



Formartine Area Plan

2006- 09



Formartine

*Area Plan 2006 - 09
January 2006*

FORMARTINE AREA PLAN

2006-2009

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.

Keith Newton
Formartine Area Manager

Aberdeenshire Council

Councillor John Loveday
Chairman,
Formartine Area Committee
Aberdeenshire Council

January 2006

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focus 2006 - 07

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IF YOU HAVE DIFFICULTY READING THIS DOCUMENT AND REQUIRE A COPY

- (A) IN A DIFFERENT LANGUAGE, OR**
- (B) PRINTED IN A LARGER FONT SIZE**

**Please contact:
Aberdeenshire Council
Formartine Area Office
29 Bridge Street
Ellon
Aberdeenshire AB41 1AA
Tel 01358 726405**

E-mail: Formartine@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

1.0 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.

2.0 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.

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(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.
- 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 encourage industrial, office and business park development in Formartine and plans are under development for such provision in Ellon. The Park & Ride facility Ellon continues to attract an increasing number of passengers.
- 2.7 There are an estimated 199 unemployed persons in the Area (May 2005), 11.8% 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. As a first stage, in 2001 the Formartine Partnership published a series of leaflets highlighting the attractions of the area and the service and facilities available to the visitor. These have proven very popular and have been reprinted. A booklet highlighting walks throughout the Area has now been published, supported by funding from the Area Top Up Budget.

(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 with the remainder in rural areas outwith defined settlements.
- 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.

(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.

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

3.0 Aims & Operational Objectives

- 3.1 The Area Plan is directed towards providing a sustainable economic, environmental and social future for communities in the Formartine Area. Objectives which 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. The Plan sets out how it is intended to meet these in partnership with other agencies, the private sector and local communities.

- 3.2 The principles behind the Area Plan can be found in the Council's Statement of Aims and Values and in all we do we intend to promote equality of opportunity for all of Formartines's residents.

- 3.3 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.
- 3.4 ***The principal aim of this Area Plan is to secure a sustainable economic, environmental and social future for our communities and area.***
- 3.5 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.
- 3.6 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.

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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.

4.0 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.

- Affordable housing projects completed at Newburgh and others underway in Ellon and Oldmeldrum
- Programme of improvements to Council housing stock across Formartine continues with heating, kitchen upgrades and window replacements and various works to sheltered housing complexes.
- Funding secured for Family Resource Centre at Hatton Road, Turriff
- Funding secured from New Opportunities Fund to enable replacement of all-weather surface at the Meadows, Ellon
- All-weather facility at Turriff completed with funding from New Opportunities Fund
- New play facility provided at Rothienorman
- Traffic calming/ speed limit schemes undertaken in variety of locations across Formartine including Daviot, Foveran, Newburgh, Tarves and Ythanbank

- Traffic Management Reviews progressed in Balmedie, Ellon, Newburgh and Turriff
- Local tourism initiatives in Tarves and Turriff supported with Area Top Up budget
- Turriff Business Centre completed and available for occupation
- 6 support for Aberdeenshire Business Applications (grants) approved in 2004 – 05 totalling £28167 and which levered in a further £294452, and 1 community economic development grant.
- Promoting and supporting the take up of commercial and industrial properties in Formartine is ongoing and the Council's commercial and industrial properties are promoted on the Council's website.
- Property Service have appointed a designated contact to review property enquiries to better understand and monitor local supply and demand issues.
- Core funding provide to the Formartine Partnership
- Ellon continues as part of the Aberdeenshire Town Partnership and INTERREG 111 project established with towns in Sweden, Poland and Greece
- Ellon Capacity Study “ Imagine Ellon” made available for public consultation
- New local information leaflets highlighting Ellon as a place to live, work and visit, and highlighting the wildlife of the area published
- Otter sculpture unveiled at Bridge Street, Ellon
- Community woodland planted at Balmacassie with funding support from Forestry Commission
- Funding secured for management of Macdonald Parklands, Ellon
- 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.
- Town and Village Enhancement Grant and Rural Youth Transport grant schemes delegated to Formartine Partnership

- Formartine in Bloom competition established by Formartine Partnership with funding support from ATU
- Development Briefs completed for sites in Rothienorman and Tarves
- Improvement to drainage on the Formartine and Buchan Way to the north of Ellon
- 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
- Funding support from ATU and in association with Scottish Natural Heritage to Woodhead and Windyhills Trust for land acquisition
- Works undertaken to improve access at Balmedie Country Park as part of NORTRAIL project
- New Primary School completed and opened for pupils at Rothienorman
- Consultation exercises with stakeholder groups on future primary education provision in Turriff and on secondary education provision in Ellon completed
- Adult Learning participatory exercises carried out in Oldmeldrum, Turriff and Ellon
- Enhanced Career Information Points established in all libraries with support from Careers Scotland
- Access to library information and resources for the community improved by developing internet web pages including free access to databases. Communities now have access to information previously only available in bigger libraries. Customers have 24/7 access to reference databases from their home computers
- Improved rural community access to library services through automated lending and recording within mobile libraries.
- “Learn Direct” branded learning centre status achieved by Ellon Library, giving customers access to a wide-range of free on-line training opportunities suitable for personal development and small businesses
- 520 children in Formartine received certificates as part of Summer Reading programme

- Bookstart/Surestart rhyme time and story telling sessions have led to a significant increase in library membership of 0-5 year olds and their parents
- Area Top Up budget used to resolve variety of service provision issues in Formartine
- Formartine Forum continues to provide focus for community planning consultation with local community.
- Youth projects in Ellon and Turriff supported with Area Top Up budget
- Provided funding to support the Formartine Partnership Oral History project
- Provided support for the Methlick Community Garden project
- Oldmeldrum Town Centre Working Group established with widespread community support to examine opportunities for town centre improvement

5.0 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 A pilot project looking at how community planning can be delivered at the local level, and how local communities can become involved in that process, was undertaken. 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.
- 5.5 The pilot project helped inform the review of the Community Plan and it is proposed that an Area-based local planning group be formed, involving partner agencies and community/voluntary sector representatives
- 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.

6.0 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 to 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 2004 and indicating how these were being taken forward was produced and widely circulated prior to the 2005 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 below:

Winter 2005/06	This Plan is put to Councillors and issued to communities and other groups.
Early Spring 2006	Local groups consider the various priorities and feedback to the Council.
Spring 2006	The Council will consider the comments made which will be fed into the next Plan review.
Summer 2006	The Area Management Team updates on progress for discussion with Councillors.
September 2006	The Annual Formartine Forum is held
Autumn 2006	The Plan for 2007-2010 is drafted
Winter 2006/07	The Plan for 2007-2010 is adopted and work begins afresh.

7.0 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

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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, being 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.

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. Funds totalling £220,000 were secured for a number of projects. This funding was allocated to the development of a Business centre in Turriff (now built), for tourism-related activity and to support the ongoing work of the private sector led organisation (with Community Council representation) - Turriff and District Ltd – formed with support from the Council and Scottish Enterprise Grampian to act as a catalyst for economic regeneration in the area.

7.6 Additional BCCI funding was secured in 2004 allowing for investment in industrial land development, environmental improvement of the industrial estate and further funding to Turriff And District Ltd. 2004 also saw the successful British Pipe Band Championships being held at the Den, Turriff, attracting 15,000 visitors to the town.

7.7 Ellon is 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. The major remodelling of the Riverside was completed in 2004. A key feature has been the establishment of a number of groups within the town taking forward different aspects of the overall programme. It is anticipated that these groups will continue after Ellon has exited from the Towns Partnership in 2006. Participation in an INTEREG IIIc project has provided a further opportunity for partnership working with funding in place until Autumn 2007.

7.8 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 formed. 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.

7.9 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 2001 Resident and Business surveys) and youth involvement (Broad Objective 4) are seen a priority area for its investment.

7.10 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 2005. These 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.

7.11 Youth related projects in Ellon, Turriff and Oldmeldrum were supported in 2005 .

8.0 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 be 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. 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.

8.5 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 2005 under each of the community planning themes are set out in Appendix 1 to the Plan.

8.6 The 2004 Residents Survey also provides some information, though limited, in regard to service delivery and local priorities.

	Net Agreement
The Council does a good job in making towns and villages in Aberdeenshire attractive places to live	37%
The Council does a good job in making towns and villages in Aberdeenshire attractive places for tourists	10%
The Council does a good job in keeping towns and villages clean and tidy	35%
The Council wastes money on projects to improve the looks of town and villages	-6%
The Council takes account of the impact on local services and facilities when it makes planning decisions	-24%
<i>Net Positive</i>	
Sense of community spirit	27%
Facilities for young people (up to 17 years)	-49%
Facilities for older people	-9%
The overall vibrancy of the community	4%
Recycling facilities	47%
Availability of affordable housing	-31%

8.7 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.

8.8 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 actions contained in the Area Plan to take this forward.

8.9 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.

8.10 The 2005 Residents Survey, in general terms, contrary to national trends shows increasing levels of satisfaction of Council services. Two areas remain of some concern i.e. planning issues and response/maintenance issues e.g. roads, property and planning 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.

9.0 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 principle 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.

10.0 Actions and Objectives

- 10.1 The various actions to be taken forward with an indicative target date, a note of the Service responsible for doing so and current progress is included 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.

Appendix1

Issues Highlighted at Formartine Forum September 2005

COMMUNITY WELL-BEING

Key Issues

1. Positively discriminate in favour of socially excluded groups when levying charges for facilities
2. Affordable housing to be encouraged through planning permission
3. Road Safety – prevention and increased attention to signage (Pass Plus schemes etc.)
4. Promote success of Formartine Youth. Make our consultation processes more young people-friendly.

Other Issues

Road Safety:

Accident reduction (previously signage on number of accidents). Community Safety Partnership – focussing on young drivers (e.g. Driving Ambition, + Pass Plus) Safe Drive – Stay Alive Show. Police identifying roads with high accident rates Pass Plus – encourage Driving Instructors to promote (private Sector involvement) Possibly publicise accident blackspots more! (Mobile cameras do promote).

Disabled Community

Ellon, Huntly & Peterhead – high concentrations of autistic kids – would be good to map!) Lack of provision for disabled children (e.g. small groups, one-to-one supervision). Needs to be recognised for support (e.g. subsidised letter rates for activities). Children with autism can't easily fit in with large groups. Lots of children with autism end up in criminal activity (potential). Make services more autism-friendly.

Anti-Social Behaviour

Ellon young people have done a good job in tackling antisocial behaviour. Need to recognise the achievements of young people (more positive promotion). Try to avoid stereotyping young people as being responsible for anti-social behaviour. Use local press for good news stories. TV currently doesn't help – but could! Need to try to build young people's self esteem at early age. Dialogue Young initiative & workers aims is to try to engage with and attract involvement of young people. Concentrate too much on the problem rather than the cause. Vandalism in Ellon is very low and very few young people cause problems. Litter is a problem in Ellon and area (but not all young people).

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Homelessness:

Affordable housing – distinct lack in Ellon area,. Need for supported accommodation for young disabled adults. Number of over 75s will double over next few decades. Council strategies need to promote integrated different housing types. Sheltered housing complexes in rural areas don't have waiting lists – but do in bigger settlements. Issues of young people moving into complexes with older people. Need to promote more support for young people moving into their first independent housing. Need to make jobs caring for the elderly more attractive, with better training and remuneration.

Transport:

Lack of public transport limits access to services in rural area. Possible “Park and Ride” in Inverurie to Aberdeen. In other areas, transport for older people is provided by taxis and minibuses. Alternatives to bus transport. More Park & Rides 90% of the population get by with Transport.

Sport, Recreation & Arts

What do people want? Meadows Sports Centre too expensive and busy?? (Not very disabled people friendly). Pages would benefit from visiting occasionally coaches/tutors. Young people don't always want activity-based programmes (not all Sports or Arts minded).

LEARNING

Key issues

1. that the Formartine Area Community Learning Partnership complete its Learning Action Plan using the findings from the various projects where the community has been engaged (Objective 5)
2. ensure a closer working relationship between business and learning
3. Learning Programmes are concentrated in the three main communities in Formartine. Can these programmes be extended into the rural communities?
4. we need to support all learners ensuring inclusion is tackled at all levels of learning

Other Issues

Neil Ironside explained Community Planning, its structure and explained that the Formartine area Community Learning Partnership (this is a sub group of the Formartine Community Planning Partnership with the specific remit to drive the Learning theme) undertook an appraisal of Learning needs within Formartine. The initial questions refer to this appraisal.

These notes reflect the questions from the community members attending the session.

Question/comments	Answer/comments
1 Everything concentrates on towns, there is nothing which addresses the rural community	
2 Integration of people with learning difficulties, how do we go about dealing with that? Young people with learning difficulties feel excluded.	Banff and Buchan College assess each person on need. If people need support then that need is provided on a case by case basis.
3 How many business people did you ask? (Learning appraisal) A wider questioning of business community to find out business learning requirements of young people would be useful.	
4 Business community not getting young people at 16 as they are being advised to go on with college.	Aberdeen Community Learning, Additional Support for Learning - explained new access and inclusion consultation 'Curriculum for Excellence' www.scotland.gov.uk/library5/education/cerv.pdf More creativity more people centred learning.
5 Why don't we (young people) get work experience through school? Some people do, some don't – it seems to go to those who attend college not school.	Health and safety issues and insurance have hampered work experience. These issues are being addressed.
6 Lack of work experience is very limiting.	
7 We get told not to get a job but to go to college.	
8 We need skills for work, vocational training for school pupils. Provision in school with colleges.	
9 <u>Why can't we leave school before</u>	<u>Young people have to be in school</u>

16 if you have finished and have a job to go to? until 16 by law.

- 10 The cost of using Turriff all weather pitch inhibitive for use by young people. General discussion about sport and its availability within the curriculum and in the community. Young person present tried to start a rugby club as no rugby team in school. Was not successful.
- Community Education explained that there is consultation at present designed to address the anomalies in the facilities across Aberdeenshire.
- 11 The new faculty system that has done away with middle management opportunities will lead to a loss of teachers, as they have to leave the area to get promotion.

.JOBS AND THE ECONOMY

Key Issues

1. Vocational Training Education and Business Links
2. Supply of Premises & Land – Economic Led Planning
3. Promote Formartine to Live, Work and Visit

Other Issues

Travelling to Work – reduce need to commute. Link with sustainability. Attract Business which will help support shops i.e. sustainable.

Opportunities for all – more land available in wider area e.g Turriff. Benefits to Community providing support. Need larger areas of land allocated. Need to make sites available. Land in Turriff – between Pelican and Morrison Motors. Business Centres to bring in local business. Need incentives to attract businesses to more rural areas. Look to attract smaller businesses. Need to be able to react quickly to demand.

Retain school leavers through provision of further education/training facilities/college within the local area.

Opportunities to provide vocational training unit,

Outreach centres in closer proximity to schools.
Jobs in rural areas – use of existing sites within countryside.
Is planning system flexible to allow development?
Use of farm buildings for light industry, storage and distribution.
Lack of viable properties
Use of modern technology
Develop “Locate in Formartine” initiative – be more active in attracting business/local business support/encourage/promote area.
Issue of availability of land. Should provide mixed use areas rather than separate areas/zones.
More pro-active marketing of home based business
Involve schools & businesses together
Improvement to business links with schools (need to have 5 links by 2006 – determined to succeed Scottish Executive Initiative).
Bring back work experience for schools.
Promote links with businesses and schools
Loss of rural transport links/poor provision of transport link which would serve work locations.
Promote ICT to make links i.e. video conferencing.
Publicise Historic Locations – promote area’s history
Develop Tourism – promote economy
More teaching of local history.

SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT

Key issues

1. Investigate the potential for reduced use of packaging linked to promotion of local produce – particularly in schools
2. Further promotion of local paths and increased education of the local environment and the countryside code
3. Improved traffic management and public transport – especially Ellon Town Centre, A947 link, accessibility to and cost of public transport
4. Encourage local partnership with National Trust for Scotland and others to promote history and the arts

Other Issues

The group were introduced to the theme of the Sustainable Environment and reminded of the broad objectives of the Formartine Area Plan, which related.

Action points raised at the previous years workshop were discussed and a number of projects currently being undertaken by the Council (e.g. Global footprinting project, core path planning, Ellon landscape & nature framework) were highlighted.

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IDENTIFICATION OF MAIN TOPICS

Environmental issues raised in the broad objectives and previous discussion were broken down to the following categories:

- Waste & Recycling
- Culture, Heritage and the Arts
- Natural Environment
- Planning and new development
- Transport
- Access to the Countryside
- Sustainability / Climate Change / Environmental Awareness

ISSUES AND POTENTIAL ACTIONS

The group were asked for their thoughts on the issues and potential actions in any or all of these categories by adding a post-it-note to the flip charts around the room. Discussion amongst the whole group followed. The following points were raised on the post-its and in the discussion:

Waste & Recycling

- Promote recycling in schools
- Encourage recycling – incentives and assistance
- Promote more recycling on the doorstep as in other local authorities
- More frequent emptying of recycling containers
- Provide better recycling facilities – collection from homes?
- Put up signs for recycling centres – let people know where they are
- Have boards to encourage people to stick their chewing gum on
- Improvement of Council Waste skip sites e.g. – Ellon (site should have drip in containers)
- Development of large scale composting facility associated with a brown bin collection of garden waste material
- Provision to enable tyres to be disposed of central waste points – e.g. Inverurie and Ellon even if a charge was levied for tyre. Tyre disposal is becoming a serious dumping problem
- Recycling of plastic bottles – collections from schools
- Encourage local firms to become involved in processing recycled material. Some form of subsidy might have to be offered to these firms.
- Use biodegradable materials
- Proactive work at schools, particularly academies – re litter issues
- Landfill – use of tax to fund environmental projects

Discussion:

Kerbside collection is now in place for communities of more than 300 and every community over 50 should have a community facility – this is soon to be increased to every community over 25.

Better signposting to central recycling facilities is required.

Culture, Heritage and the Arts

- Funding for arts projects in schools
- Support local artists
- Closer working between shire and city on arts projects
- Aberdeenshire Council / National Trust for Scotland partnership to promote and develop Haddo as a centre for the arts
- Support and encourage local NTS properties e.g. Pitmedden Museum of Farming Life and historic garden
- Protect properties e.g. National Trust

Discussion:

Local partnerships with agencies such as NTS would help to further promote the arts.

Natural Environment

- Continue the promotion of the protection and enhancement of the Ythan
- Educate young children about the importance of caring for the environment (e.g. Brownie / Cub Packs)
- More community woodland developments using NATIVE species. NO building on flood plains. Encouragement through education of an appreciation of our natural features and need to conserve them.
- When trees are cut down / killed, replacement of the exact amounts should be planted in nearby areas.
- More fines for dropping litter – don't kill the wildlife!
- Supply more litter bins to reduce littering so not to destroy environment or wildlife
- Balanced redevelopment – keep green spaces

Planning and new development

- More consultation with local communities as to planning matters and local developments
- Encourage use of 'green' heating in planning applications
- To promote through planning consents the incorporation of sustainable energy supplies for new dwellings – e.g. Geothermal Heating, Small wind turbines, solar panels
- Protect trees against demolition to clear sites for new buildings
- Before more development plan for increase in cars/people etc
- Not so much planning permission granted in Greenfield areas
- Only increase towns/build houses in well connected locations

Transport

- The buses do not always run to schedule – need correct schedule!
- School transport has started to cost – is it possible to decrease the prices? Public transport is not very good in Ellon area if you want to travel off the main roads – e.g. Ellon – Methlick etc. Could park and ride be extended?
- Is it possible to make buses / trains more affordable?
- Improve rail links – Inverurie – Stonehaven with station in between.

- Accessibility and availability of public transport and interconnectivity of services between operators
- Traffic management in Ellon
- Roads and traffic management in Ellon
- Park & Ride or Increased trains – affordable – Parking especially in Oldmeldrum

Discussion:

Traffic management is needed for Ellon town centre in particular although this is a wider issue across Formartine.

The accessibility to public transport and the cost of these services needs to be looked at.

Access to the Countryside

- Put up signs with countryside code on around popular paths
- Promote local paths in leaflets
- Have designated footpaths – ones for dogs, ones for horses, for cyclists, walkers. Increase awareness of how important shutting gates are
- Raise awareness of the damage litter does to the countryside wildlife
- Promote schools to take up farm visits as carried out by organisations such as RNCI – Promoting education in the countryside

Discussion:

Education is the key

Subject time in classes such as geography, where these issues can be considered, needs to be increased.

Sustainability / Climate Change / Environmental Awareness

- Incentives for those who care by recycling – similar to incentives such as smaller engine lower tax.
- Encourage the production of energy crops to produce Bio diesel and Bio Ethanol
- Further developments of 'cleaner' fuels and energy supplies
- Community education to promote energy saving and better insulation
- Encourage local businesses to reduce packaging and promote healthy eating too
- Reduce packaging of food in schools and promote more traditional ways of catering for large numbers of pupils
- Use biodegradable materials for packaging which wont harm wildlife
- Encourage the reduction in packing materials. Encourage the use of local produce
- Could packaging be reduced to save excess cardboard, cling film etc being discarded.
- Grow and buy food locally to support local farmers and markets and reduce waste from travelling, which will help, cut down on greenhouse gases.
- Incentives for growing / buying food locally to decrease pollution by transportation.

Discussion:

Schools are doing their best to reduce waste and use local produce but many schools suffer from pupils using buying food from local shops rather than using the canteen. How can we encourage local businesses to reduce waste and use local produce?

Education is needed for traders, pupils and general public
Packaging is a major issue, which needs to be addressed.

QUALITY SERVICES

Key Issues

1. Effective Partnership Working through communications with local community - In Plain Language – have information on what each Department does; how do people get information; and have readily accessible paper copies of documents; There is a high expectation of Community Councils in responding to technical documentation. (Objective 8)
2. Integration of Young People – How can the views of the youth be integrated – Membership of Community Councils is available at age 16 but can't vote until 18 – there should be a review of the role of Community Councils.; Youth Forums. (Objective 9)
3. Co-ordinated Working - A lead co-ordinator from one service/agency should be appointed to take responsibility for issues (e.g. housing – Planning; Estates; Scottish Water etc) (Objective 10).

Other Issues

Community Objectives – Community Consultation – the community needs to be heard.

Informing the community – what is there – what is feasible.

Quality – same grade/level throughout the area. Interpretation of strategy, e.g. litter – Turriff Pool good – Inverurie poor.

Councillors access to information

High expectation of community Councils – onerous burden

Responding to huge piles of technical documents

Reorganise? Give face? Give an office

Funding for Community Newsletters.

Bring in people from business into the community – e.g mock interviews @ Ellon Academy and then get involved in community issues.

Contact point – e.g., want to build Skate Park – need planning/Scottish Water – which agency – “Bear”

Should be review of role of Community Councils.

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FORMARTINE AREA PLAN

OBJECTIVES

AND

ACTION PLAN

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Community Planning Theme: 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	ACTION	OFFICER	TARGET	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR	QUARTERLY REVIEW
<p>HWB.1 To promote health and leisure in Formartine.</p>	<p>HWB 1.1 To promote the Sport and Active Lifestyles strategy within the Formartine Area, to link the work of the Ellon, Meldrum and Turriff LEARNs, and in particular to promote the use of existing sport and leisure facilities.</p>	<p>E&R Stephen Brown</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Plan agreed by Area Committee</p>	<p>Oldmeldrum - Badminton groups have been successfully set up for both adults and Juniors. The fitness room is now open to the public for tuition one day a week. The long term aim is to increase availability. A comprehensive holiday programme has been set up for the first time to cover the summer holiday period. This has been achieved through partnership working with the Community Recreation Officer, the Active Schools Coordinator, Sports Development and Community Learning. If successful this will take place during future holiday periods.</p> <p>Turriff - The gym at the sports centre has recently been refurbished. It is due to open at the end of June 2005. Increased usage is expected. Planning gain money has been secured to improve the reception and staffing area at Turriff Swimming Pool. Expected completion Sept 2005. Skate Park is up and running but the community group has disbanded. Efforts are being made to get another group established but it is proving difficult to find willing volunteers. The Free time sessions that were achieved through the area top up fund are coming to an end. Recreation, CL&D, Social Work, Health Visitors and the ICS team have been delighted with the sessions. Neil Ironside from CL&D is now endeavouring to keep these sessions going through his Community Capacity Building role.</p> <p>Ellon/Turriff & Oldmeldrum - Rookie lifeguard/ water safety sessions are being run for primary school children and 12+ , buses will be run from Oldmeldrum. This is being achieved through partnership working with the Child Care Partnership and HM Coast Guard.</p> <p>Balmedie - Planning gain money has been secured to improve the sports centre at Balmedie which is run by a trust. To date the games hall floor and heating has been</p>

					replaced, the windows in the general purpose room have been replaced as has the flooring in the hall. This will enable them to use the facility in all weathers as it was too cold in the winter. The local church also use this facility. We are also working towards extending their gym which will increase usage drastically. Completion expected Aug 2006.
	HWB 1.2 To establish Cardiac Rehabilitation classes throughout the Formartine Area	E&R G Bulloch	Ongoing		NEW There are two successful classes that are currently being run at Turriff Sports Centre. It is hoped that there will be more classes arranged at other venues within Formartine.
	HWB 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.	E&R	Ongoing	Links successfully established	Continue to exchange information between NHS and local authority colleagues working on health improvement issues in Formartine.
	HWB.1.4 Develop links in Formartine between the Council's Transport and Access Strategies and Health and Fitness Plan and the relevant officers.	T&I/E&R A Miller/ E Wallace	Ongoing	Links established	The regular meetings between T&I and P&ES are continuing. The consultation on the revised LTS for Aberdeenshire has started and the integration of cycling and walking strategies and opportunities within Formartine will form part of the final strategy. Links with other agencies such as Sustrans will also be maintained.
	HWB. 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	AM	Sept, 2006	Report to Cttee	Link to ATP Strategy/future of Health Centre. Proposed to establish Working Group. Link to Capacity Study.
	HWB. 1.6 To work with local youth groups in developing new projects and facilities, particularly those which improve accessibility	E&R Bob Leonard	Ongoing	Projects identified and funding secured	Turriff Skate Park up and running; Pitmedden Skate Park up and running; Work on Tarves Skate Park has started. First Aid course at Turriff attracted no interest.
	HWB 1.7 To secure additional resources to allow the development of initiatives in the Meldrum LEARN	E&R N Ironside	March 2004	Staffing and resources secured	A clerical base has now been established at Meldrum.
	HWB.1.8 To undertake a survey of all village halls with a view to securing Lottery funding via a composite project	E&R/AM	Ongoing	Report to Committee	This action has been overtaken by the Council's decision to prepare Asset Management Plans for all of its properties and infrastructure. Need to consider how non Council halls are dealt with (Daviot in hand)
	HWB 1.9 To work with the local communities in Daviot and Collieston to bring forward proposals for enhanced facilities.	E&R N Ironside	Sept. 2005	Bids for funding made	Daviot is still at stage of exploring possibilities for Hall improvement. The local group at Collieston is currently involved in developing a business plan. (See LL1.6)

	HWB 1.10 To secure the provision of an All-Weather Pitch in Turriff and replacement of the Ellon Pitch, and include the identification and maintenance of facilities already in use.	E&R A Miller	Ongoing	Facilities provided	Turriff all weather pitch is complete and open to the public. Work on the Meadows all-weather pitch is almost complete.
	HWB 1.11 To support the community recreational facility at Gallowhill, Newburgh with integral Football Pitch.	E&R Glynis Buchan	Ongoing	Facility complete and operating	This project is led by the Foveran Partnership, discussion in hand re new football pitch
	HWB 1.12 To develop a Family Resource Centre at Hatton Road, Turriff	SWH	Dec 2006	Facility provided	NEW Planning consent sought. Approval of Scottish Ministers awaited
HWB.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.	HWB.2.1 To develop enhanced domiciliary care packages for individuals as an alternative to hospital/residential/nursing home care.	SWH J. Ledger	Ongoing	Packages available and promoted.	Local Improvement Targets for Aberdeenshire for 2005-6 include:- 5% increase in number of intensive care packages. 5% increase in home care hours provided overnight and after 7 p.m. at weekends. Augmented Home Care continues to provide an effective service for frail older people. Across Aberdeenshire there was an increase of 7.7% in 2004-5 in the numbers of older people receiving more than 20 hours per week home care. An Out of /Hours home care base is established in Ellon, dealing with emergency home care calls for sheltered housing schemes in Ellon and surrounding areas. Supported living set up for adults with Learning Disabilities at various locations in Ellon as an alternative to residential care. Work is being undertaken to try to develop further supported living opportunities to maximize the independence of some adults with Learning Disabilities who are currently in Residential Care in Ellon.
	HWB 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	SWH J Ledger	Ongoing	Greater involvement achieved	Community Care Planning Groups do not currently meet. The 'Have Your Say' project involves older people in consultation on service planning. A review of how we involve older people in planning services is to be done in 2006 in response to the Scottish Executive's framework for older peoples' services, "Better Outcomes for Older People" In mental health services, service user involvement is a key aim of the Joint Strategy for Mental Health and Well-Being in Grampian. Service use involvement is a key aim of other strategies for other adult care groups.

	HWB 2.3 To investigate improvements in care staffing and administration support at Westbank and Ythanvale Homes in the context of the Accounts Commission Study "Moving Forward with Care" as part of Shire wide review of staffing in care homes.	SWH J Ledger	Ongoing		
	HWB 2.4 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.	E&R/ John Proctor	Ongoing	Local action plan in place	There is a draft joint strategy for Aberdeenshire on Autistic Spectrum Disorder currently in existence involving the main agencies. However, it was recently decided that this would be put on hold until the completion of an important piece of research (currently being put out for tender) that will be pivotal in determining the level of need regarding autism in the North East and how best this is met. Moreover, the Additional Support for Learning legislation is due to be implemented in November 2005 and this will also have considerable implications for strategy. Any Formartine strategy will have to be consistent with the Aberdeenshire strategy. It is therefore advisable to wait (approx. this year) until this other important initiatives have taken place before finalising either the Aberdeenshire strategy or one pertaining to Formartine.

Community Planning Theme: Community Wellbeing

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

PLAN OBJECTIVE	ACTION	OFFICER	TARGET	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR	QUARTERLY REVIEW
HSG 1 To develop a comprehensive Local Housing Strategy for the Formartine Area	HSG 1.1 To prepare in consultation with the local community and partner organisations a Local Housing Strategy and update annually	SWH N Landels	Complete	Implementation of Strategy	LHS approved by Communities Scotland and presented to Area Committees.
	HSG 1.2 To carry out a Housing Needs Assessment to provide data on housing needs that will be used to ensure resources are targeted effectively.	SWH N Landels	Dec.. 2005	A Report to Committee	Final report complete,
HSG.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	HSG.2.1 To ensure provision of affordable housing on all appropriate development sites.	SWH/PES J White	Ongoing	Housing provided	Council seeks affordable housing in line with Council policies.
	HSG.2.2 To work proactively with Registered Social Landlords (RSLs), NEHPA and Self Build organisations to identify sites for development	SWH/PES & Affordable Housing W.G. N Landels	Ongoing	Sites identified and included in RSL development funding programmes	Affordable Housing Working Group prioritizing areas for development. Tarves site still being discussed with Community Council.
	HSG.2.3 To use the opportunity presented by the Aberdeenshire Local Plan to review policies and allocations relevant to the provision of land for affordable housing.	PES/SWH L Burr	Ongoing	Sites identified and policies adjusted	COMPLETE Local Plan now proceeding towards adoption
	HSG.2.4 To provide assistance to older people and those with a disability in private housing to allow them to remain in their own home through the Care and Repair Scheme.	SWH N Landels	Jan. 2006	Assess demand for service within the Formartine area	Care and Repair Scheme now established across Aberdeenshire. Level of service and demand from people in Formartine to be monitored.
	HSG 2.5 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	SWH B Stokoe	July 2006	Strategy Completed	The respite flat at Dawson Court, Turriff is proving a useful resource for service users and carers from all Community care Groups. Out of Hours Home Care service in Ellon provides emergency out of hours care to residents of sheltered housing in Ellon and surrounding area.

	HSG.2.6 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.	SWH N Landels	Mar 2006	Upgrade of specific properties.	Range of improvements in Formartine; Central Heating upgrade (15 locations/47 properties); Kitchen Upgrades (9 locations/19 properties); Window Replacement (9 locations/19 properties); Sheltered Housing complexes various upgrades; external structural work (3 locations/11 properties).
	HSG.2.7 To pursue the provision of development land as part of developer contributions	PES S Robertson	Ongoing	Amount of Land secured	Considered in light of individual applications. Land for affordable housing secured via planning gain at sites in Balmedie, Ellon, Methlick and Oldmeldrum, Pitmedden.
HSG.3 To improve the quality, sustainability, quantity and range of private housing stock consistent with planning policies and objectives.	HSG.3.1 To use the opportunity presented by Aberdeenshire Local Plan to identify appropriate sites for housing development and to adjust policies to increase quality and range of housing provided to match needs.	PES L Burr	Ongoing	Sites identified	COMPLETE
	HSG.3.2 To build on the Blackdog experiment by identifying at least one site in Formartine where a significant effort is made to add sustainability as a guiding theme of the development. Index 21 to be included.	PES/ J White/ P McRae	Sept 2006	Site/developer identified Report to committee and Development Brief prepared	Number of development briefs have been proposed eg. Shady Neuk, Potterton etc. where Index 21 has been activated.
	HSG.3.3 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.	SWH/PES N Landels/ D Cooper	Ongoing	Properties included	The Fuel Poverty Strategy now launched – Formartine area shows little incidence overall of Fuel Poverty.
HSG.4 To develop a strategy for housing provision for the young in Formartine.	HSG.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.	SWH N Landels	Ongoing	Liaison with a range of partners to provide services, support and assistance to young people.	Range of services available to young people to reduce, prevent and eliminate homelessness. Lessons plan to be given to S4 and 5 school pupils. Salvation Army proposals for outreach housing support service to be developed from Inverurie area.

Community Planning Theme: Community Wellbeing

Broad Objective 3

To improve community safety in partnership with other agencies and local communities

PLAN OBJECTIVE	ACTION	OFFICER	TARGET	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR	QUARTERLY REVIEW
SAF.1 To support the Formartine Community Safety Group.	SAF.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.	AM	Sept 2006	Annual Report to Committee	Community Safety Group is active. Need to encourage greater attendance at meetings from Community Groups
	SAF.1.2 To ensure full local feedback to and implementation of the Community Safety Strategy.	AM	Sept 2006	Strategy complete and included in next Area Plan.	Taken forward in reviews of Area Plan
	SAF.1.3 To work with community councils and the police to establish wider coverage of neighbourhood watch projects through the Community Safety Group.	AM	Sept 2006	Expanded coverage.	Ref 1.1 above
SAF 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	SAF 2.1 To develop a multi-agency response to youth related issues in Turriff	M Arnold	Dec. 2006	Effective measures in place. Reduction in anti-social behaviour	Activities are being developed as a result of the Survey of Young People.
	SAF 2.2 To develop a multi-agency response to youth related issues in Ellon	L Dawson	Dec. 2006	Effective measures in place. Reduction in anti-social behaviour.	A recent needs assessment in Ellon demonstrated that local people are impressed by development for young people.
	SAF 2.3 To identify a pilot project to promote safety issues in regard to housing developments.	PES/SWH J White	April 2006	Promotion of Secure by Design in new developments.	Aberdeenshire Housing Partnership has recently commenced development on site which provides Home Zones and the development meets Secure by Design status.
	SAF 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.	E&R N Ironside	Sept 2006	Report produced and proposed action reported to Committee	An action plan is being developed based upon Planning for Real exercise.
SAF.3 To promote traffic calming and road safety in Formartine.	SAF.3.1 To promote and assess traffic calming projects in Formartine and introduce measures in accordance with the Council's prioritisation policy.	T&I G Steel	April 2006	Projects undertaken and identified.	Traffic Calming schemes on Wellbrae/C77C/U78C in Daviot, C2C route through Udney Station, Main Street through Newburgh, B9001 south approach into Rothienorman and at Baker

					<p>Street in Oldmeldrum will be completed by end of March 2006</p> <p>A zebra crossing on the west side of the High Street in Turriff will be implemented by end of March 2006.</p> <p>Interactive 30mph signs will be implemented in Methlick on the B9170 north approach from New Deer, in Oldmeldrum on the A947 east approach and in Rothienorman on the B9001 north approach all by end of March 2006.</p>
	SAF.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.	PES/T&I F Chirnside/ Graeme Steel	Ongoing	Review report prepared indicating provision made	Cycling Strategy Plan is being finalized. A section of off road cycleway linking the Formartine/Buchan Way to adjacent Housing Development at Western Place in Ellon adjacent to the A920 will be implemented by the end of March 2006.
	SAF 3.3 To examine the safety and other implications of large numbers of pupils in Oldmeldrum Town Centre once the Academy opens	T&I/PES G Steel	Dec. 2006	Review complete and reported to Committee with Action Plan prepared and costed	Phase 1 of bypass between A947 and A920 is ongoing and programmed to be completed by end of Feb.06. Phase 2 between A920 and B9170 is programmed for completion in Dec.2006.
	SAF 3.4 To review road accident and other information and bring forward appropriate measures.	T&I E Wallace	ongoing	Annual reports to ISC on progress towards 2010 targets.	Revised Road Safety Plan published December 2005

Community Planning Theme: Jobs & The Economy

Broad Objective 4

To Proactively Support Economic Activity in Formartine

PLAN OBJECTIVE	ACTION	OFFICER	TARGET	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR	QUARTERLY REVIEW
IND.1 To develop appropriate responses to the economic development needs of the area within the overall framework of NESEF Strategy.	IND.1.1 To produce an Annual Report in regard to Economic Activity in Formartine as a basis for future action and priorities.	T&I D Rennie	April 2006	Annual Progress Report to Committee	Agreed that an Annual Report be submitted.
	IND.1.2 Review opportunities for additional industrial infrastructure particularly in Tarves, Ellon, Pitmedden, Balmedie and Turriff. (Rosehall, Turriff needs to be tied together)	T&I David Young	Ongoing	Report to FAC.	Turriff Business Centre completed (part funded from BCCI money) Balmedie Business Park should be started early 2006. Report submitted to Committee
	IND.1.3 To bring forward an Annual report in regard to the implementation of the Outline Economic Strategy for the Turriff area.	T&I D Rennie	April 2006	Annual Progress Report to Committee	Private sector initiative established with community involvement,. Funding from BCCI and SEG Business Plan prepared. Business Centre completed. Additional funding secured and allocated.
	IND.1.4 To promote and examine the potential for homeworking and other options which would reduce the need for travel to work .	T&I D Rennie	April 2006	Initial Report to Committee	
	IND.1.5 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.	T&I/Form. Partnership	April 2006	Report outlining options	The Rural Development Officer organized an Aberdeenshire wide seminar, which was held in May 2004. A report was produced by SAC students into the current state of farmers markets and potential for their expansion. A follow up event is planned to discuss options for supporting the sector.
	IND 1.6 – Industrial development at Oldmeldrum should be monitored	T&I David Young	March 2005	Report to Committee	There is no land available at Oldmeldrum Industrial Estate and an extension is being investigated
	IND 1.7- Need to investigate availability of industrial land position in Rothienorman and the issues affecting land valuation	T&I David Young	March 2006	Report to Committee	Request for report on this at Area Committee on 25 October 2005 when discussing Development Brief for former Fraser's Site at Rothienorman

	IND 1.8 To give support to Business Associations in order to assist them to respond to local priorities and initiatives and to achieve long term sustainability.	T&I D Rennie	March 2006	Self sustaining Associations	Work is ongoing with Ellon Traders, Ellon Business Initiative and Turriff and District Limited
	IND 1.9 To seek the early upgrading of the Balmedie-Tipperty section of the A90 in the interests of economic development and road safety.	T&I E Wallace	March 2006	Road upgraded	Officers from T&I and NESTRANS in discussions with the Scottish Executive over the STAG report for the A90 Balmedie to Tipperty scheme. Awaiting date for meeting with Scottish Executive officials.
IND.2 To work proactively with the Tourist Board, other agencies and the community to promote Formartine as a visitor destination.	IND.2.1 To develop Tourist Information Points in Ellon, Haddo and Turriff.	AM	March 2006	Facility Operating	Further discussion with AGTB and NTS required. Reply from NTS awaited. Facility provided at Ellon library and Turriff Sports Centre. Progress re Haddo to be considered by Consultative Group.
	IND.2.2 Negotiate extended tourist trails and promotion in Formartine.	P&ES (Fiona Chirnside)/ Form. P/ship	Ongoing	Tourist trail extended. Links established.	Stone Circle Trail launched in March 2004 . Local Leaflets produced. and reprinted. FP Tourism Group has produced walks booklet. The North Sea Trail (Nortrail) extends along the Formartine coastline. Waymarking complete from Balmedie to Collieston. Interpretation to follow.
	IND.2.3 To develop working links between Aberdeenshire Council, the local Area Tourist Forum and the community.	AM	April 2006	Annual Report	FP Group seeking to extend membership. Local initiatives in Ellon & Turriff. National Initiative underway
	IND 2.4 To maintain, enhance and promote the facilities at Turriff Caravan Site.	T&I G Wall	Ongoing	Long term strategy and action plan prepared	Review of Caravan Parks to be considered by ISC. At Area Committee in June 2004 recommendation made that further investigation of partnership working, including possible leasing for Turriff be investigated..
	IND 2.5 To keep under review and to consider the opportunities presented by changes in the tourism support structure.	AM	April 2006	Report to P&RCommittee	Report to P&R completed. Next report by April 2006.
	IND 2.6 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.	PES LMathieson	June 2006	Local Forum established	
IND.3 To support the Aberdeenshire Towns Programme in Ellon.	IND.3.1 Ensure agency involvement in Ellon in establishing local business group to champion town.	T&I D Rennie	Ongoing	Active Group formed	Ellon Business Initiative established. NOW COMPLETE

	IND.3.2 Develop scheme for promotion of Ellon as a business location .	T&I D Rennie	March 2006	Building/land/let/ allocated	Scheme for promotion of Ellon taken forward through Ellon Business Initiative but delays have been experienced through unresolved planning issues.
	IND.3.3 To develop a range of projects based around a finalised strategy for the improvement of the town.	AM	April 2006	Programme drawn up and Implemented	Remains on Target. Business Plan 2003-06 in place.
	IND 3.4 To develop an exit and post ATP strategy for Ellon	AM	March 2006	Strategy agreed and in place	Exit funding package agreed. Strategy Group extended membership, Need to formalize arrangements
	IND 3.5 To achieve the objectives of the INTERREG III "Susset Project" for Ellon	AM	Aug. 2007	All targets delivered	NEW Project at early state commenced March 2005
IND.4 To work with the Formartine Partnership, in particular to support the agricultural industry and its related business and community infrastructure.	IND.4.1 To secure a stable funding regime for the Partnership to enable it to meet its responsibilities and intended role in Community Planning	AM	Dec 2006	Stable Core Funding regime	Annuality remains an issue. Seeking to clarify arrangements within Council and support for change taken up with Scottish Executive. Include in Annual Report. Report to Committee Jan 2006
	IND.4.2 To help to generate specific economic agency and general business support for the work of the Partnership through Community Planning process.	AM	Dec 2006	Funding obtained	Role of Partnership strengthened in revised Community Planning arrangements..
	IND 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 maximise leverage funding from other agencies	AM/Dev. Officer	Ongoing	Level of funding secured to implement Plan	FP now require to review the Action Plan and decide way ahead .
	IND 4.4 To provide annual funding support to Formartine Partnership	AM	April 2006	Funding provided	NEW Core funding provided on annual basis. Additional funding from T&I.

Community Planning Theme: 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.

PLAN OBJECTIVE	ACTION	OFFICER	TARGET	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR	QUARTERLY REVIEW
LL .1 To develop the local implementation of the Education & Recreation Service to maximise benefit to the community at large.	LL 1.1 To progress towards meeting the development priorities in the Turriff Community Schools Network (CSN) to inform a shared local development plan for the Network area. The CSN are also informed by the working sub-groups in Early Years, Health, Lifelong Learning and the Schools CLUSTER. The Community Schools (CS) multi-agency core team supports the work of the CSN.	E&R E. Bremner	Ongoing	Development Plan and Annual Report produced (subject to outcome of current ICS Review).	Turriff CSN have representation from Health, CLD, Social Work, Education, Police, Surestart, Adult Literacies, Recreation, ALIS and Banff & Buchan College. Community Schools Core Team continues to lead the multi-agency Joint Assessment Team (JAT) forum. Development of 2 parenting groups – Parents Aloud and Freetime Scheme – have been piloted successfully. Deaf Teenz group developed. Breakfast Clubs set up in the Academy and 3 Primary Schools. Youth drop-in service continues. Turriff Learner Advice Centre (TLAC) at Turriff Library continues to be well used. Lifelong Learning developing a learning plan, have undertaken a local participatory appraisal to audit need, also work with local businesses on developing Turriff Boats project. Supporting clients at home with ICT. Early Years group have completed a local needs assessment, also holding an Early Years Fayre in September 2005.
	LL.1.2 To progress towards meeting the development priorities of the Meldrum Community Schools Network (CSN) to inform a shared development plan for the Network area. The CSN are also informed by the working sub-groups in Early Years, Youth, Health, Lifelong Learning and the Schools CLUSTER. The Community Schools (CS) multi-agency core team supports the work of the CSN.	E&R E. Bremner	Ongoing	Development Plan and Annual Report produced (subject to outcome of current ICS Review).	Meldrum CSN have representation from Education, ALIS, CLD, Social Work, Police, Health, Surestart, Recreation, Careers, Educational Psychology and Parents. Joint Assessment Team (JAT) continues to be fully operational. Parenting group – Parents Plus Coffee – run successfully and new parenting group, run by CS Family Support Worker and Speech and Language Therapist, Will run from Sept – Nov 2005. Youth group supporting Youth Event in Sept 2005.

					Health group to run a Drugs/Alcohol/Wellbeing event in Meldrum Academy at end of 2005 and Tarves Health Event taking place in June 2005. Early Years group is undertaking a Health Audit across all pre-school groups to identify priorities. All schools will be working towards the Health Promoting School concept by 2007.
	LL.1.3 To develop the Aberdeenshire Library and Information Service Learning Centres initiative by introduction of IT facilities and staff training.	E&R H Dewar	Ongoing	Computers in place and staff trained.	Turriff, Ellon, Balmedie and Meldrum libraries all offer free basis ICT training for adults. A tutor is now based at Ellon Library and is looking at developing learning material specifically related to handling information on line – accessing health, careers and council databases as well as subscription databases such as Know UK and Kompass. The library service to investigate the possibility of setting up a virtual library at Rothienorman by 2007.
	LL 1.4 To promote the consolidation of Ellon Academy onto one site	E&R G Bulloch	Dec 2005	Detailed proposals drawn up and agreed	Initial consultation exercise completed. Deadline for submission of written comments on proposals end September 2005 and report to Area Committee in November and E&R Committee in December 2005
	LL 1.5 Secure provision of new primary school at Rothienorman.	E&R/T&I G Bulloch	Dec 2005	New School built	Building on target for completion to allow pupil entry in Dec 2005. COMPLETE
	LL 1.5 (a) To consider options for the provision of primary schooling in Turriff	E&R G Bulloch	Dec 2005	Options identified and agreed	Initial consultation exercise completed and deadline for submission of written comments on proposals end September 2005. Report to Area Committee in November and E&R Committee in December 2005.
	LL 1.6 To promote conversion of Collieston Schoolhouse to provide community facilities in association with the local community.	E&R/T&I/ N Ironside/ G Daniels	Mar 2006	Report to Committee	Officers are presently in discussions with the local group and Slains Estate, regarding development proposals. (Refer to HWB 1.9)
LL 2 To develop a locally based Community learning Service focused on local priorities	LL 2.1 To develop ways of engaging with potential adult learners who are not accustomed to taking part in opportunities and are difficult to reach.	E&R Bob Leonard	By March 2007	More new learners	NEW Promotional material being improved and working with partners to identify learners and to track progress of learners.
	LL 2.2 To complete a baseline audit of Adult Learning in Formartine	E&R Bob Leonard	By March 2007	Audit exists	NEW Opportunities available being identified and identified participants being recorded
	LL 2.3 To Provide training for new and existing tutors	E&R Bob Leonard	By March 2007	Consistent level of service	Basic training in Literacies for all tutors being investigated and opportunities to be provided

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	LL 2.4 To audit specific community groups in Formartine	E&R Bob Leonard	By March 2006	Audit & Action Plans exist	NEW Working with the Out of School Clubs, Meldrum Playgroup and the Gordon Gaitherin to assess their strengths and work out an action plan to tackle any areas that need attention.
	LL2.5 Provide training for Community Groups	E&R Bob Leonard	By March 2006	Training takes place	NEW Training being provided for CDG Members and LEAP training being provided
	LL2.6 To produce Community Action Plan	E&R Bob Leonard	By March 2006	Action Plan exists	NEW Working with Formartine Community Learning Partnership to develop an Action Plan

Community Planning Theme: Sustainable Environment

Broad Objective 6

To enhance and promote the environment of the area and encourage environmental consciousness in the community.

PLAN OBJECTIVE	ACTION	OFFICER	TARGET	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR	QUARTERLY REVIEW
ENV.1 To enhance and promote the environment of the area.	ENV.1.1 To support the work of the Formartine Partnership in general and the Ythan Project in particular.	PES/AM L Mathieson	Ongoing	Core funding secured for the Partnership - Ythan Project successfully funded.	Ongoing and on target
	ENV.1.2 To pursue the goals contained in the Council's Sustainability Charter.	PES I Birnie	Ongoing	Reduction in local environmental "footprint"	Actions undertaken across Aberdeenshire. Need to explore local dimension and issues.
	ENV.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.	PES P McRae/ J White	Ongoing	Draft policies in place	Local Plan now progressing towards adoption
	ENV 1.3 (a) 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	PES L Burr	Dec 2006	Development Briefs proposed and approved	A number of Briefs have been completed and approved with the co-operation from community councils, developers etc.
	ENV 1.3 (b) To complete the Ellon Capacity Study and to bring forward a programme in respect of a similar study for Turriff.	PES	June 2006	Study complete and programme agreed	NEW Ellon Capacity Study subject of public consultation June 2006
	ENV.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.	PES J White/ S Norman	Feb 2006	Inclusion in Design Awards shortlist	Next round of Design Awards will be in 2006. Nominations due by February 2006.
	ENV.1.5 To encourage and promote the provision of appropriate I.T. and waste recycling facilities in new developments.	PES L Burr/ J White	Ongoing	Percentage of developments with facilities provided	Consider inclusion in Development Briefs for individual sites.
	ENV 1.6 To introduce specific Objectives to encourage the sustainable development principles as contained in NEST and ALP to provide enhanced and clearer links	PES L Burr	Ongoing	Percentage of decisions taken in line with NEST/ALP	Monitoring of NEST and ALP should allow such information to be produced. Issues related to the environment, economy and community are equally promoted in policy Gen\1 of ALP

	between the Area Plan and planning considerations.				
	ENV1.7 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	PES F Chirnside	March 2006	Draft Plan prepared for consultation	Management plan for McDonald Park drafted following widespread community consultation. Application made to Forestry Commission Scotland for funding to implement this plan. Riverside management plan at draft stage to be produced for publication early 2006.
	ENV 1.8 To provide a Community Woodland at Balmacassie, Ellon	PES S Gray	March 2006	Plans agreed	Grant assistance received from Forestry Commission Scotland. Successful community tree planting events held during National Tree Week with widespread press coverage. Interpretation and community involvement programme to follow.
	ENV 1.9 To bring forward proposals for the upgrading of Gordon Park, Ellon in line with community aspirations	T&I	April 2006	Plans agreed	NEW Planning for Real exercise complete
	ENV 1.10 To support the Woodhead and Windyhills Trust in the Interpretation and Management of their site	AM	April 2007	Update Report	NEW
ENV.2 To encourage environmental consciousness in the community.	ENV.2.1 To encourage waste minimisation throughout the Formartine area, including HSW Day Care Centres to investigate schemes for plastic bundling.	PES J Bell	Ongoing		Expansion of plastic bottle collections complete, in partnership with Social Work Service. Paper facilities extended to all sites, expansion of cardboard facilities ongoing. Electrical goods recycling facility now located in Ellon Waste and Recycling Centre. Recycling team nearly completed project of introducing a mini recycling point for every 750 households across Aberdeenshire, subject to acceptable levels of demand. Will continue to liaise with Planning service regarding potential of exploiting planning gain for new facilities. New mini recycling sites installed in Foveran, Woodhead, and Ythanbank, suitable sites still to be found in Tipperty, Udney Green and Udney Station. 8 Area Waste Officers now in place (incorporating two senior posts). Formartine Area representative to be based in Ellon office, training and induction period ongoing. WasteAwareness campaign ongoing - Household Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

					Guide distributed and inserts will be distributed in tandem with service changes Poster campaigns will continue, as well as attendance at schools and local events.
	ENV 2.2 To work with local communities in maintaining and enhancing the appearance of towns and villages throughout the area.	AM	Nov 2006	Improved appearance of towns and villages through community involvement. Report to Committee	Tidy Village initiative proved successful & has been extended to Collieston. Civic Pride groups established in Ellon, Turriff and Oldmeldrum. Town And Village Enhancement Grant well supported.
	ENV 2.2(a) To continue the Village Orderly Scheme in six communities and to encourage local setting of priorities for attention	P&ES	Nov 2006	Feedback of levels of satisfaction via report to Committee	The village orderly programme continues to operate very successfully with the same personnel in the same locations as last year plus an additional orderly in Turriff which was paid for by the Area top-up budget
	ENV 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.	PES <i>J Bell</i>	March 2005	Site provided	Unlikely to be progressed in meantime as developers/owners have fulfilled all planning obligations.
	ENV 2.4 To bring forward proposals for a new Civic Amenity Site at Ellon	P&ES	June 2006	All necessary approvals obtained.	NEW With approval of Balmacassie development, this can now be progressed in line with Waste Strategy.
ENV.3. To enhance and promote the heritage of the area.	ENV.3.1 To review the provision for arts and heritage in Formartine with a view to bringing more opportunities into Formartine and making them more attractive to the young.	E&R S Thomson	Ongoing	Audit and proposals presented to Committee.	Artsability, an Arts and disability project developed between Social Work and the Arts Team has been adopted by Social Work. Ellon resource centre has created a new drama group through this project funded through Scottish Arts Council (SAC) and SW. Formartine based artists/organisations have benefited from Arts Development support for North East Open Studios (NEOS). One of the largest venues being the Old Neep Shed in Ythanbank. A gateway landmark sculpture created by Andy Scott through ATP has been placed in the Bridge Street roundabout. A small sculpture is to be placed on the glebe as a celebration of the Land and the Sea Festival organised by Formartine Partnership North East Arts Touring (NEAT) are developing venues in Formartine – two shows hosted in October.

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					<p>Haddo: Haddo User Group (HUG) received a development grant from the E&R sub committee to employ a development worker to assist promotion and audience development. NTS have commissioned two feasibility studies - one focusing on current arts and second - how to incorporate traditional arts at Haddo. Discussions ongoing with potential key partners Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama, SAC and Arts Officers looking at future developments. A Seminar has been confirmed for 6th March 2006 which will look at subject of Haddo House historic house as a cultural resource - to be opened by Patricia Ferguson Minister of Tourism Culture and Sport. Richard Baker will present on the historic cultural significance of Haddo.</p>
	<p>ENV.3.2 To review the provision of museums in Formartine and to investigate the potential to enable the development of a museum in Ellon involving local groups.</p>	<p>E&R A Hill</p>	<p>June 2005</p>	<p>Report on review to Committee.</p>	<p>Initial report presented. BVR Museums & Heritage prelim. recomms. agreed by E&R Committee 26 May 2005. Service Staffing Review consultation completed; implementation phase commencing. Independent Museums Training Forum implemented and supported by Turriff, Tarves, Meldrum & Bourtie Societies BVR consultation with Area Committee in Spring 2006; recomms. include Travelling Education & Access Officer, and Conservator to support independent museum sector in Formartine to address capacity issue. Need to roll forward proposal for Ellon Museum in context of wider proposals for town and review progress of other initiatives and developments.</p>
	<p>ENV.3.3 To undertake a review of the northern settlements in Formartine, to assess their potential for conservation area designation.</p>	<p>PES S Norman</p>	<p>July/Aug 2005</p>	<p>Report on review to Committee.</p>	<p>The proposed assessment of the northern settlements for conservation area status will follow the comprehensive review of the existing conservation areas as outlined in the report presented to the Area Committee on 15 November 2005.</p>

	ENV 3.4 To identify funding for the upkeep of Collieston pier	T&I G Steel/ A Smith	Ongoing	Report to Committee	The structural survey of Collieston Harbour has been completed with the information passed onto the Trustees. This was funded 50% by ACC and 50% by the pier Trust. This is in its capacity as a coast protection structure and not as a harbour structure. As before, at the present time no further works or funding are proposed.
	ENV 3.5 To establish a Consultative Group for Haddo Country Park and bring forward proposals for development	AM	Sept 2006	Development proposals completed and funding sought	NEW Group established. Initial contact with HLF re funding.

Community Planning Theme: Sustainable Environment

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.

PLAN OBJECTIVE	ACTION	OFFICER	TARGET	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR	QUARTERLY REVIEW
TRA.1 To promote the availability and use of affordable public transport in Formartine.	TRA.1.1 To investigate and promote the potential for Park and Ride on the Turriff, Oldmeldrum, Dyce route.	T&I E Wallace	Nov 2006	Site Constructed	Consultants' study recommended a Park & Ride facility in the Parkhill area. Scheme design is completed. Progress still delayed pending the finalisation of the Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route design.
	TRA 1.2 To link with the Formartine Partnership to assess the need for and viability of alternative community based transport systems.	T&I Marion Mackay	Dec 2006	Feasibility Study undertaken	Formartine Partnership's transport feasibility study completed in November 2004. Need to agree and define any further action.
	TRA 1.3 Through the Area Bus Forum, to establish local needs for bus services and seek to secure appropriate provision.	T&I Neil Stewart	Ongoing	Report to Cttee	The Formartine Bus Forum meets on a six monthly basis in Meldrum Academy. Local needs and requests are discussed at the Forum. The Review of Area Bus Forums was reported to BVR (T&I No 14) . Details are reported to ISC and through the Formartine Area Committee Bulletin. The Forums are now promoted on the Council's Website, and will be further promoted in the Local Press and on posters to be displayed on Local Bus Service vehicles. COMPLETE
	TRA 1.4 To investigate the youth transport costs on the A947 corridor.	T&I Marion Mackay	Sept 2006	Introduction of Youth Fare Scheme	An announcement is expected soon on the Scottish Executive's delayed proposals for a national Young Persons Travel Scheme. It is understood that such a scheme will be implemented from April 2007.
TRA.2. To promote pedestrian and cycle journeys.	TRA.2.1 To extend the Safer Routes to School initiative including a whole range of issues.	T&I P. McCallum	Ongoing	No, of schemes introduced	The Safer Routes to School initiative has been taken up by seven schools in Formartine. Three additional Schools in Formartine now engaged in the wider School Travel Planning Initiative which includes the Safer Routes to School Initiative.
	TRA.2.2 To identify opportunities to implement cycling strategies in Formartine.	T&I/P&ES P McCallum F Chirnside	Ongoing	Identify Schemes	Specific schemes have been identified and will be included in the cycling element of the proposed T&I Local Transport Strategy. These include links to Ellon Park and Ride and to the new Knockothie housing site. Ellon cycling strategy to consider links to routes outwith the town for wider use.
	TRA 2.3 To promote tourist use of public transport and cycling and walking facilities. Future	T&I/P&ES P.McCallum F. Chirnside	Ongoing	Increase no. of users	Ellon Park and Ride provides 15-20 minute service from Aberdeen improving access for visitors to the area. Connections to many other local settlements

	<p>maintenance costs on footpaths to be considered in each case.</p>				<p>are also routed through the Park and Ride site. Formartine & Buchan Way, Cycling in Aberdeenshire (Turriff, Fyvie & Formartine), Ellon Circular Route and visitor leaflets produced and distributed. The Formartine Section of the Formartine & Buchan Way has been included in the international North Sea Cycle Route information. Upgrading of F&B Way (including minor drainage and signing and improved stepped access at Ellon) undertaken in 2004-2005 and to be completed in 2005-2006. Improvements to the riverside path network in Ellon completed in 2004. Improvements to signage and consideration of an all abilities route at Ellon programmed for 2005/06.</p>
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Community Planning Theme: 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.

PLAN OBJECTIVE	ACTION	OFFICER	TARGET	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR	QUARTERLY REVIEW
CP 1 To ensure that the Aberdeenshire Community Planning initiative is adapted locally to produce local arrangements with the agencies which improve co-ordinated effort.	CP 1.1 To continue to develop local community planning arrangements with partner agencies through the Community Council Forum and Formartine Partnership.	AM	Jan 2006	Annual report on progress included within Area Plan	Formartine Forum held in September 2005. Community Planning Review provides for establishment of local group.
	CP 1.1 (a) To establish local community planning group	AM	Dec 2006	Group established. Report to Committee	NEW
	CP 1.2 To ensure co-ordination of existing and future plans within the community planning process in order to make community consultation more effective.	AM	Dec 2006		Internal arrangements reviewed with AMT as clearing house. Enhanced inter-agency arrangements through local CP group.
	CP 1.3 To develop community skills and capacity to take forward Planning for Real as a means of identifying community aspirations needs and priorities.	AM	Feb 2006	Action Plans prepared	Need to establish continuing training needs. PFR projects undertaken in Rothienorman, Turriff and Woodhead. Projects underway in Oldmeldrum, Udney Station/Cultercullen and Ellon. Update in Annual Report.
	CP 1.4 To examine the potential of parish appraisals and other methods of identifying community aspirations, needs and priorities	AM	June 2006	Report from Pilot	Ythanbank pilot project did not take place, Seeking another community to take forward.
	CP 1.5 To develop the Formartine Forum as an integral part of the local community planning process.	AM	Sept 2005	Attendance at Forum increased. Issues identified and progressed	Annual meeting established. Key issues under each CP theme have been identified and incorporated into LCP process. Achieved
	CP 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.	AM	Sept 2005	Report to next Forum	Included in Area Plan; Reported to Committee January 2006
CP 2 To take forward specific service and cross-service initiatives in	CP.2.1 To investigate issues of the economic independence of young people in Formartine	E&R N Ironside	June 2005	Investigation complete	To be considered within the community planning framework

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CP.3 To support the Community Councils of Formartine and to strengthen their role as a voice for the community.	CP 3.1 To develop the Formartine Community Council Forum as a means of exchanging information and providing training.	AM	Ongoing	Programme of training agreed and implemented.	Training needs analysis to be undertaken.
	CP 3.2 To seek annual reports from Community Councils outlining activity aimed at interacting with communities.	AM	Sept 2006	Reports Submitted to Formartine Forum	To be raised at CC Forum. Needs further development work.
	CP 3.3 To increase the involvement of all Community Councils in the work of the Forum, Partnership.	AM	Dec 2006	Percentage of CCs participating on a regular basis	Varied involvement of CCs. Format of meetings changed to encourage involvement. Include in Annual Report
	CP 3.4 To encourage and help Community Councils to communicate with the wider public.	AM	Ongoing	Increase in activities Annual report produced	To be raised at CC Forum. Needs further development. Introducing leaflet re work of CCs being produced by the Forum.
CP 4 To support and strengthen the Formartine Partnership as an agent for change for the community at large.	CP 4.1 To ensure a wider dissemination of information on the Partnership and encourage increased community involvement with its works.	Dev Officer	Ongoing	Greater publicity achieved	Development Officer progressing this, considerable local Press coverage obtained. Some communities more active than others. Web site being redeveloped. Newsletter updated. Regular newspaper column. Introductory leaflet produced.
	CP 4.2 To encourage greater officer and agency participation in the work of the Partnership through the identification of two pieces of work annually.	AM	June 2006	Increased use by Aberdeenshire Council and agencies of the Partnership	Considerable involvement in Partnership from Planning and Environmental Services, Other Services to consider how they can become involved – scope for FP to undertake projects etc. Services involved in Planning for Real activity. Include in Annual Report
	CP 4.3 To delegate approval of Aberdeenshire Council grant schemes to the Partnership	AM	April 2006	Funds allocated for appropriate purposes.. Annual report to Committee	Agreed by Committee Rural Youth Transport and Town and Village Enhancement grants delegated. Reported to Committee January 2006
CP 5 To increase and improve links between the wider community and the Formartine Area Committee and Aberdeenshire Council services.	CP 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.	AM	Sept 2006	Committee report and revised programme of meetings leading to greater public attendance.	These issues likely to be raised at 2007 Working group. Consider implications for Area Committee in light of those discussions.
	CP 5.2 To enhance the public role in the development of the E&R Service and Network Development Groups, and to integrate the work of the CSNs more closely with these groups and with the Area Committee.	E&R G Bulloch	Jan 2006	Review of systems effectiveness undertaken	NDGs and CSNs are under review. Review action in light of this.

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	CP 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.	AM	May 2006	Report to Committee	No of CC Websites in place and Partnership Website developing links and extending information. Turriff Area Youth Forum has own Website. A number of grants offered for provision of Community Notice Boards, Encourage all CCs to make use of E-mail communication. Proposed survey of CC websites for discussion at future Forum meeting.

Community Planning Theme: Quality Services

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,.

PLAN OBJECTIVE	ACTION	OFFICER	TARGET	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR	QUARTERLY REVIEW
YOU.1 To increase the involvement of young people in the democratic process and in the work of their communities.	YOU.1.1 To build on the Youth Forum provision in the area and to encourage the involvement of young people in the Network Development Groups (NDGs).	E&R B Leonard	June 2005 (June 2002)	Forum organised for each academy area. Provision made at NDG meetings.	4 Young people from each of the 3 Community Schools Network areas will represent the interests of young people from that area.
	YOU.1.2 To promote the involvement of young people in community councils and other organisations such as the Community Safety Group in Formartine.	E&R B Leonard	Jan 2006	Level of involvement	Report to P&R late 2005 re revision to CC Scheme
	YOU.1.3 To promote the involvement of youth groups in local environmental schemes and other activities.	E&R B Leonard	Ongoing	Level of involvement	Area top up funding allocated for youth related projects and funding agreed Sept 2004. Also Youth Planning Project in place.
YOU.2 To ensure an emphasis on youth and provision for youth in the work of the Council and associated agencies.	YOU.2.1 To encourage the development of Youth Forums and to invite them to attend Area Committees.	E&R B Leonard	Ongoing	Youth Forums in place throughout Formartine.	As 1.1 above. It is important to have specific timings at Committees and also feedback from the Committee essential. Work will always be needed to maintain forums
	YOU.2.2 To review youth provision in the communities of Formartine through community council survey and to develop a priority list for provision based on need.	E&R B Leonard	Sept 2002	Report to Committee.	Survey of youth provision completed Target achieved
	YOU 2.3 To Produce a Sexual Health Policy for Young People	E&R B Leonard	By Mar 2007	Policy Completed and Report available	NEW Senior Community learning Worker (Youth Work) working with colleagues, partners and Youth Forums to develop a policy as to how Youth Workers will work with Young People in relation to providing guidance & advice on sexual health issues.
	YOU 2.4 To work with young people in Turriff to develop additional activities and strengthen Youth Forum	E&R B Leonard	By Mar 2006	Additional activities exist and Youth Forum develops activities	NEW The Formartine Youth Work Group will in consultation with Young People develop further activities in Turriff as identified in the recent survey.

	YOU 2.5 To improve Young People's Access to information and advice	E&R B Leonard	By Mar 2007	Each Community Centre has I.C.T. access to Internet	NEW Access to I.C.T. resources to access the internet website for advice being investigated
	YOU 2.6 To find ways to accredit Young People's achievements	E&R B Leonard	By Mar 2007	Young People in Formartine are awarded some form of credit for achievements.	NEW Exploring what Duke of Edinburgh's Scheme, Young Quality Scot Awards, Scottish Credit & Qualification Framework and Youth Scotland can offer
	YOU 2.7 To engage with Excluded Young People to find out their needs and explore ways of meeting the need.	E&R B Leonard	By Mar 2006	Range of needs identified	NEW To engage with partner organizations to find out needs of Young People. To engage with 18-25 year olds to identify needs. To engage with traveller community to find out their needs and explore ways of meeting needs.

Community Planning Theme: Quality Services

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.

PLAN OBJECTIVE	ACTION	OFFICER	TARGET	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR	QUARTERLY REVIEW
COR.1 To develop an effective Area Management Team within Aberdeenshire Council.	COR.1.1 To ensure that responsibility is taken by the Area Management Team for the effective development, monitoring and implementation of the Area Plan.	AM/AMT	Ongoing	Achievement of Plan objectives	Well established procedure now in place. Measures to improve effectiveness of AMT being progressed. Now included as P.I.
	COR.1.2 To develop an Asset Management Strategy for Formartine to provide a framework for future investment.	T&I G Daniels	Ongoing	Strategy complete	Initial work in hand, however resources need to be allocated from within the service budget for full implementation.
	COR. 1.3 To develop the role of Community Action Teams to undertake cross-service and inter-agency projects by identifying 3 projects annually.	AM/AMT	Mar 2006	3 Community Action Team projects identified and underway	Groups established under different "banners". Likely to be further groups established following Formartine Forum
	COR 1.4 To co-ordinate and monitor funding received as Developer Contributions ("planning gain").	AM/PES	Ongoing (June 2004)	Funds allocated	AMT as focus for co-ordination and links to Community Planning. Regular item on AMT agenda.
	COR 1.5 To seek more specific revenue plans with a view to ensuring co-ordination and effective service delivery	AMT	Ongoing (Mar 2004)	Detailed spending plans submitted to Area Committee	Already introduced by T&I for Roads and Landscape Service expenditure.
	COR 1.6 To establish the Oldmeldrum Town Centre Working group and bring forward proposals for implementation.	AM	Sept 2006	Proposals brought forward for public consultation	NEW Group established and work underway,. Links to SAF 2.4 and 3.3
COR.2 To rationalise and improve the provision of services on an Area basis in Formartine.	COR.2.1 To establish local community planning arrangements which acknowledge boundary anomalies as part of CP review.	AM	June 2006	Arrangements in place and reported to Committee.	CP arrangements under review including local delivery mechanisms, P/T post established to help deliver. Initial action complete. REVISED ACTION
	COR.2.2 To develop the new Mental Health Teams in Formartine to ensure local co-ordination between Health and Social Work Services.	SWH J Ledger	Achieved	Mental Health Team developed	The Community Mental Health Team continues to work jointly within the Joint Futures agenda across agency boundaries to provide co-ordinated Health and Social Work services to people with mental health problems in Formartine. Action Complete
	COR 2.3 To develop the Learning Disability Team through the	SWH J Ledger	Achieved	Group Formed	The Joint Community Learning Disability Team in Central Aberdeenshire is working within the

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	medium of the Joint Learning Disability Strategy Implementation Group.				Joint Futures agenda toward shared management arrangements. A single shared assessment is being used by Members of both the Healthcare and Social Work teams and work is ongoing to develop joint care planning and shared recording systems. The paired Management arrangements are now in operation and are working well. Action Complete
COR.3 To review individual service provision where necessary	COR.3.1 To examine the standards for open space maintenance across Formartine, with particular reference to spaces in residential areas and to environmental areas.	T&I G Wall/ J Stevenson	Sept. 2003	Review complete, consulted on and presented to Area Committee.	Trials incorporating varying maintenance standards underway and results will be incorporated within Best Value Review. Reported to Area Committee
	COR.3.2 Esslemont Circle improvements – to be dealt with in two stages (1) a plan to be drawn up in consultation with the Residents to identify future budget requirements; and (2) implementation.	H&SW N Landels	Ongoing	Improved environment and reduced parking problems.	Tender sought for possible improvement work.
	COR.3.3 To review redundant and under-used Council property with a view to encouraging community use or disposal	T&I G Daniels	Ongoing	Community use promoted	This is an ongoing process which would follow on from the implementation of the Asset Management Plan for the General Fund property portfolio.
	COR.3.4 Relocate depot at Hospital Road, Ellon and investigate optimum re-use of site including possible use of health provision.	T&I G Daniels	Aug 2003	Review reported to Committee	The property is considered to be an opportunity site for future redevelopment, which might be in conjunction with adjoining properties. The relocation of the depot would be an integral part of the redevelopment process.
	COR.3.5 To review the need for cemetery facilities at Kirkton of Auchterless and Rothienorman	T&I J Stevenson	Aug 2005	Review complete and reported to Area Committee	It is anticipated the ground at Auchterless Cemetery will be ready for use in late summer 2005. Folla Rule Burial Ground has lairs still available, and Fyvie Burial Ground would receive interments from Rothienorman. A review of cemetery provision throughout Aberdeenshire is still to be finalized.
	COR 3.5 (a) To seek the provision of a new cemetery at Udny Green and associated car parking	T&I/PES J Stevenson	March 2006	Cemetery provided	Quotes for works accepted. It is hoped to make a start before the end of March 2006.
	COR 3.6 To develop a programme of local service review within the overall context of the Modernising Local Government Agenda.	AM	Ongoing (Aug 2003)	Programme agreed by Committee and implemented	Series of presentations made and others to be arranged. The Library Service is investigating ways of developing the tutor role to support customers access information within the Modernising Local Government Agenda.

