

WL/PL

25th October 2018

Aberdeenshire Council
Gordon House
Blackhall Road
Inverurie

05 NOV 2018

ABERDEENSHIRE
COUNCIL

Dear Madam

Appeal by The Garioch Partnership, Market Place School

I write in SUPPORT of the Garioch Partnership for asset transfer of former Market Place School.

Based on the information provided to the Garioch Area Committee the decision to refuse was flawed on two accounts.

The valuation report and land ownership plan presented to the Councillors was incorrect and included the playing field which is outwith the ownership and control of the Council and was not included in The Garioch Partnership request.

Aberdeenshire Council have agreed an office strategy which included an extension to the Town Hall to accommodate 400 staff which included the demolition of Market Place School to provide parking for these offices.

As such and faced with misinformation the Council and Councillors did not make and could not make an impartial judgement and decision.

I would respectfully suggest that any appeal is upheld, and that any decision is made by parties who do not have a bias or impartial view towards an office strategy, which will be detrimental to both Inverurie and Aberdeenshire.

I also express concern that the Council have made little attempt to maintain the building since its closure. Aberdeenshire Council own Conservation Office place much emphasis on the retention of local vernacular buildings which can be retained and re-used for modern activities. This granite and slate building is worthy of retention and therefore is in compliance with the Councils own planning policies which states that "retention and refurbishment of vernacular buildings and the re-use of brownfield sites will always be preferred and the character of these buildings should be retained".

I would therefore suggest that Aberdeenshire Council adhere to their own policies **ALLOW** the appeal and transfer the property to The Garioch Partnership.

