

Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Local
Government
Aileen Campbell MSP



Scottish Government
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Ms Dawn Brown
Development Worker
The Garioch Partnership
1st Floor, Wyness Hall
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Inverurie
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16th October 2019

The Former Market Place School, Inverurie: Asset Transfer Appeal

Dear Ms. Brown,

I refer to The Garioch Partnership's application for appeal under section 88 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 (the "Act") relating to the asset transfer request in respect of the former Market Place School, Inverurie from Aberdeenshire Council made under section 82 of the Act. In line with Scottish Government guidance, Scottish Ministers appointed an independent Reporter to consider the case and report to them.

The Reporter took account of an asset transfer request from The Garioch Partnership dated 4 July 2018 and Aberdeenshire Council's decision to refuse the request on 31 August 2018. Also considered were The Garioch Partnership's request for a review and Aberdeenshire Council's decision to confirm its original decision dated 22 January 2019, the partnership's appeal submission dated 18 February 2019 and the council's response to the appeal dated 8 March 2019. The Reporter considered key documents associated with all aspects of this process, and assessed the request against criteria set out in Section 82 of the Act; Scottish Government National Outcomes; best value themes; and matters relating to assessment of outcomes.

I would like to thank The Garioch Partnership for working with the Reporter during this process, and providing him with necessary information including an accompanied site inspection in connection with the appeal.

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This work has now concluded and I have been provided with the Reporter's final report of the Market Place site, outlining his findings and conclusion. Scottish Ministers accept the findings and recommendations of the Reporter, and for the reasons set out in his report, dismiss the appeal and refuse the asset transfer request.

I appreciate this will be very disappointing news but I hope you are able to source an alternative solution for a third sector hub in the Inverurie area, and I understand from the report that Aberdeenshire Council has indicated their willingness to help you identify a suitable property.

We will publish the attached report provided to Scottish Ministers by the Reporter, and this will be made publically available on the Scottish Government's Community Empowerment website within one week of the date of this letter. If you have any queries please contact Kathleen Glazik, Community Empowerment Team Leader at Kathleen.glazik@gov.scot or Malcolm Cowie, Asset Transfer Policy Lead at Malcolm.cowie@gov.scot.



Aileen Campbell
Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Local Government

Copied to:

Ms Margaret-Jane Cardno, Garioch Area Manager, Aberdeenshire Council
Mr William Lippe, Interested Party

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