

## **Property Services**

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## **Participation Request - Decision Notice**

Issued in accordance with the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 ('the Act') and The Participation Request (Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 ('the Regulations').

Participation Request submitted by Crieff Community Council on 18 February 2025 ('the Participation Request').

The Participation Request was received from Crieff Community Council on 18 February 2025. It complied with the Regulations and was given a Validation Date of 18 February 2025.

Crieff Community Council is a "community participation body" in terms of Section 20(1) of the Act and Perth and Kinross Council is a "public service authority" in terms of Section 21 and Schedule 2 of the Act. The outcome specified in the Participation Request related to:

Future development on the site of the former Drummond Arms Hotel in Crieff town centre.

The Participation Requested stated that the Community Council wish to have input into exploring the economic and aesthetic needs of the town, with a view to discussing the feasibility of an alternative use to housing for the site. This will lead to an outcome of the community being appropriately consulted on the future use of the site.

## Decision

The Participation Request was referred to the Strategic Lead for Property Services who, having considered the matter fully, has decided to refuse the Participation Request. Reasoning for this decision is provided below.

Perth and Kinross Council are currently focusing on the demolition of the former Drummond Arms Hotel building and must prioritise public safety of the site.

Owing to the proposed timescale of the demolition, the Council does not have the appropriate level of resources to commence a 90-day improvement plan process over the coming weeks. As such, approving the participation request is unsuitable at the current time.

However, please do note that there is already planned engagement around the outcome of the request. Once the demolition of the site is underway, Perth and Kinross Council commit to community engagement around the decision of Committee to allocate the site for future affordable housing. Perth and Kinross Council will work with Crieff Community Council to draw on their local knowledge and connections to provide a thorough community engagement.

Section 27 of the Act allows a public service authority to choose not to consider a similar Participation Request within two years of the original request. In this current case, Perth and Kinross Council would be prepared to consider another Participation Request from Crieff Community Council should you feel that you need additional involvement to what is suggested by the Council during the planned consultation phase.

Although the decision is to refuse the request at this time, Perth and Kinross Council are committed to working with Crieff Community Council and the wider Crieff community on the future of the site going forward, recognising current Council policy and priorities.

Perth and Kinross Council 4<sup>th</sup> April 2025