

Statement

Issue Date: Monday, November 3, 2008

Contact: Communications Officer Elaine McWalter, (01224) 664608

Aberdeenshire Council leader Anne Robertson said:

“I can confirm that we have been informed of the positive outcome of the Menie application following the Public Inquiry conducted earlier this year by the Scottish Government.

“On behalf of Aberdeenshire Council, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome this decision, as I truly believe a development of this type will bring significant benefits to the area, particularly in terms of jobs and tourism.

“The decision has been reached following a very thorough planning process that generated a huge amount of interest from groups and individuals – both in support and in objection to the application.

“The process involved a significant amount of public consultation and the consideration of a wealth of supporting information, which provided for a high level of scrutiny of the proposed development.

“This was a major task for the officers of the council and in particular those of the planning service, and I would wish to pay tribute to the high degree of commitment and skill displayed by those involved in this project.

“It is important to note that this decision by the Scottish Ministers supports the *principle* of the development.

“Before the development can proceed, further applications which contain the full details of all of the elements of the proposal, will have to be submitted to, and approved by, Aberdeenshire Council.

“There is, of course, also work to do to finalise the legal agreement in connection with the decision, and this will be progressed as a matter of course.”

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