have taken place with a view to establishing long-term future for the organisation and its priority activities.
- 7.6** Ellon was included within the Aberdeenshire Towns Partnership and this has allowed a range of activities and projects to be progressed with the emphasis on community involvement and partnership working.. A key feature has been the establishment of a number of groups within the town taking forward different aspects of the overall programme. With the exit from the Towns Partnership in 2006, these groups continue to participate in an INTEREG IIIc project - SUSSET – with further opportunities for partnership working with funding in place until Autumn 2007.

- 7.7** Significant developer contributions, arising as a consequence of the level of development activity in the Formartine Area, provide additional opportunities to take forward community plans and aspirations. These have been used to considerable effect in Ellon and in Oldmeldrum, where substantial amounts will become available in the next two to three years, the Town Centre Working Group, comprising a wide variety of local interests, has been discussing how these might best be allocated. The main areas of activity are in relation to the town centre, traffic management, facilities for young people and the refurbishment of the Town Hall - reflecting the outcomes of the recent Planning for Real exercise. An initial contribution towards developing a community cafe in the Town Hall has been agreed and a public consultation exercise recently concluded.
- 7.8** Within the overall Council budget, £41,000 is available through the "Area Top Up Budget" to take new projects forward in the Formartine area. The Area Plan will help to identify and prioritise projects. Improving the appearance of towns and Villages (an issue highlighted in the Resident survey), tourism and youth involvement are seen priority areas for investment.
- 7.9** The Village Tidy Scheme (which serves those communities below the threshold of the Village Orderly scheme) and the Town and Village Enhancement Grant Scheme were continued into 2006. These, together with the small grant scheme have proven very popular with local communities and very successful. The Formartine in Bloom competition run by the Formartine Partnership recognises this work and encourages high standards in all the towns and villages throughout the area. The 2006 competition attracted new entries with Tarves being judged the overall winner
- 7.10** Youth related projects in Ellon, Turriff and Oldmeldrum were supported in 2006.



8

Monitoring and Performance

- 8.1** Performance Indicators for each of the Actions contained in the Plan have been identified and are set out in out in the Appendix to the Plan. The Progress of the Plan itself is monitored on a regular basis by a review of progress in regard to each of the identified objectives.
- 8.2** The Plan is also a cornerstone of all reports to Area Committee. The specific relation of any report subject with the Area Plan is addressed in the "Area Implications" part of the report. Fit with the broad objectives that have been identified are addressed in each case. Where there is little or no fit with these, the need for additional and/or alternative objectives or a reasoned justification for the lack of fit requires to be examined.
- 8.3** Actions have been identified in the Plan relating to the nine objectives outlined in Section 3.6. Responsibility will be allocated to a Council officer and Performance Indicators developed against each of the actions.
- 8.4** From 2005, the Council has adopted a new performance management system. This is as a result of a very comprehensive review of performance management and performance indicators and will provide headline indicators to the Area Committee for the full range of Council services delivered locally. The monitoring of local service delivery is a key function of the Area Committee and this new system will provide a much better tool to achieve this.
- 8.5** Performance Indicators will be reported on a quarterly basis and these will be used to help to determine priorities for improvement projects, new initiatives etc. Similarly, feedback from the Council's 'Tell Us What You Think' Scheme will be used as the Plan is reviewed and new objectives defined. The Citizens' Panel set up by the Community Planning Partnership will also provide useful information upon which to base decisions about performance, improvement and priorities.
- 8.6** In the preparation of this Plan, consideration has been given to current performance information and feedback. The main issues and discussion points arising from the Formartine Forum meeting held in Meldrum Academy in September 2006 and the informal meeting held in November 2006 are set out below.
- 8.7** While many of these issues are already covered by action points in the Plan, where these raise new issues, appropriate action points have been included. Detailed responses to all of the issues raised at these meetings will be collated and circulated through the Local Community Planning group
- Comments on mental health issues: lack of hospital /care home beds
 - Concern raised that migrant workers were increasing pressure on all local services
 - Requests for more low-cost housing

- Concern raised over road safety /young drivers
- Requests for Community transport for all ages plus better rural transport links
- Comments on Antisocial behaviour by school pupils at lunch times. Not enough vocational training / work placement opportunities available
- Comments on the shortage of service premises/land leading to lack of new employers/ local job opportunities
- General recycling queries e.g. improve recycling in schools, encourage suppliers to schools etc to use less packaging: look at recycling more types of plastic
- General enquiries on better use / creation of energy: request for more information on development of wind farms: request that the Council give consideration to energy reduction e.g. in street lights, new housing
- Request for training for Community Councils

8.8 The 2006 Residents Survey also provides some information in regard to service delivery and local priorities. These results show an improvement over the comparable figures in the previous Residents Survey

Net Agreement

- The Council does a good job in making towns and villages in Aberdeenshire attractive places to live **47%**
- The Council does a good job in making towns and villages in Aberdeenshire attractive places for tourists **22%**
- The Council does a good job in keeping towns and villages clean and tidy **45%**
- The Council does a good job of maintaining open spaces and greenery within towns and villages **46%**
- The Council takes account of the impact on local services and facilities when it makes planning decisions **-10%**

Net Positive

- Sense of community spirit **33%**
- Facilities for young people (up to 17 years) **-40%**
- Facilities for older people **- 8%**
- The overall vibrancy of the community **16%**
- Recycling facilities **51%**
- Availability of affordable housing **-28%**





8.9 Three key issues arise from these. First, ensuring that the impact on local services and facilities is fully accounted for in planning decisions. Associated with this is availability of affordable housing. These are important considerations in dealing with planning applications and there is a well-developed system for seeking developer contributions. Through the Local Plan, there are opportunities to identify the range of services and facilities that are, or may become, stressed as a consequence of development. It is clear, however, from these findings and also other issues raised at the Formartine Forum that an improved voice for local communities would be helpful.



8.10 The second major issue is the lack of facilities for young people and steps are being taken to address this issue through working with young people to help them identify and articulate their needs and aspirations. There are specific action contained in the Area Plan to take this forward.

8.11 The third major issue is helping to improve the local environment. This may be through the Village Orderly, or Tidy Village Initiatives or through the grant funding provided to the Formartine Partnership from the Area Top Up budget to encourage local communities to take an active role in improving the appearance of their communities.

8.12 The Residents Survey also highlighted local perceptions of the area as a visitor destination. The results are set out below and highlight the importance of the work of the Formartine Partnership and other local groups in highlighting the range of facilities and attractions in the area to the visitor

	Net Positive
• Quality of accommodation	18%
• Activities for visitors	9%
• Quality of eating out	43%
• Attractiveness of the environment	59%
• Events to attract visitors	2%
• Other facilities	-19%



9

External Factors

- 9.1** The Plan will be influenced by a series of external factors - social, political, economic and technological - that will serve to identify the course and direction that it takes and the priorities attached to particular activities.
- 9.2** Particular factors that have been identified include:
- increasing expressions of community involvement
 - increasing awareness of the environment and the principal of sustainable development
 - increasing emphasis on customer care and service
 - an overall decline in the number of jobs available
 - threats to the long-term future of the agricultural industry
 - increasing population with strong local ties rather than an incoming population
 - continuing restrictions on expenditure
 - opportunities for new patterns of service development from Information Technology development
 - increasing relative peripherality to major markets
- 9.3** A key task will be to keep the Plan under review, make adjustments and propose new objectives and actions in response to the changing circumstances and opportunities facing the area and its communities.



10

Actions and Objectives

- 10.1** The various actions to be taken forward with an indicative target date, and a note of the Service responsible for doings, are set out in the Appendix to the Plan.
- 10.2** As described in section 3.0 above, the actions are set out under the Community Plan themes and the associated Broad and Plan Objectives.
- 10.3** Progress towards these targets is advised on a regular basis and update information provided.
- 10.4** New actions are identified in the Action Plan and suggestions as to future actions or issues requiring attention are welcomed.

A Community Wellbeing

B Jobs and the Economy

C Learning

D Sustainable Environment

E Quality Services

A

Community Wellbeing

Broad Objective 1 - To increase the general health and wellbeing of the community through education and increased opportunity for health promoting activity and leisure with co-ordinated inter-agency effort.

Plan Objective and Actions

- 1 To promote health and leisure in Formartine.
 - 1.1 To promote the Sport and Active Lifestyles strategy within the Formartine Area, to link the work of the Ellon, Meldrum and Turriff Community Schools Networks, and in particular to promote the use of existing sport and leisure facilities.

Target Date: Ongoing
Lead Service: Education and Recreation Service
 - 1.2 To establish Cardiac Rehabilitation classes throughout the Formartine Area.

Target Date: Ongoing
Lead Service: Education and Recreation Service
 - 1.3 To develop links with Aberdeen North CHP and Banff and Buchan and Central CHP to ensure a co-ordinated approach to health improvement initiatives.

Target Date: Ongoing
Lead Service: Education and Recreation Service
 - 1.4 Develop links in Formartine between the Council's Transport and Access Strategies and Health and Fitness Plan and the relevant officers.

Target Date: Ongoing
Lead Service: Transportation and Infrastructure Service
Education and Recreation Service
 - 1.5 To establish a Working Group to examine the future provision of health related facilities in Ellon and submit a report to the Area Committee within 12 months thereafter.

Target Date: Sept 2007
Lead Service: Area Manager (Chief Executive's Service)
 - 1.6 To work with local youth groups in developing new projects and facilities, particularly those which improve accessibility.

Target Date: Ongoing
Lead Service: Education and Recreation Service

- 1.7** To undertake a survey of all village halls with a view to securing Lottery funding via a composite project.
Target Date: Ongoing
Lead Service: Education and Recreation Service
Area Manager (Chief Executive's Service)
- 1.8** To work with the local communities in Daviot and Collieston to bring forward proposals for enhanced facilities.
Target Date: Ongoing
Lead Service: Education and Recreation Service
Transportation and Infrastructure Service
- 1.9** To develop a Family Resource Centre at Hatton Road, Turriff.
Target Date: March 2007
Lead Service: Housing and Social Work Service
- 1.10** To undertake a review of recreational open space provision in Turriff and to bring forward proposals in respect of the future use and allocation of land at Hatton Road/ Highfield Walk taking into account the community's aspiration to retain an area for informal recreation and an equipped play area.
Target Date: June 2007 NEW
Lead Service: Transportation and Infrastructure Service
Planning and Environmental Service
- 1.11** To develop opportunities for positive mental health through arts and wellbeing initiatives.
Target Date: May 2007 NEW
Lead Service: Education and Recreation Service
- 2** To implement locally the Scottish Executive Strategy 'A Joint Future' which promotes partnership working between Health, Social Work, Housing and the voluntary sector to help people live independently at home or in a homely environment for as long as possible
- 2.1** To develop enhanced domiciliary care packages for individuals as an alternative to hospital/residential/nursing home care.
Target Date: Ongoing
Lead Service: Housing and Social Work Service
- 2.2** To increase the involvement of consumers in developing social care services and specifically to identify mechanisms for involvement of consumers in the work of the Community Care Planning Group.
Target Date: Ongoing
Lead Service: Housing and Social Work Service

- 2.3** To develop a local response within the overall Aberdeenshire strategy to issues of autism and related matters within the Ellon area in partnership with other agencies and the voluntary sector.

Target Date: Ongoing

Lead Service: Education and Recreation Service

3 To improve access to library services for all.

- 3.1** Review library hours to maximise access.

Target Date: April 2007 **NEW**

Lead Service: Education and Recreation Service

- 3.2** Start implementation of the findings of the Kaizen review of the mobile library service, to include consideration of a doorstep service for the housebound. Bid for funding as appropriate.

Target Date: August 2007 **NEW**

Lead Service: Education and Recreation Service

- 3.3** Establish model for reminiscence groups supported by local libraries.

Target Date: August 2007 **NEW**

Lead Service: Education and Recreation Service

Broad Objective 2 - To improve the quality, quantity and range of sustainable public and private housing stock of the area, including the provision of good, affordable, well integrated, private and rented accommodation, to meet the needs of its inhabitants, consistent with planning policies and objectives

1 To develop a comprehensive Local Housing Strategy

- 1.1** Update LHS annually in consultation with the local community and partner organisations.

Target Date: Annual Review

Lead Service: Housing and Social Work Service

- 2 To improve the quality, sustainability and quantity of good, affordable well integrated accommodation, consistent with planning policies and objectives. Affordable – housing for persons unable to enter the open market**

- 2.1** To ensure provision of affordable housing on all appropriate development sites.

Target Date: Ongoing

Lead Service: Housing and Social Work Service

Planning and Environmental Service

- 2.2** To work proactively with Registered Social Landlords (RSLs), NEHPA and Self Build organisations to identify sites for development.
Target Date: Ongoing
Lead Service: Housing and Social Work Service
Planning and Environmental Service
- 2.3** To develop forms of “extra care housing” by providing enhanced services to people living in Sheltered Housing This to be achieved by- Developing Strategy for Older Person’s Housing in Aberdeenshire Developing Strategy for Assistive Technology.
Target Date: July 2007
Lead Service: Housing and Social Work Service
- 2.4** To work towards improving the Council stock to meet the Scottish Housing Quality Standard by 2015 by developing a rolling 3-year stock improvement programme and complete the improvements.
Target Date: March 2007
Lead Service: Housing and Social Work Service
- 2.5** To support existing tenants’ groups and encourage new groups to form and register as RTOs and to contribute to the development of policies and the improvement of services.
Target Date: Ongoing
Lead Service: Housing and Social Work Service
- 3** To improve the quality, sustainability, quantity and range of private housing stock consistent with planning policies and objectives.
- 3.1** To build on the Blackdog experiment by ensuring that a significant effort is made to add sustainability as a guiding theme of development. Index 21 to be included.
Target Date: Ongoing
Lead Service: Planning and Environmental Service
- 3.2** To encourage development of energy efficiency via NEEDS and links with our Local Energy Advice Centres (LEAC’s) such as Save Cash and Reduce Fuel (SCARF) and the Aberdeenshire Energy Efficiency Advice Project (AEEAP) cited as an example of good practice by the Scottish Executive.
Target Date: Ongoing
Lead Service: Housing and Social Work Service
- 4** To develop a strategy for housing provision for young people.
- 4.1** To review the issue of youth homelessness in Formartine and to consider a programme for the prevention of homelessness and the provision of supported accommodation, advice and assistance to young tenants with links into the Integrated Community Schools framework.
Target Date: Ongoing
Lead Service: Housing and Social Work Service

Broad Objective 3 - To improve community safety in partnership with other agencies and local communities

1 To support the Formartine Community Safety Group.

1.1 To ensure that the Community Safety Group is supported and integrated within the community network in Formartine and that its Action Plans are supported.

Target Date: September 2007

Lead Service: Area Manager (Chief Executive's Service)

1.2 To ensure full local feedback to and implementation of the Community Safety Strategy.

Target Date: September 2007

Lead Service: Area Manager (Chief Executive's Service)

1.3 To work with community councils and the police to establish wider coverage of neighbourhood watch projects through the Community Safety Group.

Target Date: September 2007

Lead Service: Area Manager (Chief Executive's Service)

2 To work in partnership with the Police and other agencies and local business and community representatives to respond to issues of anti-social behaviour

2.1 To develop a multi-agency response to youth related issues in Turriff.

Target Date: December 2007

Lead Service: Education and Recreation Service

2.2 To develop a multi-agency response to youth related issues in Ellon.

Target Date: December 2007

Lead Service: Education and Recreation Service

2.3 To promote safety issues in regard to housing developments through incorporation in Development Briefs and site layouts.

Target Date: April 2007

Lead Service: Planning and Environmental Service
Housing and Social Work Service

2.4 To develop a multi-agency response to youth related issues in the Meldrum CSN following completion of the youth planning project in summer 2004.

Target Date: September 2007

Lead Service: Education and Recreation Service

- 3 To promote traffic calming and road safety in Formartine.**
- 3.1** To promote and assess traffic calming projects in Formartine and introduce measures in accordance with the Council's prioritisation policy.
Target Date: March 2007
Lead Service: Transportation and Infrastructure Service
- 3.2** To ensure that the needs of pedestrians and cyclists are provided for in all new developments and a programme of provision of cycle routes and footpaths is undertaken in partnership with local communities.
Target Date: Ongoing
Lead Service: Planning and Environmental Service
Transportation and Infrastructure Service
- 3.3** To examine the safety and other implications of large numbers of pupils in Oldmeldrum Town Centre once the Academy opens.
Target Date: Ongoing
Lead Service: Transportation and Infrastructure Service
Planning and Environmental Service
- 3.4** To review road accident and other information and bring forward appropriate measures.
Target Date: Ongoing
Lead Service: Transportation and Infrastructure Service



Methelick Bridge

B

Jobs & The Economy

Broad Objective 4 - To Proactively Support Economic Activity in Formartine

- 1** To develop appropriate responses to the economic development needs of the area within the overall framework of ASCEF Strategy.
 - 1.1** To produce an Annual Report in regard to Economic Activity in Formartine as a basis for future action and priorities.

Target Date: April 2007
Lead Service: Transportation and Infrastructure Service
 - 1.2** Review opportunities for additional industrial infrastructure particularly in Tarves, Ellon, Pitmedden, Balmedie and Turriff including Rosehall.

Target Date: Ongoing
Lead Service: Transportation and Infrastructure Service
 - 1.2a** To protect existing industrial land provision and review annually the amount of such land lost to other development.

Target Date: April 2007 **NEW**
Lead Service: Planning and Environmental Service
 - 1.3** To examine opportunities and requirements for enhanced marketing of local produce and selling a wide range of products; and to examine the potential of Saturday markets.

Target Date: April 2007 **NEW**
Lead Service: Transportation and Infrastructure Service
Formartine Partnership
 - 1.4** To monitor Industrial development at Oldmeldrum.

Target Date: Ongoing
Lead Service: Transportation and Infrastructure Service



- 1.5** To give support to Business Associations in order to assist them to respond to local priorities and initiatives and to achieve long term sustainability.
Target Date: March 2007
Lead Service: Transportation and Infrastructure Service
- 1.6** To seek the early upgrading of the Balmedie-Tipperty section of the A90 in the interests of economic development and road safety and review progress in September 2007.
Target Date: September 2007
Lead Service: Transportation and Infrastructure Service
- 1.7** To examine how links between schools and employers might be strengthened with a view to improving opportunities for vocational training and work-placement.
Target Date: September 2007 NEW
Lead Service: Transportation and Infrastructure Service
Education and Recreation Service
- 2** To work proactively with the Tourist Board, other agencies and the community to promote Formartine as a visitor destination.
- 2.1** To develop Tourist Information Points in Ellon, Haddo and Turriff.
Target Date: March 2007
Lead Service: Area Manager (Chief Executive's Service)
- 2.2** Negotiate extended tourist trails and promotion in Formartine.
Target Date: Ongoing
Lead Service: Planning and Environmental Service
Formartine Partnership
- 2.3** To develop links between Aberdeenshire Council, the local Area Tourist Forum and the community and review annually.
Target Date: April 2007
Lead Service: Area Manager (Chief Executive's Service)
- 2.4** To maintain, enhance and promote the facilities at Turriff Caravan Site.
Target Date: Ongoing
Lead Service: Transportation and Infrastructure Service
- 2.5** To establish a local forum to help deliver the core path network to promote the area as a walking destination and to determine local priorities and review progress annually.
Target Date: June 2007
Lead Service: Planning and Environmental Service
- 3** To support the Ellon Strategy Group
- 3.1** Develop scheme for promotion of Ellon as a business location.
Target Date: April 2007
Lead Service: Transportation and Infrastructure Service

- 3.2** Support the Ellon Tourism Group to deliver the tourism strategy for Ellon.
Target Date: October 2007 **NEW**
Lead Service: Transportation and Infrastructure Service
- 3.3** To develop an exit and post ATP strategy for Ellon.
Target Date: March 2007
Lead Service: Transportation and Infrastructure Service
- 3.4** To achieve the objectives of the INTERREG III "Susset Project" for Ellon.
Target Date: August 2007
Lead Service: Area Manager (Chief Executive's Service)
- 4** To work with the Formartine Partnership, in particular to support the agricultural industry and its related business and community infrastructure.
- 4.1** To secure a stable funding regime for the Partnership to enable it to meet its responsibilities and intended role in Community Planning.
Target Date: December 2007
Lead Service: Area Manager (Chief Executive's Service)
- 4.2** To help to generate specific economic agency and general business support for the work of the Partnership through Community Planning process and review annually.
Target Date: December 2007
Lead Service: Area Manager (Chief Executive's Service)
- 4.3** To assist the Formartine Partnership in the implementation of the Ythan Project Plan and to make the best use of available resources to maximize leverage funding from other agencies.
Target Date: Ongoing
Lead Service: Area Manager (Chief Executive's Service)
 Formartine Partnership
- 4.4** To provide annual funding support to Formartine Partnership.
Target Date: April 2007
Lead Service: Area Manager (Chief Executive's Service)
- 5** Increase opportunities for entering the workplace.
- 5.1** Local library staff will be familiar with and promote the Careers Scotland website, promote resources which support work and career opportunities and operate a guidance referral system.
Target Date: December 2007 **NEW**
Lead Service: Education and Recreation Service
- 5.2** Support the NEET strategy by monitoring and developing the pilot 'life skills' project at Turrieff Library.
Target Date: March 2007 **NEW**
Lead Service: Education and Recreation Service

C

Learning

Broad Objective 5 - To provide first class learning opportunities for the whole community which addresses local needs and aspirations in partnership with the community and other agencies.

- 1** To develop the local implementation of the Education & Recreation Service to Maximize benefit to the community at large.
 - 1.1** To progress towards meeting the development priorities in the Turriff Community Schools Network (CSN) cross-service/multi agency development plan."
Target Date: Ongoing
Lead Service: Education and Recreation Service
 - 1.2** To progress towards meeting the development priorities of the Meldrum Community Schools Network (CSN) cross-service/multi-agency development plan.
Target Date: Ongoing
Lead Service: Education and Recreation Service
 - 1.2a** To progress towards meeting the development priorities in the Ellon Community school Network (CSN) cross-service/multi-agency development plan."
Target Date: Ongoing
Lead Service: Education and Recreation Service
 - 1.3.** Aberdeenshire Library and Information service will develop support services for reading, literacy and information handling for all ages across home, school and community.
Target Date: March 2008 NEW
Lead Service: Education and Recreation Service
 - 1.3a** Establish and support an Early Literacy programme in all libraries in Formartine in partnership with Surestart.
Target Date: March 2008 NEW
Lead Service: Education and Recreation Service
 - 1.3b** Support schools in Formartine in raising overall performance by actively encouraging reading and writing through specific reading programmes including visits from Scottish Authors.
Target Date: March 2008
Lead Service: Education and Recreation Service
 - 1.3c** Assist schools in Formartine in their provision of teaching and learning by providing information literacy programmes for primary and secondary school pupils – web enable these.
Target Date: December 2007 NEW
Lead Service: Education and Recreation Service

1.4 To promote the consolidation of Ellon Academy onto one site.

Target Date: Ongoing

Lead Service: Education and Recreation Service

1.5a To keep under review options for the provision of primary schooling in Turriff.

Target Date: December 2008

Lead Service: Education and Recreation Service

2 To develop a locally based Community learning Service focused on local priorities

2.1 To produce Community Action Plan.

Target Date: March 2007

Lead Service: Education and Recreation Service



D

Sustainable Environment

Broad Objective 6 - To enhance and promote the environment of the area and encourage environmental consciousness in the community.

1 To enhance and promote the environment of the area.

1.1 To support the work of the Formartine Partnership in general.

Target Date: Ongoing

Lead Service: Planning and Environmental Service
Area Manager (Chief Executive's Service)

1.2 To pursue the goals contained in the Council's Sustainability Charter.

Target Date: Ongoing

Lead Service: Planning and Environmental Service

1.3 To use the Aberdeenshire Local Plan to develop comprehensive environmental policies and in particular to ensure the encouragement of good development in gap sites and redundant buildings and land in villages and towns.

Target Date: Ongoing

Lead Service: Planning and Environmental Service

1.3a To progress production of Development Briefs for sites identified in ALP in consultation with local communities. Including (a) Hospital Road, Ellon and (b) Ellon Town Centre.

Target Date: Ongoing

Lead Service: Planning and Environmental Service

1.3b To complete the Ellon Capacity Study and to bring forward a programme in respect of a similar study for Turriff.

Target Date: March 2007

Lead Service: Planning and Environmental Service

1.4 To identify planning applications which are considered to represent quality design developments and which could be suitable contenders for the next available Design Award scheme.

Target Date: February 2008

Lead Service: Planning and Environmental Service

1.5 To encourage and promote the provision of appropriate I.T. and waste recycling facilities in new developments.

Target Date: Ongoing

Lead Service: Planning and Environmental Service

- 1.6 To introduce specific Objectives to encourage the sustainable development principles as contained in NEST and ALP to provide enhanced and clearer links between the Area Plan and planning considerations.
Target Date: Ongoing
Lead Service: Planning and Environmental Service
- 1.7 Review the management plans for the Ythan riverside, McDonald Park and other greenspace in Ellon to achieve a co-ordinated framework for managing the open space resource.
Target Date: July 2007
Lead Service: Planning and Environmental Service
- 1.8 To complete the provision of a Community Woodland at Balmacassie, Ellon.
Target Date: December 2007
Lead Service: Planning and Environmental Service
- 1.9 To implement proposals for the upgrading of Gordon Park, Ellon in line with community aspirations.
Target Date: June 2007
Lead Service: Transportation and Infrastructure Service
- 1.10 To support the Woodhead and Windyhills Trust in the Interpretation and Management of their site.
Target Date: April 2007
Lead Service: Area Manager (Chief Executive's Service)
- 1.11 To bring forward proposals for the future upgrading and management of The Den at Turriff in line with community aspirations.
Target Date: March 2007 NEW
Lead Service: Area Manager (Chief Executive's Service)
Transportation and Infrastructure Service
- 2 To encourage environmental consciousness in the community.**
- 2.1 Continued awareness raising activities and promotion of waste hierarchy (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) through local events community interest groups and dedicated Waste Aware Events.
Target Date: Ongoing
Lead Service: Planning and Environmental Service
- 2.2 To work with local communities in maintaining and enhancing the appearance of towns and villages throughout the area.
Target Date: Ongoing
Lead Service: Area Manager (Chief Executive's Service)

- 2.2a To continue the Village Orderly Scheme in six communities and to encourage local setting of priorities for attention.
Target Date: Ongoing
Lead Service: Planning and Environmental Service
- 2.3 To continue to seek the provision of a Civic Amenity site at Wester Hatton Landfill Site to serve the needs of the local community.
Target Date: Ongoing
Lead Service: Planning and Environmental Service
- 2.4 To bring forward proposals for a new Civic Amenity Site at Ellon.
Target Date: September 2008
Lead Service: Planning and Environmental Service
- 2.5 Continued monitoring of the kerbside recycling and waste collection service, including helping householders to adjust to the new service together with monitoring and enforcement of "No Excess Waste" policies.
Target Date: Throughout 2007/08 NEW
Lead Service: Planning and Environmental Service
- 3 To enhance and promote the heritage of the area.**
- 3.1 To review the provision for arts and heritage in Formartine with a view to bringing more opportunities into Formartine.
Target Date: Ongoing
Lead Service: Education and Recreation Service
- 3.2 To investigate the potential to enable the development of a museum in Ellon involving local groups.
Target Date: September 2007
Lead Service: Education and Recreation Service
- 3.3 To identify funding for the upkeep of Collieston pier.
Target Date: Ongoing
Lead Service: Transportation and Infrastructure Service
- 3.4 To bring forward proposals for development at Haddo Country Park.
Target Date: March 2008
Lead Service: Area Manager (Chief Executive's Service)
- 3.5 To undertake a comprehensive review of the Oldmeldrum Conservation Area in 2007.
Target Date: September 2007
Lead Service: Planning and Environmental Service
- 3.6 To undertake a review of other Conservation Areas in Formartine.
Target Date: March 2010
Lead Service: Planning and Environmental Service

Broad Objective 7 - To improve accessibility within Formartine and reduce the need for car based journeys through promotion of affordable public transport and pedestrian and cycle journeys and by appropriate allocation and promotion of new development.

1 To promote the availability and use of affordable public transport in Formartine.

1.1 To investigate and promote the potential for Park and Ride on the Turriff, Oldmeldrum, Dyce route.

Target Date: November 2006

Lead Service: Transportation and Infrastructure Service

1.2 To link with the Formartine Partnership to assess the need for and viability of alternative community based transport systems.

Target Date: Ongoing

Lead Service: Transportation and Infrastructure Service

1.3 To investigate the youth transport costs on the A947 corridor.

Target Date: Ongoing

Lead Service: Transportation and Infrastructure Service

2 To promote pedestrian and cycle journeys.

2.1 To extend the Safer Routes to School initiative including a whole range of issues.

Target Date: Ongoing

Lead Service: Transportation and Infrastructure Service

2.2 To identify opportunities to implement cycling strategies in Formartine.

Target Date: Ongoing

Lead Service: Transportation and Infrastructure Service

Planning and Environmental Service

2.3 To promote tourist use of public transport and cycling and walking facilities. Future maintenance costs on footpaths to be considered in each case.

Target Date: Ongoing

Lead Service: Transportation and Infrastructure Service

Planning and Environmental Service



E

Quality Services

Broad Objective 8 - To develop effective partnership working with community planning partners and the local community through better communications and support and a closer understanding of the issues.

- 1** To ensure that the Aberdeenshire Community Planning initiative is adapted locally to produce local arrangements with the agencies which improve co-ordinated effort.
 - 1.1** To continue to develop local community planning arrangements with partner agencies through the Community Council Forum and Formartine Partnership.

Target Date: January 2007
Lead Service: Area Manager (Chief Executive's Service)
 - 1.1a** To develop and consolidate the role of the local community planning group.

Target Date: December 2007
Lead Service: Area Manager (Chief Executive's Service)
 - 1.2** To ensure co-ordination of existing and future plans within the community planning process in order to make community consultation more effective.

Target Date: December 2007
Lead Service: Area Manager (Chief Executive's Service)
 - 1.3** To develop community skills and capacity to take forward Planning for Real as a means of identifying community aspirations needs and priorities.

Target Date: Ongoing
Lead Service: Area Manager (Chief Executive's Service)
 - 1.4** To examine the potential of parish appraisals and other methods of identifying community aspirations, needs and priorities.

Target Date: December 2007
Lead Service: Area Manager (Chief Executive's Service)
 - 1.5** To develop the Formartine Forum as an integral part of the local community planning process.

Target Date: September 2007
Lead Service: Area Manager (Chief Executive's Service)
 - 1.6** To take forward issues arising from the Formartine Forum and incorporate into future work programmes of partner agencies and to prepare an annual report on action taken.

Target Date: December 2007
Lead Service: Area Manager (Chief Executive's Service)

- 1.7 To review with partner agencies the response to the impact of the increase in EU membership and the increasing number of migrant workers in the area.
Target Date: December 2007 **NEW**
Lead Service: Area Manager (Chief Executive's Service)
- 2 To take forward specific service and cross-service initiatives in Formartine.
- 2.1 To investigate issues of the economic independence of young people in Formartine.
Target Date: June 2007
Lead Service: Education and Recreation Service
- 3 To support the Community Councils of Formartine and to strengthen their role as a voice for the community.
- 3.1 To develop the Formartine Community Council Forum as a means of exchanging information and providing training.
Target Date: Ongoing
Lead Service: Area Manager (Chief Executive's Service)
- 3.2 To seek annual reports from Community Councils outlining activity aimed at interacting with communities.
Target Date: September 2007
Lead Service: Area Manager (Chief Executive's Service)
- 3.3 To increase the involvement of all Community Councils in the work of the Forum, Partnership.
Target Date: December 2007
Lead Service: Area Manager (Chief Executive's Service)
- 3.4 To encourage and help Community Councils to communicate with the wider public.
Target Date: Ongoing
Lead Service: Area Manager (Chief Executive's Service)
- 4 To support and strengthen the Formartine Partnership as an agent for change for the community at large.
- 4.1 To ensure a wider dissemination of information on the Partnership and encourage increased community involvement with its works.
Target Date: Ongoing
Lead Service: Formartine Partnership
- 4.2 To encourage greater officer and agency participation in the work of the Partnership through the identification of two pieces of work annually.
Target Date: June 2007
Lead Service: Area Manager (Chief Executive's Service)



- 4.3 To delegate approval of Aberdeenshire Council grant schemes to the Partnership.
Target Date: April 2007
Lead Service: Area Manager (Chief Executive's Service)
- 5 To increase and improve links between the wider community and the Formartine Area Committee and Aberdeenshire Council services.
- 5.1 To report on measures to enhance the ability of the community to gain access to the Area Committee and its decision making, including an investigation of experimentation with the timings of meetings and opportunities for public contributions to debate.
Target Date: March 2007
Lead Service: Area Manager (Chief Executive's Service)
- 5.2 To enhance the public role in the development of the E&R Service and Community Development Groups (CDGs) and to integrate the work of the CSNs more closely with these groups and with the Area Committee.
Target Date: Ongoing
Lead Service: Education and Recreation Service
- 5.3 To report on measures to improve the exchange of information with the community by encouraging the development of Internet communications and community notice boards.
Target Date: June 2007
Lead Service: Area Manager (Chief Executive's Service)

Broad Objective 9 - To improve the integration of young people by increasing their involvement in their communities and in the democratic process through increased co-ordinated community and agency effort.

- 1 To increase the involvement of young people in the democratic process and in the work of their communities.
- 1.1 To promote the involvement of young people in community councils and other organisations such as the Community Safety Group in Formartine.
Target Date: Ongoing
Lead Service: Area Manager (Chief Executive's Service)
- 1.2 To promote the involvement of youth groups in local environmental schemes and other activities.
Target Date: Ongoing
Lead Service: Area Manager (Chief Executive's Service)

2 To ensure an emphasis on youth and provision for youth in the work of the Council and associated agencies.

2.1 To encourage the development of Youth Forums and to invite them to attend Area Committees.

Target Date: Ongoing

Lead Service: Area Manager (Chief Executive's Service)

2.2 To Produce a Sexual Health Policy for Young People.

Target Date: March 2007

Lead Service: Education and Recreation Service

2.3 To work with young people in Turriff to develop additional activities and strengthen Youth Forum.

Target Date: March 2007

Lead Service: Education and Recreation Service

2.4 To improve Young People's Access to information and advice.

Target Date: March 2007

Lead Service: Education and Recreation Service

2.5 To find ways to accredit Young People's achievements.

Target Date: March 2007

Lead Service: Education and Recreation Service

Broad Objective 10 - To develop closer more co-ordinated working within Aberdeenshire Council and with other relevant agencies to improve the effectiveness of the services provided within the area.

1 To develop an effective Area Management Team within Aberdeenshire Council.

1.1 To ensure that responsibility is taken by the Area Management Team for the effective development, monitoring and implementation of the Area Plan.

Target Date: Ongoing

Lead Service: Area Manager (Chief Executive's Service)

Area Management Team

1.2 To develop an Asset Management Strategy for Formartine to provide a framework for future investment.

Target Date: Ongoing

Lead Service: Transportation and Infrastructure Service

- 1.3 To develop the role of Community Action Teams to undertake cross-service and inter-agency projects by identifying 3 projects annually.
Target Date: Ongoing
Lead Service: Area Management Team
- 1.4 To co-ordinate and monitor funding received as Developer Contributions (“planning gain”).
Target Date: Ongoing
Lead Service: Area Manager (Chief Executive’s Service)
Planning and Environmental Service
- 1.5 To seek more specific revenue plans with a view to ensuring co-ordination and effective service delivery.
Target Date: Ongoing
Lead Service: Area Management Team
- 1.6 To bring forward proposals from the Oldmeldrum Town Centre Working Group for implementation.
Target Date: April 2007
Lead Service: Area Management Team
- 2 To rationalise and improve the provision of services on an Area basis in Formartine.
 - 2.1 To establish local community planning arrangements which acknowledge boundary anomalies as part of CP review.
Target Date: March 2007
Lead Service: Area Manager (Chief Executive’s Service)
- 3 To review individual service provision where necessary
 - 3.2 To identify any further improvements required at Esslemont Circle improvements.
Target Date: September 2007
Lead Service: Housing and Social Work Service
 - 3.3 To review redundant and under-used Council property with a view to encouraging community use or disposal.
Target Date: Ongoing
Lead Service: Transportation and Infrastructure Service
 - 3.4 Relocate depot at Hospital Road, Ellon and investigate optimum re-use of site including possible use of health provision.
Target Date: August 2008
Lead Service: Transportation and Infrastructure Service
 - 3.5 To seek the provision of a new cemetery at Udney Green and associated car parking.
Target Date: March 2007
Lead Service: Transportation and Infrastructure Service

3.6 To develop a programme of local service review within the overall context of the Modernising Local Government Agenda.

Target Date: Ongoing

Lead Service: Area Manager (Chief Executive's Service)

3.7 To seek funding to improve the library ICT infrastructure to support Formartine residents access e-learning opportunities, especially at branded learning centers.

Target Date: August 2007 **NEW**

Lead Service: Area Manager (Chief Executive's Service)



Deveron Bridge



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January 2007

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