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Date 6th June 2016

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Dear [REDACTED]

New Football Stadium

Thank you for your letter of the 17th May 2016 expressing your views relating to the new stadium proposals at Kingsford, announced by Aberdeen Football Club. Although we at Aberdeen City Council have not yet had any formal approach, such as a planning application, I will try and respond to you as fully as I can.

As you may know the new football stadium is being proposed by Aberdeen Football Club, and not Aberdeen City Council. As such how much the stadium will cost to build and how they spend their money is a matter for the football club.

As for the size of the stadium, at this stage we do not know what the capacity is to be – as we have not had that information yet. As to the reasoning for the new stadium, the training pitches and any other aspects, it may be that this is wider than just the number of seats and I'm sure that the Club will explain fully their reasons for wanting this facility when they submit a planning application.

When and if a planning application is submitted it is undoubtedly the case that our Transportation officers will look in great detail at the ability of the roads in the local area, and beyond, to accommodate the large number of people and vehicles which would be attracted. Equally we would be very keen to ensure that the approach to accessing the stadium focuses on sustainable modes of transport, such as: walking, cycling and public transport/ buses, rather than a reliance on cars. So how many parking spaces there are is likely to be important, as will how those home fans who live close to Pittodrie (or in the city) as well as how away fans get there – particularly those who currently come by train or public transport.

ANGELA SCOTT
CHIEF EXECUTIVE



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The last thing we want is for a new stadium to be built and people cannot easily get there, unless by car and are then caught in a traffic jam.

We will also have to carefully consider the economics of the stadium being located at Kingsford, and the impacts on businesses either in Aberdeen, near Pittodrie, or in Kingswells and Westhill. Overall we would hope that a new stadium, wherever it was, would bring more success to Aberdeen than it takes away.

However, the Council does feel that a new stadium which improves on the current one would be an important asset for Aberdeen, but believe that the impacts of the proposal must be balanced and that the results are overwhelmingly positive for the city and beyond. Clearly it will cost a lot of money and we don't want to spend so much on the wrong thing.

The effects of a new stadium on the environment is something that our officers in Planning and Sustainable Development will be looking at very carefully, and I would anticipate that should the proposals at Kingsford come before us that we will require them to be supported by an Environmental Statement (ES). This ES would look at the stadium proposals and the anticipated effects on the environment, impacts on things like: noise levels; plants; animals; humans; air quality; landscape character; water quality; natural resources; etc. We do not want to make any animals sad because of any decisions we make.

It is interesting that you ask why Pittodrie, or perhaps its surroundings, cannot accommodate an improved stadium, and this is certainly something we would expect the football club to explore fully. There are certainly positives to fully investigating what could happen in that location. Equally there may be other locations within or around the city which could accommodate a new stadium, with less impacts such as the issues you discuss, again we would expect any proposals at Kingsford to have looked at these options and why if they are suitable.

The planning application assessment process is likely to be very complex, involve a lot of people and take a long time before we can come to a decision. At this time, we haven't had any significant discussions with the football club and as such it is likely to be a while yet until we have a planning application that we can start to assess.

Also, in your letter some of the questions are perhaps best answered by Aberdeen Football Club themselves, as it is them who are proposing and designing the stadium and training facilities. In time there will be a pre-application public consultation exercise undertaken by the Club, and I would urge you, your classmates, family and friends to get involved in that consultation and make comments on the proposals. Any comments made will require to be considered and responded to by the Club, before they submit a planning application.

Thank you very much for your interest and I hope that you will keep your eye on when we receive an application and make comments at that time, so that we can understand what people of your age think.

Yours sincerely

Angela Scott
Chief Executive