

BUCHAN Area Plan 2006 - 2009



Aberdeenshire
COUNCIL



BUCHAN AREA PLAN

2006-2009

Welcome to the ninth version of the Buchan Area Plan, showing our key actions and projects for the next three years. We hope that you will find the Plan interesting and easy to read. 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. Almost all will need the support of local communities, for whom the Plan is ultimately written.



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December 2005

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BUCHAN AREA PLAN 2006-2009

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1. Purpose of the Buchan Area Plan

- 1.1 This Plan for the Buchan 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 and Officers of the Council, based on consultation with the local communities, local community groups, and our community planning partners – Grampian Fire Brigade, NHS Grampian, Grampian Police, Scottish Water, Scottish Enterprise Grampian, Communities Scotland and Scottish Natural Heritage.
- 1.2 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.

2. The Buchan Area

- 2.1 Buchan covers 587 square kilometres. The population is 39,172 and is most densely concentrated around Peterhead and Boddam. In rural Buchan the built pattern is much more dispersed and relies upon village service centres such as Mintlaw, Strichen and New Deer for most community facilities.
- 2.2 Buchan has a good quality of natural environment. The 48-kilometre coastline comprises sandy bays, dunes and rocky foreshores of national significance. The Loch of Strathbeg and the Bulls of Buchan are internationally significant sites for bird life. The built heritage is rich and varied, including traditional croft houses, outstanding conservation areas in Strichen and the centre of Peterhead, and some fine examples of great country houses. There is earlier interest also, including Deer Abbey and several intact stone circles.
- 2.3 The most recent estimates show a stable population level over the last decade, with 39,172 residents. A very minor decline is predicted for the near future. The 2001 census shows 7% of the area's population to be pre-school age, 16% to be of school age, 63% of working age and 15% retired. Buchan's main towns are Peterhead (17,952), Mintlaw (2,648), Cruden Bay (1,608) and Boddam (1,364).
- 2.4 The foundations of the Buchan economy have traditionally been fishing and agriculture. Since the 1970s the economic base has broadened, with Peterhead acting as an important oil and gas service centre and with the development of the St Fergus Gas Terminal. In addition, Peterhead Power Station, ASCO Oil Services, HM Peterhead Prison and Score Europe are significant employers.
- 2.5 Peterhead is one of the largest fish landing ports in Europe, with 89,961 tonnes landed in 2004 by UK vessels, with a value of £31.6m. The port accounts for 29% of Scottish fish landings, supporting 600 fishermen with substantially more persons employed onshore. The overall position of the fishing industry has stabilised from a traumatic recent history.
- 2.6 The Buchan area is recovering after a number of economic downturns. The launch of the Building Buchan New Beginnings Plan, co-ordinated fishing activity and development of the Peterhead Business Forum highlight the local initiatives now underway. The safeguarding and development of the economic future of Peterhead and Buchan are key objectives of the Area Plan, supported by further objectives to train and develop the work force.
- 2.7 There are an estimated 508 unemployed persons in the area (March 2005), 26% of Aberdeenshire's jobless. This represents an unemployment rate of 2.1%. The highest unemployment rate in the area overall is in the Kirktown-Roanheads Ward in Peterhead (6.4%). This is a marked increase over the past year in this ward.
- 2.8 Tourism is a small contributor to the Buchan economy, but the natural and built heritage of Buchan does have significant interest for both visitors and locals. Attractions include Aden Country Park, Aberdeenshire Farming Museum, Slains Castle and Peterhead Marina.

- 2.9 Peterhead is Buchan's main service centre. Developer interest in further housing and retail investment has noticeably increased over the last twelve months. Cruden Bay, Strichen, New Deer, Maud, New Pitsligo and most noticeably Mintlaw, also offer a reasonable range of rural services and facilities. The area has two secondary schools and 25 primary schools and public facilities include a swimming pool in Peterhead and 6 libraries. The Area Office at Maud has been developed as a focus for local community activities, including the Buchan Development Partnership. In common with other parts of Aberdeenshire, the number of key facilities (shops, post offices, primary schools, petrol stations and doctors' surgeries) in rural areas has fallen with an overall reduction of 26% since 1981. A recent survey has shown that keeping these facilities in place is a key concern for the people of Buchan.
- 2.10 The overall housing stock is fair and investment in new housing has led to 800 dwellings being built over the last five years, the majority in Peterhead, Mintlaw, Longside and Cruden Bay. During 2004 there were sizeable house building projects approved at Maud, St Fergus and Peterhead. Buchan has significantly cheaper houses than the Aberdeenshire average, with 70% of housing falling within council tax bands A, B and C and less than 1% in bands G and H. Peterhead is also well catered for in terms of industrial land, both in council and private ownership.
- 2.11 Buchan faces a number of key challenges for the future. There is a need to continue to work to overcome the disadvantage of peripherality, to widen the area's economy and to sustain social and commercial facilities in the area's rural villages. A variety of initiatives by the Council and its partner organisations are already underway to address these challenges. These include the Building Buchan Plan, the Peterhead Project, the use of European and Lottery funding, and the pioneer work of the Maud Area Office, which now accommodates the Buchan Development Partnership. The early introduction of broadband across Buchan is a good example of success. Work has also begun, by BEAR Scotland, to invest in straightening the A90, with further commitment to dualling the A90 between Balmedie and Tippetry, in Formartine.

3. Aims & Objectives

- 3.1 Our vision for the future of Buchan is captured in the simple statement "working together for the best quality of life for everyone in Buchan". The Area Plan aims to do this by building a sustainable economic, environmental and social future for communities in Buchan.
- 3.2 Objectives reflecting the issues and challenges outlined in Section 2 have been identified. Progress and achievement will be measured against the actions and projects as outlined in Section 10. These are organised around the five themes of the Community Plan for the Aberdeenshire Area which have been developed into the Council's own Strategic Plan. These are:
- Jobs and the Economy
 - Learning
 - Community Wellbeing
 - Sustainable Environment
 - Quality Services
- 3.3 The principles behind the Area Plan can be found in the Council's Statement of Aims and Values. We intend to promote equality of opportunity for all of Buchan's residents in everything we do.
- 3.4 Working across the Council's services and in partnership with other agencies and bodies is essential to the successful achievement of the Area Plan's objectives

4. Recent Achievements

4.1 A number of Actions and Projects in the 2005-2008 Buchan Area Plan have been delivered or taken a big step forward. These are identified in the sections below.

4.2 Jobs and the Economy

- (a) Working with the new owner of the RAF Buchan site on proposals for the former base and related housing. A planning application is in preparation.
- (b) Working with the Scottish Prison Service on proposals for the future of HMP Peterhead. An options review is being consulted upon.
- (c) Working with the business community through Building Buchan New Beginnings and the Peterhead Business Forum. A proposal in the energy sector is being worked up and a series of town centre events carried out including a continental market.
- (d) Further improvements at Dales Industrial Estate, Peterhead
- (e) Assistance in the unification of the authorities of Peterhead Harbour and Peterhead Bay
- (f) Confirmation of a contract by BEAR Scotland to realign the A90 (T) bends north of Hatton

4.3 Learning

- (a) The completion of a new primary school at Longside
- (b) The conclusion of options appraisals for schools in Peterhead and Mintlaw. The preparation of designs to extend Auchnagatt School and the closure of the outdated school at Braeside.
- (c) The launch of all weather pitch facilities at Mintlaw and New Pitsligo.
- (d) The completion of a new hall at Longhaven and Barclay Park Pavillion, Peterhead
- (e) The launch of the Smart Card “cashless” scheme
- (f) The development of the Youth Work Partnership and the Adult Learning Partnership
- (g) The training of young people as peer educators to help young people in Peterhead and other areas to develop Youth Information Projects.
- (h) The extension of the Youth Information project to New Pitsligo.
- (i) The establishment of Peterhead Action Group and a youth provision at Barclay Park Pavilion, now being well used by a number of young people and groups.

4.4 Community Wellbeing

- (a) Granting of planning permission, with affordable housing, for projects at Maud, Peterhead, Hatton and St Fergus.
- (b) Preparing new affordable housing projects at Mintlaw, Cruden Bay, Peterhead and Strichen.
- (c) Establishing the Disabled Persons Housing Service.
- (d) The full development of the Community Warden service in Peterhead.
- (e) Relocating the District Court into the new Sheriff Court facility
- (f) Agreeing a Community Regeneration project with Communities Scotland to provide additional support to disadvantaged families in Peterhead.

4.5 Sustainable Environment

- (a) Launching a Regeneration Strategy and working up proposals for eight problem sites in central Peterhead.
- (b) Designing a new Public Transport interchange for Windmill Street in Peterhead, with replacement parking facilities.
- (c) Attendance at events, community groups and schools across Buchan to generate greater waste awareness and understanding of the forthcoming kerbside collection services
- (d) The continuing development of the Collieburn Park in Peterhead
- (e) Donating free plants to Community Associations across Buchan.
- (f) Extending the success of Village Orderlies to seven of Buchan's largest villages.

4.6 Quality Services

- (a) Developing the basis for community planning with local partners, the Buchan Development Partnership and BRIDGE, the CVS covering Buchan.
- (b) Continuing work on Planning for Real exercises in nine Buchan communities, including a concluded project in New Pitsligo.
- (c) Completing coverage of community councils in Buchan by the launch of Buchan East Community Council in 2005.
- (d) Starting to develop Community Profiles for fifteen Buchan communities.
- (e) Working with groups in Maud and Mintlaw to develop new community facilities
- (f) Researching the Council's Residents Survey for specific issues in the Buchan Area.

5. Who the Area Plan is 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 Buchan 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 or priority):
 - The Council and its Committees
 - Community Councils and other community groups
 - All Council services
 - Partners organisations and agencies
 - All groups and individuals within Buchan
 - Businesses and business agencies such as Enterprise North East Trust
 - Individual Councillors
- 5.3 User groups will continue to be given regular opportunities to contribute to and develop the Buchan Area Plan, thus enabling them to build up ownership of the Plan. Workshops involving Councillors, Officers of the Council, Partner Agencies and members of the community were held in June and August 2005 to discuss the content of the Area Plan. Comments received on last year's Plan and the results of the 2004 residents' surveys were fed into these discussions. The priorities raised during the Area Plan Workshops were as follows:

Priorities

JOBS AND THE ECONOMY WORKSHOP

- Developing skills to bridge gaps in the labour market.
- A renewable energy/environmental management park in Peterhead
- Rural industrial development.
- Tourism and promotion of the Buchan Area.
- Induction and integration of Migrant Workers.
- Transport Interchange within Peterhead.

LEARNING WORKSHOP

- Accessing Services (including transporting to and from)
- Support for Migrant Workers
- New Peterhead Academy
- New Mintlaw Primary School
- Rationalisation of Peterhead Primary Schools
- Revamp / New Build – Peterhead Library/Museum

COMMUNITY WELLBEING WORKSHOP

- Identify health trends for Buchan using Community Profiles.
- Continue to Develop the Local Housing Service.
- Affordable Housing for Rural Areas.
- Safer Town Initiative (Scottish Executive Initiative through Scottish Safer Cities Initiative).
- Multi-Agency working with Young People.
- Development of future strategy for Older People in particular rural Central Buchan.
- Explore future provision of Alcohol and Substance Misuse.

SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT WORKSHOP

- Development and Design Briefs, to include new Peterhead Academy site.
- Increasing the number of Household Waste Recycling Centres
- Anti Social Behaviour, particularly the control of quad bikes, dog fouling and litter nuisance.

- 5.4 The development of the Aberdeenshire Community Planning Partnership will also have significant consequences for the way in which services are delivered locally. Individual “Planning for Real” projects are being undertaken in many communities helped by the Buchan Development Partnership. This involves communities in identifying their priorities for the development of local services and resources in their community.

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 The timetable for reviewing the Area Plan over the coming year is set out below:
- Winter 2005/06 This Plan is put to Councillors and issued to the Buchan communities.
 - Early Spring 2006 Local groups consider the various priorities and feed back to the Council.
 - Spring 2006 The Council will consider the comments made which will be fed into the next Plan review and into the preparation of the Council's Service Plans via the Area Management Team
 - Summer 2006 The Area Management Team provides an update on progress and discusses this with Councillors.
 - Autumn 2006 The Plan for 2007-2010 is drafted and discussed with Service Plan authors.
 - Winter 2006/07 The Plan for 2007-2010 is adopted and work begins afresh.

7. Resources

- 7.1 Implementation of the Area Plan will require a variety of resources not all of them directly in 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 input and successful bids being made to national or European funding agencies.
- 7.2 Within the Council the Area Management Team lead by the Area Manager provides the focus for bringing staff from different services together. The Team and their colleagues across the Council will develop this role.
- 7.3 The Buchan 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.

8. Monitoring and Performance

- 8.1 Wherever possible, Performance Indicators for the actions contained within the Plan have been identified and progress will be measured against these on a quarterly basis.
- 8.2 The Plan should also be a cornerstone of reports to the Area Committee. The specific relationship between any report subject and the Area Plan should be addressed in the 'Area Implications' part of each report.
- 8.3 A range of Performance Indicators has been developed and will be the subject of review periodically. These relate to day to day delivery of services which are not necessarily individually specified within the Area Plan.
- 8.4 Performance Indicators will be reported to the Committee on a quarterly basis and 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.

- 8.5 In the preparation of this Plan, consideration has been given to current performance information and feedback. In 2003-2004 there had been concern regarding the time taken to process housing benefits. A considerable improvement has since been achieved. Similarly there have been improvements in reducing the level of empty Council houses and a reduction in the time between re-letting these.
- 8.6 New concerns are maintaining the standard of the environment in towns and villages, recruitment of care workers and the handling of planning applications. Favourable comments have been received on the Village Orderlies and Community Wardens and the Plan will put increased effort on the encouragement of local solutions to environmental issues. The recruitment of care workers issue has been taken up with a request for action made to the Social Work and Housing Committee. The planning issue will be monitored through 2006. The team is new and has been placed under considerable pressure.
- 8.7 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.
- 8.8 In preparing this Plan, attention has been paid to a recently completed residents' survey. This, in general terms, contrasts with national trends and shows increasing levels of satisfaction of Councils Services. Two areas remain of some concern i.e. planning issues and response/maintenance issues e.g. roads, and property issues. An objective has been set in the Area Plan to ensure that these, along with other aspects of local services, are carefully monitored and improvement action initiated as necessary.

9. External Factors

- 9.1 The speed and development of the Plan can be changed by many diverse and dramatic factors, such as changing oil prices and international terrorism, to more subtle changes required by new funding opportunities. All of these issues will be looked at when the Council and its partners meet to look at each of the Area Plan themes in the Summer of 2006.

10. Actions and Objectives

- A. Jobs and the Economy
- B. Learning
- C. Community Wellbeing
- D. Sustainable Environment
- E. Quality Services/Partnerships

Key to 'Lead Services':

- BCSG Buchan Community Safety Group
- CE/AM Buchan Area Manager (Chief Executive's Service)
- E & R Education and Recreation Service
- H & SW Housing and Social Work Service
- L & A Law and Administration Service
- P & E Planning and Environmental Service
- T & I Transportation and Infrastructure Service
- ATP Aberdeenshire Towns Partnership
- NHS National Health Service

A. JOBS and the ECONOMY

Strategic Intention - We will work to create an economy in which sustainable economic activity, steady growth, low unemployment and a broadening and strengthening of the economic base are established.

Actions and Projects		Lead Service	Target Date
1.	Economic Strategy To implement the North East Scotland Economic Forum Strategy 2010 in partnership with development agencies.	T & I	Ongoing
2.	Lobbying Scottish Executive for Support To work with the Peterhead Business Forum and Building Buchan 'New Beginnings' to lobby the Scottish Executive for particular support to the Buchan economy in recognition of the issues in the Bay, RAF Buchan, Peterhead Prison, fishing, social needs and remoteness.	CE/AM T & I	Ongoing
3.	Building Buchan 'New Beginnings' To help implement a major proposal to be developed from the feasibility study for a Peterhead Energy/Renewables Park. To provide additional funding to extend the Company Diversification Scheme.	T & I	September 2006
4.	Towns Partnership in Peterhead To develop the Towns Partnership 3-year strategy for Peterhead, including economic, environmental and social cohesion programmes, within the agreed Regeneration framework and under shared control with the community.	P & E T & I CE/AM	2004-2007
5.	Bay Strategy – Peterhead To continue to maximise the economic value of the Cruise ship visits.	T & I	Ongoing
6.	Industrial Land – Peterhead To continue work on relocation of civic amenity site and to support local industry looking for premises within Peterhead.	T & I	June 2006
7.	Peterhead Prison Campaign To work with local campaigners to continue to press the Scottish Executive to invest in a new purpose built facility in the Peterhead area.	CE/AM	October 2006
8.	Peterhead Traders and Events To support the continuing growth of the Peterhead Business Forum and work with the Town Co-ordinator to develop community activity in Peterhead.	T & I	Ongoing
9.	Central Buchan Industrial Potential To research available industrial property in rural Buchan. To examine development potential of buildings unoccupied at Baird Road Strichen. To identify additional accommodation for small business start-ups.	T & I	June 2006
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Actions and Projects	Lead Service	Target Date
<p>10. Tourism Initiatives</p> <p>To work with the various tourism initiatives to develop projects which will attract visitors to Peterhead and the Buchan area, including the Chain House Genealogy Project, improved signage for Buchan Walkway, golf and cruise ship tourism.</p>	T & I	Ongoing
<p>11. A90 Trunk Road</p> <p>To improve the access in and out of Buchan:</p> <p>(a) road re-alignment at Midmill Bends.</p> <p>(b) BEAR Scotland to undertake a safety audit of the Auchiries junctions.</p> <p>(c) BEAR Scotland to erect temporary speed activated warning signs at the Hatton junction, as well as at St Fergus, Boddam and Crimond.</p> <p>(d) to work with BEAR Scotland and the Formartine Area Committee to expedite road improvement schemes at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tippetty/Balmedie; and • Toll of Birness. 	T & I	2006
<p>12. Route Action</p> <p>To improve transportation within rural Buchan by route action schemes on:</p> <p>(a) A98/A950 Junction (Stacking Lane)</p> <p>(b) A948 Three visibility improvements</p>	T & I	2006/07 2006 2006
<p>13. Bridges</p> <p>To continue a programme of investment in necessary visibility, safety and structural repair work, including:</p> <p>A950 - Brucklay Railway Bridge and minor improvements at Abbey Bridge, Old Deer.</p>	T & I	Ongoing Ongoing/ 2007
<p>14. Image and Promotion</p> <p>To work with local tourism groups and the Buchan Development Partnership to carry out an area mapping exercise of local attractions and places of interest to visit and experience.</p> <p>To help create public awareness of these attractions through supporting a variety of community projects.</p>	T & I	April 2006
<p>15. The Social Economy</p> <p>To work with the Buchan Development Partnership in supporting local community groups deliver social enterprise projects, e.g. Roads Community Café, Maud Village Trust, Fetterangus Community Association and Mintlaw and Central Buchan Initiative, in developing the social economy of the area.</p>	T & I	March 2007

B. LEARNING

Strategic Intention - We will work to implement a vision of Buchan as a place where citizens participate in lifelong learning and where everyone is included.

Actions and Projects	Lead Service	Target Date
<p>1. Community Learning Action Plan</p> <p>To develop a partnership approach to implement and develop the Plan:</p> <p>(a) To develop Community Development Groups for Peterhead and Central Buchan, who will identify local learning priorities.</p> <p>(b) To continue to develop the Youth Work Partnership and the North Initiative, who will identify priorities for working with young people and Adult Learning for the Buchan area.</p> <p>(c) To work with partners to ensure that services are accessible to local people by developing better information.</p> <p>(d) To identify and overcome barriers for local communities, eg. securing funding for transport.</p>	E & R	Ongoing
<p>2. Peterhead & Mintlaw Community Schools Networks</p> <p>To establish a partnership approach which will develop local network plans.</p> <p>To review existing structures for the Joint Assessment Teams and to implement the outcomes.</p> <p>To encourage and promote sustainable breakfast clubs in Buchan, as part of the Community Schools Network development.</p>	E & R	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
<p>3. Young People</p> <p>To support young people to have a voice and take action within their own communities eg. a new Youth Action Group in Mintlaw.</p> <p>To support young people to access informal and work based training and youth information, eg. developing the Young Quality Scot Award.</p> <p>To make available free transport for eligible young people through the Smartcard project.</p> <p>To complete a skateboard park at Meethill (Peterhead).</p> <p>To work with Residents' Associations to develop opportunities for young people.</p>	E & R	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>April 2006</p> <p>April 2006</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
continued ...		

Actions and Projects	Lead Service	Target Date
<p>4. Adult Support</p> <p>To support adults to develop their skills to take an active role in their community.</p> <p>To further develop Adult Literacy and Numeracy provision for youth and family, and English for Speakers of Other Languages.</p> <p>To develop support structures with Community Planning partners for Migrant Workers.</p> <p>To develop learning opportunities in neighbourhoods by capacity building in Hill Park and Longate Community Flats, Peterhead and within village halls and other community facilities throughout Buchan.</p> <p>To develop confidence and skills in families with children aged 0-3 years in the Buchan area.</p> <p>To work with North East Scotland Economic Forum to raise awareness of training opportunities from local providers, particularly for businesses.</p>	E & R	Ongoing Ongoing Ongoing Ongoing Ongoing Ongoing
<p>5. Kininmonth School House</p> <p>To assist the Community Group to gather funds to allow for the creation of a staff and visitor parking area and school bus drop-off and collection point.</p>	E & R	Ongoing
<p>6. Libraries</p> <p>To support young people access youth information for careers in partnership with Careers Scotland.</p> <p>To develop lifelong learning and literacy opportunities for adults in partnership with Community Learning and Development.</p> <p>To develop literacy and information services for children and young people through schools, Surestart and Bookstart.</p> <p>To pursue the feasibility of a Library at Hatton.</p>	E & R	2006/07 Ongoing Ongoing Ongoing
<p>7. Arbuthnot Museum</p> <p>To look at the future of the Library and Museum Services in Peterhead.</p>	E & R	2006 Ongoing
<p>8. Healthy Living Initiative/Community Education Centre, Peterhead</p> <p>To continue the development of the Health/Lifestyle/Referral Scheme in conjunction with the Fitness suite and refurbishment of the interior and equipment of the Café for healthier options.</p>	E & R	April 2006
<p>9. Recreational Provision in Peterhead</p> <p>To improve and develop recreational facilities at Dales Park – continue improvements to drainage and surface of pitches. Explore funding opportunities to develop and improve the recreational/community building either from Planning Gain or other sources.</p>	T & I E & R	Ongoing
continued ...		

Actions and Projects	Lead Service	Target Date
<p>10. Mintlaw Integrated Facilities Plan</p> <p>To maximise usage of the all weather pitch and ensure it is included in the review of community facilities.</p>	T & I E & R	Ongoing
<p>11. Halls and Recreational Use</p> <p>To develop a programme of smaller works for halls throughout Buchan in consultation with Community Learning and Buchan Development Partnership.</p>	P & E E & R	Ongoing
<p>12. Play Areas</p> <p>To continue to work with communities to upgrade existing play facilities in their settlements.</p> <p>To inspect and monitor play facilities to ensure they conform to safety and other regulations.</p>	T & I	Ongoing Ongoing
<p>13. Asset Management</p> <p>To conclude an options appraisal prioritising future school improvements and redevelopments at:</p> <p>(a) Peterhead Academy (new site).</p> <p>(b) Mintlaw Primary (new site or redevelopment).</p> <p>(c) Peterhead Primary Schools (closure of Burnhaven and improvement of Meethill, Clerkhill and Dales Park).</p>	E & R	June 2006

C. COMMUNITY WELLBEING

Strategic Intention - We will work to develop a caring community which supports its more vulnerable citizens and promotes community wellbeing. With the active participation of service users and carers and in partnership with local agencies, we will promote socially inclusive policies.

	Actions and Projects	Lead Service	Target Date
1.	<p>Local Housing Strategy</p> <p>To implement the outputs, ensuring clear links to the “Framework for Physical Development” for Peterhead, influencing the Local Investment framework between Communities Scotland and Aberdeenshire Council.</p> <p>To work with Registered Social Landlords in Peterhead to provide accommodation support for voluntary organisations close to the town centre.</p>	H & SW	Ongoing Ongoing
2.	<p>Particular Needs Housing in Peterhead</p> <p>To review the success of specific housing provision in Peterhead and consider expansion where appropriate by acquisition or conversion of existing stock and by clear linkage to the Local Housing Strategy.</p> <p>To continue to develop the concept of a Very Sheltered Housing Project in Peterhead.</p> <p>To assess the impact on housing waiting lists/service provision issues in relation to housing accommodation for Migrant Workers.</p>	H & SW	Ongoing Ongoing April 2006
3.	<p>Peterhead and Rural Housing Needs</p> <p>To implement the outputs of the Local Housing Strategy as they relate to Peterhead Town and other rural needs within Buchan, particularly “Affordable Housing” and housing linked to “Particular Needs”.</p>	H & SW	Ongoing
4.	<p>Housing Performance Review</p> <p>To prepare the local Housing Service for Regulation and Inspection.</p> <p>To carry out a detailed review of all aspects of the local housing operations service involving key stakeholders and implement service improvements.</p> <p>To carry out a customer satisfaction survey and report results to Stakeholders.</p>	H & SW	Ongoing August 2006 March 2006
5.	<p>Environmental Projects in Housing Areas</p> <p>To consider how best to improve local authority housing estates in line with meeting the requirements of the Scottish Housing Quality Standard and achieving the objectives of local “Regeneration” strategies.</p> <p>To carry out a feasibility study to consider expanding the role of the Neighbourhood Caretaker concept.</p>	H & SW	Ongoing Ongoing
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Actions and Projects	Lead Service	Target Date
<p>6. Residents/Tenants Groups</p> <p>To expand the role of Tenant Participation, seeking to support the development of Tenant & Resident groups in the Buchan area.</p> <p>To explore the use of “Community Houses” and a means of enhancing community involvement.</p>	H & SW	<p>August 2006</p> <p>August 2006</p>
<p>7. Central Buchan Project Meeting the Needs of Older People</p> <p>To investigate local need in terms of numbers of older people requiring care, type of care, staff and financial resources and preferred location with an aim to establish a base/community resource/day hospital or centre with accommodation for the health and community care teams and other staff, including supported housing.</p>	H & SW NHS Voluntary Sector	Ongoing
<p>8. Children’s Services</p> <p>To develop Integrated Assessment and Service Delivery teams in all local areas to focus on children, moving towards integrating service delivery, across the local authority, health and voluntary sector.</p>	H & SW NHS Voluntary Sector	Ongoing
<p>9. Modernising Government/Joint Futures</p> <p>To continue the advanced development of systems through the Grampian e-Care Project to electronically share information between Health and Social Work through the work of the Joint Health and Community Team at Mintlaw where the system will be piloted.</p>	H & SW	Ongoing
<p>10. Substance Misuse</p> <p>To develop an integrated service between Health and Social Work and to continue work with hard to reach clients.</p> <p>To take forward the findings of the feasibility study regarding alcohol services and the type of facility that is required.</p> <p>To work with the voluntary sector and all agencies working in this field of expertise.</p> <p>To continue to develop the Community Safety project in Peterhead, e.g. 4-week programmes for clients on personal safety and first aid.</p>	H & SW	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
<p>11. Social Work Facilities</p> <p>To continue to investigate alternative accommodation for Social Work facilities in Peterhead.</p>	T & I H & SW	Ongoing
<p>12. Community Regeneration Fund Peterhead</p> <p>To develop a programme to promote access to support services for the most disadvantaged groups in Central Peterhead.</p>	CE / AM	April 2006
<p>13. Disability Audit</p> <p>To complete necessary works as required under the Disability Discrimination Act.</p>	T & I	Ongoing
continued ...		

Actions and Projects	Lead Service	Target Date
14. Youth Shelters To continue to support the provision of youth shelters in the Buchan settlements.	BCSG	August 2006
15. Community Safety Plan To work towards delivering the Action Plan for Aberdeenshire under the headings of Road Safety, Vandalism and problems surrounding Substance and Alcohol Misuse.	BCSG	Ongoing
16. Emergency Planning To work with the Emergency Planning Unit and the re-established Buchan Emergency Planning Team to review potential major hazards in the area and to ensure adequate preparation and training is carried out.	CE/AM	March 2006
17. Addressing Anti-Social Behaviour To work towards delivering the Antisocial Behaviour Strategy for Aberdeenshire in partnership with Grampian Police and other agencies. To continue to provide a service to victims of anti-social behaviour and secure funding to provide an enhanced service. To develop the role of the Community Wardens and develop community safety agreements with the people of Peterhead. To strive to secure funding to develop the pilot Community Warden project to the wider Buchan area. To promote community mediation as a means of addressing issues of anti-social behaviour. To act in partnership to address rising concerns over anti-social behaviour to address illegal use of quad bikes and motor cycles in public places, wilful fire setting, littering, dog fouling and vandalism.	BCSG CE/AM	Ongoing
18. CCTV To monitor the use of CCTV in Buchan.	Grampian Police	August 2006
19. Safer Towns Initiative To pursue initiatives to improve the environment, and making safer, the town of Peterhead by working within the parameters of the Safer Towns Initiative.	BCSG/ATP	April 2006
20. Addiction Services To work towards the development of services for discharged prisoners in respect of the Scottish Executive's 'Throughcare Initiative' with a Criminal Justice Addictions Team. To work in conjunction with Aberdeenshire ADAT who has agreed to provide extra resources for those with alcohol problems.	H & SW	Ongoing Ongoing
continued ...		

Actions and Projects		Lead Service	Target Date
21.	<p>Supported Tenancy Service</p> <p>To continue the support whilst awaiting the outcome of the Scottish Executive's review on supported accommodation for offenders.</p>	H & SW	Ongoing
22.	<p>Youth Justice</p> <p>To work with the Children's Services and Criminal Justice Social Work Services in collaboration with other agencies to take forward the Scottish Executive Action Plan for Youth Justice.</p>	H & SW	Ongoing

D. SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT

Strategic Intention - We will work to ensure that all our actions are as sustainable as possible and meet the needs of the current generation of Buchan's people without comprising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

Actions and Projects	Lead Service	Target Date
<p>1. Peterhead Traffic Management To improve parking and transportation in central Peterhead by reviewing town centre traffic management and traffic calming. To continue to progress the proposed transport interchange at Tanfield.</p>	T&I P&E	September 2006 March 2007
<p>2. Local Transport Strategy To develop an integrated transportation system for Aberdeenshire, which will include local community transport initiatives, and contribute to the development of an inclusive and safe society and a strong economy and which preserves and enhances environmental quality.</p>	T & I	Ongoing
<p>3. Cycle Network To continue the development of a cycle network within Peterhead, eg. route from Meethill Road – Dales - A90 Trunk Road.</p>	T & I	Ongoing
<p>4. Provision of New Footways To provide new lengths of footways - on the verge of the A952 from New Leeds to Longhill, a short footway link on North Street, Mintlaw, and a short footway link from North Road to Arran Avenue, Peterhead once funding has been secured.</p>	T & I	Ongoing
<p>5. Peterhead Regeneration Strategy To promote physical, social and economic regeneration in Peterhead in accordance with The Peterhead Regeneration Strategy 2004-2007 and The Peterhead Landscape Strategy 2004. To promote development opportunities for the following six key regeneration sites around the town centre fringes of Peterhead: Kirk Street/Community Centre frontage; St Peter Street Flats; Former MacRae's factory; Kirkburn Mills; Back Gate/Chapel Street; and James Street/Rose Street.</p>	P & E T & I	July 2006
<p>6. Expansion and Enhancement of Buchan's "bring-to" Recycling Network To search for a site for relocation of Peterhead Recycling site and to continue with the development of the recycling network. To roll out the plastic bottle recycling facilities throughout Buchan.</p>	P & E	Ongoing 2006 April 2006
continued ...		

Actions and Projects	Lead Service	Target Date
<p>7. Kerbside Collection Services</p> <p>To continue to attend events, community group meetings and schools focusing on the forthcoming changes.</p> <p>To roll out the service changes to settlements of 300 and more households that will receive alternate week collections, with settlements of 300 or less following suit with their recycling collections being monthly.</p> <p>To continue with the introduction of vital background infrastructure including promotional visits prior to the rollout in Buchan.</p>	P & E	<p>Ongoing 2006</p> <p>August 2006</p> <p>Ongoing 2006</p>
<p>8. Nature Conservation</p> <p>To identify specific measures to be taken in Buchan to meet the Council's responsibility under the Nature Conservation Act 2004 eg:</p> <p>Boddam area – to seek grant funding to implement nature conservation projects identified during the community consultation in 2005;</p> <p>Dales Industrial Estate – to progress environmental improvements;</p> <p>Collieburn Park/Ugie Estuary – to development of further tree planting in association with established Forestry Commission grant schemes following site investigation in Spring 2005, and general promotion of this area for conservation and increased public amenity.</p>	P & E	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
<p>9. Access</p> <p>To continue the delivery of Local Outdoor Access Forum and establish an area based group.</p>	P & E	Ongoing
<p>10. Rural Buchan Regeneration Strategy</p> <p>To promote physical, social and economic regeneration in the smaller settlements of Buchan and support community redevelopment objectives such as the redevelopment of the former market site at Maud.</p>	P & E CE/AM	Ongoing
<p>11. Coastal Footpath and Trail</p> <p>To implement the proposals under Nortrail, including interpretation and filling in of 'missing links' between Peterhead and Fraserburgh. This will comprise waymarking from Peterhead to St Combs beach and a new footbridge at Strathbeg.</p>	P & E	2006
<p>12. Collieburn Park, Peterhead</p> <p>To further develop the park and secure the necessary resources to implement development and an appropriate management regime.</p>	P & E	Ongoing
continued ...		

Actions and Projects	Lead Service	Target Date
<p>13. Mormond Hill</p> <p>To improve access to the Buchan side of the hill and investigate ways in which to expand tourist facilities, in conjunction with the area based access group (see also D9) and subject to resources being available to Council.</p>	P & E CE/AM	2006
<p>14. Environmental Improvements</p> <p>To continue to provide annual bedding plants and to work with communities on environmental improvements by providing sketch plans/design service and expertise.</p>	T & I	Ongoing
<p>15. Open Spaces</p> <p>To extend the use of varying grounds maintenance techniques to promote greater bio-diversity. Further sites under consideration following discussion with local councillors.</p>	T & I	April 2006/ Ongoing
<p>16. Burial Grounds</p> <p>To develop burial ground extensions at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peterhead (Grange) • New Deer • Fetterangus 	T & I	March 2008 March 2007 March 2007
<p>17. Beaches</p> <p>To continue regular beach management and promote and enhance the resort/rural beaches with a view to obtaining award status.</p>	T & I	2006 onwards
<p>18. Aden Country Park</p> <p>To renew the Management Committee and produce a five-year plan for Aden.</p>	T & I E & R P & E	Ongoing

E. QUALITY SERVICES

Strategic Intention - We will work to maintain and improve the quality of life for everyone in Buchan by delivering first class public services.

Actions and Projects	Lead Service	Target Date
<p>1. Community Planning To feed this plan and its developments into continuing debates on Aberdeenshire's Community Plan to ensure Buchan's identified priorities are understood by funding partners.</p>	CE/AM	January 2006
<p>2. Community Engagement To work with the Buchan Development Partnership and BRIDGE to assess how communication and activity can continue to be developed and secured. To build on links with Community Associations and Community Councils and develop a programme for future engagement activity with the Community Planning Partners.</p>	CE/AM	June 2006
<p>3. Community Councils To work with the Buchan Development Partnership to help local Community Councils develop.</p>	CE/AM	April 2006
<p>4. Surveys at Area Level To analyse the 2005 Residents Survey for Buchan, with particular emphasis on improvements needed to services and facilities.</p>	CE/AM	April 2006
<p>5. Community Profiles To work with Community Planning Partners to develop trend indicators for 3 Buchan communities. To monitor trends over time against the Aberdeenshire and Scottish average, so influencing future direction of this plan and potential funding bids.</p>	E & R CE/AM	June 2006
<p>6. Council Asset Management To produce a prioritised plan for council buildings in Buchan to include disabled access.</p>	T & I	Ongoing
<p>7. Council Premises To build upon the Council presence in Buchan by producing a long-term view of service provision in Peterhead, Maud and other significant Council service centres.</p>	CE/AM T & I	April 2006
<p>8. New Community Facilities To assist voluntary groups in Mintlaw and Maud to assess the feasibility of new community buildings.</p>	CE/AM	Ongoing
<p>9. External Funds To produce a schedule of investments to support the work of the proposed Community Action Teams, through landfill tax, private and planning gain opportunities.</p>	CE/AM	June 2006
continued ...		

Actions and Projects	Lead Service	Target Date
<p>10. European Links</p> <p>To identify the potential for partnership arrangements with new European Union nations, with Germany and the Netherlands, and to renew the twinning links with Aalesund, Norway (to Peterhead).</p>	CE/AM	October 2006
<p>11. Community Engagement – Peterhead</p> <p>To form a Community Action Team between the Council and its partners to take forward developments in Peterhead, by developing The Peterhead Project with the community and Town Co-ordinator.</p>	CE/AM	April 2006
<p>12. Community Engagement - Central Buchan</p> <p>To form a Community Action Team between the Council and its partners to take forward developments in rural Buchan, by working with the Buchan Development Partnership and other community interests.</p>	CE/AM	April 2006
<p>13. Peterhead Police Station</p> <p>To work with Grampian Police to identify a site for the new Police Station in Peterhead.</p>	T & I	Ongoing



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Photographs

- 1 Peterhead Gym
- 2 Longside School Opening
- 3 Wellbank Engineers' Training Centre
- 4 Launch of the Buchan Link Bus Service

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If you have difficulty in reading this paper please contact us.

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