

NEWS RELEASE

28 May 2018

Aberdeenshire's Local Area Development Plan and its impact on Inverurie

The Inverurie Business Association (IBA) held their Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Thursday 25th May 2018 at the Garioch Heritage Centre, Inverurie to an audience from the local business community as well as local Councillors and other interested people from the wider Inverurie area.

The first part of the meeting was to review the last 12 months of IBA activity, the financial statement for the period and to vote in new members onto the growing committee. The committee now has nine members, who on a voluntary basis, form the IBA Committee and support members by:

1. promoting Inverurie as a great place to do business, to run a business and to be part of a business in
2. facilitating training, dissemination of information and the provision of networking opportunities for members
3. To ensure that the voice of Inverurie's businesses are heard by our local Councillors, by our Council, by our MP and MPS on matter that affect the business community

Following the AGM formalities, Victoria Withy, IBA Chairperson, welcomed guest speakers Ailsa Anderson from Aberdeenshire Council and Debbie Anderson from Lippe Architects.

Lippe Architects presented on the Local Development Plan for Inverurie, a key focus for the IBA for 2018/19, with an overview for Inverurie between now and 2032, along with an update on key projects namely the Aberdeenshire Council offices relocation, improved transport links around Inverurie with AWPR and dual lining of the railway and the introduction of a transport hub in the town, and finally possible new uses for Market Place School site.

Aberdeenshire Council, presented the Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan 2021 and the planning process, the presentation concluded with an overview of their evidence gathering and feedback from Inverurie stakeholders which including; housing stock doesn't meet the community's needs, live-work opportunities should

be promoted, smaller housing sites should be encourage, path network for walking/cycling is poorly connected and an infrastructure first approach should be promoted.

The role of the IBA has evolved and is now solely focussed on providing business support in terms of championing key issues which impact on its members, and the membership of 205.

After the meeting Victoria Withy said, "I am delighted with the number of attendees to this year's AGM. We wanted to use the meeting to focus on a key matter for Inverurie and provide our members with an opportunity to meet with other businesses and local councillors."

Victoria continued "Looking back over the past year I can safely say it has been one of change and challenge for businesses – both in Inverurie and wider afield. I would like to thank my committee all of who volunteer their time to the IBA and who bring to the IBA a cross-section of professional disciplines which will enable us to support members even more in the coming year."

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About the Inverurie Business Association

The IBA acts as a single united voice to promote strong business growth and a friendly community approach to help businesses play an important role in the future development of Inverurie.

The IBA aims to promote and help all businesses in Inverurie and the surrounding area so all can play an effective role as the town continues to develop as a great place to live, work and do business for future generations.

<https://www.weareinverurie.co.uk/inverurie-business-association>