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ADDITIONAL CIRCULATION - VOTES

To: All Members of the Council

Town House,
ABERDEEN, 5 February 2026

COUNCIL

JENNI LAWSON
CHIEF OFFICER - GOVERNANCE

This circulation contains details of the votes at the meeting

B U S I N E S S

BUSINESS PLANNER AND OTHER MINUTES

8.1 Council Business Planner (Pages 5 - 6)

GENERAL BUSINESS

9.1 Treasury Management Strategy - Mid-Year Review - CORS/25/277 (Pages 7 - 8)

9.4 External Audit Recommendations - CORS/26/017 (Pages 9 - 10)

NOTICES OF MOTION

10.2 Notice of Motion by Councillor Boulton (Pages 11 - 12)

"That the Council agrees to:

(1) Instruct the Chief Officer - Operations to refer details of the funding required to develop further detailed studies for a flooding solution as described by the WSP consultants to provide protection for The Paddock, Peterculter to the budget process;

(2) Instruct the Chief Officer - Operations to refer details of the funding required to develop further detailed studies for a flooding solution as described by the WSP consultants to provide protection for Millside and Culter Den, Peterculter for a 1 in 200 and a 1 in 30 flooding event to the budget process;

(3) Instruct the Chief Officer - Operations to continue engagement with local residents, Culter Community Council and the Community Resilience Group on the progress in relation to these flood prevention schemes, subject to funding being awarded to support future activity, and to report these outcomes to a future meeting of the Net Zero, Environment and Transport Committee; and

(4) Instruct the Chief Officer - Operations to work in collaboration with The River Dee Trust where there is mutual benefit and to avoid duplication of effort."

10.4 Notice of Motion by Councillor Farquhar (Pages 13 - 16)

"That the Council:

1. Notes with extreme disappointment the Chancellor's decision on 26 November 2025 to keep the Energy Profits Levy (EPL), despite significant lobbying from industry in Aberdeen.
2. Recognises the Fraser of Allander Institute's "*Is the energy sector at a turning point?*" report of 20 November 2025 which shows that the North East economy has contracted by 21% since 2015.
3. Further recognises Robert Gordon University's "*Striking the Balance*" report of 2 June 2025 which shows that we could lose 1,000 oil and gas jobs a month if current policies continue. The equivalent of a Grangemouth refinery closure every two weeks for the next 5 years.
4. Notes with regret the misery that this will cause many families in and around Aberdeen.
5. Instructs the Chief Executive to write to the Chancellor to outline our city's concerns about the continuation of the EPL and formally ask that this be reconsidered."

10.6 Notice of Motion by Councillor Watson (Pages 17 - 18)

"That the Council -

1. Notes that the previous offer from the Council to RAAC-affected home owners, following a huge community campaign and intervention from the Scottish Government, was an improvement. However, while the SNP gave an improved offer with one hand, they took away compensation for the home loss with the other. It is now evident that many residents have inadequate money to pay for removal costs.
2. Believes both the Council and RAAC owners have a mutual interest in moving on from the RAAC crisis. But if residents cannot afford to move, this process will drag on even longer with heartache and costs to all.
3. Therefore instructs the Chief Officer - Corporate Landlord to amend the offer to residents to reinstate the previous home loss payment at 10% of the current Market Value of the property and also to meet reasonable incurred disturbance costs and Legal and other professional fees.
4. Instructs the Chief Officer - Finance to utilise the Capital Fund to release funding to make payments to homeowners who wish to voluntarily sell their property to the Council and notes the Chief Officer - Finance will report on the use of any fiscal flexibilities provided by Scottish Ministers to support that expenditure in the Quarter 4 Financial Performance Report."

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The Council had before it the business planner as prepared by the Chief Officer - Governance.

Councillor Brooks moved as a procedural motion, seconded by Councillor Houghton:-

> That the Council do not accept the delay to item 13 (Drug Checking Pilot) and that the report be submitted to the April Council meeting as originally scheduled.

On a division, there voted:-

For the procedural motion (21) - Councillors Ali, Blake, Bonsell, Boulton, Brooks, Crockett, Cross, Farquhar, Graham, Grant, Houghton, Kusznir, Lawrence, Macdonald, McLeod, Malik, Massey, Nicoll, Mrs Stewart, Tissera and Watson.

Against the procedural motion (23) - Lord Provost; Depute Provost; and Councillors Al-Samarai, Allard, Alphonse, Buchanan, Hazel Cameron, Clark, Cooke, Copland, Cormie, Davidson, Fairfull, Greig, Henrickson, Hutchison, MacGregor, McLellan, McRae, Mennie, Radley, van Sweeden and Yuill.

The Council resolved:-
to reject the procedural motion.

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The Council had before it a report by the Chief Officer - Finance which provided an update on the Treasury Management activities undertaken to date during the current financial year.

The report recommended:-
that the Council note the Treasury Management activities undertaken to date in the 2025/26 financial year as detailed in the report.

Councillor McLellan moved, seconded by Councillor Yuill:-

That the Council approve the recommendation contained in the report.

Councillor Malik moved as an amendment, seconded by Councillor Watson:-

That the Council -

(1) note the report;

(2) note the Scottish Government is actively pursuing plans to issue its first ever government bond, therefore agree the Chief Executive should write to the First Minister of Scotland offering to provide as much help and guidance as required to ensure its success; and

(3) agree that where Labour leads the SNP follows.

On a division, there voted:-

For the motion (31) - Lord Provost; Depute Provost; and Councillors Al-Samarai, Allard, Alphonse, Boulton, Brooks, Buchanan, Hazel Cameron, Clark, Cooke, Copland, Cormie, Crockett, Cross, Davidson, Fairfull, Farquhar, Greig, Henrickson, Houghton, Hutchison, Kusznir, MacGregor, McLellan, McLeod, McRae, Mennie, Radley, van Sweeden and Yuill.

For the amendment (13) - Councillors Ali, Blake, Bonsell, Graham, Grant, Lawrence, Macdonald, Malik, Massey, Nicoll, Mrs Stewart, Tissera and Watson.

The Council resolved:-
to adopt the motion.

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The Council had before it a report by the Chief Officer - Governance which addressed External Audit's recommendations with regard to the Governance Reference Group and consultation with elected members and sought decisions on these matters.

The report recommended:-
that the Council -
(a) note the External Audit recommendations concerning the Governance Reference Group and consultation with elected members;
(b) consider making a decision on the facilitation and/or chairing of future Governance Reference Group meetings; and
(c) approve, with effect from 1 April 2026, the "*Delegated Powers and Political Sensitivity - Guidance for Officers*" as appended to the report, to support officers in their operation of the Powers Delegated to Officers within the Scheme of Governance; and instruct the Chief Officer - Governance to review the Guidance in parallel with any future reviews of the Scheme of Governance which take place after 2026.

Councillor Allard moved, seconded by Councillor Greig:-
That the Council -
(1) note the External Audit recommendations concerning the Governance Reference Group and consultation with elected members;
(2) note that an elected member Chair had led the Governance Reference Group through a number of successful reviews of the Scheme of Governance over the years, some of which had been unanimously agreed when recommendations were made to Council; and agree to continue with an Elected Member as Chair of the Governance Reference Group; and
(3) approve, with effect from 1 April 2026, the "Delegated Powers and Political Sensitivity - Guidance for Officers" as appended to the report, to support officers in their operation of the Powers Delegated to Officers within the Scheme of Governance; and instruct the Chief Officer - Governance to review the Guidance in parallel with any future reviews of the Scheme of Governance which take place after the 2027 Council Election.

Councillor Malik moved as an amendment, seconded by Councillor Bonsell:-
That the Council -
(1) note the External Audit recommendation concerning the Governance Reference Group and reject that recommendation and agree that the Governance Reference Group be disbanded;
(2) note the Scheme of Delegation (i.e. the Powers Delegated to Officers) states amongst other things the following:-
"*The Council shall exercise all its powers and duties in accordance with the law and the Council's constitutional documents. In particular, the exercise of any power contained within this Powers Delegated to Officers document shall be in accordance with the provisions of the Scheme of Governance and shall be subject to there being sufficient funding available to cover the costs of exercising that power. In exercising such a power, the relevant officers shall have due regard to relevant Council and relevant Integration Joint Board policy. In considering the possible exercise of such a power, the relevant officers* ***should*** *be mindful of any potential for political sensitivity or controversy and, where appropriate, should consider*

consulting with elected members or referring the matter to Council or one of its Committees or Sub-Committees. Some of the powers contained herein expressly require consultation with elected members." And instructs the Chief Officer- Governance to amend the word 'should' to 'must' in the above Powers Delegated to Officers.

(3) approve recommendation (c) within the report.

On a division, there voted:-

For the motion (23) - Lord Provost; Depute Provost; and Councillors Al-Samarai, Allard, Alphonse, Buchanan, Hazel Cameron, Clark, Cooke, Copland, Cormie, Davidson, Fairfull, Greig, Henrickson, Hutchison, MacGregor, McLellan, McRae, Mennie, Radley, van Sweeden and Yuill.

For the amendment (21) - Councillors Ali, Blake, Bonsell, Boulton, Brooks, Crockett, Cross, Farquhar, Graham, Grant, Houghton, Kusznir, Lawrence, Macdonald, McLeod, Malik, Massey, Nicoll, Mrs Stewart, Tissera and Watson.

The Council resolved:-
to adopt the motion.

The Council had before it a notice of motion by Councillor Boulton in the following terms:-

"That the Council agrees to:

(1) Instruct the Chief Officer - Operations to refer details of the funding required to develop further detailed studies for a flooding solution as described by the WSP consultants to provide protection for The Paddock, Peterculter to the budget process;
(2) Instruct the Chief Officer - Operations to refer details of the funding required to develop further detailed studies for a flooding solution as described by the WSP consultants to provide protection for Millside and Culter Den, Peterculter for a 1 in 200 and a 1 in 30 flooding event to the budget process;
(3) Instruct the Chief Officer - Operations to continue engagement with local residents, Culter Community Council and the Community Resilience Group on the progress in relation to these flood prevention schemes, subject to funding being awarded to support future activity, and to report these outcomes to a future meeting of the Net Zero, Environment and Transport Committee; and
(4) Instruct the Chief Officer - Operations to work in collaboration with The River Dee Trust where there is mutual benefit and to avoid duplication of effort."

Councillor Boulton moved, seconded by Councillor Massey:-
That the Council approve the notice of motion.

Councillor Malik moved as an amendment, seconded by Councillor Grant:-
That the Council -
(1) agree the notice of motion as set out in the order paper; and
(2) agree the Scottish Government received in excess of £300m in additional Barnet consequentials, thanks to the pro-active policies provided by the UK Government to Scotland. Call upon the SNP Scottish Government and any Scottish Government of any political colour after May 2026 to provide Aberdeen City Council with a substantial grant to ensure works can be undertaken quickly and efficiently to protect Millside and Culter Den and the paddock, Peterculter, from continuous flooding.

Councillor McLellan moved as a further amendment, seconded by Councillor Yuill:-
That the Council take no action.

During the course of summing up, Councillor Malik advised that Councillor Boulton had agreed to incorporate his amendment within her motion, and this was accepted.

On a division, there voted:-

For the motion (21) - Councillors Ali, Blake, Bonsell, Boulton, Brooks, Crockett, Cross, Farquhar, Graham, Grant, Houghton, Kusznir, Lawrence, Macdonald, McLeod, Malik, Massey, Nicoll, Mrs Stewart, Tissera and Watson.

For the amendment by Councillor McLellan (23) - Lord Provost; Depute Provost; and Councillors Al-Samarai, Allard, Alphonse, Buchanan, Hazel Cameron, Clark, Cooke, Copland, Cormie, Davidson, Fairfull, Greig, Henrickson, Hutchison, MacGregor, McLellan, McRae, Mennie, Radley, van Sweeden and Yuill.

The Council resolved:-
to adopt the amendment by Councillor McLellan.

Councillors Boulton, Brooks, Cross, Farquhar, Houghton, Kusznir, McLeod, Malik, Massey, Nicoll, Mrs Stewart and Tissera expressed their dissent against the foregoing decision in terms of Standing Order 32.8

The Council had before it a notice of motion by Councillor Farquhar in the following terms:-

"That the Council:

1. Notes with extreme disappointment the Chancellor's decision on 26 November 2025 to keep the Energy Profits Levy (EPL), despite significant lobbying from industry in Aberdeen.
2. Recognises the Fraser of Allander Institute's "*Is the energy sector at a turning point?*" report of 20 November 2025 which shows that the North East economy has contracted by 21% since 2015.
3. Further recognises Robert Gordon University's "*Striking the Balance*" report of 2 June 2025 which shows that we could lose 1,000 oil and gas jobs a month if current policies continue. The equivalent of a Grangemouth refinery closure every two weeks for the next 5 years.
4. Notes with regret the misery that this will cause many families in and around Aberdeen.
5. Instructs the Chief Executive to write to the Chancellor to outline our city's concerns about the continuation of the EPL and formally ask that this be reconsidered."

Councillor Farquhar moved, seconded by Councillor Allard:-

That the Council -

(1) approves the notice of motion;

(2) agrees the Labour UK Government's Autumn Budget, delivered in the House of Commons on 27 November 2025 by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Rt Hon Rachel Reeves MP, fails to deliver for Aberdeen;

(3) condemns the decision of the Labour UK Government to retain the Energy Profits Levy which is risking thousands of jobs in Aberdeen, and the North East of Scotland, and accelerating decline in the North Sea;

(4) notes David Whitehouse, Chief Executive of Offshore Energies UK, said (P&J, 26/11/2025): *"Reforming the Energy profits Levy will support the UK's wider energy future by sustaining the supply chain and industrial capabilities needed for offshore wind, carbon storage and hydrogen projects. Our message to Government is simple: Reform the EPL in 2026 to unlock more tax not less, support more jobs, not less, and deliver more homegrown energy not less."*

(5) agrees the Energy Profits Levy should be reformed to support "oil & gas & hydrogen & storage & wind"; and

(6) instructs the Chief Executive, on behalf of Aberdeen City Council, to sign Aberdeen and Grampian Chamber of Commerce's open letter to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Rt Hon Rachel Reeves MP, regarding Support our North Sea at this critical moment.

Councillor Tissera moved as an amendment, seconded by Councillor Malik:-

That the Council -

(1) notes the decision by the then Conservative Prime Minister Rishi Sunak to introduce an EPL surcharge on oil and gas companies to fund support for households struggling with high energy prices;

(2) recognises the Fraser of Allander Institute's 'Is The Energy Sector at Turning Point' report of 20 November 2025 highlights the North East economy has contracted by 21% since 2015 and notes that the Conservatives formed the UK Government from 2015 to 2024 and the SNP were in power in the devolved Scottish Parliament throughout the whole of this contraction period;

(3) supports the Labour UK Government's recent announcement regarding a relaxation of restrictions on new oil and gas licences, noting that the UK Government will now permit tie-back of discoveries and fields to existing infrastructure;

(4) notes that this decision was influenced by data and evidence presented by the Centre of Energy Transition at Aberdeen University;

(5) agrees the shift in the Labour UK Government's position on licensing demonstrates that they are willing to listen and act when presented with a logical, evidence-based case for doing so;

(6) agrees the UK government commitment to the North Sea Future Plan is set out in the UK government's framework for achieving its ambition for the future of the North Sea: which is -

to be an internationally leading offshore clean energy industry, which ensures good, long-term jobs, growth, and investment in tandem with a sustainable transition in oil and gas. Noting the NSF Board will:

a. **review progress against the actions in the government response:** "North Sea Future Plan", so the clean energy transition is managed in partnership between central government, local organisations, industry, and trade unions.

b. **identify and address barriers to delivering a clean energy transition** by recommending and implementing industry-led actions that accelerate progress and maximise value for UK growth.

c. **help drive investment in all North Sea regions** to build at pace the infrastructure and manufacturing sites that will create new jobs for a vulnerable local workforce and accelerate clean energy deployment.

d. **identify and promote opportunities for supply chain companies** to take advantage of the clean energy transition.

e. drive progress and **engagement in the package of measures to retain the highly skilled oil and gas workforce** in jobs in growth-driving industries.

f. **advocate for the strategic importance of the North Sea** by influencing local policy and encouraging action;

(7) agrees with disappointment that the Chief Executive Aberdeen City Council is not included within the NSF Board despite delivering the Aberdeen City Region Deal in 2016 and the Aberdeen Oil Summit in 2014 alongside the then Leader of Aberdeen City Council and Labour candidate for Aberdeen Central Jenny Laing;

(8) notes the contrast between Labour Leadership under Ms Laing who said at the time of the summit "Aberdeen was the oil capital of Europe and as such it was my job, as leader of the city council, to work with the governments in Edinburgh and Westminster and the oil industry to ensure jobs in the city were protected and companies remained based there." And the current SNP leader who procrastinates rather than delivers for the people of Aberdeen who he is meant to serve;

(9) notes that the Scottish Government currently does not have an Energy Strategy, but when a draft was published in 2023 it included talk of a "presumption against" new oil and gas developments;
(10) notes that at COP26 the then First Minister stated that the Cambo oil field must be subject to the most stringent climate assessment before any potential approval for drilling is given;
(11) notes the UK Government in all probability rejected the industry's proposals on EPL as they remained unconvinced by the evidence provided and agrees to work with the industry to put forward a stronger evidence-based case to UK Government to support the revision of EPL prior to next year's UK budget;
(12) agrees the Cambo oilfield is essential to UK energy security and calls on the SNP to abandon its permanent policy against both unconventional and conventional oil and gas extraction as this is the real reason we are seeing job losses in Aberdeen. Agrees that nuclear energy will be a cornerstone for UK energy security and for achieving net-zero goals;
(13) agrees that Aberdeen is well placed to play a key role in the development of nuclear energy in Scotland, given its existing skilled workforce, and calls on the Scottish Government to abandon its policy to use devolved powers to block nuclear projects;
(14) agrees with the Joseph Rowntree Foundation that the UK Government budget will reduce child poverty;
(15) notes the Foundation said the abolishment of the two-child benefit cap was the single most effective way to tackle child poverty, which aligns with the UK government's commitment to lifting hundreds of thousands of children out of hardship;
(16) notes the SNP Scottish Government failed to abolish the two-child benefit cap in Scotland; and
(17) agrees the decision by the SNP to increase Council tax by 9.9% and housing rents by 9.5% will only add to child poverty, undoing the good work of the UK Labour Government.

Councillor Massey moved as a further amendment, seconded by Councillor Boulton:-

That the Council -

(1) notes the damage being done to our Oil & Gas industry and the jobs the industry supports. As highlighted in the Fraser of Allander Institute's "Is the energy sector at a turning point?" report of 20 November 2025 and the Robert Gordon University's "Striking the Balance" report of 2 June 2025;
(2) condemns the continuation of the Energy Profits Levy;
(3) condemns the presumption against new oil & gas and the current ban on new licences for exploration drilling;
(4) condemns the delays to official approval for large ready-to-go projects like Rosebank & Jackdaw; and
(5) instructs the Chief Executive, on behalf of Aberdeen City Council, to sign Aberdeen and Grampian Chamber of Commerce's open letter to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Rt Hon Rachel Reeves MP, regarding Support for our North Sea at this critical moment.

There being a motion and two amendments, the Council first divided between the two amendments.

On a division, there voted:-

For the amendment by Councillor Tissera (9) - Councillors Ali, Blake, Bonsell, Grant, Lawrence, Macdonald, Malik, Tissera and Watson.

For the amendment by Councillor Massey (5) - Councillor Boulton, Crockett, Massey, Nicoll and Mrs Stewart.

Declined to vote (28) - Lord Provost; Depute Provost; and Councillors Al-Samarai, Allard, Alphonse, Brooks, Buchanan, Hazel Cameron, Clark, Cooke, Copland, Cormie, Cross, Davidson, Fairfull, Farquhar, Greig, Henrickson, Hutchison, Kusznir, MacGregor, McLellan, McLeod, McRae, Mennie, Radley, van Sweeden and Yuill.

Absent from the division (2) - Councillor Graham and Houghton.

The Council then divided between the motion and the amendment by Councillor Tissera.

On a division, there voted:-

For the motion (31) - Lord Provost; Depute Provost; and Councillors Al-Samarai, Allard, Alphonse, Boulton, Brooks, Buchanan, Hazel Cameron, Clark, Cooke, Copland, Cormie, Crockett, Cross, Davidson, Fairfull, Farquhar, Greig, Henrickson, Hutchison, Kusznir, MacGregor, McLellan, McLeod, McRae, Mennie, Radley, Mrs Stewart, van Sweeden and Yuill.

For the amendment by Councillor Tissera (10) - Councillors Ali, Blake, Bonsell, Graham, Grant, Lawrence, Macdonald, Malik, Tissera and Watson.

Declined to vote (2) - Councillors Massey and Nicoll.

Absent from the division (1) - Councillor Houghton.

The Council resolved:-
to adopt the motion.

The Council had before it a notice of motion by Councillor Watson in the following terms:-

"That the Council -

1. Notes that the previous offer from the Council to RAAC-affected home owners, following a huge community campaign and intervention from the Scottish Government, was an improvement. However, while the SNP gave an improved offer with one hand, they took away compensation for the home loss with the other. It is now evident that many residents have inadequate money to pay for removal costs.
2. Believes both the Council and RAAC owners have a mutual interest in moving on from the RAAC crisis. But if residents cannot afford to move, this process will drag on even longer with heartache and costs to all.
3. Therefore instructs the Chief Officer - Corporate Landlord to amend the offer to residents to reinstate the previous home loss payment at 10% of the current Market Value of the property and also to meet reasonable incurred disturbance costs and Legal and other professional fees.
4. Instructs the Chief Officer - Finance to utilise the Capital Fund to release funding to make payments to homeowners who wish to voluntarily sell their property to the Council and notes the Chief Officer - Finance will report on the use of any fiscal flexibilities provided by Scottish Ministers to support that expenditure in the Quarter 4 Financial Performance Report."

Councillor Watson moved, seconded by Councillor Tissera:-

That the Council approve the notice of motion.

Councillor Radley moved as an amendment, seconded by Councillor Greig:-

That the Council -

(1) note the decision made by the Council on 28 October 2025 to provide a full and final enhanced offer to homeowners;
(2) note that 61 property completions have taken place, increased from 25 on 28 October 2025, costing so far £4.5m;
(3) note that around an additional 70 homeowners have engaged with the District Valuer and are in the process of obtaining and considering the offers;
(4) note the additional flexibility and support put in place for homeowners to provide advice regarding housing options;
(5) note that demolition teams are on site, to provide additional security to the remaining residents and the area, and are undertaking the "soft strip" on Council owned properties. Further confirm that demolition will only be progressed on Council owned properties and will only be progressed on wholly owned blocks.

On a division, there voted:-

<u>For the motion</u> (20) - Councillors Ali, Blake, Bonsell, Boulton, Brooks, Crockett, Cross, Farquhar, Graham, Grant, Kusznir, Lawrence, Macdonald, McLeod, Malik, Massey, Nicoll, Mrs Stewart, Tissera and Watson.

For the amendment (23) - Lord Provost; Depute Provost; and Councillors Al-Samarai, Allard, Alphonse, Buchanan, Hazel Cameron, Clark, Cooke, Copland, Cormie, Davidson, Fairfull, Greig, Henrickson, Hutchison, MacGregor, McLellan, McRae, Mennie, Radley, van Sweeden and Yuill.

Absent from the division (1) - Councillor Houghton.

The Council resolved:-
to adopt the amendment.