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Rural Economy and Connectivity Committee

Subordinate Legislation



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Rural Economy and Connectivity Committee

Remit: To consider and report on matters falling within the responsibility of the Cabinet Secretary for Rural Economy and Connectivity.



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Subordinate Legislation

The Committee reports to the Parliament as follows –

1. On 28 October 2016, The Aberdeen Harbour Revision Order 2016 [draft] was laid before Parliament and was subject to affirmative resolution procedure.

Purpose of the instrument

2. The purpose of this Order is to enable the construction, operation and maintenance of an extension to the existing harbour by Aberdeen Harbour Board and to modify the existing harbour limits to include the new facilities in Nigg Bay.
3. The works provisions contained in the Order specify the infrastructure to be constructed, including breakwaters and quayside, to create a sheltered harbour within Nigg Bay.

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee consideration

4. The Delegated Powers and Law Reform (DPLR) Committee considered the instrument at its meeting on 8 November 2016 and agreed not to draw the Parliament's attention to the instrument on any grounds within its remit. The DPLR Committee's report can be found at the following link:

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/102078.aspx>

Rural Economy and Connectivity Committee consideration

5. At its 12th meeting of 2016, held on 30 November 2016, the Rural Economy and Connectivity Committee took evidence on the Order from Humza Yousaf, Minister for Transport and the Islands.
6. The Committee focused its questions on steps which would be taken to mitigate the environmental impact of the proposed work and on gaining a better understanding of the nature of the objections raised to the intended work.
7. A member of the Committee reviewed the proposed mitigation measures contained in the order and commended them as a positive model for future major development projects.
8. The Minister indicated that the majority of the objections raised to the proposed work overlapped with the environmental concerns which were also raised in the Environmental Impact Assessment. He advised the Committee that these concerns would be addressed through the stated mitigation measures.
9. The Minister also provided assurance that the objections raised regarding the loss of amenity and green space as a consequence of the harbour expansion was the

subject of ongoing discussions between the Aberdeen Harbour Board and Aberdeen City Council. He noted that improvements to existing local sites to compensate for any loss of amenity have been proposed.

10. The Minister also provided an assurance to the Committee that the Scottish Government would continue to provide a level of oversight as the project progresses.

11. The Minister subsequently moved the following motion in his name—

S5M-02398—That the Rural Economy and Connectivity Committee recommends that the Aberdeen Harbour Revision Order 2016 [draft] be approved.

12. The Committee agreed the motion without division.

13. The Official Report of the meeting is available at the following web page:

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/99825.aspx>

Recommendation

14. The Rural Economy and Connectivity Committee recommends to the Parliament that it approves the draft Order.

