



Aberdeenshire Planning Department
45 Bridge Street
Ellon
AB41 9AA

21st January 2024

Dear Sir/Madam,

On behalf of our clients Auchterellon Under Fives, we would like to request that the Planning Authority considers a reduction of planning fees as outlined under Regulation 5 of Aberdeenshire Council's Charging Charter Guidance 2023. Below sets out our supporting statement as to why we believe our client qualifies.

Auchterellon is a registered charity (link here : [OSCR | Charity Details](#)), their registered charity number is SC006946 and their details can be found by searching www.OSCR.org.uk. As a Charity they are a not- for -profit organisation and have been registered since 1980 providing childcare services to the local community since. I trust that this satisfies part one of regulation 5 as it is a not-for-profit company.

Unfortunately, after covid there were some issues with renewing the registration with Care Inspectorate, which has prevented the charity providing some of the services it previously offered. The building needs an extension to comply with regulations and returned to offering these services.

The aims of the Charity are:

1. To Promote for the benefits of the inhabitants of Auchterellon and environs without distinction of political religious or other opinions, the aim of the Scottish Pre-school Play Association which is to advance the education of pre-school children so that they may take a constructive place in the community, and also the education of their parents and other adults, children and teenagers in the furtherance of that aim.

2. To provide safe and satisfying group play in which parents can take part when appropriate.

3. To encourage other charitable activities through which parents may help the children.

- 4 The playgroup is a member of the Scottish Pre-school Play Association having accepted the aim of the association and paid the annual subscription. The group is a member of the Ellon Branch Council.

The second criteria that must be met under regulation 5 of the Charging charter is “ is likely to contribute to improving the health of residents in the area to which the application relates.”

Auchterellon Under fives offers numerous benefits to the health of local residents. Firstly, it



provides a safe and inclusive environment for children to engage in physical activities, promoting their overall well-being and development. Moreover, the social aspect of the playgroup fosters a sense of belonging and community cohesion, reducing feelings of isolation and promoting mental well-being among both children and parents. By offering a range of health benefits, Auchterellon Under Fives plays a vital role in enhancing the health and well-being of local residents.

The extension to the building will allow Auchterellon Under fives to return to offering a full range of services. At the moment the services are limited as to what is permissible without being registered with the Care Inspectorate which is running the 2s group. Prior to registration lapsing Auchterellon offered a playgroup for 3 – 5 year olds, often taking children from the 2s group all the way to starting school. While there is not an official waiting list there is much enquiries about when we will be able to start offering places again, as it offers continuity and consistency for both the children and the parents from the 2s group.

Kind Regards

Douglas McFadzean