

In early 2017, the Buchan Asset Transfer Steering Group received an expression of interest from MACBI (Mintlaw and Central Buchan Initiative) SCO36725 to take ownership of Mintlaw Library and expand the MACBI facility.

The Buchan Asset Transfer Steering Group is made up of representatives from relevant services such as Property, Legal and Governance, Economic Development and Education, and led by the Buchan Area Manger. The group identified several actions required to enable MACBI to progress including further consultation with services and neighbouring properties, detailed briefings on the Asset Transfer process and valuation work.

One of these key actions was discussion with the Library Service, at that time part of the Education Service, who indicated that MACBI would need to ensure that the new space could host new library provision. This stipulation was welcomed and indeed MACBI had anticipated being able to offer space for an enhanced Library Service with building opening hours extended and access by Library users to an onsite café as part of their Business Plan.

MACBI, a Company Limited by Guarantee and an approved Scottish Charity, was established in 2003 and their Mintlaw facility opened in 2014. The facility was, and still is, managed by a volunteer board of seven directors who meet on a regular basis. The organisation employs a comprehensive staff team including a full-time manager. As well as the volunteer board several other volunteers work in the facility in a range of roles. Officers considered this to be a professional and successfully managed organisation.

MACBI's Business Plan includes redeveloping the Library site and on-site car park to provide one badminton sized hall with storage, three multi-purpose rooms and additional car parking space. **The cost of this redevelopment is estimated to be £500,000.** The additional space delivered by an extension will allow an increase in activities including early years provision and library services as well as an increased range of exercise groups, classes and clubs.

The initial phase of the Asset Transfer was taken forward in a constructive manner with good working relationships established between the applicant and the relevant services. In January 2018 a formal Asset Transfer request was made. The request went before the Buchan Area Committee in February 2018. The Committee agreed the Asset Transfer request with conditions including suitable interim arrangements being made for Library services throughout the demolition and construction phases.

Having secured ownership of the Library MACBI continued to develop the funding package for their project and their project delivery plan. At the same time the new LiveLife Aberdeenshire Business Unit, having taken responsibility for Libraries, began to develop its interim arrangements for service delivery.

MACBI completed its funding package in summer 2019 and demolition was scheduled for autumn. LiveLife Aberdeenshire confirmed and publicised the interim Library arrangements beginning 1st September 2019 and the old Library building was demolished shortly after.

The extended MACBI facility is estimated for completion in August 2020.

Commented [EM1]: Please cross-reference with the TPC estimate in original BV narrative draft