

# Public Document Pack



To: Councillor Radley, Convener; Councillor Henrickson, Vice-Convener; and Councillors Cross, Graham, Greig, McLellan, Mennie, Nicoll and Watson.

Town House,  
ABERDEEN 05 January 2026

## **COMMUNITIES, HOUSING AND PUBLIC PROTECTION COMMITTEE**

The Members of the **COMMUNITIES, HOUSING AND PUBLIC PROTECTION COMMITTEE** are requested to meet in Committee Room 2 on TUESDAY, 13 JANUARY 2026 at 10.00 am. This is a hybrid meeting and Members may also attend remotely.

The meeting will be webcast and a live stream can be viewed on the Council's website.  
<https://aberdeen.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>

JENNI LAWSON  
CHIEF OFFICER – GOVERNANCE

### **B U S I N E S S**

#### **NOTIFICATION OF URGENT BUSINESS**

1. There are no items of urgent business at this time.

#### **DETERMINATION OF EXEMPT BUSINESS**

2. Determination of Exempt Business

#### **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

3. Members are requested to intimate any declarations of interest

#### **REQUESTS FOR DEPUTATION**

4. There are no requests for deputation at this time

## **MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

5. Minute of the Previous Meeting of 11 November 2025 (Pages 5 - 12)

## **COMMITTEE PLANNER**

6. Committee Business Planner (Pages 13 - 18)

## **NOTICES OF MOTION**

7. Notice of Motion from Councillor Boulton

That the Committee:

Instruct the Chief Executive to write on behalf of Aberdeen City Council to the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom and the First Minister of Scotland:

- (i) calling on them to work together, to share information on grooming gangs as part of any national inquiries or reviews, thus ensuring that no evidence of cross border activity by grooming gangs is missed; and
- (ii) stating that we owe it to all victims of grooming by gangs or individuals to have all politicians work collaboratively to give the victims the assurance that they will finally get the answers, actions and support they need, and their voices heard; and stating that victims need us to collectively make this happen sooner rather than later.

## **REFERRALS FROM COUNCIL, COMMITTEES AND SUB COMMITTEES**

8. None at this time

## **PUBLIC PROTECTION**

- 9.1. Police Scotland Performance Report - POL/26/008 (Pages 19 - 56)

- 9.2. Justice Social Work Service Annual Performance Report and Community Payback Order Annual Report 2024-25 - ACHSCP/26/007 (Pages 57 - 94)

## **FINANCE, PERFORMANCE, RISK AND SERVICE WIDE ISSUES**

- 10.1. Performance Report - CORS/26/001 (Pages 95 - 118)

## **COMMUNITIES AND HOUSING**

- 11.1. Graffiti in Aberdeen - report following a Notice of Motion by Councillor Bonsell - CR&E/26/005 (Pages 119 - 126)
- 11.2. Update Report on Non-Traditional Housing Stock (including City Centre Multis) - F&C/26/009 (Pages 127 - 138)

Integrated Impact Assessments related to reports on this agenda can be viewed [here](#)

To access the Service Updates for this Committee please click [here](#)

Website Address: [aberdeencity.gov.uk](http://aberdeencity.gov.uk)

Should you require any further information about this agenda, please contact Lynsey McBain, [lymcbain@aberdeencity.gov.uk](mailto:lymcbain@aberdeencity.gov.uk) or 01224 067344

This page is intentionally left blank

# Agenda Item 5

## Communities, Housing and Public Protection Committee

ABERDEEN, 11 November 2025. Minute of Meeting of the COMMUNITIES, HOUSING AND PUBLIC PROTECTION COMMITTEE. Present:- Councillor Radley, Convener; Councillor Henrickson, Vice-Convener; and Councillors Greig, Malik (as substitute for Councillor Graham), McLellan, Mennie, Nicoll and Watson.

The agenda and reports associated with this minute can be located [here](#).

**Please note that if any changes are made to this minute at the point of approval, these will be outlined in the subsequent minute and this document will not be retrospectively altered.**

### ANNOUNCEMENT

1. The Convener advised that both Councillors Watson and Kusznir had withdrawn their notices of motion, which were on the agenda, and that there would also be a two minute silence held at 11am. The agenda order would also be slightly altered to allow Scottish Fire and Rescue Service and Police Scotland to leave the meeting timeously.

### MINUTE OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING OF 26 AUGUST 2025

2. The Committee had before it the minute of the previous meeting of 26 August 2025 for approval.

#### The Committee resolved:-

to approve the minute as a correct record.

### COMMITTEE BUSINESS PLANNER

3. The Committee had before it the committee business planner, as prepared by the Chief Officer – Governance.

#### The Committee resolved:-

- (i) to note that items 6 (Review of the Non Traditional Housing Stock) and 12 (Update on Consultation Exercise for City Centre Multi Storey) would now be a joint report and would be reported to the January 2026 meeting;
- (ii) to agree to remove item 11 (Busking Code of Conduct) and to note that a Service Update would be issued towards the end of 2026 in regards to the item;
- (iii) to agree to remove item 43 (Housing (Cladding Remediation) (Scotland) Bill), as a service update was issued; and
- (iv) to otherwise note the committee business planner.

### SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE PERFORMANCE REPORT - SFR/25/259

4. The Committee had before it a report by Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS), which presented the 6 monthly performance figures, from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025 to 30<sup>th</sup>

## COMMUNITIES, HOUSING AND PUBLIC PROTECTION COMMITTEE

11 November 2025

September 2025 against the current objectives contained within the Aberdeen City Local Fire and Rescue Plan.

The report highlighted the progress being made by the SFRS locally against the priorities and objectives for Aberdeen City and also allowed scrutiny from Local Authority Partners to ensure that the priorities of the SFRS Strategic Plan, and the Aberdeen City Local Outcome Improvement Plan were being delivered.

**The report recommended:-**

that the Committee consider and note the performance data provided within the Scottish Fire & Rescue Service 6 monthly performance report.

The Committee heard from Mr Andrew Wright, Local Commander for SFRS who spoke in furtherance of the report and also provided a verbal update in relation to bonfire night, noting that due to positive collaborative working, the amount of incidents had significantly reduced from previous years.

**The Committee resolved:-**

- (i) to thank Scottish Fire and Rescue for their informative report;
- (ii) to request that Scottish Fire and Rescue share their key winter and festive safety campaign with the Council's Communications Team in order for communicating the information to as many individuals as possible; and
- (iii) to note the performance data provided within the Scottish Fire & Rescue Service 6 monthly performance report 1 April 2025 – 30 September 2025 at Appendix A.

## POLICE SCOTLAND THEMATIC REPORT - ESTATES UPDATE - POL/25/275

5. The Committee had before it a report by Police Scotland, which provided the Committee with an update on progress of the Estates plans across Aberdeen City.

The report stated that the aim was to deliver a more effective and sustainable estate that enabled modern policing, supported the health, safety and wellbeing of people and the communities they served and reduced long term operating costs. The report also advised that a prioritised ten-year programme of building improvements, refurbishments and disposals would be developed and the pace of implementation would be determined by the availability of funding.

**The report recommended:-**

that the Committee discuss, comment on, and endorse the report.

Members asked a number of questions in relation to the report and these were answered by Superintendent Jason Carrigan, Chief Inspector Vicky Stables and Chief Inspector George Nixon.

**The Committee resolved:-**

## COMMUNITIES, HOUSING AND PUBLIC PROTECTION COMMITTEE

11 November 2025

- (i) to thank Police Scotland for their informative report; and
- (ii) to note the report.

### **POLICE SCOTLAND THEMATIC REPORT - MENTAL HEALTH IN THE COMMUNITY - IMPACT ON POLICING - POL/25/276**

6. The Committee had before it a report by Police Scotland, which updated Members in regards to the nature and extent of mental health challenges in the community and their impacts on policing.

The report advised that Police Scotland recognised that mental health calls created substantial pressures on their service and placed a growing demand on their front-line resources. The report also noted that keeping people safe underpinned everything Police Scotland did, and that they would always respond to threat, harm, and risk to ensure public safety. However it had been clear over recent years that policing involvement in mental health incidents and supporting vulnerable people had gone beyond where it should be.

**The report recommended:-**

that the Committee discuss, comment on, and endorse the report.

Members asked a number of questions in relation to the report and these were answered by Superintendent Jason Carrigan, Chief Inspector Vicky Stables and Chief Inspector George Nixon.

**The Committee resolved:-**

- (iii) to thank Police Scotland for their informative report; and
- (iv) to note the report.

### **2026-2056 HRA BUSINESS PLAN - CORS/25/221**

7. With reference to article 12 of the minute of Council of 1 October 2025, the Committee had before it by way of a referral, a report by the Chief Officer - Finance which presented the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Business Plan for approval and a short term Housing Asset Plan, which was aligned to the recently approved Local Housing Strategy, which informed the development of the Business Plan.

**The report recommended:-**

that the Committee -

- (a) approve the HRA Business Plan at Appendix A to this report;
- (b) note the key challenges outlined in the Housing Asset Plan at Appendix B and agree the associated priority actions;
- (c) agree that the HRA Business Plan and Housing Asset Plan should be updated and reported in future to the Communities Housing and Public Protection

## COMMUNITIES, HOUSING AND PUBLIC PROTECTION COMMITTEE

11 November 2025

Committee on an annual basis with the update in 2026 moving to a 5 and 30 year model for both Plans; and

- (d) note the requirement for the Council to maintain HRA reserves for financial resilience and sustainability purposes.

The Convener moved, seconded by the Vice Convener:-

that the Committee approve the recommendations.

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

that the Committee:-

1. note the Communities, Housing and Public Protection Committee unanimously agreed to declare a local housing emergency in September 2024, and note the proposed HRA Business Plan at Appendix A of this report, does nothing to remedy this housing emergency;
2. agree the previous administration procured and built 2,000 Council homes, the largest social housing building programme in Aberdeen in over 30 years;
3. agree, thanks to the previous administration, grant funding has been found for all the developments which include the 2,000 new council homes, noting the Partnership has been unable to find grant funding for 222 Council homes at Cloverhill this financial year, which will put a £22m strain on the HRA account, therefore agrees that the Chief Officer – Finance, following consultation with the Convener of the Finance and Resources Committee, writes to the Scottish Government highlighting the success of the previous administration's 2,000 new Council homes ambition and asking for access to funding from that committed as part of the national Housing Emergency Action Plan to develop a retrofit programme for post war properties to improve their condition to ensure that unnecessary and unwelcome increases in rent are avoidable;
4. agree average rent under this SNP/Liberal Democrat administration has gone up by 5.4% since they came to power in 2022, meaning rents have gone up at their fastest level since 2012;
5. agree the HRA 30-year plan assumes no additional new build beyond those that have already been approved, meaning the city is unable to further increase the proportion of Council tenants living in new build homes;
6. agree the SNP/Liberal Democrat Administration in Aberdeen are the only authority in Scotland to confirm a housing emergency then simultaneously agree to knock down over 500 houses in Torry, Aberdeen when the most obvious solution was to work with tenants and homeowners to repair the properties to an acceptable standard; and
7. agree not to adopt the HRA 30-year Business Plan and to instruct the Chief Officer - Finance to bring forward further information to the HRA budget meeting in December 2025 on the implications of funding new build properties through the HRA.

## COMMUNITIES, HOUSING AND PUBLIC PROTECTION COMMITTEE

11 November 2025

On a division, there voted – for the motion (5) – the Convener, the Vice Convener and Councillors Greig, McLellan and Mennie – for the amendment (3) – Councillors Malik, Nicoll and Watson.

**The Committee resolved:-**

to adopt the motion.

### BUILDING STANDARDS ACTIVITY REPORT - CR&E/25/255

8. With reference to article 6 of the minute of the meeting of 27 May 2025, the Committee had before it a report by the Chief Officer – Strategic Place Planning, which provided assurance and an overview of the Council's responsibilities in relation to securing dangerous buildings and protecting public safety, as well as activity on unauthorised building work and unauthorised occupation of buildings.

**The report recommended:-**

that the Committee -

- (a) note the contents of the report and appendix and
- (b) agree to receive a further Building Standards Activity Report at the meeting of the Communities, Housing and Public Protection Committee on 26th May 2026.

**The Committee resolved:-**

to approve the recommendations.

### PERFORMANCE REPORT - CORS/25/242

9. The Committee had before it a report by the Chief Officer – Data Insights, which presented Committee with the status of appropriate key performance measures relating to services falling within its remit.

**The report recommended:-**

that the Committee note the report and provide comments and observations on the performance information contained in the report Appendix.

**The Committee resolved:-**

- (i) in relation to the Performance Indicator for percentage of registered Nicotine Vapour Products retailers subjected to Test Purchasing for retailer compliance with age restrictions - Year to Date, to note that officers would ascertain whether this indicator was on target for 2025/26 and advise Councillor Nicoll; and
- (ii) to note the performance report.

### HOUSING BI ANNUAL REPORT - F&C/25/257

## COMMUNITIES, HOUSING AND PUBLIC PROTECTION COMMITTEE

11 November 2025

**10.** With reference to article 3 of the minute of the meeting of 27 May 2025, the Committee had before it a report by the Executive Director – Families & Communities, which (1) presented the bi-annual report to enable Committee oversight of all housing improvement activity being coordinated by the Housing Board and (2) presented an amended and measurable Improvement Plan for approval as part of the next Housing Board Bi-Annual Report.

The report focused on activity related to homes in the Council's estate and services that the Council delivers in relation to housing.

**The report recommended:-**

that the Committee –

- (a) note the progress made by the Housing Board from June 2024 to November 2025;
- (b) approve the refreshed Housing Emergency Action Plan available in Appendix A;
- (c) note the Aberdeen Cyrenians Summary Response to the Aberdeen City Housing Emergency Action Plan available in Appendix B; and
- (d) note the Homelessness Benchmarking Summary Report available in Appendix C.

The Convener moved seconded by the Vice Convener:-

that the Committee –

- (1) approve the recommendations;
- (2) note the cross-party agreement to declare a housing emergency in 2024, acknowledging the decades of underinvestment in Council stock;
- (3) note that the refresh of the Housing Emergency Action Plan was presented to the cross-party working group for endorsement on the 6<sup>th</sup> October 2025;
- (4) note the work being undertaken to reduce voids in the city, with 360 fewer lettable voids in October 2025 compared to the last year and work to improve relet timings which has already resulted in a positive decrease on our overall relet times, reducing from the 266 days in June 2025 to 247 days as at 31st October 2025;
- (5) acknowledge the work being undertaken by Council officers to simplify and reduce the void path, to ensure timely return of properties into use;
- (6) note that the Council in 2024/2025 relet 2,536 properties, around 11% of our housing stock and equating to an average of 211 properties per month;
- (7) note a significant reduction in live homelessness cases, with the city now ranking sixth lowest per 10,000 households, outperforming other major urban areas;
- (8) agree that the ambition outlined in this plan to reduce void numbers to pre-pandemic levels and halve the timescales for voids to be turned around will help address the local housing emergency;
- (9) note that around 40% of the circa £50m Repairs and Maintenance budget is spent on voids, with the remaining 60% used for cyclical maintenance and work to ensure Council properties meet current national standards; and
- (10) thank Aberdeen Cyrenians for their review of the Housing Emergency Action Plan and for the recommendations which have been embedded within the Plan.

## COMMUNITIES, HOUSING AND PUBLIC PROTECTION COMMITTEE

11 November 2025

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

that the Committee –

- (1) note the progress made by the Housing Board from June 2024 to November 2025;
- (2) approve the refreshed Housing Emergency Action Plan available in Appendix A, subject to a change in “Key measures and targets” of “key movement times” from 123 days to 60 days, as this is the Scottish Average; and instruct the Chief Officer – Housing to bring a report to the Communities, Housing and Public Protection Committee within the next two cycles a) analysing why 50% of tenants refuse improvements to their properties and ways to improve this, and b) examining the implication for voids if those in housing need on the housing waiting list receiving preferential access to new build properties;
- (3) note the Aberdeen Cyrenians Summary Response to the Aberdeen City Housing Emergency Action Plan available in Appendix B; and
- (4) note the Homelessness Benchmarking Summary Report available in Appendix C.

On a division, there voted – for the motion (5) – the Convener, the Vice Convener and Councillors Greig, McLellan and Mennie – for the amendment (3) – Councillors Malik, Nicoll and Watson.

### **The Committee resolved:-**

to adopt the motion.

## ABERDEEN CITY'S STRATEGIC HOUSING INVESTMENT PLAN 2026/27 - 2030/31 - F&C/25/258

**11.** The Committee had before it a report by the Chief Officer – Housing, which sought approval of the Strategic Housing Investment Plan (SHIP) for the period 2026/27 – 2030/31, prior to submission to the Scottish Government.

### **The report recommended:-**

that the Committee approve the Strategic Housing Investment Plan for 2026/27 – 2030/31 as contained in Appendices 1 and 2.

The Convener moved, seconded by the Vice Convener:-

that the Committee approve the recommendation.

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

that the Committee

- (1) agrees the recommendation
- (2) calls on the Convener of the Communities, Housing and Public Protection Committee, following consultation with the Convener of the Finance and

**COMMUNITIES, HOUSING AND PUBLIC PROTECTION COMMITTEE**

11 November 2025

Resources Committee, to write to the Cabinet Secretary for Housing calling for certainty of funding for the affordable housing supply programme in future years, and requesting that the funding be restored to 2023/24 levels (taking inflation into account); and

- (3) agrees that consideration be given by the Chief Officer - Housing to the Council building more of the 2,540 houses identified in the SHIP and that, if necessary, dependent on the outcome of such consideration, the SHIP be amended by that Chief Officer and brought back to this Committee for approval.

On a division, there voted – for the motion (5) – the Convener, the Vice Convener and Councillors Greig, McLellan and Mennie – for the amendment (3) – Councillors Malik, Nicoll and Watson.

**The Committee resolved:-**

to adopt the motion.

- **COUNCILLOR MIRANDA RADLEY, Convener**

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1	COMMUNITIES HOUSING AND PUBLIC PROTECTION COMMITTEE BUSINESS PLANNER The Business Planner details the reports which have been instructed as well as reports which the Functions expect to be submitting for the calendar year.								
2	Report Title	Minute Reference/Committee Decision or Purpose of Report	Update	Report Author	Chief Officer	Director	Terms of Reference	Delayed or Recommended for removal or transfer, enter either D, R, or T	Explanation if delayed, removed or transferred
3			13 January 2026						
4	Performance Report	The purpose of this report is to present Committee with the status of key performance measures relating to the Operations Directorate (non Education).		Louise Fox	Data Insight	Corporate Services	1.1.3		
5	Police Scotland Performance Report	To provide a six monthly performance report		Police Scotland	Police Scotland	Police Scotland	2.20		
6	Update on Consultation Exercise for City Centre Multi Storeys and Review of the Non Traditional Housing Stock and Update on Consultation Exercise for City Centre Multi Storeys - joint report	At the meeting on 21 November 2024, it was agreed to instruct the Chief Officer – Corporate Landlord to revisit the costs, risks and deliverable timescales for all options in an updated Business Case and to report this to a future meeting of this committee and to reflect the future risk and financial requirements for these buildings in the Housing Revenue Account budget process for 2025/26. Non Traditional - At the meeting on 17 January 2023, it was agreed to instruct the Chief Officer – Corporate Landlord to review the HRA's non traditional housing stock to identify properties that will be unable to meet future environmental or other standards, identify a budget to undertake these inspections within the 2023/24 budget and report back to this Committee on progress in November 2023. Multi Storey Consultation - At the meeting on 21 November 2024, it was agreed to instruct the Chief Officer – Corporate Landlord to revisit the costs, risks and deliverable timescales for all options in an updated Business Case and to report this to a future meeting of this committee and to reflect the future risk and financial requirements for these buildings in the Housing Revenue Account budget process for 2025/26.	The review of the Non Traditional Housing Stock and Update on Consultation Exercise for City Centre Multi Storeys will now be a joint report.	Stephen Booth	Corporate Landlord	Families & Communities	1.1.1		
7	Justice Social Work Service Annual Performance Report and Community Payback Order Annual Report 2024-25	Annual report for Justice Social Work Performance.		Val Vertigans	AHSCP		2.1		
8	Graffiti in Aberdeen - report following a Notice of Motion by Councillor Bonsell	At the Council meeting on 2 July 2025, the following Notice of Motion from Councillor Bonsell was agreed:- (1)Shares the pride of Aberdonians in our city, including its beautiful granite architecture, and wants everyone who lives, works, studies or visits here to see Aberdeen at its best; (2)Understands the increasing concerns of residents, businesses and community organisations that graffiti is defacing too many buildings, walls and other structures in the city centre and across Aberdeen; (3)Recognises the efforts of Council officers and Police Scotland in addressing the issue of graffiti, for instance, through their reporting systems, graffiti removal service, and diversionary activities, including the graffiti art wall in Sunnybank Park; (4)Commends citizens for their vigilance in spotting and reporting graffiti to the Council and Police Scotland; (5)Appreciates the positive contribution of NuArt Aberdeen to our cityscape and looks forward to the return of this cultural festival in 2026; (6)Instructs the Chief Officer - Operations, following consultation with the Community Safety Manager, to bring a report to an appropriate Communities, Housing and Public Protection Committee on current efforts to reduce graffiti in Aberdeen and what more could be done, including partnership working with Police Scotland, local businesses, and community organisations.		Mark Wilson/ Mark Reilly	Operations	City Regeneration & Environment	1.1.1		

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
	Report Title	Minute Reference/Committee Decision or Purpose of Report	Update	Report Author	Chief Officer	Director	Terms of Reference	Delayed or Recommended for removal or transfer, enter either D, R, or T	Explanation if delayed, removed or transferred
2									
9			10 March 2026						
10	Cost Neutral Environmental Enforcement	At the meeting on 6 July 2023, the Committee resolved:(i) to agree the implementation of a 12-month pilot programme with the selected supplier for the enforcement of Littering, Dog Fouling and Fly Tipping legislation; and (ii) to instruct the Chief Officer - Early Intervention and Community Empowerment to monitor and evaluate the pilot and prepare a report for Communities Housing and Public Protection Committee on conclusion of the pilot in 2024.	The pilot commenced on 12 February 2025 and a report will be brought back nearer the year mark.	Mark Wilson	Governance	Corporate Services	1.1.1 and 1.1.2		
11	Performance Report	The purpose of this report is to present Committee with the status of key performance measures relating to the Operations Directorate (non Education).		Louise Fox	Data Insight	Corporate Services	1.1.3		
12	Resettlement Delivery Plan	At the meeting on 11 March 2025, it was agreed to instruct the Chief Officer - Housing to report progress against the Plan, and any proposed changes to the Plan in light of changing circumstances, to the Communities, Housing and Public Protection Committee on a yearly basis. Likely March 2026		Jacqui McKenzie	Housing	Families & Communities	1.1.1 and 1.1.15		
13	Resilience Annual report	Annual report to be submitted to CHPPC. Last one submitted March 2025 so likely March 2026.		Fiona Mann	Governance	Corporate Services	2.12		
14			26 May 2026						
15	Building Standards Activity Report	To provide details on building standards activity, this is reported twice yearly.		Grant Tierney	Strategic Place Planning	City Regeneration & Environment	2.7 and 2.8		
16	Performance Report	The purpose of this report is to present Committee with the status of key performance measures relating to the Operations Directorate (non Education).		Louise Fox	Data Insight	Corporate Services	1.1.3		
17	Housing Board Bi Annual Report	At the meeting on 30 May 2024, it was agreed to instruct the Executive Director Families and Communities to bring back to this Committee bi-annual reports providing oversight on Housing Improvement Activity.		Eleanor Sheppard		Families & Communities	1.1.1		
18	Anti Modern Slavery report	At the meeting on 30 May 2024, it was agreed that a report be brought back to this Committee in 2 years time, to provide an evaluation of the implementation of the statement.		Sandie Scott/ Isla Newcombe	People & Citizen Services	Corporate Services	GD 8.1		
19			26 August 2026						

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
	Report Title	Minute Reference/Committee Decision or Purpose of Report	Update	Report Author	Chief Officer	Director	Terms of Reference	Delayed or Recommended for removal or transfer, enter either D, R, or T	Explanation if delayed, removed or transferred
2									
20	Annual Assurance Statement - August 2026	Annual submission required to the Scottish Government.		Jacqui McKenzie	Housing	Families & Communities	1.1.1		
21	Aberdeen Local Housing Strategy - report from August 2025	At the meeting of 26 August 2025, it was agreed to instruct the Chief Officer - Housing to report progress, towards each of the strategic priorities to the Communities, Housing and Public Protection Committee on an annual basis - August 2026 then yearly		Jacqui McKenzie	Housing	Families & Communities	1.1.1		
22	Performance Report	The purpose of this report is to present Committee with the status of key performance measures relating to the Operations Directorate (non Education).		Louise Fox	Data Insight	Corporate Services	1.1.3		
23	Cyclical and Environmental works in Tillydrone	At the Council meeting on 3 December 2025, it was agreed to instruct the Chief Officer - Capital, in consultation with the Chief Officer - Corporate Landlord, to develop an improvement plan of cyclical and environmental works in Tillydrone for properties adjacent to the new Tillydrone housing development and report to the Communities, Housing and Public Protection Committee on the options and implications, by the end of September 2026.		Alan McKay/ Stephen Booth	Capital/ Corporate Landlord	Families & Communities and City Regeneration & Environment	1.1.1		
24			10 November 2026						
25	Performance Report	The purpose of this report is to present Committee with the status of key performance measures relating to the Operations Directorate (non Education).		Louise Fox	Data Insight	Corporate Services	1.1.3		
26	Building Standards Activity Report	To provide details on building standards activity, this is reported twice yearly.		Grant Tierney	Strategic Place Planning	City Regeneration & Environment	2.7 and 2.8		
27	Housing Board Bi Annual Report	At the meeting on 30 May 2024, it was agreed to instruct the Executive Director Families and Communities to bring back to this Committee bi-annual reports providing oversight on Housing Improvement Activity.		Eleanor Sheppard		Families & Communities	1.1.1		
28			Future reports						
29	Grampian Joint Health Protection Plan	At the meeting on 30 May 2024 it was noted that the plan would be reviewed again in 2026.		Hazel Stevenson	Governance	Corporate Services	2.2		

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
2	Report Title	Minute Reference/Committee Decision or Purpose of Report	Update	Report Author	Chief Officer	Director	Terms of Reference	Delayed or Recommended for removal or transfer, enter either D, R, or T
30	Aberdeen City Local Housing Strategy Update	At the meeting on 30 May 2024, it was agreed to instruct the Chief Officer – Housing in collaboration with the Chief Officer – Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership, to report back to the Communities, Housing and Public Protection Committee within 12 months on the implementation of the hybrid care and support model at Provost Hogg Court to evaluate the effectiveness before considering potential implementation in other parts of the city.		Jacqui McKenzie	Housing	Families & Communities	1.1.1	
31	Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC)	At Council on 21 August 2024, it was agreed to instruct the Chief Officer - Housing to continue the re-homing process and report progress to the Communities, Housing and Public Protection Committee on a regular basis, noting that there may be requirements to commence legal proceedings under the Scottish Tenancy Agreements, where tenants refused to move to alternative accommodation having received reasonable offers of alternative accommodation to ensure that tenant safety remains the Council's primary objective;		Jacqui McKenzie	Housing	Families & Communities		
32	Housing (Scotland) Bill 2024	At the meeting on 5 September 2024, it was agreed to instruct the Chief Officer – Housing to provide a report or Service Update, as that Chief Officer deems appropriate, on the Bill as it progresses through Stage 2 of the parliamentary process; and to instruct the Chief Officer – Housing to report to this Committee with a full Implementation Plan when the Bill has progressed through Stage 3 of the parliamentary process.		Jacqui McKenzie	Housing	Families & Communities		
33	Resilience Annual report	Annual report to be submitted to CHPPC. Last one submitted March 2025 so likely March 2026.		Fiona Mann	Governance	Corporate Services	2.12	
34	Justice Social Work Service Annual Performance Report	Annual report for Justice Social Work Performance. Reported in January 2026 likely January 2027.		Val Vertigans	AHSCP		2.1	
35	Resettlement Delivery Plan	At the meeting on 11 March 2025, it was agreed to instruct the Chief Officer - Housing to report progress against the Plan, and any proposed changes to the Plan in light of changing circumstances, to the Communities, Housing and Public Protection Committee on a yearly basis. Likely March 2026 then yearly		Jacqui McKenzie	Housing	Families & Communities	1.1.1 and 1.1.15	
36	Community Safety Partnership System Awareness	At the meeting on 11 March 2025, it was agreed to instruct the Interim Chief Officer – Governance to report back to the most relevant meeting of the Communities, Housing and Public Protection Committee on the outcome of efforts to formalise the Community Safety Partnership Board.		Mark Wilson	Governance	Corporate Services	1.1.1, 2.20 and 2.21	
37	Rent Assistance Fund	At the meeting of 26 August 2025, it was agreed to instruct the Chief Officer – Housing to formally evaluate and report the impact of the Rent Assistance Fund every two years to the Communities, Housing and Public Protection Committee - August 2027		Jacqui McKenzie	Housing	Families & Communities	1.1.1	

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
	Report Title	Minute Reference/Committee Decision or Purpose of Report	Update	Report Author	Chief Officer	Director	Terms of Reference	Delayed or Recommended for removal or transfer, enter either D, R, or T	Explanation if delayed, removed or transferred
2	RAAC update	At the meeting on 26 August 2025, it was agreed to instruct the Chief Officer – Corporate Landlord to continue to engage with homeowners in relation to Voluntary Acquisition and to review this and report back to this Committee in early 2026 on whether this option should remain open into future financial years.		Stephen Booth	Corporate Landlord	Families & Communities	1.1.1		
38	Housing Revenue Account Business Plan	At the meeting on 11 November 2025, it was agreed that the HRA Business Plan and Housing Asset Plan should be updated and reported in future to this Committee on an annual basis with the update in 2026 moving to a 5 and 30 year model for both Plans.		Jonathan Belford	Finance	Customer Services	1.1.1		
40			Service Updates						
41	Family Support Model Implementation Plan	At the meeting on 21 November 2024, the Committee agreed to instruct the Executive Director Families and Communities to report back on progress within one calendar year and make any reports presented to the Education and Children's Services Committee available to members of Communities, Housing and Public Protection through a Service Update		Eleanor Sheppard	Families & Communities	Families & Communities			
42	RAAC	At the meeting on 11 March 2025, it was agreed that any changes to the indicative phases of demolition be shared with Elected Members via a Service Update and of course, with the affected communities		Scott Whitelaw	Capital	City Regeneration & Environment			
43	Annual Effectiveness Report	At the meeting on Council on 16 April 2025, it was agreed that Annual Effectiveness Report would now be a service update		Lynsey McBain	Governance	Corporate Services		R	This will be issued in January 2026.
44	Viability Assessment of Proposals from Owners of Properties with RAAC	At the meeting on 27 May 2025, it was agreed that the Chief Officer - Corporate Landlord would issue a Service Update to members with details on offers accepted from homeowners		Stephen Booth	Corporate Landlord	Families & Communities			
45	Busking Code of Conduct	A service update will be provided towards the end of 2026 to reflect on the impact of the measures and any developments.		Mark Wilson	Governance	Customer Services			

This page is intentionally left blank

---

<b>COMMITTEE</b>	Communities, Housing and Public Protection
<b>DATE</b>	13 January 2026
<b>EXEMPT</b>	No
<b>CONFIDENTIAL</b>	No
<b>REPORT TITLE</b>	Police Scotland Performance Report April - September 2025 (Appendix A)
<b>REPORT NUMBER</b>	POL/26/008
<b>DIRECTOR</b>	
<b>CHIEF OFFICER</b>	
<b>REPORT AUTHOR</b>	Chief Superintendent Kate Stephen, North East Division, Police Scotland
<b>TERMS OF REFERENCE</b>	2.20

---

## **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To present the Police Scotland Performance Report covering April – September 2025 for Committee scrutiny.

## **2. RECOMMENDATION(S)**

That the Committee:-

- 2.1 Discuss, comment on, and endorse the report.

## **3. CURRENT SITUATION**

- 3.1 The report, attached as **Appendix A** provides a detailed account of Police Performance in Aberdeen City in support of agreed priorities, both local and national for April - September 2025.
- 3.2 Much of the content of the report reflects on the collaborative methods in which Police Scotland operate across the city. The report demonstrates how communities can benefit when Community Planning Partners work within both the Local Outcome Improvement Plan and Locality Plans.
- 3.3 The report covers a wide range of police activity including corporate governance; recorded crime; detection rates; and operations. The report provides both 5 year and year on year comparisons to allow the Committee to evaluate trends in performance.

**4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

**5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

**6. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 There are no direct environmental implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

**7. RISK**

Category	Risks	Primary Controls/Control Actions to achieve Target Risk Level	*Target Risk Level (L, M or H) <small>*taking into account controls/control actions</small>	*Does Target Risk Level Match Appetite Set?
<b>Strategic Risk</b>	No significant risks			
<b>Compliance</b>	No significant risks			
<b>Operational</b>	No significant risks			
<b>Financial</b>	No significant risks			
<b>Reputational</b>	No significant risks			
<b>Environment / Climate</b>	No significant risks			

## **8. OUTCOMES**

<b><u>Aberdeen City Local Outcome Improvement Plan</u></b>	
Prosperous People Stretch Outcomes	Police Scotland are key partners within Community Planning Aberdeen and help contribute to the shared vision for 2026 that ' <i>Aberdeen is a place where all people can prosper</i> ' and towards the achievement of the LOIP theme which aims to make people more resilient and protect them from harm; where every child, irrespective of their circumstances, is supported to grow, develop and reach their full potential; and where all people in Aberdeen are entitled to live within our community in a manner in which they feel safe and protected from harm, supported when necessary and fully included in the life of the city.
Prosperous Place Stretch Outcomes	Police Scotland are key partners within Community Planning Aberdeen and help contribute to the shared vision for 2026 that ' <i>Aberdeen is a place where all people can prosper</i> ' and towards the achievement of the LOIP theme which aims to support individuals and communities to live in healthy, sustainable ways.

## **9. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS**

<b>Assessment</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
<b>Integrated Impact Assessment</b>	Not required
<b>Data Protection Impact Assessment</b>	Not required
<b>Other</b>	None

## **10. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

10.1 Not applicable

## **11. APPENDICES**

11.1 A - Police Scotland Performance Report April – September 2025

**OFFICIAL**

**12. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS**

<b>Name</b>	Kate Stephen
<b>Title</b>	Chief Superintendent, North East Division, Police Scotland
<b>Email Address</b>	
<b>Tel</b>	

**OFFICIAL**

# Performance against Local Policing Plan 2023-26



## North East Division Aberdeen City

April - September 2025

# Introduction by the Divisional Commander



I am delighted to present the latest Communities, Housing & Public Protection Committee report on behalf of North East Division. This report details performance in Aberdeen City aligned to the agreed priorities at local and national level for the period 1 April to 30 September 2025.

Policing is demanding and recent months have seen my Officers dealing with numerous challenging situations ranging from the apprehension of violent criminals to providing lifesaving first aid. This Committee can be assured that Aberdeen is served by committed Officers who work relentlessly every day to keep people safe.

Our commitment to protecting vulnerable people from risk of harm, remains resolute, and I am pleased to report that our performance in relation to the detection of crime perpetrated against women and girls remains strong. However, we all have an obligation to drive down a rise in this crime type and within North East Division, we are proud to be a key partner leading work committed to changing a societal culture where women and girls can feel safe from gender-based violence.

I have commented upon this previously, but the threat of online fraud remains prevalent as criminals move online to perpetrate crimes. Those new to the 'online world' are most at risk. Joint working protocols with the banking industry and media campaigns aim to alert people to the ever-growing risks and current trends. Similarly, with many gains having been made as we tackle crime, nationally, we have also seen criminals choosing to target retail premises. Here, within North East Division, we are excited to work alongside the Retail Task force, taking the opportunity to welcome them into our area, providing resource, expertise and support to help us combat this crime type, in turn, supporting our retailers. Planning is ongoing to provide retailers and members of the licencing trade with the tools to create safe environments for staff and customers, ahead of the increased footfalls we see during the festive periods.

There is no doubt that the blight of drugs continues to affect communities across Aberdeen City. However we remain committed to tackling it, evidenced in part through the increase in Drug Supply charges. Importantly, we also continue to work hard alongside partners to strengthen our communities using our award-winning Operation Protector model, supporting those with addiction to repel exploitation by Organised Crime Groups. Continued strong detection rates are a key indicator of our proactive approach and demonstrates the work of Officers in developing and acting on the intelligence they build, whilst also carrying out pro-active patrols and searches.

Our work within schools remains ongoing, providing young people with advice, guidance and information in relation to consequences, to divert them from a range of criminality including antisocial behaviour and the carrying of knives. Our work alongside partners to better understand issues within city schools has seen effective reporting and joint working to support young people and teachers. This ensures effective joint working to intervene and support young people away from any escalation in offending and the reduction in those using knives/offensive weapons indicates effectiveness in our approach.

In this reporting period, across Scotland, an increase in Anti-Illegal Migration protest activity has seen significant resource deployed. People have the right to peaceful and legitimate protest, and it is our role to facilitate this whilst ensuring that the communities impacted, can feel safe. We know that some who attend have engaged in criminal behaviour however, our robust approach has seen almost all of those perpetrating in hate crime, brought to justice.

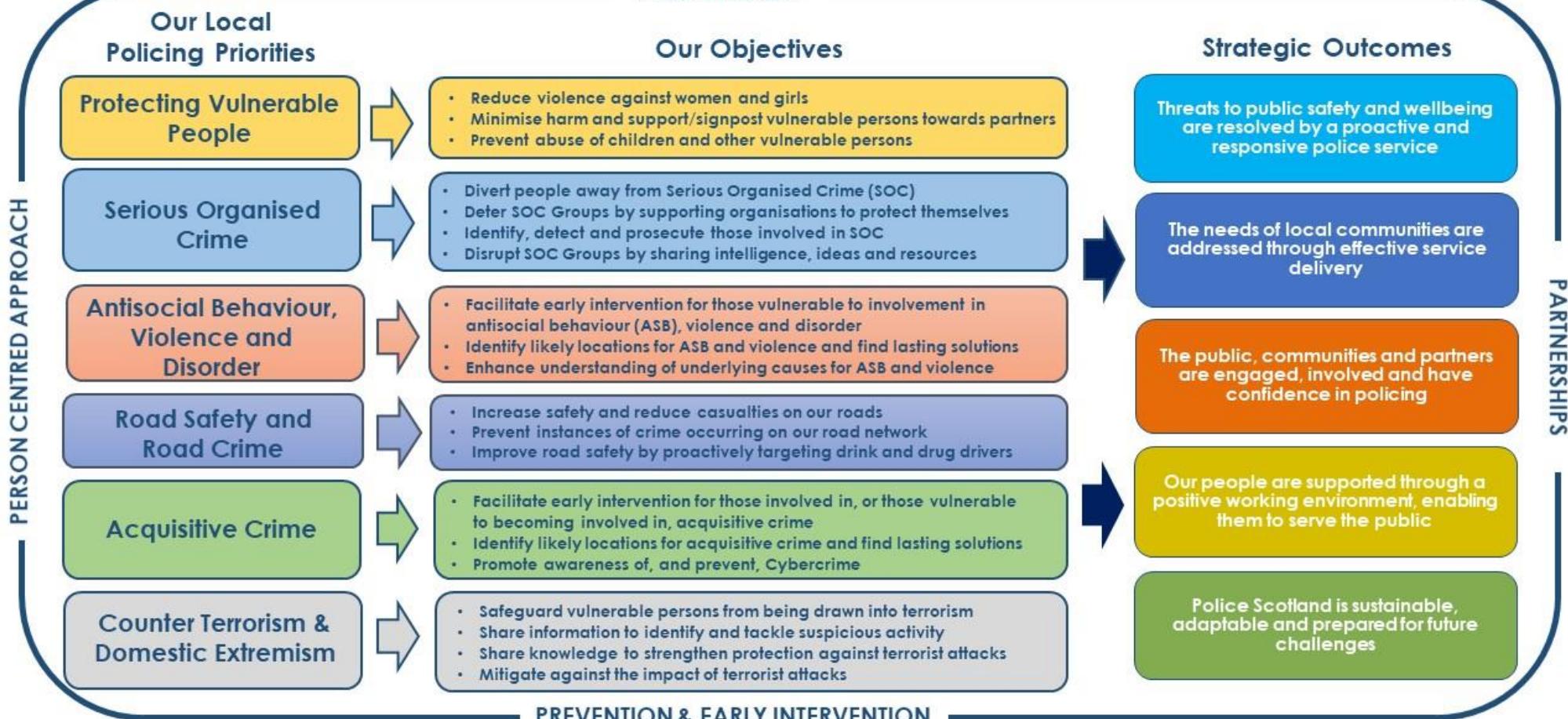
I am also extremely proud to highlight our performance in this reporting period which saw the Tall Ships 2025 race visit Aberdeen. As we know, the city has been celebrated by our citizens, those involved and the Sail Training International with all agreeing upon our tremendous success as a host city. Significantly for me, our robust and meticulously planned approach to keeping our communities safe allowed continued delivery of service across Aberdeen and no arrests attributed to the event. A huge well done to all of those involved, locally and nationally, even more so as we then delivered the operation covering the visit of the President of the United States of America to Aberdeenshire. It was essential that we continued to provide an effective service to Aberdeen and Police Scotland's ability to flex its resource nationally, allowed us to do that.

I wish to pay tribute to my teams, to the national teams supporting North East Division, and to our volunteers for their commitment. Finally, I wish to reiterate my thanks to all our partners and elected members for the support we receive. The level of joint-working within Aberdeen is excellent and contributes significantly to our ability to Keep People Safe.

**Kate Stephen**

Divisional Commander

North East Division

**PUBLIC HEALTH**

# Executive Summary



## Protecting Vulnerable People

We remain a key partner within the Aberdeen Violence Against Woman and Girls (VAWG) Partnership.

Our Strategy and Action Plan provides that, "Violence Against Women and Girls is recognised as both a cause and a consequence of gender inequality by the United Nations, World Health Organisation and Scottish Government. Aberdeen's Violence Against Women & Girls Partnership supports this definition and adopts the Scottish Government vision of a: *"Strong and flourishing Scotland where all individuals are equally safe and respected, and where women and girls live free from all forms of violence and abuse, as well as the attitudes that perpetuate it"*". We use Violence Against Women & Girls to refer to a range of actions that harm, or cause suffering and indignity to women and children. These include but are not limited to rape, attempted rape, domestic abuse, stalking, female genital mutilation, forced marriage, 'honour' killings and physical, sexual and psychological violence including coercive control and financial abuse. By adopting a gendered definition, the Partnership does not deny or minimise the use of violence against men or within same sex relationships. The gendered analysis is a reflection that women and girls are disproportionately affected by particular forms of violence that they experience because they are women and girls which has its roots in gender inequality. Whilst particular forms of violence, including domestic abuse, are disproportionately experienced by women, men also experience domestic abuse and are entitled to support in the same way that women are. Police Scotland and the Aberdeen VAWG Partnership condemns all forms of violence and abuse and also recognises the critical role men play in challenging violence and inequality".

Tackling Domestic Abuse continues to be a key focus for Police Scotland as we embark upon our 16 days of Activism against Gender Based Violence in November and December 2025. This will include both enforcement activity dealing robustly with those who perpetrate Domestic Abuse with awareness raising and encouraging those who have been impacted by such abuse to have confidence in reporting matters to the Police. Our work in the prevention space continues through strong multi-agency partnerships used to target the behaviour of offenders and safeguard victims and their families through the Disclosure Scheme for Domestic Abuse Scotland (DSDAS); Multi-Agency Tasking & Coordinating (MATAC) and Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) forums; all of which are areas of growth.

Police Scotland are a key partner in the delivery of the Bairns' Hoose in Aberdeen which offers holistic and child centred support to those who have been victims of or witness to abuse, and to children under the age of criminal responsibility whose behaviour has caused harm. We are delighted that the Bairns' Hoose in the city has now opened. It is delivering the first phase where children are interviewed by specialist Officers and social workers who have undergone extensive training in trauma informed practice using the Scottish Child Interview Model (SCIM), with Inter-Agency Referral Discussions (IRD's) as the mechanism where we make proportionate and justifiable decisions in the best interests of children.

Tackling hate crime remains a priority and we understand the profound impact it can have on both victims and the wider community. This is demonstrated through our robust approach to investigating and detecting reported crime and the collaborative approach taken with partners to educate, prevent crime and reassure communities.

We recognise the community harms caused by those with mental health or substance misuse issues. The prevalence of these harms in society inevitably results in vulnerable individuals coming into contact with the Police. We maintain strong partnerships across Aberdeen, taking a person-centred and trauma informed approach, aiming to create a pathway where individuals can receive appropriate and timely care by the most relevant professional.

## **Serious Organised Crime**

North East Division continues to produce high levels of performance across the 4D strategy (Disrupt, Detect, Deter, Divert) to tackle Serious Organised Crime (SOC) in this most recent reporting period. Utilising the '4D' method, we continue to ensure those vulnerable to becoming susceptible to drugs and the associated harm are provided with support, engagement and directed to the relevant partners under our Deter and Divert strands. Under the Disrupt and Detect strands we aim to ensure, via disruptive tactics, and all investigative capabilities that those within our area and those travelling to this area for the purpose of dealing controlled drugs are met with as hostile an environment as possible

Drug supply detections continue to increase on the previous year, by over 20%, and the 5 Year Average, by over 55%. This demonstrates our focused effort to disrupt the facilitators and heads of Organised Crime Groups (OCG's) and County Lines who profit most from the supply of controlled drugs.

Detections and investigation into large scale cannabis cultivation also increased significantly against the previous year and 5 Year Average. These cultivations are set up and utilised by SOC groups and the disruption and dismantling of them ensure disruption of cashflow and the supply of controlled drugs by these groups. In this reporting period, controlled drugs with a value of over £3,000,000 have been recovered.

## **Antisocial Behaviour, Violence and Disorder**

Our performance in terms of antisocial behaviour (ASB) is comparable to that of the previous year and a significant reduction across the 5 Year Average. Positively, we have seen a substantial reduction in antisocial offences such as urinating which on its own is a low-level crime, but the associated antisocial behaviour that comes with it impacts on our communities feeling safe in the city centre. We recognise that ASB is multi-faceted and often associated with other criminality. Continued work with our partners is key to tackling the issues upstream by looking at wider societal issues and causation factors. This is why our Local Policing Plan is supported by a clear strategy that prioritises this approach.

Operation Galaxite is an ongoing operation to reduce ASB predominantly in the City Centre and is led by our Community Action Team. Enforcement, engagement and diversion strategies are well versed and continue to develop through our partnerships.

Operation Armour is a yearly operation which is run across Aberdeen City to tackle ASB in response to the increasingly challenging use of e-bikes affecting all our communities. The operation was a success, and more details are provided in the main section of this report.

In addition, the Community Action Team ran a joint operation with our Roads Policing Division and Home Office Immigration Enforcement partners to tackle unlawful employment and the use of unregistered, high powered delivery bikes operating in the City. As a result, a number of modified bikes were seized and offences identified and reported appropriately. This is part of our ongoing work to keep communities safe and ensure road users operate legally and responsibly, reducing ASB.

Unfortunately, our recorded crime in terms of Group 1 crimes have seen an increase this last quarter with regards to Serious Violence incidents of Attempted Murder and Robbery. However, despite the

increase of incidents, we remain comparable in terms of detection rates and continue to support the victims of these incidents which are often traumatic.

We are committed to reducing serious violence and protecting people from harm. Underpinned by governance through our Violence Prevention Board and delivered by our Community Policing Teams, Community Investigation Unit and specialist resources, our robust enforcement and multi-agency strategies are being applied and continue to deliver on our objectives.

We understand that violence of any nature is important to our communities and Common Assaults although less serious, can occur more frequently and be damaging to a sense of safety in the city. For that reason, our approach to Common Assault investigation has been robust and is comparable to last year and the 5 Year Average.

The Community Safety Partnership remains key in the fight against violence and has helped lead our multi-agency approach against city centre violence and ASB helping to inform, direct and draw in support against the issues affecting those living, working or socialising in the city centre.

### **Road Safety and Road Crime**

We continue to collaborate with our partners across Aberdeen and North East Division, dedicated to road safety and reducing road casualties. With our focus throughout the year aligned with the 'Fatal Five' Campaign, we continue to target key offences identified as contributory factors associated with fatal and serious injury collisions.

Our Community Policing Teams and colleagues from Roads Policing and the Camera Safety unit have maintained a visible presence on the road network across the city supported by delivery of targeted campaigns and initiatives throughout the year.

### **Acquisitive Crime**

Overall crimes of dishonesty have shown an increase over quarter 1 and 2 on the previous year with increases observed in certain Motor vehicle offences, Shoplifting and Fraud. There has been a decrease in Housebreakings except non-Domestic Housebreakings with 5 more recorded and investigated against the previous year. There have been notable improvements in other areas of Group 3 crime over the reporting period. Motor vehicle crime specifically Theft of and from a Motor vehicle have seen notable reductions of over 20% and 30% respectively.

The formation and implementation of the Retail Crime Task force within Police Scotland is a dedicated response to the rising threat of theft, abuse, and violence faced by retailers. Officially launched in April 2025, the taskforce is backed by a £3 million commitment from the Scottish Government to empower us to protect retailers and their employees across the country. The 4P's approach will be the strategy implemented - Prevent, Pursue, Protect and Prepare.

We continue to work with partners across a broad spectrum of initiatives, programmes, engagements and strategies to protect the residents of Aberdeen from becoming victim of acquisitive crime.

### **Counter Terrorism & Domestic Extremism**

We aim to reduce the risk of terrorism so people can go about their lives freely and with confidence by focusing on the local delivery of the CONTEST strategy using four key objectives: PROTECT, PREPARE, PURSUE and PREVENT. Partners in Aberdeen continue to contribute to the local CONTEST delivery plan and significant work continues to take place to ensure the area is protected against the threat of terrorism.

**OFFICIAL**

Following the recent terrorist attack at a Synagogue in Manchester, we continue to work with and provide reassurance patrols to religious communities from all denominations, to ensure they are safe.

# Protecting Vulnerable People



## Objective: Work with statutory and third sector partners to reduce violence against women and girls

North East Division continues to support the Aberdeen City Violence Against Women Partnership (VAWG), delivering and supporting key activities in furtherance of the Partnership's delivery plan.

We note an increase in recorded domestic abuse and hope the increase in reporting indicates increased incidence in victims coming forward. The practical application of the Domestic Abuse Scotland Act 2018 is allowing for additional offences to be recorded aligned to courses of conduct and controlling behaviour, with our detection rate remaining positive.

Police Scotland continue to lead on the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) process on behalf of all partners, ensuring those victims at high risk of harm and any children are subject of robust multi-agency safety planning, with their needs at the heart of everything we do. Work is ongoing to ensure the meetings and steering groups have sufficient agency representation which ensures victims are fully represented and their voice is heard and understood within that forum.

Supported by partners, we also continue to proactively target high risk domestic abuse perpetrators through our Multi-Agency Tasking & Coordinating (MATAC) process. The key aims of MATAC include the identification of individuals who present the greatest risk, proactive enforcement/active targeting of offenders, and the sharing of information for intelligence development, prevention, or enforcement as appropriate.

## Case Study

Using the MATAC principles, the Domestic Abuse Task Force recently secured the conviction of a male who was identified as a high priority offender through ingrained assessment and review structures. He was subject to a proactive investigation and through engagement with identified former partners, numerous serious domestic abuse and sexual offences were discovered, leading to him being found guilty at Aberdeen High Court and sentenced to 14 years in prison.

The demand in relation to the Disclosure Scheme for Domestic Abuse Scotland (DSDAS) continues to rise as awareness raising efforts by Police and partners continues. This scheme offers anyone with concerns; whether for their own safety or the safety of another; regarding an individual's history of Domestic Abuse to make an application for relevant information to be disclosed. Each case is assessed individually and where appropriate disclosures are made to pro-actively mitigate the risk an individual poses, allowing people to make their own informed decisions around whether to remain in a relationship.

Enforcement activity against perpetrators of Domestic Abuse is a priority for which we have strong local governance, and we set high standards around the case management of these investigations, ensuring scrutiny at all levels, including the Senior Leadership Team on a daily basis. We will also engage in a

media campaign reinforcing our zero-tolerance stance on this issue. We focus heavily on victim safety planning and routinely implement Perpetrator Management Plans to ensure that each and every opportunity is taken to disrupt Domestic Abuse perpetrators who pose a high risk of harm.

Information sharing with our partners is a key function within Police Scotland. We continually ensure our processes are fit for purpose, ensuring that people are safeguarded through the sharing of information with key partners in the public and third sector.

**Objective: Drive the development of multi-agency agendas to minimise harm and support / signpost those we identify as vulnerable towards partners**

A key priority of Police Scotland is in ensuring we help victims to access the support they need from the agency best equipped to deliver that. Where there is the potential that an adult is deemed to be at risk of harm, the Adult Inter Agency Referral process will ensure that an assessment of risk is undertaken on a multi-agency basis to ensure the correct support can then be provided based on individual need.

Working in collaboration with partners, our knowledge and response to Adult Support & Protection matters continues to develop and improve. We continue to support the Aberdeen Adult Protection Committee (APC) and its varying sub-groups, effectively delivering positive outcomes through multi-agency improvement activity.

Our commitment to our work in relation to Learning Reviews remains a key focus in the North East with a Detective Chief Inspector leading on this workstream, supported by Detective Inspectors from within the Public Protection department. This crucial work ensures that learning from cases is extracted on a multi-agency basis and helps to inform our improvement plans for the future.

We continue to drive and support positive change through our chairing and representation at the Grampian Wide Adult Protection Group with specialist Officers, through effective collaboration, devising multi-agency information sharing guidance and a financial harm strategy.

We utilise our data to help us to identify those at risk of harm through monitoring repeat calls, intelligence and concern report submissions. Our Concern Hub staff carry out escalation reviews for such individuals ensuring their needs are highlighted appropriately to partners. Our staff are ever vigilant for signs of persons being coercively controlled; financially exploited or exploited in the digital world, even if a call does not initially relate to that. Our strong relationships with partners and excellent information sharing processes ensure that emerging concerns are recognised and disseminated appropriately. Frontline Officers are trained to provide immediate safeguarding advice tailored to the individual's needs.

We are working alongside key partners in Education and Rape Crisis to raise awareness of Peer-on-Peer sexual offending between children under 18 years old. Joint inputs will be provided to Dyce Academy as a pilot location in the coming months with the focus being on children taking responsibility for their own actions, recognising and challenging unacceptable behaviours and knowing what to do and who to turn to should they experience abuse. We will look to roll this out further across the city after the pilot review.

Aberdeen is home to a number of asylum seekers and refugees, where a number of individuals and families are placed within hotel and residential accommodation. A well-developed partnership is in place to support the integration of individuals housed in the area, taking a holistic approach to both individual and community need. The support of local communities has been fundamental to this, working with the Police, Mears and other statutory partners.

We know that Hate Crime continues to impact individuals and communities, particularly those most vulnerable in society. It is positive to see a decrease in reported Hate Crime across the reporting period, but we understand that communities continue to view it as a concern.

We work with a range of partners to ensure Hate Crime is well understood and that victims feel empowered to report it, either directly or via third-party reporting centres, with the confidence that perpetrators will be robustly dealt with. Our Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Officers regularly attend community groups and events to engage with and listen to individuals from minority communities.

Across the reporting period, we have seen a rise nationally in anti-immigration protests and Aberdeen has not been immune to this trend, sometimes seeing protests occurring on a weekly basis. We understand and promote the fundamental right to peaceful protest; however, Hate Crime is not legitimate protest, and we will swiftly and robustly deal with those committing these offences. Specially trained Hate Crime Advisors are deployed to such protests to provide commanders with guidance around potential criminality.

Reducing the harms associated with substance misuse remains a key priority across the Aberdeen area and this has been of increasing relevance with a nationwide drug alert being in place since the start of 2025. We remain part of a strong local partnership, allowing information to be shared between professionals in an effort to identify harms at an early stage. We are also active in forums across the North-East area and on a national basis, enabling wider trends to be considered and best practice to be shared.

Operational harm reduction activity is coordinated through an officer seconded to the Alcohol and Drug Partnership as the Assertive Outreach Coordinator, enabling multidisciplinary teams to proactively assist both individuals and communities at the greatest risk of harm and to provide harm reduction advice and support.

As detailed in the recently presented mental health thematic report, mental health calls continue to create demand on policing resources, and we aim to respond in a manner where those in crisis get the correct response from those best able to provide the required help and assistance, enabling a trauma informed approach and improved outcomes for vulnerable individuals.

National work is driven by Police Scotland's Mental Health Taskforce and, where there is no immediate risk, mechanisms are in place to refer individuals to the NHS Mental Health Hub at the point of first contact. Where risk is identified and a Police response is required, our aim is to provide Officers with a number of options to ensure that individuals in crisis are referred to the most appropriate agency as soon as possible.

Direct Police access to the NHS Flow Navigation Centre has been in place since December 2024 and allows Officers to have an early discussion with a clinician whilst at the scene of a mental health related call where an individual is in significant crisis. This facilitates early and informed decision making, accelerating access to care settings where required and preventing unnecessary travel to hospital where that is not an appropriate resolution. Officers have used this on 165 occasions during the reporting period, with streamlined decision-making leading to a significant reduction in Officer hours spent dealing with such incidents.

We continue to work closely with Penumbra 365 to assist those in mental health distress or crisis which does not require an immediate medical intervention or admission. Contact can be initiated from Officers at the scene of an incident via telephone or persons can be conveyed with their consent to Penumbra's premises in Aberdeen to receive support from a network of practitioners and outside agencies. 22

persons have been referred to this service during the reporting period; however a collaborative effort is currently being made to increase this.

We have also continued to increase the number of Officers trained to deliver Distress Brief Interventions, where Officers can refer individuals to Penumbra 365 for a 14-day supportive intervention for mental health distress where there is no immediate risk. The aim of this is to provide support prior to a more acute stage of mental health crisis, where the risk to the individual may be greater. 69 referrals were made during the reporting period.

### **Objective: Raise awareness of and prevent abuse of children and other vulnerable persons, ensuring a victim centred approach**

Police in Aberdeen City remain committed to preventing the abuse and exploitation of children through the early identification of risk; robust safeguarding measures and strong partnership working. Officers trained to recognise indicators of harm such as neglect; online exploitation or physical harm act swiftly alongside partners to protect the child. A victim centred approach underpins all our contact with children and young people ensuring their voice; wellbeing and safety are central to decisions made at every stage.

The work of our child interview teams (SCIM) and our IRD process continues to deliver a high standard of service to children in Aberdeen ensuring they receive a trauma informed service aligned to their individual needs. Officers have an opportunity to build trust with children and their families and to make the process as comfortable as possible for them.

The Aberdeen City Bairns Hoose has been operational since August 2025 in which time there has been a tangible shift away from Joint Investigative Interviews (JII) being conducted in educational establishments to the Bairns Hoose, providing children with a choice of where to be interviewed, and more importantly a trauma informed environment to have their testimony captured. At the time of submission, over 60 JIIs have taken place within the Bairns Hoose, equating to approximately 70% of all JIIs in Aberdeen City. Prior to Bairns Hoose opening, approximately 70 % of all JIIs (April 2024 to March 2025) in Aberdeen City took place within educational establishments. Our SCIM team, who are now based in the Bairns Hoose, are working daily in collaboration with Speech and Language Therapy (NHS Grampian) and Children First, both also based in the Bairns Hoose. As part of a 'test of change' Speech and Language Therapy are supporting the planning of JIIs to ensure those children with additional needs/disabilities voices are heard. Feedback from children and their families continues to play a pivotal role in how the Bairns Hoose is developed. The following quotes were captured by Children First from children/families they are currently providing recovery support to.

Feedback from parent of children who have experienced both JII and recovery support at Bairns Hoose:

*"It feels comfortable here, the kids love coming, they didn't want to leave at the end of their interview, they wanted to stay and play in the Bairns Hoose. They are happy coming back for support, they trust the adults that they have met at the Bairns Hoose."*

Feedback from a teenager who experienced a JII prior to the Bairns Hoose having opened and is now a member of the Changemakers Group and is influencing the design and development of our building and how we support children going forward:

*"Having an interview happen at the Bairns Hoose is so much better for children. I had my interview at school in a tiny room with a busy corridor with people moving about and going past while I was talking. It didn't feel private, and we had to sit close together to all be able to fit in the room with the camera fitting in too. Having the cameras in the roof in the interview rooms is so much better. Children will be*

*able to relax and forget that the camera is there while they talk. I felt like the camera was pointing at me because I had done something wrong, and like even though I knew I wasn't really, it felt a bit like I might be getting arrested. The Bairns Hoose feels calm, safe, and friendly for children."*

Feedback from parent supporting a teenager to attend JII:

*"It feels comfortable, calm, and private. It is good to be able to be just next door to the room where she is talking to the police. I am right here if she needs me."*

Police Scotland are working closely with our partners within COPFS and SCRA by ensuring they have the full SCIM package at an early stage in proceedings. Our visually recorded interviews of a child's testimony reduce the chance of them having to appear in court thereby reducing exposure to further trauma.

We remain committed to the Learning Review work in respect of children also, and in line with the service for adult cases; a Detective Chief Inspector leads on this work, alongside partner agencies. This ensures we can continue to identify areas for development and areas of good practice and take this forward into our strategies and delivery plans.

We continue to be supported by colleagues in the National Child Abuse Investigation Unit who hold responsibility for much of the work connected to child abuse and exploitation online. They carry out enforcement in relation to those who have committed offences such as downloading indecent images of children; ensuring perpetrators are brought to justice and appropriate safeguarding measures implemented.

## Case Study

Through close collaboration between police, social work and a third sector agency, a young female was supported to overcome her fears and engage with the police to provide her account as the victim of a serious sexual offence. The combined approach of emotional support, trust building and consistent encouragement enabled her to feel safe and confident in sharing her experience. Without the support of these agencies this crucial evidence may have never been captured, highlighting the vital role of multi-agency support in ensuring that vulnerable individuals are able to participate in the justice process.

# Serious Organised Crime



**Objective: DETER** - Support private, public and third sector organisations to protect themselves and each other. Understand the drivers and emerging risks in respect of Serious Organised Crime and encourage a multi-agency approach to protect those vulnerable in our communities

**Objective: DIVERT** - Build an effective pan-Grampian partnership, with a view to diverting people away from involvement in Serious Organised Crime, making Aberdeen City a hostile environment for those who seek to exploit our communities

The Interventions team under the direction of the Serious Organised Crime (SOC) Divisional operational lead ensure that proportionate and effective support is provided to those most at risk in regard to SOC and the associated vulnerabilities, inclusive of substance dependency, cuckooing, exploitation and child criminal exploitation. During the reporting period over 60 visits were completed to individuals within these criteria, over 10 of whom were assisted with property moves to reduce their risk of exploitation and criminality. A number of referrals were provided to individuals with partner agencies to provide support.

The Divert and Deter strands of the 4D's aims to support and divert those vulnerable individuals ensuring they have the relevant skills and support networks in place to alleviate their difficulties and protect against becoming further victims of SOC.

## Case Study

In August 2025, the occupant of an address in the north of the city contacted Police to advise she was being cuckooed by an OCG. Officers attended and traced a nominal from a London based OCG within. He was found in possession of quantities of 'Crack' Cocaine and Heroin, and quantities of cash and was held to appear at court the next day. The occupant was subsequently safeguarded, provided relevant referrals to support agencies and our colleagues in Partnerships and Interventions continued to support the occupant through engagement and access to the wider support network.

Operation Clarinet was an operation generated in relation to the supply of drugs throughout North East division, specifically Heroin, Cocaine and tablets containing Nitizenes and Fentanyl, which increase the strength of these drugs and risk to drug users. Drugs seized throughout the operation confirmed the presence of Nitizenes in the area. In conjunction with partner agencies, Partnerships and Interventions colleagues immediately utilised a variety of tactics to raise awareness to service users and support agencies to reduce fatalities and non-fatal overdoses.

During the enforcement phase, drug search warrants were executed throughout areas of Aberdeen which had been experiencing an increase in drugs deaths and non-fatal overdoses. Quantities of Diamorphine (Heroin) and Cocaine (including Crack Cocaine) were seized allowing quick time analysis and identified engagement in areas where intelligence and the analysis indicated controlled drugs with Nitazenes and other adulterants present. Over 19,000 tablets were seized inclusive of Zopiclone, Diazepam, Pregabalin, Alprazolam and Dihydrocodeine. Taking cognisance of poly drug use and the impact the consumption of tablets also had on drug deaths and non-fatal overdoses this short, targeted operation saw 16 people charged regarding the supply of controlled drugs. This included individuals from England involved in County Lines, one of whom, as a result of his apprehension was returned to prison on recall for a period of over 10 years. Throughout the operation a significant number of individuals were referred to our Partnerships and Interventions team, whom in turn have referred them to support agencies.

When measured against the initial increase and national picture the operation saw a decrease in deaths and non-fatal overdoses with significant disruption to drug dealing lines. There was also an increased intelligence picture which was shared nationally in regard to the effect and prevalence of Nitazenes within certain drug markets and the associated risk.

## Case Study

In September 2025, Interventions and Partnership Officers attended an address in the Seaton area of Aberdeen following intelligence that a Liverpudlian dealing syndicate had cuckooed the occupant. On attending, individuals who had recently purchased controlled drugs from the locus were detained and items were thrown from an identified address. Entry was gained and the occupants secured. A Liverpudlian nominal along with a nominal from Aberdeenshire were identified as those responsible and arrested and charged to appear from custody. Various quantities of 'Crack' Cocaine, Diamorphine, Cannabis as well as cash and dealing handsets were recovered. The occupants were safeguarded and a further safety plan implemented.

**Objective: DETECT - Work collaboratively with others to provide a coordinated response to identify, detect and prosecute those involved in serious organised crime**

**Objective: DISRUPT - Deliver a collaborative multi-agency response to disrupt Organised Crime Groups by sharing intelligence, ideas and resources**

Pro-active Policing, enforcement and disruption to OCG's by our local Policing teams, Pro-active and OCG teams along with national resources took place across Aberdeen in the reporting period.

As indicated in the Executive Summary Drug supply charges have increased by over 20% comparative to the previous year and over 50% compared to the 5 Year Average.

During the reporting period over seventy drug search warrants were executed, with a significant volume of controlled drugs located and seized. The various drugs seized have an estimated 'street' value in current quantity and thereafter if sold in their intended dealing quantities this number rises significantly. The subsequent values detailed are based on projected 'deal' quantities: over £600,000 of Cocaine, over £700,000 of Heroin, over £1,000,000 of Cannabis and over 3500 Cannabis plants

with the potential 'street sale' value of anywhere between £750,000 and nearly £3,000,000. These are only a select few of a wide variety of substances seized during the reporting period.

As is clear in the pro-active increase in drug detection and the continued enforcement we remain committed to successful outcomes as we tackle those creating the greatest harms, whilst supporting our communities to be resilient in the fight against SOC.

The case studies below are examples of our numerous and varied enforcement successes and approaches utilised to dismantle SOC.

## **Case Study**

In June 2025, whilst engaged in unrelated enquiries the Aberdeen Proactive team observed a nominal from Manchester, who was seen meeting individuals on Crown Street, Aberdeen, and apparently dealing controlled drugs. He was thereafter approached by Officers, made off on foot and apprehended shortly thereafter. At this time, he was found in possession of a 'dealing' telephone, wraps of Crack Cocaine and keys to a nearby guest house. Enquiries at that address led Officers to trace another Manchester based nominal along with significant quantities of controlled drugs and money on open display. Both were arrested and COPFS were consulted resulting in a drugs search warrant for the address. In total over 400g of Crack Cocaine, 400g of Heroin and over £4000 in cash were recovered. Both were charged and held to appear at Aberdeen Sheriff Court.

## **Case Study**

In late August 2025, OCG Officers discovered a significant cannabis cultivation at a premises on Dee Street, Aberdeen whereby in excess of 1000 Cannabis plants valued over £1,000,000 were recovered. 4 males were apprehended and held for court. Further enquiry identified a further large-scale cultivation on Union Street, Aberdeen further linked to one of the males. In excess of 500 plants were recovered with a 'street' value in excess of £400,000. A further 3 males were apprehended in relation to the cultivation on Union Street and held for court. Health and Safety attended at both cultivations due to concerns over the structural integrity and Officer safety concerns during dismantling. Following evidential capture of the relevant productions, Building Control were contacted and subsequently provided relevant documentation to the owners of the properties to ensure they follow compliance for safely clearing the properties.

## Case Study

In September 2025, two males, later established to be Bulgarian and Albanian nationals were observed in suspicious circumstances near an address on Roslin Street, Aberdeen. A short time later, they were stopped in the company of a further Bulgarian male. After a short foot pursuit one of the males was apprehended with over 30 wraps of Cocaine. The others were searched with relevant legislation and found in possession of over £600 in cash. Intelligence linked them to a nearby address which was secured with a significant quantity of controlled drugs on open display within. Warrants were craved and over 200g of Cocaine, over 20 kilos of Herbal Cannabis and drug dealing paraphernalia were seized. They were held to appear at court the next day.

# Antisocial Behaviour, Violence and Disorder



## **Objective: Reduce antisocial behaviour, violence and disorder by working with partners to facilitate early interventions for those involved in, or those vulnerable to becoming involved in, such behaviours**

Antisocial Behaviour (ASB) remains a key priority and as such, partnership working is essential to tackling the root causes of such behaviour. Our established relationships through Aberdeen's Community Safety Partnership are a collaborative approach to identify emerging issues, understand the causation factors and undertake problem solving to implement joint sustainable solutions.

Our Youth Engagement Officers are now well established and work closely with colleagues in Education and Social Work, as well as within the third sector, to recognise, understand and intervene at an early stage in those issues which cause harm to both our young people and those in the community. Focused work has been carried out across the city with those recognised as disengaging with education to reintegrate them back into school and divert them away from engaging in ASB.

We know that Aberdeen's city centre is a welcoming and attractive place for young people to socialise in a positive way. An antisocial element can exist, and it is vital we take a multiagency approach. Operation Galaxite is responding to this progressively and offers activities where there is a means to engage and divert young people away from ASB.

Our Community Action Team are working alongside our newly appointed Local Authority Youth Workers to establish relationships and identify achievable outcomes to divert young people into positive destinations.

## **Focal Point**

### **Operation Armour**

During the month of May 2025, the Community Action Team deployed across Aberdeen City in response to the challenges faced around the use of e-bikes and associated ASB. Working with partners and national colleagues we made a significant impact, not only in terms of ASB, but also road safety and drug supply with numerous vehicles seized, cash and drugs recovered, and a significant number of individuals reported to the Procurator Fiscal and signposted to support services and interventions.

Our Children and Young Persons team work closely with partners in Education, Social Work and the third sector, to recognise those young people at greatest risk of coming into conflict with the law and to provide targeted interventions to prevent further harm.

We continue to work collaboratively with the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service to deliver the 'Fire Skills' programme alongside preventative inputs in schools.

Understanding the impact which weapons can have, particularly on young people, we have worked in partnership with schools across the city and No Knives Better Lives to deliver presentations on knife crime and the harm it can cause.

Where weapons incidents do occur, we engage with the well-established multiagency risk management process which aims to safeguard the young people involved.

**Objective: With partners, identify locations where antisocial behaviour and violence is most likely to occur and work with communities and other agencies to find lasting solutions and enhance community safety**

ASB remains a key priority and much of our work in this area is done in collaboration with partners via the Community Safety Partnership. Reports of ASB are discussed daily at the Community Safety Hub meetings, with the data being used to identify longer term trends, allowing us to undertake collaborative problem solving with partners and communities.

Our Youth Engagement Officers continue to deploy at schools across the City to address ASB at lunchtimes. By undertaking high visibility patrols in key areas, clear boundaries around acceptable behaviour have been set to encourage positive choices, whilst reassuring the wider community, including local businesses, that their concerns have been addressed.

Through our relationships with the Community Learning and Development Team, we identify the areas where ASB is causing the most harm and ensure youth services are directed into these areas, targeting the correct individuals and groups to ensure activity provides the best possible opportunity for diversion.

Community feedback tells us a visible policing presence in the city centre is wanted, namely, at St Nicholas Street, Union Street and Market Street. We have enhanced our city centre resourcing, understanding that enforcement also plays a key part in the reduction of ASB and Violence. This has afforded a reduction in our antisocial offences across the five-year average.

This work is being highlighted under the banner of, 'Operation Galaxite'. Enforcement activity has seen a positive response from city centre businesses and residents. Work is ongoing with regards to the ASB caused by 'street drinking'. As well as enforcement activity, we are working collaboratively with partners to identify solutions for getting upstream and signposting to addiction support services.

Just beyond this reporting period but a joint initiative alongside SFRS was conducted in October 2025 whereby Breakfast Clubs were held at their premises in Anderson Drive, Aberdeen where Community Policing Officers attended in support. A great opportunity for positive engagement at an early juncture with people of all ages to inform them of the impact ASB can have on our communities.

**Objective: Working with partners, we will enhance our understanding of the underlying causes of antisocial behaviour and violence and develop public health approaches to prevent these harms**

Aberdeen's night time economy sees thousands of people enjoy the city centre each weekend. Long established links with Aberdeen City Council's Licensing Team, and strong engagement with licensed premises helps drive standards, maximising safety and minimising risk to the public. Our Weekend Policing Plans remain robust and regularly reviewed to ensure we have a visible presence in the right places. The Street Pastors continue to play an integral part in supporting those who are or may become vulnerable in the city centre every weekend. This essential service maximises our Officers deploy ability to other Police matters.

We continue to take a forward-looking joint approach, alongside the Aberdeen City Council Licensing Team, to drive high standards within licensed premises and during events, promoting a safe environment for people wishing to socialise in the city. By working with premises, organisers and organisations such as the Street Pastors, measures are put in place to ensure that vulnerability is recognised and addressed, and attendees and the wider community feel safe. A key outcome of this preparatory work is also reduced demand for frontline services, recognising the impact that violence and vulnerability can have on the city.

Street based approaches are taking place in our 'Hot Spot' areas which has seen partners, including Third Sector and health, offering support to those who may benefit such as addiction related support, and support towards accommodation. These approaches are necessary in the city centre where we know that communities and businesses are impacted by people consuming alcohol and the resultant ASB. We know that during this reporting period, levels of ASB were comparable to the previous year but are confident the foundations and partnerships we have in place will support the area.

In collaboration with schools across the city, the Children and Young Persons team, have delivered various inputs to professionals, parents and carers on topical youth issues including exploitation and consent. This has provided valuable knowledge on such areas, allowing early intervention and understanding of the risks facing young people.

# Road Safety and Road Crime



**Objective: With partners in Road Safety North East Scotland (RSNES) increase safety and reduce casualties on our roads**

**Objective: Prevent instances of crime occurring on our road network**

**Objective: Improve road safety by proactively targeting drink and drug drivers**

## **Motorcycle Safety Campaign - 21 March to 26 September**

This campaign, running throughout the peak spring/summer riding period, promoted safe and responsible riding and driving across Scotland's roads. Road Policing and National Motorcycle Unit Officers carried out dedicated patrol activity on popular biker routes, and routes with a history of serious injury and fatal collisions involving riders.

The campaign saw a strong focus on the contribution all road users can make to reducing rider casualties. Several Weekends of Action, targeting popular bank holiday riding dates, were included, plus a Fortnight of Action that ran from the 2<sup>nd</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> of June to coincide with the UK-wide 2Wheels initiative co-ordinated by the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC).

## **NPCC Operation Spotlight - 1 to 31 July, incorporating the Summer Drink Drug Drive Campaign**



This campaign aligned with an NPCC UK-wide initiative running throughout July, intended to educate and protect drivers against the Fatal 5 risk taking driving behaviours of drink & drug driving, speeding, using a handheld mobile phone, careless driving and not wearing a seatbelt. Each of these behaviours increase the likelihood of a collision and often its severity / survivability. This was the first occasion Police Scotland has participated throughout the entire duration of this NPCC initiative.

Operation Spotlight led off with the Summer Drink & Drug Drive Campaign. Running over the first fortnight, it provided a strong focus on drink/drug driving which represents a significant challenge to safety on Scotland's roads as illustrated in the increase in offences against the 1- and 5-year comparisons. The campaign highlighted the growing road safety threat from drug drivers. Social media was utilised to improve road user engagement, drawing on public-facing campaign material from key partner Road Safety Scotland.

To further enhance our capability around the detection of impairment through drug driving, a pilot scheme has commenced, initially in other parts of the country, that involves the use of roadside drug wipes to analyse samples which detect the presence of controlled drugs in the system.

## **Young Drivers Fatal 5 Campaign - 22 September to 5 October**

This campaign aligned with an NPCC UK-wide campaign over these dates, intended to educate and protect young drivers (defined as the under 25s) against the Fatal 5 adverse driving behaviours. During the course of the campaign, Officers detected a number of offences among young drivers.

### **Focal Point**

#### **Operation Armour**

Under Operation Armour during the summer period, a dedicated unit of Officers were deployed to deal with anti-social riding by youths on E-Motorbikes in public areas across the City. Not only can these machines be a danger to pedestrians and other road users, but they also present a significant risk to the rider, many of whom do not adorn appropriate safety clothing and helmets. With the support of Officers from the Road Policing Department and Detectives from the Proactive CID, intelligence was developed to identify riders and where machines were being stored. Officers obtained and executed warrants resulting in the seizure of some **14** E-Motorbikes with a number of offenders charged with road traffic offences.

# Acquisitive Crime



**Objective: Reduce acquisitive crime, by working with partners to facilitate interventions for those involved in, or those vulnerable to becoming involved in, acquisitive crime**

Acquisitive crime is a high-volume matter accounting for a substantial number of all crimes reported in Scotland, often targeting the most vulnerable in society. As stated in the Executive Summary there have been increases observed in certain crime types inclusive of OLP to Motor vehicle offences, Shoplifting and Fraud. There has been a decrease in Housebreakings except for those in non-Domestic settings, which have increased against the previous year but remain well below the 5 Year Average. There have been notable improvements in other areas of Group 3 crime over the reporting period. Motor vehicle crime specifically Theft of a Motor vehicle and Theft from M/V have seen notable reductions of over 20% and 30% respectively.

The Financial Crime Triage Hub (FCTH) has been a key component of North East Division's response to cyber and financial crime and has been referenced in previous reports, taking the learning and development of this unit the Acquisitive Crime Triage Hub (ACTH) was formally launched on 1st April 2025.

The ACTH carry out a similar role to the FCTH and remain under the umbrella of the Divisional Acquisitive Crime lead for the division and work alongside the FCTH and Divisional Cyber Enabled Crime Team (DCECT) allowing a holistic approach and view of acquisitive crime as it continues to evolve. Centralised governance, functionality and oversight, supports effective decision making around investigation and focus on the planning of crime prevention / reduction initiatives. This positively impacts on performance through collaboration with relevant partners and ensuring crime trends are identified, shared both locally and nationally and effectively targeted.

The ACTH identify opportunities for diversion for those involved in acquisitive crime and ensure the protection of vulnerable members of the community from becoming victim and further victim of acquisitive crime.

## Case Study

During May, the FCTH identified four vulnerable people who were subject to enhanced safeguarding measures to prevent them from being further victimised. FCTH passed relevant details of vulnerability and criminality to bank staff as part of the 'Vulnerable Victim Identification Scheme' with referrals made to partners in Adult Support and Protection as appropriate. Enhancement in this area has seen improvements in identification and relevant safeguarding for vulnerable individuals who would be susceptible to this form of criminality.

The ACTH carry out a daily review of all acquisitive crime in the Division. They assess the threat, risk and harm relative to the incident and ensure the most appropriate ownership based on that assessment. They provide support and guidance on how to progress specific enquiries inclusive of contact with neighbouring divisions and forces out with Scotland. Further, they work closely with Community Policing Teams to target repeat offenders and ensure early intervention and coordinated multi-agency responses.

## Case Study

Police Scotland received a report in relation to a victim purchasing a gold bar in person from the suspect, the victim would subsequently make their own investigations and confirmed the gold bar as fake. DCECT made investigations into the incident and correlated further incidents across Scotland. The suspect had met each of the victims in person and DCECT coordinated with Officers across the country to obtain statements, productions and independently verify the bar as fake. Relevant investigation provided sufficient evidence, and the male was thereafter traced, arrested and charged. Electronic devices were seized, and he was reported for a Fraudulent scheme.

### **Objective: Reduce acquisitive crime, by identifying locations where acquisitive crime is most likely to occur and work with communities and partners to find lasting preventative solutions**

With the ever-evolving nature of acquisitive crime it is of paramount importance that whilst tackling acquisitive crime locally and ensuring local priorities are met we recognise the importance of engagement and partnership with forces across the United Kingdom. In doing so we take cognisance of the inextricable link between crime trends across the entire UK and that OCG's do not respect geographical boundaries.

Locally the Crime Reduction Unit and the ACTH, as referenced previously, provide support and guidance to local Officers, businesses and victims of crime in our area. Nationally a 4P (Prevent, Protect, Prepare, Pursue) partnership approach has been adopted to clearly define the key workstreams required to protect our communities from the harms of acquisitive crime in a holistic approach.

Our local set up within North East Division allows direct link to the national picture, ensuring we are aware of impacting crime trends and travelling OCG's whilst also being able to feed in directly should we become victim of such crimes ensuring swift apprehension and co-operation throughout Scotland and the wider UK.

During the reporting period several recidivist offenders, independently, committed acquisitive crime series across the city. Local policing knowledge and quick identification of offenders by investigations teams alongside the provision of crime prevention advice, identification of any vulnerabilities through our local structures allow a co-ordinated approach to such offenders and their criminality.

## Case Study

In May 2025, several break-ins to Peugeot Partner taxis occurred across north Aberdeen. Enquiries quickly identified a recidivist offender as responsible. He was subsequently traced and arrested regarding the various offences. Relevant engagement took place with taxi companies and preventative messaging delivered to their drivers to curb this identified trend.

## Case Study

During June, ACTH coordinated a briefing between 'Retailers Against Crime' and representatives from the retail sector in Aberdeen City. The event was attended by approximately 35 retail managers who expressed commitment to working in partnership to combat retail crime.

Subsequent operations from a number of departments within North East Division saw enforcement and days of action relative to retail crime including a Community Action Team (CAT) operation which resulted in the detection of 46 Shopliftings and the clearance of 8 Apprehension warrants.

On 09/09/2025, Aberdeen CID, the OCG team and CAT led a day of enforcement in relation to retail acquisitive crime. More than 35 Crimes were detected including multiple Theft by Shoplifting offences and ASB, the perpetrators all being variously known in relation to retail crime. 10 outstanding apprehension warrants were also enforced.

### Objective: Raise public awareness, and prevent instances, of cyber enabled and cyber dependent acquisitive crime

As highlighted previously the methodologies and nature of acquisitive crime specifically Fraud and cyber enabled and dependant crime continues to evolve and requires a multi-layered and modern approach to tackling this unique crime space.



The FCTH and DCECT continue to engage with and provide expert advice to local partners and businesses across Aberdeen. This is supported by Crime Reduction colleagues at inputs and engagement sessions with a focus on groups where vulnerabilities were present through age or health conditions. These localised engagements were also supplemented with community advice sessions within banking facilities across the city.

Investment scams, cold calling and Crypto related fraud continue to be in the main, perpetrated by individuals overseas which provide a variety of investigative and preventative issues in regard to safeguarding our communities. The FCTH have been exploring opportunities for website takedown requests to

disrupt and disable platforms used to facilitate Fraud. This is unfortunately a relatively reactive response which involves the identification of suspected scam/fraud sites and contact made with the hosting platforms to request the removal of these sites. This can be through social media adverts, identified sites via victims of scams or other fraudulent indicators present. Given the complexities in this area and heavy reliance on overseas co-operation it reinforces the requirement for local initiatives, local engagement, prevention advice and literature to prevent members of our community becoming victims in the first place.

Despite the obvious and stated complexities it is an area North East Divisions DCECT and FCTH have been spearheading, with practises and process recognised nationally at the Scottish Cyber and Fraud Centre. Assistance has been further sought from Police Scotland Data Science and AI lead for methods of improving and refining this process to better protect our communities.

## **Case Study**

Police Scotland received a report from the victim who advised that he had lost over £10,000 in a safe account scam. The victim had been phoned by the suspects who claimed they were the fraud team from his bank and that his account had been compromised. DCECT made enquiries into the incident and identified that the victim had made payments to a credit card belonging to an account in England. Further financial enquiries were made which confirmed use of an identified credit card linked to that account and had been used to make high value purchases in Leicester.

DCECT were able to correlate various financial and conventional inquiries to link transactions and identify owners of a business as responsible for money laundering offences. Given the spread of offending across the UK and locality of the perpetrators an evidential package was provided to Leicestershire Police for progression and relevant safeguarding was implemented for the local victim.

## **Case Study**

In June the FCTH submitted website takedown requests in relation to three fraudulent platforms used to facilitate cryptocurrency investment fraud. Victims receive contact from suspects, directing them to the fraudulent websites which lend credibility to the investment fraud. The FCTH contact the platforms hosting these websites to highlight their use in criminality and request their removal. One site was used by criminals operating in China to further their fraudulent enterprise and was removed from the internet another was used by Nigerian criminals in the same way and was also removed.

# Counter Terrorism & Domestic Extremism



The North East CONTEST Multi-Agency Board and associated subgroups continue to deliver the UK CONTEST Strategy across the North East of Scotland, aiming to reduce the risks of terrorism using the Prevent, Pursue, Protect and Prepare principles.

- **PROTECT** – strengthening our borders, infrastructure, buildings, and public spaces against attack
- **PREPARE** – where an attack cannot be stopped, to reduce its impact and ensuring we can respond effectively
- **PURSUE** – to disrupt or stop terrorist attacks
- **PREVENT** – to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism

In line with the Aberdeen Local Policing Plan, we aim to reduce the risk of terrorism so people can go about their lives freely and with confidence by focusing on the local delivery of the CONTEST strategy using four key objectives:

## **PROTECT – with partners we will share knowledge so that our communities and businesses can strengthen protection against terrorist attacks**

In this reporting period, Counter Terrorism Security Advisors (CTSA's) conducted 49 security inspection visits to sites of a sensitive nature across a number of industries.

They continue to provide expert advice to organisations such as Aberdeen Football Club and TECA as well as providing specialist advice for events such as the Aberdeen Christmas Market.

Work is ongoing to provide online security briefings for Councillors under the banner of Operation Ford.

Borders Policing Command Officers continue to conduct operations at a number of ports across Aberdeen to gather intelligence whilst proactively identifying and dealing with the illegitimate passage of persons and goods in various industries including fishing, oil & gas and leisure, routes which criminals and terrorists may seek to exploit.

## **PREPARE – with partners we will mitigate against the impact of terrorist attacks**

Counter Terrorism Planning Officers and CTSA's are engaged in the planning for various events and gatherings across Aberdeen, providing expert advice and guidance to event organisers.

## **PURSUE – with partners encourage and share information to identify and tackle suspicious activity**

The PURSUE strategy allows national Counter Terrorism structures within Police Scotland to provide information and assessments to North East Division's CONTEST Multi-Agency Board. This process informs local policing teams and partners on emerging themes and other relevant matters.

All information and intelligence relevant to Counter Terrorism is assessed and actioned appropriately by Counter Terrorism resources based within North East Division.

There has been no significant deviation in terms of expected volume or trends during this period within Aberdeen. However, the Local CONTEST Board, Local Contest Liaison Officers (LCLO's) and national Police structures are in place to monitor and respond appropriately.

### **PREVENT – with partners safeguard vulnerable persons from being drawn into Terrorism**

Within Police Scotland a 'Prevent' referral process is in place which allows Police and partners to assess and respond to information and intelligence which may require early intervention and safeguarding from potential harm which could be caused by individuals. This process is well established across the north east with representation from relevant partners to ensure wide ranging professions are present and perspectives gained to collectively manage people who are vulnerable to radicalisation. Referrals coming from various agencies demonstrates our approach is working well. There has been no significant deviation or trends in this area which cause concern.

# Performance statistics



These statistics can be found in their expanded form at: [How we are performing - Police Scotland](#)

Aberdeen City – Recorded Crime	2024/25	5 Year Average	2025/26	% Change v 5YA	% Change v Prev Year
<b>Group 1 – Non-Sexual Crimes of Violence</b>					
Murder (excluding culpable homicide at common law)	2	1.4	2	42.9	0.0
Culpable homicide (common law)	0	0	0	0.0	0.0
Culpable homicide (other)	0	0	0	0.0	0.0
Attempted murder	4	9.6	11	14.6	175.0
Serious Assault (of an emergency worker)	3	0.6	2	233.3	-33.3
Serious Assault (inc. FGM, culpable & reckless conduct - causing injury)	82	81.2	74	-8.9	-9.8
Common Assault (of an emergency worker)	224	241.2	238	-1.3	6.3
Common Assault	1,176	1,232	1,316	6.8	11.9
Robbery (including assault with intent to rob)	51	58.2	73	25.4	43.1
Domestic Abuse* <sup>1</sup>	849	*	1,103	*	29.9
Stalking	22	18.4	31	68.5	40.9
Cruel & Unnatural treatment of children	12	10.2	9	-11.8	-25
Threats and extortion	44	38	41	7.9	-6.8
Other group 1 crimes	22	19.6	29	48.0	31.8
<b>Group 2 – Sexual Crimes</b>					
Rape	68	50.6	53	4.7	-22.1
Attempted rape	1	3	8	166.7	700.0
Sexual assault	143	125.4	121	-3.5	-15.4
Crimes associated with Prostitution	8	9	2	-77.8	-75
Indecent photos of children	9	15	20	33.3	122.2
Communicating indecently	29	32	31	-3.1	6.9
Causing to view sexual activity or images	46	55.2	68	23.2	47.8
Threatening or Disclosure of intimate image	20	20.2	30	48.5	50
Other Group 2 crimes	36	44.4	41	-7.7	13.8
<b>Group 3 – Crimes of Dishonesty</b>					
Housebreaking (incl. attempts) - dwelling house	63	74	62	-16.2	-1.5
Housebreaking (incl. attempts) - non-dwelling	26	61	31	-49.2	19.2
Housebreaking (incl. attempts) - other premises	63	55	26	-52.7	-58.7
Opening Lockfast Places - Motor Vehicle	45	33.6	57	69.6	26.7

**OFFICIAL**

Theft of a motorvehicle	113	102.6	89	-13.3	-21.2
Theft from a Motor Vehicle, Insecure etc	145	104.6	96	-8.2	-33.8
Attempt theft of motorvehicle	11	9	10	11.1	-9.1
Opening Lockfast Places - NOT Motor Vehicle	44	29.8	33	10.7	-25
Common theft	671	625.4	647	3.5	-3.6
Theft by shoplifting	1,037	924.6	1,346	45.6	29.8
Fraud	371	401.2	415	3.4	11.9
Other Group 3 crimes	209	248.2	257	3.5	23
<b>Group 4- Damage and reckless behaviour</b>					
Fireraising	48	65.6	88	34.1	83.3
Vandalism (incl. reckless damage, etc.)	856	904.6	808	-10.7	-5.6
Reckless conduct (with firearms)	1	0.2	0	-100.0	-100
Culpable & reckless conduct (not firearms)	40	45.8	45	-1.7	12.5
Other Group 4 crimes		2.2	5	127.3	0.0
<b>Group 5- Crimes against society</b>					
Possession offensive weapon/knife in school (not used in crime)	4	2.2	5	127.3	25
Possession offensive weapon/knife in a private place (not used in crime)	2	1.8	3	66.7	50
Other possession of offensive weapon/knife (not used in crime)	91	77.4	96	24.0	5.5
Possession offensive weapon/knife in school (used in criminal activity)	5	2.4	4	66.7	-20
Possession offensive weapon/knife in a private place (used in criminal activity)	0	0	1	0.0	0.0
Other possession of offensive weapon/knife NEC (used in criminal activity)	147	123	89	-27.6	-39.5
Production, manufacture or cultivation of drugs	8	13.4	18	34.3	125
Supply of drugs (inc. possession with intent)	160	127	198	55.9	23.8
Other drugs offences (incl. importation)	0	1.8	3	66.7	0.0
Possession of drugs	584	713	584	-18.1	0.0
Offences relating to serious and organised crime	2	0.8	2	150.0	0.0
Bail offences (other than absconding)	296	261	309	18.4	4.4
Other crimes against public justice	309	302.2	350	15.8	13.3
<b>Group 6- Antisocial offences</b>					
Breach of the Peace	48	71	40	-43.7	-16.7
Threatening or abusive behaviour	745	802.6	740	-7.8	-0.7
Hate Crime* <sup>2</sup>	242	*	194	*	-19.8
Drunk and incapable	0	1	0	-100.0	0.0
Consume alcohol in designated place (local bye-laws)	43	49.8	42	-15.7	-2.3
Urinating	47	68.2	24	-64.8	-48.9
<b>Group 7- Miscellaneous offences</b>					

Wildlife offences	1	2	8	300.0	700.0
Offences involved animals (not wildlife)	27	32	60	87.5	122.2
Community and public order offences	216	205.4	245	19.3	13.4
Licensing offences	10	12.8	19	48.4	90.0
<b>Group 8– Road traffic offences</b>					
Dangerous driving offences	79	72.8	96	31.9	21.5
Driving Carelessly	262	258.6	224	-13.4	-14.5
Driving under the influence	174	194.2	243	25.1	39.7
Speeding offences	244	359	180	-49.9	-26.2
Seat belt offences	52	52.8	61	15.5	17.3
Mobile phone offences	87	56	61	8.9	-29.9
Unlawful use of motor vehicle	701	747.6	957	28.0	36.5

\*<sup>1</sup> Please note, due to the different sources of data being used, and the different methodology/counting rules, comparison of recorded domestic crimes from the 1 April 2024 with recorded domestic crimes prior to the 1 April 2024 is not advised, hence the removal of the 5 Year Average.

\*<sup>2</sup> Please note, comparative figures for Hate Crime are limited to one year, due to different methodology/counting rules since 1 April 2024.

Aberdeen City – % Detection Rates	2024/25	5 Year Average	2025/26	% Change v 5YA	% Change v Prev Year
<b>Group 1– Non-Sexual Crimes of Violence</b>					
Murder (excluding culpable homicide at common law)	100.0	100.0	100.0	0.0	0.0
Attempted murder	75.0	93.8	90.9	-2.9	15.9
Serious Assault (of an emergency worker)	100.0	100.0	150.0	50.0	50.0
Serious Assault (inc. FGM, culpable & reckless conduct - causing injury)	95.1	93.6	94.6	1.0	-0.5
Common Assault (of an emergency worker)	101.3	99.1	95.4	-3.7	-6.0
Common Assault	70.5	68.4	64.4	-4.0	-6.1
Robbery (including assault with intent to rob)	100.0	91.8	82.2	-9.6	-17.8
Domestic Abuse* <sup>1</sup>	63.0	*	70.7	*	16.7
Stalking	90.9	79.3	77.4	-1.9	-13.5
Cruel & Unnatural treatment of children	216.7	129.4	44.4	-85.0	-172.2
Threats and extortion	13.6	15.3	4.9	-10.4	-8.8
Other group 1 crimes	68.2	77.6	75.9	-1.7	7.7
<b>Group 2– Sexual Crimes</b>					
Rape	47.1	53.8	43.4	-10.4	-3.7
Attempted rape	0.0	46.7	87.5	40.8	87.5
Sexual assault	64.3	55.8	63.6	7.8	-0.7
Crimes associated with Prostitution	87.5	88.9	150.0	61.1	62.5
Indecent photos of children	66.7	98.7	65.0	-33.7	-1.7
Communicating indecently	48.3	52.5	54.8	2.3	6.6
Causing to view sexual activity or images	58.7	59.4	54.4	-5.0	-4.3
Threatening or Disclosure of intimate image	15.0	27.7	40.0	12.3	25.0

Other Group 2 crimes	33.3	40.1	53.7	13.6	20.3
<b>Group 3- Crimes of Dishonesty</b>					
Housebreaking (incl. attempts) - dwelling house	44.4	45.9	43.5	-2.4	-0.9
Housebreaking (incl. attempts) - non-dwelling	30.8	30.5	22.6	-7.9	-8.2
Housebreaking (incl. attempts) - other premises	44.4	45.1	38.5	-6.6	-6.0
Opening Lockfast Places - Motor Vehicle	35.6	26.2	45.6	19.4	10.1
Theft of a motor vehicle	48.7	50.3	46.1	-4.2	-2.6
Theft from a Motor Vehicle, Insecure etc	33.1	24.5	34.4	9.9	1.3
Attempt theft of motor vehicle	81.8	48.9	50.0	1.1	-31.8
Opening Lockfast Places - NOT Motor Vehicle	45.5	30.9	45.5	14.6	0.0
Common theft	25.2	26.4	22.6	-3.8	-2.6
Theft by shoplifting	47.3	56.2	42.2	-14	-5.1
Fraud	22.9	19.2	18.1	-1.1	-4.8
Other Group 3 crimes	34.0	33.4	31.1	-2.3	-2.8
<b>Group 4- Damage and reckless behaviour</b>					
Fireraising	22.9	31.4	25.0	-6.4	2.1
Vandalism (incl. reckless damage, etc.)	27.8	28.5	31.7	3.2	3.9
Reckless conduct (with firearms)	100.0	100.0	0.0	-100.0	-100.0
Culpable & reckless conduct (not firearms)	57.5	60.7	44.4	-16.3	-13.1
Other Group 4 crimes		18.2			
<b>Group 5- Crimes against society</b>					
Possession offensive weapon/knife in school (not used in crime)	100.0	90.9	60.0	-30.9	-40.0
Possession offensive weapon/knife in a private place (not used in crime)	150.0	111.1	100.0	-11.1	-50.0
Other possession of offensive weapon/knife (not used in crime)	90.1	92.0	87.5	-4.5	-2.6
Possession offensive weapon/knife in school (used in criminal activity)	80.0	91.7	125.0	33.3	45.0
Possession offensive weapon/knife in a private place (used in criminal activity)	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0
Other possession of offensive weapon/knife NEC (used in criminal activity)	73.5	79.7	77.5	-2.2	4.1
Production, manufacture or cultivation of drugs	75.0	95.5	88.9	-6.6	13.9
Supply of drugs (inc. possession with intent)	91.9	94.3	84.3	-10.0	-7.5
Other drugs offences (inc. importation)	-	100.0	133.3	33.3	-
Possession of drugs	103.8	99.0	95	-4.0	-8.7
Offences relating to serious and organised crime	150.0	75.0	100	25.0	-50.0
Bail offences (other than absconding)	102.4	99.3	85.4	-13.9	-16.9

Other crimes against public justice	98.7	98.7	91.1	-7.6	-7.6
<b>Group 6 – Antisocial offences</b>					
Breach of the Peace	91.7	95.8	90	-5.8	-1.7
Threatening or abusive behaviour	78.3	77.0	70.3	-6.7	-8.0
Hate Crime* <sup>2</sup>	56.2	*	60.8	*	4.6
Drunk and incapable	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Consume alcohol in designated place (local bye-laws)	100.0	99.2	97.6	-1.6	-2.4
Urinating	91.5	95.9	95.8	-0.1	4.3
<b>Group 7 – Miscellaneous offences</b>					
Wildlife offences	100.0	30.0	37.5	7.5	-62.5
Offences involved animals (not wildlife)	81.5	65.6	58.3	-7.3	-23.1
Community and public order offences	58.3	59.0	54.3	-4.7	-4.0
Licensing offences	100.0	96.9	78.9	-18.0	-21.1
<b>Group 8 – Road traffic offences</b>					
Dangerous driving offences	69.6	77.2	72.9	-4.3	3.3
Driving Carelessly	83.6	89.4	83.5	-5.9	-0.1
Driving under the influence	104.6	95.9	98.8	2.9	-5.8
Speeding offences	100.4	100.3	100	-0.3	-0.4
Seat belt offences	100.0	99.6	100	0.4	0.0
Mobile phone offences	98.9	98.6	98.4	-0.2	-0.5
Unlawful use of motor vehicle	100.7	100.5	98.1	-2.4	-2.6

\*<sup>1</sup> Please note, due to the different sources of data being used, and the different methodology/counting rules, comparison of recorded domestic crimes from the 1 April 2024 with recorded domestic crimes prior to the 1 April 2024 is not advised, hence the removal of the 5 Year Average.

\*<sup>2</sup> Please note, comparative figures for Hate Crime are limited to one year, due to different methodology/counting rules since 1 April 2024.

This page is intentionally left blank

## ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

<b>COMMITTEE</b>	Communities, Housing and Public Protection Committee
<b>DATE</b>	13 January 2026
<b>EXEMPT</b>	No
<b>CONFIDENTIAL</b>	No
<b>REPORT TITLE</b>	Justice Social Work Service Annual Report and Community Payback Order Annual Report 2024-25
<b>REPORT NUMBER</b>	ACHSCP/26/007
<b>EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR</b>	Fiona Mitchelhill, Chief Officer ACHSCP
<b>CHIEF OFFICER</b>	Claire Wilson, Chief Officer Adult Social Work
<b>REPORT AUTHOR</b>	Val Vertigans, Strategic Service Manager Adult Social Work
<b>TERMS OF REFERENCE</b>	2.1

### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To share the Justice Social Work Service Annual Performance Report and Community Payback Order Annual Report for 2024-25 in line with the Communities, Housing & Public Protection Committee's remit.

### 2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That the Committee notes the Justice Social Work Service Annual Performance Report and Community Payback Order 2024-25 Report (at Appendix 1 and Appendix 2), which provide assurance about progress made over the period.

### 3. CURRENT SITUATION

#### Justice Social Work Service Annual Report 2024-25

- 3.1 As set out in the Annual Performance Report at Appendix 1, 2024–25 has been a year of significant activity, challenge, and progress for the Justice Social Work Service. Despite increasing complexity in the needs of those we support, legislative changes, and ongoing system pressures, the service has continued to deliver high-quality, person-centred interventions that prioritise public protection and individual outcomes.
- 3.2 Demand on the Service is now returning to pre-pandemic levels. Highlights in relation to the year 2024-25 include:
  - the number of Justice Social Work Reports requested by the Courts increased by 5% from the previous year and continue to surpass pre-pandemic levels;

- Diversion from Prosecution cases have reduced overall in 2024-25, after the significant increase seen the previous year, but still remain higher than the four year period from April 2019 to March 2023;
- the numbers on Bail Supervision have reduced over 2024-25 by 29% compared to the previous year. This is due to a number of factors including changes in legislation which mean that sheriffs are more reluctant to remand and will offer standard bail rather than requesting assessment for Supervised Bail or an Electronic Monitoring Order, a decline in bail being opposed by Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS), for the same reasons, and implementation of a new process, in conjunction with the Court;
- the number of Community Payback Orders (CPO) imposed increased significantly, up by 24% from the previous year and returning to pre-pandemic levels;
- the number of CPO Unpaid Work and Other Activity Requirements stood at 701 as at 7th May 2025, up from 524 as of 2nd May 2024 (an increase of 34%);
- numbers undertaking the Caledonian Programme for perpetrators of domestic abuse remain significant;
- the number of individuals where Aberdeen has statutory Throughcare supervision responsibility increased to 255 as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025 (up from 190 as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024).

3.3 The Performance Report also includes:

- an overview of specific current challenges (in addition to the general overall increase in demand), and work being progressed to address these, including: the wider partnership response to those released from custody via virtual courts, and unplanned liberations from other courts; the increase in the number of Unpaid Work Requirements and how we respond to this; and improving pathways for young people, in collaboration with Children's Services;
- an overview of how we listen to the voice of those we work with, via completion of Exit Questionnaires, and reflects the overwhelmingly positive nature of these;
- how we are moving forwards via our refreshed [JSW Service Delivery Plan for 2025-29](#), which encompasses areas identified for improvement and gaps in support or services identified.

3.4 The report presents an overview of the huge amount of work undertaken by the service during the year, showing what has been achieved, including the positive outcomes for our clients. It also reflects the ongoing commitment and dedication of the staff who work within the service within an increasingly challenging context.

3.5 Justice Social Work cannot operate in isolation, and continues to work closely on a multi agency basis with a wide range of partner organisations and services, including as part of the Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA), and MARAC (multi agency working around the safety of those harmed by or at

risk of domestic abuse), and as part of Community Planning Aberdeen's multi agency Community Justice Group, and the related Local Outcome Improvement Plan work.

#### Community Payback Order Annual Report 2024-25

- 3.6 The Community Justice (Scotland) Act 2016 requires local authorities to report on the operations of Community Payback Orders (CPO) within their area on an annual basis to Community Justice Scotland (CJS). CJS will then collate these returns and summarise them in a report which is laid before Scottish Parliament.
- 3.7 The Community Payback Order (CPO) was introduced by the Criminal Justice and Licensing (Scotland) Act 2010. A CPO can consist of one or more of nine requirements including offender supervision, compensation, unpaid work or other activity, mental health treatment, drug treatment and alcohol treatment. Every order must contain either an unpaid work or other activity requirement or an offender supervision requirement, or both.
- 3.8 The Annual Report at Appendix 2 is completed on a template provided specifically by Community Justice Scotland for this purpose. This was submitted to Community Justice Scotland prior to the 31<sup>st</sup> October 2025 deadline.
- 3.9 The Annual Report includes case studies and other information about how CPOs are implemented in Aberdeen City. It also provides an overview of feedback received from clients and placement providers about the Unpaid Work undertaken, which is overwhelmingly positive and demonstrates the value of this to both client and community. Related challenges are also summarised.
- 3.10 Numbers of Community Payback Orders imposed have increased significantly from 2023-24 to 2024-25, up by 24% and returning to pre-pandemic levels. The chart on page 16 of the Annual Report shows the increasing trend over time.

#### **4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendations of this report. Justice Social Work is funded primarily via ring-fenced funding based on service volumes as reported to Scottish Government on a regular basis.

#### **5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from the recommendations of this report. The Community Payback Order Annual Report (Appendix 2) has been submitted as required by the Community Justice (Scotland) Act 2016. JSWS undertakes statutory functions and legal advice is sought as required.

#### **6. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 There are no direct environmental implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

## 7. RISK

Category	Risks	Primary Controls/Control Actions to achieve Target Risk Level	*Target Risk Level (L, M or H) <small>*taking into account controls/control actions</small>	*Does Target Risk Level Match Appetite Set?
<b>Strategic Risk</b>	No significant risks identified in relation to this report			N/A
<b>Compliance</b>	No significant risks identified in relation to this report			N/A
<b>Operational</b>	No significant risks identified in relation to this report	Assessment and mitigation of risk relating to individual clients forms the basis of JSW's fundamental ongoing service delivery across the piece. Arrangements are in place for escalation, in conjunction with partners as required, including as part of MAPPA.		N/A
<b>Financial</b>	No significant risks identified in relation to this report			N/A
<b>Reputational</b>	No significant risks identified in relation to this report			N/A

<b>Environment / Climate</b>	No significant risks identified in relation to this report			<b>N/A</b>
------------------------------	--	--	--	------------

## 8. OUTCOMES

<b>COUNCIL DELIVERY PLAN 2025-26</b>	
	<b>Impact of Report</b>
<b>Aberdeen City Council Policy Statement</b>	The proposals within this report support the delivery of aspects of the policy statement under the following headings:-
<b><u>Working in Partnership for Aberdeen</u></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Theme 3 – Communities and Housing (crime rate, homelessness)</li> <li>• Theme 5 – Health and Social Care (supporting victims of domestic abuse)</li> </ul>
<b>Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2016-2026</b>	
Prosperous People Stretch Outcomes	<p><b><i>The proposals within this report support Prosperous Adults section of the LOIP, specifically in relation to Stretch Outcome 9:</i></b></p> <p>10% fewer adults (over 18) charged with more than one offence by 2026</p>

## 9. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

<b>Assessment</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
<b>Integrated Impact Assessment</b>	No assessment required. I confirm this has been discussed and agreed with Claire Wilson, Chief Officer Adult Social Work, on 10 December 2025.
<b>Data Protection Impact Assessment</b>	Not required
<b>Other</b>	None

## 10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

### 10.1 [JSW Service Delivery Plan for 2025-29](#)

## **11. APPENDICES**

- 11.1 Justice Social Work Annual Performance Report 2024-25
- 11.2 Community Payback Order Annual Report 2024-25

## **12. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS**

<b>Name</b>	Val Vertigans
<b>Title</b>	Strategic Service Manager, Justice Social Work Service, ACHSCP
<b>Email Address</b>	<a href="mailto:vavertigans@aberdeencity.gov.uk">vavertigans@aberdeencity.gov.uk</a>

# **Justice Social Work**

## **Annual Performance Report 2024-25**

### **1. Introduction**

As Chief Officer for Adult Social Work, I am delighted to present our Justice Social Work Annual Performance Report for 2024-25.

We continue to deliver our services to a high standard, despite increasing workloads (as reflected in the figures provided in this report). Justice Social Work is also impacted by wider system pressures, including resourcing constraints which are affecting services across the piece. And those we work with are presenting with increasingly complex and challenging risks and needs.

Notwithstanding this, our dedicated workforce continues to aspire to our service Vision, that “Every person that we work with achieves the best possible individual and statutory outcomes, whilst acknowledging that public protection is paramount”. Staff engaged in the refresh of our Vision and Values in February 2025, (as part of the refresh of our service Delivery Plan), which served to reinforce our core values of being person-centred, demonstrating ‘stickability’, flexibility and responsivity, and working in a way that is informed by an understanding of the impact of trauma.

In August 2024 the first appointment was made to a new role within the Justice Social Work Service – Strategic Service Manager – to work alongside the Service Manager for Operations. This role was created in recognition of the extensive strategic, statutory performance reporting and governance demands that the service has in place. This also gave a real focus and increased capacity for continuous on service improvement.

This report presents an overview of the huge amount of work undertaken by the service during the year, showing what has been achieved, including the positive outcomes for our clients. I would like to take this opportunity to express my thanks to all the staff who work within the service for their ongoing commitment and dedication within an increasingly challenging context. I would also like to recognise the longstanding contribution made by our outgoing service manager who retired at the end of March 2025.

### **2. Strategic Context**

Justice social work is delegated by Aberdeen City Council to the Integration Joint Board (IJB) as set out by the Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014. The Aberdeen City Health & Social Care Partnership's [Strategic Plan 2025-29](#) sets out the priority objectives for all of the delegated functions and services. ACHSCP is also a statutory member of Community Planning Aberdeen. There is a strong alignment between the integration partnership's Strategic Plan and the community

planning partnership's [Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2016-26](#), which was refreshed in April 2024. The LOIP contains a number of improvement projects under Stretch Outcome 9 - *10% fewer adults (over 18) charged with more than one offence by 2026* - in which the JSW Service is playing a key part due to its central role within Community Justice.

At a national level, the [National Outcomes and Standards](#) provide clear guidance on the delivery of justice social work services. Other key strategic documents include [The Vision for Justice in Scotland](#) (2022), the [Strategy for Community Justice](#) (2022), and a Community Justice Outcomes Performance and Improvement Framework (2023). Service delivery also aligns with the national [GIRFE principles](#). In addition, and the Scottish Government have outlined [national health and wellbeing outcomes](#) which all partnerships must strive towards.

### **3. Governance**

The Terms of Reference of the Service's Performance Management Board (PMB), were refreshed during the year, as part of a review of the Services' governance arrangements. The PMB is chaired at Chief Officer level and, with Senior representation from across the Service, has continued to meet on a quarterly basis and maintain oversight of progression of the Delivery Plan, performance management, learning and development, digital developments, and informed by findings from quality assurance, reviews and exit questionnaires, to drive forward continuous improvement across the Service.

A new operational Implementation Group, on which all staff are represented, was established during the year. This group reports in to the PMB, with the remit of progressing the Delivery Plan actions, consideration of performance information and learning & development matters, resolution of any systems issues (D365, LSCMI, etc), and consideration of any wider Community Justice 'operational' issues / issues relating to other services. This group has replaced three other groups, contributing to freeing up valuable staff time.

The scheduled Service Quality Assurance programme has, for the most part, been progressed during the year, although service demands did impact on completions in some areas. This forms part of the JSW Performance Framework, and there are targets which Senior Social Workers should meet which are reported in to each meeting of the PMB, via the Implementation Group.

Other key activities during the year have included undertaking a self-evaluation response to Phase 1 of the Care Inspectorate's Autumn 2024 national 'Thematic Review of Performance and Quality Assurance' across JSW services, the refresh of the service Delivery Plan for 2025-29 and related Performance and Quality Assurance Framework, reviewing service governance arrangements, engaging with staff across the service (via survey and engagement events) to inform service improvement, and establishing a regular monthly staff forum on the back of this.

#### 4. Our Service

The Service continues to be diverse, complex and busy and consists of a Pre-Disposal team based at the Court, three Community Payback Orders (CPO) teams, an Unpaid Work team, Women's Service, Caledonian workers, Throughcare team, Support Work and Admin teams. The primary remit of the Service is to provide statutory supervision and support to individuals who have offended, using interventions which are proportionate to risk and need. This supervision ranges from low level for those on Diversion from Prosecution to very high level, and with support from Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) for the "critical few" who pose significant public protection concerns.

The individuals with whom the service works may be experiencing a range of issues, including mental health problems, learning difficulties, personality disorders, drug and/or alcohol problems, behavioural/anger management problems, neurodiversity issues etc., often undiagnosed, and a poverty of aspiration for themselves. JSW staff are responsive to these increasingly complex needs and risks and accept their professional responsibilities to respond accordingly in a person-centred and trauma-informed manner in order to deliver individual and statutory outcomes.

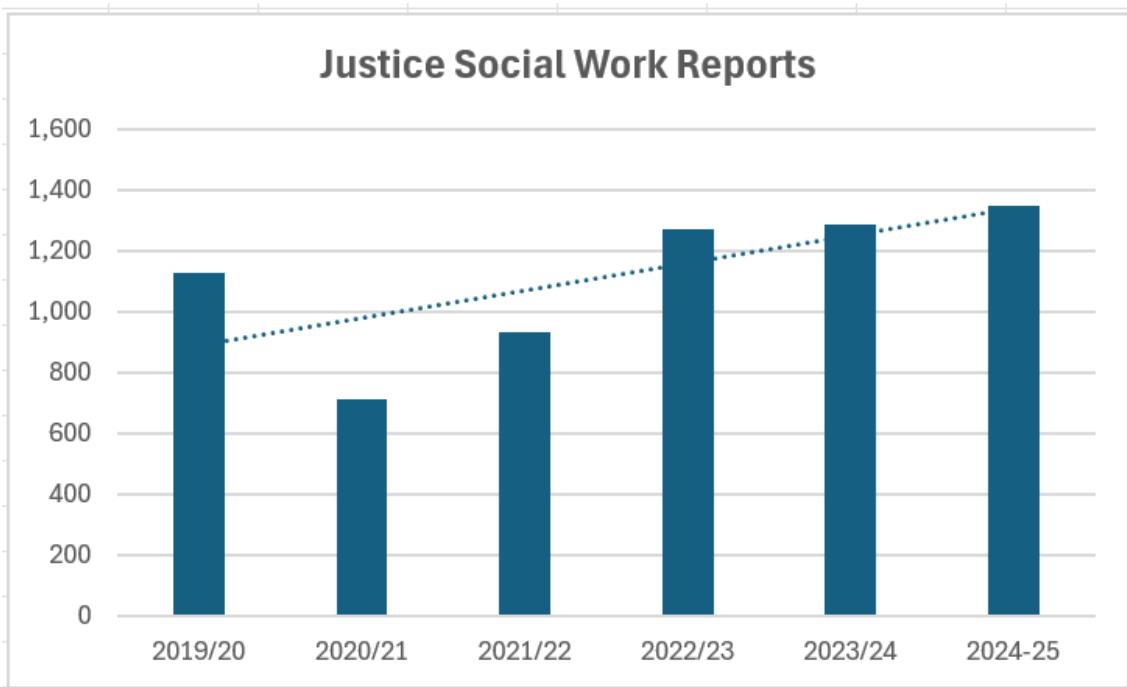
#### 5. Our Performance

The table below provides an overview of some of our key Justice Social Work data for 2024-25 and the years preceding.

Table 1

	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024-25
Justice Social Work Reports	1,126	715	935	1271	1286	1348
Community Payback Orders imposed	1,055	506	667	909	851	1059
Diversion commenced	114	150	168	149	287	248
Bail Supervision commenced	45	<5	26	117	126	90

The purpose of **Justice Social Work Reports** (JSWR) is to assist in the sentencing process, provide a risk and needs assessment, which will complement the range of other information available to the court. Justice Social Workers are skilled at assessment, problem solving and devising person centred plans and require drawing on all of these skills when compiling a JSWR. In particular, the report provides information on the context of the person's circumstances and focuses on social work interventions and how these may impact positively upon recidivism and the identified risk and need factors.



Numbers of Justice Social Work Reports have increased by 5% from 2023-24 to 2024-25, and continue to surpass pre-pandemic levels.

**Diversion from Prosecution** by the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service enables individuals who have committed offences and have significant underlying needs to be diverted into support and, ideally out of offending and Court processes, at an early stage. This disposal, particularly when imposed by the Problem-Solving Court, is again intended both as a lower level, albeit intensive, intervention and as a diversion from custody.

Although numbers of Diversion cases have reduced overall in 2024-25, (though still remain higher than the four year period from April 2019 to March 2024), the numbers of young people aged between 16 and 25 who were diverted has increased by 41%, with the increase particularly relating to young people under 21. This reflects local multi agency efforts to ensure that young people are kept out of the adult justice system where possible and diverted to interventions which will support them to move away from offending behaviour.

*It gave me the kick I needed to get the support I needed*

*I started to believe in myself and that there was a path forward*

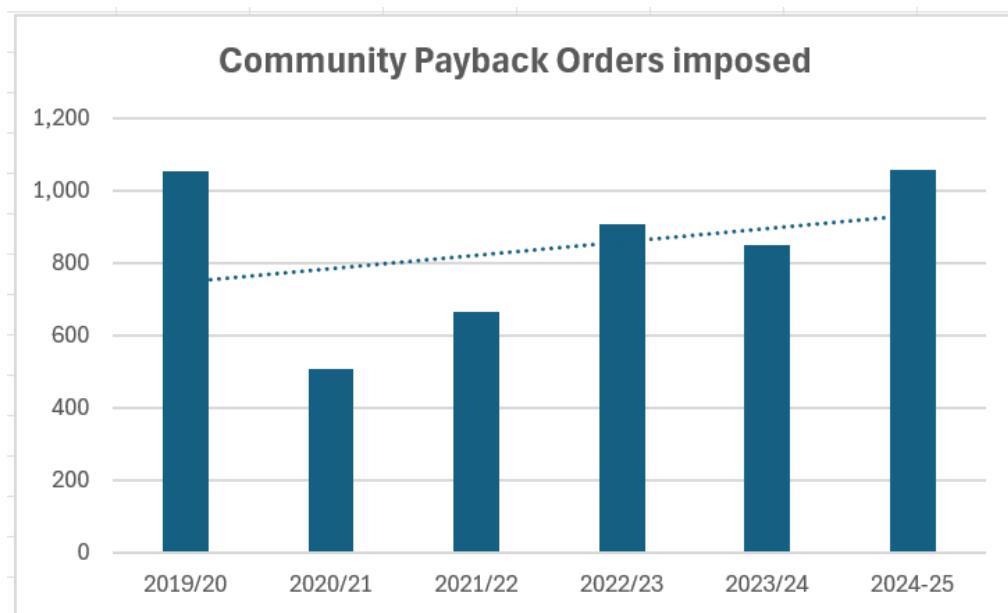
80% of those who completed Exit Questionnaires at the end of their Diversion intervention felt that they were less likely to get into trouble again, and better able to cope with issues that led to them being charged.

**Bail Supervision** offers a robust and credible alternative to remand in custody, whereby people accused or convicted of an offence (or offences) are assessed as

requiring a level of supervision, monitoring, and support to adhere to bail conditions. Bail supervision involves Bail Supervision assessments being provided to the Court with a proposed a package of supervision and support to the person. This can include the provision of direct support, as well as signposting and assistance to access relevant support services, including accommodation, employability, drug and alcohol services, or mental health support. Access to appropriate support services whilst subject to bail supervision is dependent on statutory and third sector services provided in local areas. As such, local collaboration between community justice partners is critical.

As Table 1 above shows, the numbers on Bail Supervision have reduced over 2024-25 by 29% compared to the previous year. This is due to a number of factors, including changes in legislation (eg the Bail and Release from Custody (Scotland) Act 2023 and the Children (Care and Justice) (Scotland) Act 2024) which mean that sheriffs are more reluctant to remand and will offer standard bail rather than requesting assessment for Supervised Bail or an Electronic Monitoring Order. A decline has also been seen in bail being opposed by COPFS, for the same reasons. A new process was implemented, in conjunction with the Court, in light of the legislative changes, which has led to a reduction in the number of individuals assessed for Bail Supervision. The service now awaits requests for bail supervision assessment from the court or sheriffs except where an individual is specifically identified who would benefit from Supervised bail.

**Community Payback Orders** (CPO) are the main community sentence in Scotland. A CPO can consist of one or more of nine requirements including offender supervision, compensation, unpaid work or other activity, mental health treatment, drug treatment and alcohol treatment. Every order must contain either an unpaid work or other activity requirement or an offender supervision requirement, or both.



As can be seen, the number of Community Payback Orders imposed has increased significantly from 2023-24 to 2024-25, up by 24% and returning to pre-pandemic levels.

80% of those who completed Supervision Exit Questionnaires (the majority of these being individuals who have successfully completed Community Payback Orders with Supervision), felt that their Supervision had helped them stop or reduce their offending.

*My CJW was extremely easy to get on with and I felt able to discuss anything with them. I trust them which was very important to make progress*

*I started to believe in myself and that there was a path forward*

*Definitely won't be back!*

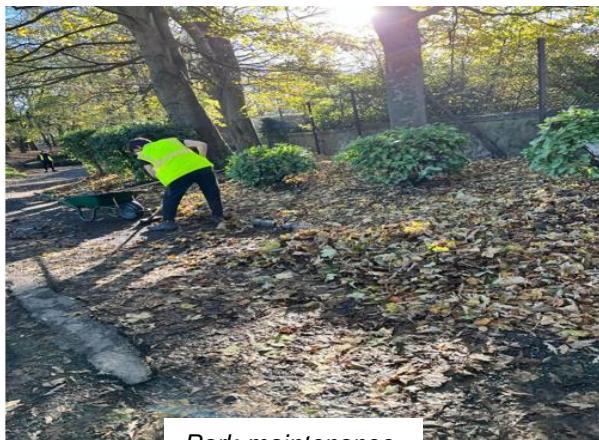
## Unpaid Work

At the point of sentence, the court may impose an unpaid work or other activity requirement as part of a CPO. Reparation via 'unpaid work' supports the strengthening of relationships with others in the community, improves employability where appropriate, and supports the development by the individual of a new 'pro-social' identity. Unpaid work is intended to be purposeful, have clear tangible benefits to the community and be meaningful to the individual.

In Aberdeen those undertaking unpaid work are involved in a range of initiatives such as:

- community garden assistance,
- park maintenance,
- painting of community centres, and supported accommodation units etc,
- rubbish collection/fly tip removal,
- assisted shopping runs for the Elderly community,
- snow clearing and gritting, and
- indoor unpaid work craft.

These projects have been instrumental in fostering a sense of togetherness, benefiting both service users, community groups and individuals in need of support.



*Park maintenance*



*Assisted shopping*



*Snow clearing*



*Indoor unpaid work craft*

As at 7<sup>th</sup> May 2025, there were 701 CPO Unpaid Work and Other Activity Requirements in place (up from 524 as of 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2024), and 52,468 hours of Unpaid Work outstanding (up from 42,471). This is an increase in Requirements of 34% on the same date the previous year, and an increase in hours outstanding of 24%.

We currently have 18 Unpaid Work 'Individual Placements' in the city. These include large second hand furniture stores, smaller high street second hand clothing stores, food banks, community centres, a community café, churches and mosques, a community golf course, and a local football and boxing club. Most clients on Individual Placements say they enjoyed the experience, and some have continued volunteering after the Placement has completed.

Below are examples of feedback received from beneficiaries of unpaid work in the community:

- The job that would have taken myself and two others at least a couple of hours, was achieved in less than an hour. The young men you sent were brilliant, and so very helpful, I am impressed.
- I want to express a huge thank you to the task supervisors & the UPW'S for their help yesterday it was fantastic and actually I don't know what I would have done without them.
- Thanks once again and your team for all your help with our young people. We would be lost without it and couldn't do our job.

## Programmes

### i) Caledonian

The Caledonian System is an integrated approach to addressing domestic abuse. It combines a court-ordered programme for men, which is given as a CPO Programme Requirement, which is aimed at changing their behaviour, with support services for women and children.

During 2024-25, 132 Caledonian assessments were undertaken for suitability of the programme, following which 44 Caledonian Programme requirements were imposed as part of Community Payback Orders. The number of men on programmes generally sits at around 84. The service completes Caledonian assessments for most cases of domestic offending and victims are referred to the Caledonian Women's Service for support from a Women's Worker. So whilst a Caledonian Programme may not be imposed as part of a CPO, victims of domestic offences are offered support. We are also developing a lower-level Domestic Abuse programme which is to be piloted this autumn.

	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024-25
Assessments	171	202	161	138	132
Orders	49	64	49	41	44

### ii) Moving Forwards Making Changes / Moving Forwards 2 Change

The Moving Forward Making Changes (MFMC) programme was developed to provide treatment for moderate-high risk adult men (aged 18 and above) convicted of sexual offences, and to increase their capacity to meet their needs by non-offending means. During 2024, MFMC was re-designed to draw on the latest available evidence base and based on evaluation and consultation with relevant stakeholders. The re-designed programme, Moving Forward 2 Change (MF2C), has now been rolled out across the country.

Attendance on the MF2C programme is as part of a three year Community Payback Order (CPO) Programme Requirement or prison licence condition. On average we have had between 30 and 35 people on the MFMC programme at any time due to it being a three year programme and people joining and leaving the programme throughout the year.

Aberdeenshire Council has delivered the MFMC (and now MF2C) Programme on behalf of Aberdeen City but is withdrawing that service from April 2026. Our JSW Service is currently establishing a new team which will deliver the service in-house from that time.

### Throughcare

The number of individuals in custody on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025 where Aberdeen have Throughcare supervision responsibility was 180 (up by 31% from 137 the previous year) and those in the community subject to licence conditions and Supervised Release Orders was 75 (61 as of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024).

Table 2 below sets out the number of individuals released on licence during the year.

	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Female	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5
Male	37	39	32	39	45	45

### MAPPA

Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) places a statutory duty on the responsible authorities in a local authority area to jointly establish arrangements for assessing and managing the risk posed by certain categories of offenders. This includes all registered sex offenders under MAPPA Category 1 and those assessed as presenting a high risk of serious harm under MAPPA Category 3 for violent offenders.

Justice Social Work continue to work in close collaboration with the MAPPA Co-ordination Unit and with our partner internal and external agencies such as Health, Housing, Police Scotland, Scottish Prison Service, Care Management and Children's Services. The revised national guidance implemented in May 2022 has been

incorporated into practice resulting in clearer processes and co-ordination of multi-agency services being taken forward. This continues to ensure that access to appropriate housing and primary care services are in place when prisoners are released.

Throughout the year 2024/25, Justice Social Work reported 6 initial notifications of potentially serious incidents between MAPPA and the Care Inspectorate with none of those reported proceeding to a Serious Case or Learning Review which indicates the ongoing appropriateness of our interventions and balancing statutory obligations, public protection and the needs and rights of those we work with.

## **Support Work**

The service's support work staff are a vital part of the Justice Social Work Service. Support Workers work with clients to encourage and support them to comply with orders and licence conditions, supporting them to engage as well as with accommodation and financial issues, etc.

### **6. Working with Third Sector partners**

During the year we undertook re-commissioning of two services; one for the provision of an Employability service for adults (16+) who are subject to a Community Payback Order with an unpaid work and other activity requirement' and other individuals receiving a service from justice social work, which is provided by Aberdeen Foyer; and secondly the provision of an Outreach Support Service provided by Turning Point Scotland. This service is for adults (16+) who have served a custodial sentence and are subject to Release Licence or Court mandated supervision or are eligible for voluntary aftercare following release from prison within the last 12 months.

The Aberdeen Foyer contract was continued from the previous year, and individuals engaging with the service gained 45 qualifications during 2024-25, with 12 clients moving into employment.

**Case Study:** X was referred to Foyer in September 2023. He began his journey with a strong start, making progress towards his CSCS card and engaging positively with his Development Coach. After a setback linked to alcohol dependency, X temporarily disengaged. However, he returned with renewed motivation, having started attending support groups for recovery. X reconnected with Foyer and began attending weekly appointments again. He showed real commitment – completing mock tests and eventually passing his CSCS exam with full marks. X now has his green card and continues to work with Foyer to find employment in the construction sector. His journey highlights the importance of second chances and the power of perseverance.

### **7. Challenges**

Release from custody via virtual Courts, and ‘unplanned’ liberations from other Courts, continue to present challenges in respect of providing multi agency ‘throughcare’ support (for housing, medication, benefits, etc) and engaging and inducting individuals being released from establishments across the country who have CPOs to progress in the community. Justice Social Work is represented on a multi-agency short life working group which is looking at ways services and agencies can work together to improve our collective response and pathways, particularly considering increasing drug related deaths.

Numbers of CPO Unpaid Work Requirements have now surpassed pre-pandemic levels. The ‘workshop’ element of the service, which provides lighter, seated unpaid work placement opportunities, remains in a temporary location. Further focus is to be given to increasing availability of individual placements, and to providing further appropriate and meaningful placements for the increasing number of clients (around 50%) who can only undertake indoor or seated tasks.

Although numbers of 16 and 17 year olds in contact with the service are low (seven Justice Social Work Reports and <5 CPOs in 2024-25), the service provided JSWRs for 89 young people aged 18 – 20 years, and oversaw the same number of CPOs, in the same period. Getting it right for these young people is critical, and with a lack of dedicated resourcing, there is scope for improvement in terms of pathways and collaborative working between Justice and Children’s Social Work Services, particularly in light of current and future changes relating to the Children’s Care & Justice (Scotland) Act 2024.

In light of continuing pressures on prisons, further tranches of early release of prisoners were initiated by Scottish Government. The STP40 early release programme took place between 18th February, and 20th March 2025. A total of 312 individuals were released nationally, with 20 returning to Aberdeen City. Feedback from involved partners was mostly positive. Coordination between services, particularly Alcohol and Drugs Action, Integrated Drugs Service, and the Assertive Outreach team was effective, enabling advance planning and support for individuals. However, gaps were identified in several cases involving Supervised Release Orders, where individuals were released without Integrated Case Management or MAPPA-level assessments. Justice Social Work had to respond reactively, convening MAPPA meetings and finalising risk assessments post-liberation. Communication delays and incorrect information (e.g. misidentification of Opioid Replacement Therapy (methadone script) status) were noted, especially during the third tranche. While housing coordination improved compared to previous releases, challenges remained with individuals not attending appointments or being unreachable post-release. Additionally, not all establishments followed through with expected Case Management Board processes, requiring local staff to chase information and arrange contact independently. These issues underscore the need for consistent national protocols and clearer accountability in future early release scenarios.

## 8. Feedback from clients

JSW clients completing supervision (either CPO or licence), a CPO Unpaid Work requirement, or Diversion from Prosecution are asked to complete an exit questionnaire. The below table shows the numbers of questionnaires completed, and the increase achieved during the year compared with the previous year (41% overall).

Questionnaires Completed	Male	Female	TOTAL 24-25	TOTAL 23-24
Diversion	40 (78%)	9 (18%)	*51	23**
Supervision	108 (89%)	13 (11%)	121	93
Unpaid Work	160 (90%)	17 (10%)	177	131
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>308 (88%)</b>	<b>39 (12%)</b>	<b>349</b>	<b>247</b>

\* includes 2 for whom gender unknown

\*\* collation of Exit Questionnaires not reinstated until November 2023

Feedback collected is collated and reviewed on a quarterly and annual basis, and considered via our service governance arrangements, including in terms of any feedback which might inform service improvement. Summary highlights are shared with the wider staff group, with more detailed or specific feedback being shared with individual staff members via Supervision arrangements.

Feedback comments for 2024-25 was overwhelmingly positive, including the below areas:

- **Diversion** - the perceived benefits of Diversion, and personal improvements reported by participants
- **Supervision** - improvements in various life issues, relationships with Justice Social Work workers, useful aspects of supervision, behavioural changes, reasons for changes in offending behaviour, and community supports linked
- **UPW** - peoples' experiences, achievements, skills developed, and opinions about staff and community impact.

There were many very positive individual comments about the value of an individual's relationship with their worker/s, and the role played by the worker/s.

## 9. Areas for Improvement / Looking Forwards

The Care Inspectorate's National Thematic Review of JSWS Performance and Quality Assurance (Phase 1) focused on the current capacity of services to evidence performance, quality and outcomes in relation to community based sentences. This focused on the sector's ability to confidently and robustly evidence the effectiveness of community support and supervision. Undertaking the related self evaluation activity enabled the service to identify areas for improvement, including looking at how to extract information from the LSCMI database in order to gain increased

understanding of our client base and inform how we better meet the needs of those we work with.

At the start of 2025, work was done to refresh the JSW Delivery Plan for 2025-26.

The Plan was refreshed taking into account the following:

- Outstanding actions from the previous Delivery Plan;
- Feedback from staff, clients and partners;
- Key data, including comparison with other areas;
- Findings from the above referenced Self Evaluation of Performance and Quality Assurance (as part of a national exercise led by the Care Inspectorate), and from Quality Assurance of case records;
- Alignment with the local Health & Social Care Partnership Strategic Plan and Community Planning Aberdeen Local Outcome Improvement Plan priorities; and
- Alignment with national Community Justice priorities.

Areas for improvement and gaps in support or services identified, which were incorporated into our refreshed Plan, include the below.

Local / service issues:

- Potential for improved collaborative working with wider partners including Aberdeen City Council Housing services, mental health services and third sector;
- Further development of our services for women, and what we offer specifically for men;
- Development of a lower level domestic abuse programme;
- Developing our in-house expertise in relation to working with individuals with alcohol and drugs issues; and

National / wider issues:

- Preparatory work for implementation of new legislation and other developments, in conjunction with partner & services as relevant, eg Children's Care & Justice (S) Act 2024, Bail & Release (Scotland) Act, Review of JSW National Outcomes & Standards, and Trauma Informed Domestic Abuse Courts.

In addition, during the period, Aberdeenshire Council gave notice that they are to cease providing the 'Moving Forwards 2 Change' programme for sex offenders (previously Moving Forwards Making Changes), for Aberdeen City clients, from end March 2026. On average we have between 30 and 35 people on the MFMC / MF2C programme at any time due to it being a three year programme and people joining and leaving the programme throughout the year. Aberdeen City JSW Service is in the process of developing in-house provision of this service, through relevant staff

training and development of appropriate procedures, etc, which will be required to fill this gap.

## **10. Conclusion**

2024–25 has been a year of significant activity, challenge, and progress for the Justice Social Work Service. Despite increasing complexity in the needs of those we support, legislative changes, and ongoing system pressures, the service has continued to deliver high-quality, person-centred interventions that prioritise public protection and individual outcomes.

The data and feedback presented in this report demonstrate the breadth and depth of our work — from statutory supervision and unpaid work to specialist programmes and throughcare support. Our commitment to continuous improvement has been evident through the refresh of our Delivery Plan, enhanced governance structures, and engagement with national thematic reviews and strategic developments.

Looking ahead, we remain focused on addressing identified gaps, strengthening partnerships, and preparing for future legislative and policy changes. The development of in-house provision for the MF2C programme, further work on domestic abuse interventions, and improved collaboration with housing and mental health services are key priorities.

We extend our sincere thanks to all staff across the service for their dedication, resilience, and professionalism. Their efforts continue to make a meaningful difference in the lives of individuals, families, and communities across Aberdeen.

# COMMUNITY PAYBACK ORDER (CPO)

## ANNUAL RETURNS TEMPLATE

FINANCIAL YEAR: **2024/25**

LOCAL AUTHORITY: **Aberdeen City Council**

TEMPLATE RETURN DATE: **Friday 31 October 2025**

Please return all completed templates to  
CJS at [CJSImprovement@communityjustice.scot](mailto:CJSImprovement@communityjustice.scot) and copy  
the Scottish Government at [cpo@gov.scot](mailto:cpo@gov.scot)

## 1. Background

---

Under the Community Justice (Scotland) Act (2016), local authorities have a statutory duty to report on the operations of Community Payback Orders (CPO) within their area on an annual basis to Community Justice Scotland (CJS). CJS will then collate these returns and summarise them in a report which is laid before Scottish Parliament.

To assist with this reporting duty, CJS, in collaboration with representatives from Justice Social Work, the Scottish Government, and Social Work Scotland, has developed a template of questions for local areas to complete. This template is designed to support the reporting requirement.

## 2. Completing the template

---

Please answer the following questions contained in this year's CPO template. When answering the questions, please ensure that all case studies and feedback are anonymised. We understand that maintaining anonymity may be more challenging for some local authorities. If this applies to your area, you may provide a more general response to the questions.

Please ensure all answers are relevant to your local area within the 2024 to 2025 reporting year.

If you need any support in completing this template and or have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in contact with CJS. Contact details can be found on the title page of this form.

Thank you for taking the time to answer the questions in this template.

### 3. Questions to answer

---

#### 1) Reducing risk of reoffending

Please provide a case study or examples of your work with people subject to a Community Payback Order (CPO), focusing on how you work to address their offending behaviours and reduce the risk of reoffending.

Individuals who completed an Exit Questionnaire at the end of CPO Supervision, and felt that their offending had reduced, cited the following as the main reasons:

- Personal growth and maturity.
- Desire to avoid further legal trouble or imprisonment.
- Support from family and social workers.
- Improved mental health and coping skills.
- Realisation of the consequences of offending.
- Engagement in employment and family responsibilities.

#### Case Study 1

Mr X previously spent over 10 years in custody for a serious violent offence. Mr X was assessed in terms of his suitability for the Caledonian programme due to a serious domestic assault. He expressed a motivation to change but also said that he had struggled to engage with programmatic work previously. (He advised that he previously threw chairs across the room in frustration while completing programmatic work.) Two years on, he is due to successfully complete the Caledonian programme.

The programme was taken at his pace and he slowly opened up and disclosed trauma he had experienced as a child. He progressed to the groupwork element and was open with the group about his experiences but also about the negative impact custody had had on him. He was recognised as a positive group member by group workers and was very supportive of the other men. It was felt some of the men progressed further due to this client's openness.

He also engaged with a personal development programme. Again, the feedback was very positive and demonstrated his ability to open up in group settings. He also completed a programme with an employability service.

When he committed the offence, he was binge drinking alcohol regularly. He has not reported any binge drinking which also demonstrates how much progress he has made.

Mr X's Justice Social Worker said: "*In terms of risk / need, I feel his risk has reduced significantly throughout his CPO and he has been supported with his needs, but more importantly, he now demonstrates an understanding of how he meets his needs.*"

#### Case Study 2

Y was made subject to a Community Payback Order with supervision and unpaid work. Y's offending is closely linked to their consumption of high quantities of alcohol. While on the CPO, Y has abstained from alcohol for approximately nine months and has undertaken the decider skills work in supervision sessions. Y works full time and was given an Individual Placement (Unpaid Work) at a local charity shop which they have completed. They continue to volunteer once a fortnight at the charity shop and enjoys this citing it is different from their full-time employment which can be stressful. It would also appear there has been no further offending since the imposition of the CPO.

## **2) Support for underlying needs**

Please provide a case study or example of your work with people subject to a CPO, which demonstrates how their underlying needs (e.g. mental health, substance use) are identified, and how you work to address those.

#### Case Study 3

Z was made subject to a Community Payback Order with 12 months Supervision and 80 hours of Unpaid Work to be completed in 9 months. Z completed the hours in less than 3 months and continues to volunteer at the charity shop where they had attended a weekly Individual Placement. Z has gained employment since starting their Order in a role they love. Z also began volunteering with another third sector organisation since the Order started, supporting people to access benefits and housing.

Z's offence was for driving while under the influence of alcohol. Z had previously engaged with AA and continues to do so. They have been abstinent from alcohol for nearly a year and have spoken about feeling stronger in their sobriety than previous years and more confident in accessing support when required.

### 3) Unpaid work

Please describe a case study or provide examples of unpaid work activity.

In Aberdeen those undertaking unpaid work are involved in a range of initiatives such as:

- community garden assistance,
- park maintenance,
- painting of community centres, and supported accommodation units etc,
- rubbish collection/fly tip removal,
- assisted shopping runs for the Elderly community,
- snow clearing and gritting, and
- indoor unpaid work craft.

These projects have been instrumental in fostering a sense of togetherness, benefiting both service users, community groups and individuals in need of support.



*Park maintenance*



*Assisted shopping*



*Snow clearing*



*Indoor unpaid work craft*

We also currently have 18 Unpaid Work 'Individual Placements' in the city. These include large second hand furniture stores, smaller high street second hand clothing stores, food banks, community centres, a community café, churches and mosques, a community golf course, and a local football and boxing club.

58 clients were placed in Individual Placements during the year, undertaking a total of 7084 hours of Unpaid Work.

Most clients on Individual Placements say they enjoyed the experience, and some have continued volunteering after the Placement has completed.

#### **4) Other activity**

Please describe the main types of "other activity" carried out as part of unpaid work or other activity requirement.

The Service commissions the provision of an Employability service for adults (16+) who are subject to a Community Payback Order with an unpaid work and other activity requirement' and other individuals receiving a service from justice social work, which is provided by Aberdeen Foyer. Individuals engaging with the service gained 45 qualifications during 2024-25, with 12 clients moving into employment.

Aberdeen Foyer offer: CSCS, Forklift, Banksman Slinger, Asbestos Awareness and City and Guilds Training; job application and interview training; links to work placements (30 hours of work-related activity with employer; additional support, mentoring and much more).

**Case Study:** X, 26, was referred to Foyer in September 2023. He began his journey with a strong start, making progress towards his CSCS card and engaging positively with his Development Coach. After a setback linked to alcohol dependency, X

temporarily disengaged. However, he returned with renewed motivation, having started attending support groups for recovery. X reconnected with Foyer and began attending weekly appointments again. He showed real commitment – completing mock tests and eventually passing his CSCS exam with full marks. X now has his green card and continues to work with Foyer to find employment in the construction sector. His journey highlights the importance of second chances and the power of perseverance.

In addition, the below are offered as ‘Other Activity’:

- Learning/Training offered: Blended Learning and Woodwork Design Packs; Adult Learning (English, Maths, Computer Studies, certificated work courses); First Aider Course, Driving Theory Test; Colin’s Historical Walks; Tool-Box Talks
- Volunteering: Wildlife Trust, Churches, community centres, cancer research, 4x4 support for emergency services, football coaching, teaching guitar, charity shops
- Drug/ Alcohol Counselling, Drug Awareness and Women’s Learning Pack is also offered.

## 5) Feedback

Please provide a summary of quotes or feedback on the impact of supervision requirements and or unpaid work or other activity requirements from the following perspectives:

- People subject to a supervision requirement
- People undertaking unpaid work or other activity requirement
- The community and beneficiaries of unpaid work

### Overview

Clients completing CPO Supervision and Unpaid Work are asked to complete an Exit Questionnaire. Numbers of questionnaire completed continue to increase year on year:

<b>Questionnaires Completed</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>TOTAL 24-25</b>	<b>TOTAL 23-24</b>
Supervision*	108	13	121	93
Unpaid Work	160	17	177	131
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>268</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>349</b>	<b>247</b>

*\*Includes a small number of questionnaires completed by individuals on licences*

Feedback comments for 2024-25 was overwhelmingly positive, including the below areas:

- **Supervision** - improvements in various life issues, relationships with Justice Social Work workers, useful aspects of supervision, behavioural changes, reasons for changes in offending behaviour, and community supports linked;
- **Unpaid Work** - peoples' experiences, achievements, skills developed, and opinions about staff and community impact.

Feedback collected is collated and reviewed on a quarterly and annual basis, and considered via our service governance arrangements, including in terms of any feedback which might inform service improvement. Summary highlights are shared with the wider staff group, with more detailed or specific feedback being shared with individual staff members via Supervision arrangements.

### **People subject to a Supervision Requirement**

80% of those who completed Supervision Exit Questionnaires (the majority of these being individuals who have successfully completed Community Payback Orders with Supervision), felt that their Supervision had helped them stop or reduce their offending.

*My CJW was extremely easy to get on with and I felt able to discuss anything with them. I trust them which was very important to make progress*

*I started to believe in myself and that there was a path forward*

*Definitely won't be back!*

There were many very positive individual comments about the value of an individual's relationship with their worker/s, and the role played by the worker/s, with many respondents expressing gratitude for the support received, noting positive life changes and improved outlooks. They appreciated the professionalism and kindness of workers and highlighted the value of the supervision experience.

The below table sets out more detail about feedback received:

	<b>Number / %</b>
No of responses re CPOs	110 (91%)
No of responses re Licences	5 (4%)
Blank	6
Found information provided at induction useful	118 (98%)
Felt was treated with respect	45 (37%)

Very good relationship with JSW workers	58 (48%)
Good relationship with JSW workers	6 (5%)
Felt progress / achievement was recognised	89 (74%)
Felt thinking / behaviour changed during Supervision	89 (74%)
Felt offending behaviour changed during Supervision	92 (76%)
How has level of offending changed?	
- No further offending	85 (70%)
- Same rate of offending & less serious	1 (1%)
- Offending less often & less serious	3 (2%)
- Offending less often & more serious	1 (1%)
- Offending less often & same level of seriousness	2 (2%)
<i>No-one indicated offending more often</i>	
Felt Supervision helped stop / reduce offending	97 (80%)
Linked into other supports or services in the community	51 (42%)

As can be seen from the table below, all 93 respondents who reported issues at the start of Supervision felt improvement in at least one area by the end of their Supervision:

Issue	No / % who identified this as an issue at start of Supervision	No / % of these who felt issue improved during Supervision
People reporting issues (improvement in at least one area)	93 (100%)	93 (100%)
Alcohol	33 (35%)	32 (97%)
Coping Skills	52 (56%)	44 (85%)
Drugs	35 (38%)	30 (86%)
Employability / Education	18 (19%)	15 (83%)
Housing	36 (39%)	27 (90%)
Mental Health	64 (69%)	52 (81%)
Money Issues	34 (37%)	21 (62%)
Personal Relationships	49 (53%)	43 (88%)
Physical Health	32 (34%)	20 (63%)
Self Esteem	41 (44%)	31 (76%)

### **People undertaking unpaid work or other activity requirement**

91% of those who completed an Exit Questionnaire at the end of an Unpaid Work Requirement indicated that they had found the work worthwhile, with 86% recognising the benefit of this to the community.

The below table sets out more detail about feedback received:

	<b>Number (%)</b> <b>Total = 177</b>
Found information provided at induction useful	169 (95%)
Found work worthwhile	161 (91%)
Had good support from Order Supervisor	171 (97%)
Had any personal achievements during unpaid work	79 (45%)
Learned about team work	144 (81%)
Developed new skills	88 (50%)
Developed existing skills	95 (54%)
Thought the unpaid work benefitted the community	153 (86%)

Many Unpaid Work clients expressed gratitude in their Exit Questionnaire, noting positive life changes, and appreciated the opportunity to contribute positively rather than face incarceration. Nearly half (45%) noted personal achievements, including improved social skills, timekeeping, community contribution, and new hobbies such as painting and woodworking. Feedback highlighted Task Supervisors as kind, supportive, approachable, and instrumental in helping participants complete their hours and overcome personal challenges.



### **The community and beneficiaries of unpaid work**

We have good relationships with our Individual Placement providers – they trust our judgement. Clients placed show good levels of reliability and commitment to completing their hours with the charity involved. Most say they enjoyed the experience and some continue volunteering.

Below are examples of feedback received from beneficiaries of unpaid work in the community:

- The job that would have taken myself and two others at least a couple of hours, was achieved in less than an hour. The young men you sent were brilliant, and so very helpful, I am impressed.
- I want to express a huge thank you to the task supervisors & the UPVW'S for their help yesterday it was fantastic and actually I don't know what I would have done without them.
- Thanks once again and your team for all your help with our young people. We would be lost without it and couldn't do our job.

Feedback to a Task Supervisor about the Assisted Shopping Service:

[\*NB name of Unpaid Worker changed to avoid identification]

*“Thanks for letting us know how the Service Operates and thanks to Aberdeen City Council for providing this free of charge. \*Bob is a lovely REAL gentleman. I know that I speak for us all in saying, we are very appreciative users, especially the disabled, and those of us without family. Before the Service was laid on it was a great hardship, eg we had the expense of taxi's etc. This is an excellent Service that is provided. We are going to miss \*Bob, and all his work mates, when they move forward in their careers. God Bless them all, but they have all benefited from your excellent patient and responsible example, I admire your work, and I see how the lads, of all nationalities, under your guidance, have come on. AND WE love YOUR Sunday morning, always pleasant, welcoming smile, and help. See you next Sun if I haven't “snuffed it” while watching the Soaps 🙌 🙌 🙌”*

## 6) Benefits and challenges of other CPO requirements

Please mark with a cross the requirements that were imposed by courts in 2024 to 2025.

- Compensation requirement
- Programme requirement

- Residence requirement
- Restricted movement requirement
- Conduct requirement
- Alcohol treatment requirement
- Drug treatment requirement
- Mental health treatment requirement

For each of the requirements that were imposed (up to a maximum of 300 words) please describe innovative and practice examples, challenges, and impact associated with each.

**Compensation.** There are no issues for us in relation to this requirement.

**Programme.** Generally imposed following assessment of suitability. Some issues where court imposes a programme requirement without an assessment having been completed or when we have assessed them as unsuitable.

Overall, the Caledonian Programme works well, both Men's Programme and Women's/ Children's service. There is undoubtedly an information sharing benefit in having all elements of the system together. Feedback from the women's service is that they feel that their voices are heard, they are well-supported and safety plans are in place. Children also receive individualised support and safety planning suitable to age and stage. Work is to be undertaken to understand conversion rates, given the high number of assessments undertaken compared to numbers who are assessed as suitable for the programme.

The groupwork element of Moving Forward Making Changes is delivered by the Aberdeenshire Joint Sex Offenders Project team and, for lower-level sexual offending, Aberdeen City social workers deliver the Aberdeenshire Sex Offender Programme (ASOP). Aberdeenshire are withdrawing their service from 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026, and so we are in the process of establishing a new team within our Service, to enable us to continue offering this programme.

**Conduct.** Primarily used for: RSOs who require police to check mobile devices; to attend drug/ alcohol/ mental health/ counselling/other services as directed by supervising officer.

**Alcohol Treatment.** This is not a commonly used Requirement. Generally, the requirement to engage with Alcohol Services is imposed as part of a Conduct Requirement.

The Court sometimes imposes unmanageable requirements e.g. to undertake “elements of the Caledonian Programme” and “Requires the offender, for a period of 1 year from the date of this requirement, to refrain from consuming alcohol and admit to being breathalysed by Police or Social Work”, the latter being impossible as the individual was alcohol dependent and to withdraw all alcohol immediately was likely to be life threatening. Such orders are returned to the court for amendment.

## 7) Organisational improvements and ongoing challenges

Looking back at last year (2023-24), have there been any improvements to the challenges you noted? Are there any challenges you are still facing this year (2024-25)?

### Demands on the Service

- Numbers of both Justice Social Work Reports and Community Payback Orders continue to show an increasing trend year on year, with CPOs equalling, and JSWRs now well-surpassing, pre-Covid levels. This has resulted in workers feeling stretched to meet the demands, with the additional challenge of a reduction in ‘full time’ hours to a 35 hour week from July 2025. In the last report we identified that discussions were taking place with Sheriffs in Aberdeen Sheriff Court to pilot shorter and more succinct JSW Reports, and efforts are being made to encourage social workers to produce proportionate reports (eg shorter Sheriff Summary reports than Solemn / High Court reports) with oversight via ongoing quality assurance.

### Unpaid Work

- Following the move to different premises in January 2023, (due to notice being given on previous premises), the Unpaid Work service lost the use of a joinery workshop. The service had to move again in May 2024. The current premises can

accommodate two workshop areas which has raised our placement numbers again and serves as a resource in poor weather, however the building is unsuitable from which to operate a fully functional joinery workshop – a loss to the clients and a reduction in the type of work skill offered. The service recently managed to secure additional space within the current building for a third workshop, and we are looking at how best to make use of this. Over time, the need of the service to move twice has caused some disruption for clients, in relation to delayed completion of orders to allow for the site moves and new project set up arrangements.

- Issues previously identified in relation to fleet services / aging vehicles have now been resolved and most of our vehicles have now been replaced. This has addressed the difficulties previously experienced with LEZ Restrictions in the City.

#### Use of ASBOs

- Concerns continue to be experienced regarding the use of ASBOs, particularly for people with mental health problems, learning difficulties etc. who will be unable to comply and therefore will be criminalised. The Community Justice Improvement Plan project to review ASBO guidance and implement change ideas to how we respond and manage anti-social behaviour, which was referenced in last year's report, has made some progress, including in terms of refreshing local guidance and related awareness-raising about the use of ASBOs.

#### No Recourse to Public Funds

- Increasing numbers of people with no recourse to public funds is putting additional strain on resources and we have increasingly seen this year that bail and community orders and are being imposed which results in social work securing housing and providing living expenses. Having reached out to the justice network across Scotland to determine how other areas are dealing with this challenge it transpires that areas are approaching this differently across the country.
- From 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025 a new Home Office case management tool - NRPF Connect – was implemented within the local authority. This enables the recording of details of households with no recourse to public funds (NRPF) that are being provided with accommodation and/or financial support by councils when social care duties are engaged. The system is accessible by services across the

council including social work and housing and enables immigration status information to be obtained from the Home Office to help identify a person's support options and whether the exclusion to social services' support applies. The ongoing benefits of this system will be evaluated over time.

- Some staff have now completed Human Rights Assessment training. Work is in progress to create a cross-service panel to enable consistent and auditable decision-making regarding resource allocation.

#### Young People

- Although numbers of 16- and 17-year-olds in contact with the service are low (seven Justice Social Work Reports and three CPOs in 2024-25), the service provided JSWRs for 89 young people aged 18 – 20 years, and oversaw the same number of CPOs, in the same period. Getting it right for these young people is critical, and with a lack of dedicated resourcing, there is scope for improvement in terms of pathways and collaborative working between Justice and Children's Social Work Services, particularly in light of current and future changes relating to the Children's Care & Justice (Scotland) Act 2024. We are currently liaising with Children's / Youth Services to plan and prepare in relation to this.

#### Unplanned Releases from Court

- Release from custody via virtual Courts, and 'unplanned' liberations from other Courts, continue to present challenges in respect of providing multi agency 'throughcare' support (for housing, medication, benefits, etc) and engaging and inducting individuals being released from establishments across the country who have CPOs to progress in the community. Justice Social Work is represented on a multi-agency short life working group which is looking at ways services and agencies can work together to improve our collective response and pathways, particularly considering increasing drug related deaths.

## **8) Collaborative working across justice partnerships**

Please provide any examples of work with community justice partners, including the third sector, to effectively deliver CPOs.

Individuals who completed Exit Questionnaires at the end of CPOs with a Supervision Requirement fed back that they had been linked into a variety of community services including:

- Drug and alcohol support.

- Housing support services.
- Mental health services.
- Money advice supports.
- Volunteering and church groups.
- Rehabilitation and therapy programmes.

During the year we undertook re-commissioning of our service for the provision of an Employability service for adults (16+) who are subject to a Community Payback Order with an unpaid work and other activity requirement and other individuals receiving a service from justice social work, which is provided by Aberdeen Foyer.

The Aberdeen Foyer contract was continued from the previous year, and individuals engaging with the service gained 45 qualifications during 2024-25, with 12 clients moving into employment.

*See also Case Study under section 4 ‘Other Activity’ above.*

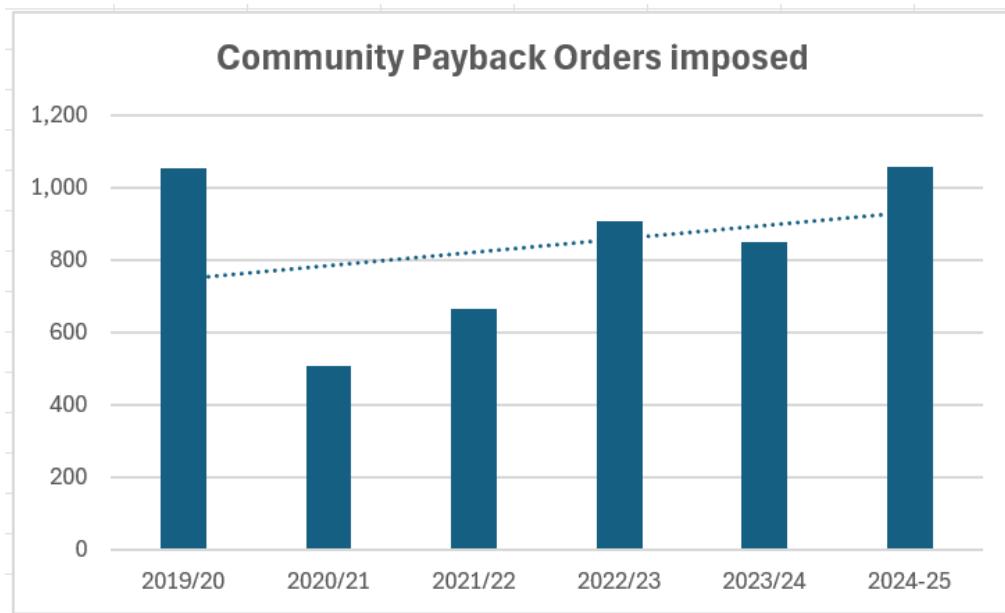
## **9) Additional information**

Is there any other relevant information you wish to highlight? This may include:

- Any new and/or notable trends in the CPO cohort (e.g. changing needs, offence types, demographics)
- Areas for improvement and planned next steps.
- New ways of working and benefits achieved from these.

### Service Demands

As can be seen from the chart below, the number of Community Payback Orders imposed has increased significantly from 2023-24 to 2024-25, up by 24% and returning to pre-pandemic levels. The trend over time also shows a steady increase.



As of 7<sup>th</sup> May 2025, there were 701 CPO Unpaid Work and Other Activity Requirements in place (up from 524 as of 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2024), and 52,468 hours of Unpaid Work outstanding (up from 42,471). This is an increase in Requirements of 34% on the same date the previous year, and an increase in hours outstanding of 24%. In addition, the Service has seen an increasing trend in the numbers of report requests for Sheriff Solemn business.

#### Unpaid Work

The ‘workshop’ element of the Unpaid Work service, which provides lighter, seated unpaid work placement opportunities, remains in a temporary location. Further focus is to be given to increasing availability of individual placements, and to providing further appropriate and meaningful placements for the increasing number of clients (around 50%) who can only undertake indoor or seated tasks.

Fewer clients have been assessed as suitable for Individual Placements, as the post covid court backlog produced more orders for more serious matters. Placement providers have also increasingly set their own restrictions in relation to volunteers’ convictions.

In addition, we have fewer females in Individual Placements than previously. Whilst an Individual Placement was usually our first option for female Unpaid Work clients, we increasingly find that more of our females have presented with chaotic substance use issues and for more serious offences which can preclude them from an Individual Placement. As an alternative for some, we now have quite an established ‘Women-only Wednesdays’ at our indoor project where we offer light seated craft sessions. Anything made there then goes to charity shops for sale.

#### Alcohol and Drugs Intervention

The Service has recognised a need to upskill staff in being able to respond to clients presenting with alcohol and drugs issues and is addressing this via training with Scottish Drugs Forum, in-house awareness raising, a staff focus group, and updates via our monthly staff forum. We have a dedicated Development Officer in relation to this.

The Service is part of multi agency arrangements which reviews every drug related death. This is to support shared learning and to identify any early interventions and potential preventative measures.

<b>COMMITTEE</b>	Communities, Housing and Public Protection Committee
<b>DATE</b>	13 January 2026
<b>EXEMPT</b>	No
<b>CONFIDENTIAL</b>	No
<b>REPORT TITLE</b>	Communities, Housing and Public Protection Performance Report
<b>REPORT NUMBER</b>	CORS/26/001
<b>DIRECTOR</b>	Andy MacDonald
<b>CHIEF OFFICER</b>	Martin Murchie
<b>REPORT AUTHOR</b>	Louise Fox
<b>TERMS OF REFERENCE</b>	1.1.3

## 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To present Committee with the status of appropriate key performance measures relating to services falling within its remit.

## 2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

2.1 That the Committee note the report and provide comments and observations on the performance information contained in the report Appendix.

## 3. CURRENT SITUATION

### Report Purpose

3.1 This report is to provide members with appropriate key performance measures in relation to certain relevant services as expressed within the 2025/26 Council Delivery Plan, agreed at the April 16th 2025 Council meeting.

### Report Structure and Content

3.2 Performance Management Framework Reporting against in-house delivery directly contributing to, or enabling delivery against, the city's Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) has informed development of successive Council Delivery Plans, including the 2025/26 Council Delivery Plan, agreed on 16<sup>th</sup> April 2025.

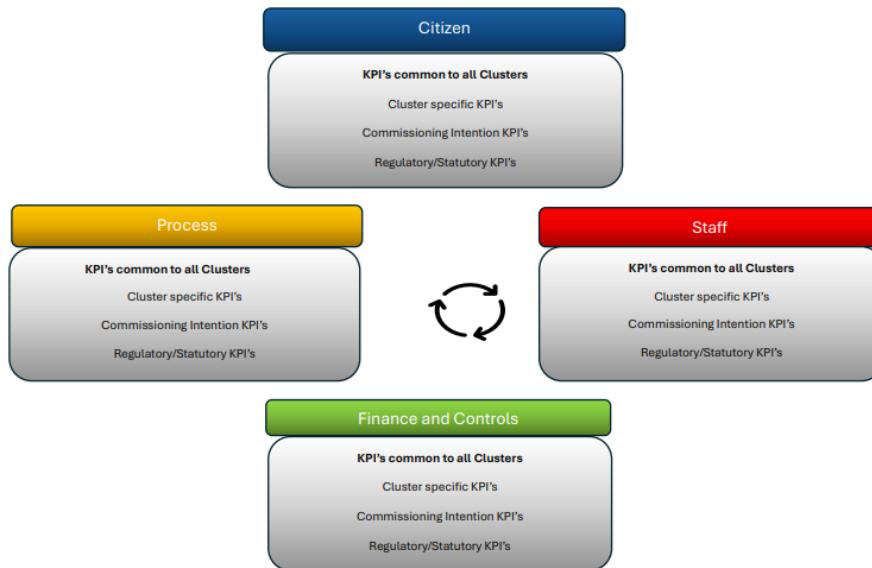
3.3 The Council's Performance Management Framework, supporting and enabling scrutiny against progress of the Council Delivery Plan and its key measures, establishes a robust performance management and reporting system which encompasses single and multi-service inputs, outputs and outcomes.

3.4 The refreshed Performance Management Framework for 2025/26 was approved at the meeting of Council on 20<sup>th</sup> August 2025.

3.5 Service standards against each function/cluster, associated with Council delivery planning, offer continuous insight into the effectiveness, and

accessibility of core service provision to the Council's stakeholders and city communities.

- 3.6 Where appropriate, data capture against these standards is now directly incorporated within the suite of metrics contained within Appendix A and will be reported against on either a monthly, quarterly or annual basis.
- 3.7 The Performance Management Framework provides for a consistent approach within which performance will be reported to Committees. This presents performance data and analysis within four core perspectives, as shown below, which provides for uniformity of performance reporting across Committees.



- 3.8 This report, as far as possible, details performance up to the end of November 2025 or Quarter 2 2025/26, as appropriate.
- 3.9 Appendix A provides an overview of performance across certain appropriate services, with reference to recent trends and performance against target. Further analysis is also provided of several performance measures which have been identified as of potential interest in terms of either performance implications or data trends.
- 3.10 Within the summary dashboard the following symbols are also used:

### **Performance Measures**

#### **Traffic Light Icon**

- ✓ On target or within 5% of target
- ⚠ Within 5% - 20% of target and being monitored
- ✗ More than 20% below target and being actively pursued



Data only – target not appropriate

Where narrative analysis of progress against service standards is provided and has been attributed with a RAG status by the relevant Service Manager, these are defined as follows:

### **RAG Status**

**GREEN** – Actions are on track with no delays/issues emerging

**AMBER** – Actions are experiencing minor delays/issues emerging and are being closely monitored

**RED** - Actions are experiencing significant delays/issues with improvement measures being put in place

## **4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

## **5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no direct legal implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

## **6. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no direct environmental implications arising from the recommendations of this report

## **7. RISK**

The assessment of risk contained within the table below is considered to be consistent with the Council's Risk Appetite Statement.

Category	Risks	Primary Controls/Control Actions to achieve Target Risk Level	*Target Risk Level (L, M or H) <small>*taking into account controls/control actions</small>	*Does Target Risk Level Match Appetite Set?
Strategic	None	NA	NA	NA
Compliance	No significant legal risks.	Publication of service performance information in the public domain ensures that the Council is meeting its legal obligations in	L	Yes

		the context of Best value reporting.		
<b>Operational</b>	No significant operational risks.	Oversight by Elected Members of core employee health and safety/attendance data supports the Council's obligations as an employer	L	Yes
<b>Financial</b>	No significant financial risks.	Overview data on specific limited aspects of the clusters' financial performance is provided within this report	L	Yes
<b>Reputational</b>	No significant reputational risks.	Reporting of service performance to Members and in the public domain serves to enhance the Council's reputation for transparency and accountability.	L	Yes
<b>Environment / Climate</b>	None	NA	NA	NA

## 8. OUTCOMES

<u>COUNCIL DELIVERY PLAN</u>	
	<b>Impact of Report</b>
<b>Aberdeen City Council Policy Statement</b>	<b>None</b>
<b>Aberdeen City Local Outcome Improvement Plan</b>	
Prosperous Economy Stretch Outcomes	The Council aims to support improvement in the local economy to ensure a high quality of life for all people in Aberdeen. This report monitors indicators which reflect current economic activity within the City and actions taken by the Council to support such activity.
Prosperous People Stretch Outcomes	The Council is committed to improving the key life outcomes of all people in Aberdeen. This report monitors key indicators impacting on the lives of all citizens of Aberdeen. Thus, Committee will be enabled to assess the effectiveness of measures already implemented, as well as allowing an evaluation of future actions which may be required to ensure an improvement in such outcomes.
Prosperous Place Stretch Outcomes	The Council is committed to ensuring that Aberdeen is a welcoming place to invest, live and visit,

	operating to the highest environmental standards. This report provides essential information in relation to environmental issues allowing the Committee to measure the impact of any current action.
<b>Regional and City Strategies</b>	None

## 9. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Assessment	Outcome
<b>Integrated Impact Assessment</b>	No Assessment is required for this report. I confirm this has been discussed and agreed with Martin Murchie, Chief Officer, Data Insights (HDRCA) on 1 <sup>st</sup> December 2025.
<b>Data Protection Impact Assessment</b>	Not required
<b>Other</b>	None

## 10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Council Delivery Plan 2025/26 – CORS/25/038

[Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2016-2026](#) (April 2024 Refresh)

Performance Management Framework – CORS/25/189

## 11. APPENDICES

Appendix A – Performance Summary Dashboard

## 12. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

Louise Fox

Strategic Performance and Improvement Officer

[lfox@aberdeencity.gov.uk](mailto:lfox@aberdeencity.gov.uk)

This page is intentionally left blank

### Communities, Housing and Public Protection Committee Performance Report Appendix A

#### Corporate Landlord

##### Building Services

###### 1. Citizen – Building Services

Performance Indicator	Q4 2024/25		Q1 2025/26		Q2 2025/26		2025/26 Target	Long Trend
	Value	Status	Value	Status	Value	Status		
**The year to date percentage of repairs appointments kept	Data unavailable		98.79%		99.04%		90%	
Percentage of tenants who have had repairs or maintenance carried out in the last 12 months satisfied with the repairs and maintenance service (year to date).	87.5%		88.24%		89.68%		80%	

Performance Indicator	Q4 2024/25		Q1 2024/25		Q2 2025/26		2025/26 Target	Long Trend
	Value	Status	Value	Status	Value	Status		
Total No. complaints received (stage 1 and 2) - Building Services	51		66		68			
% of complaints resolved within timescale (stage 1 and 2) - Building Services	74.5%		75.8%		64.7%		75%	
No. of complaints resolved within timescale (stage 1 and 2) - Building Services	38		50		44			
% of complaints with at least one point upheld (stage 1 and 2) - Building Services	29.4%		22.7%		23.5%			
*Total No. of lessons learnt identified (stage 1 and 2) - Building Services	8		1		3			

\*Lessons learnt referred to throughout this Appendix are lasting actions taken/changes made to resolve an issue and to prevent future re-occurrence for example amending an existing procedure or revising training processes. When a complaint has been upheld, action would be taken in the form of an apology or staff discussion/advice, but these actions are not classified as lessons learnt.

## 2. Processes – Building Services

Performance Indicator	Q4 2024/25		Q1 2025/26		Q2 2025/26		2025/26 Target	Long Trend
	Value	Status	Value	Status	Value	Status		
The year to date average length of time taken to complete emergency repairs (hrs)	3.78		3.64		3.93		4.1	
The year to date average length of time taken to complete non-emergency repairs (days)	7.44		8.34		8.45		8.3	
The year to date percentage of reactive repairs carried out in the last year completed right first time	91.53%		93.88%		94.83%		90%	
**The percentage of Repairs Inspections completed within 20 working day target (year to date)	Data unavailable		99.85%		99.4%		100%	

\*\*Service Commentary - The year to date percentage of repairs appointments kept / The percentage of Repairs Inspections completed within 20 working day target (year to date)

Regarding the missing Q4 2024/25 data for year to date percentage of repairs appointments kept and percentage of inspections completed within target, this was due to the absence of the staff member who compiles this information from the system. The Q3 values being at 93.59% (% of appointments kept) and 96% (% of inspections completed within target) provide some assurance that the target ranges for these measures were being met to this point.

## 3. Staff – Building Services

Performance Indicator	Q4 2024/25		Q1 2025/26		Q2 2025/26		2025/26 Target	Long Trend
	Value	Status	Value	Status	Value	Status		
Accidents - Reportable - Employees (No in Quarter - Building Services)	1		1		1			
Accidents - Non-Reportable - Employees (No in Quarter - Building Services)	4		2		2			

Performance Indicator	Sep 2025		Oct 2025		Nov 2025		2025/26 Target (Corporate Average)	Long Trend
	Value	Status	Value	Status	Value	Status		
*Sickness Absence – Average Number of Days Lost - Building Services	5.1		5.4		5.7		5	
**Average number of working days lost due to sickness absence per FTE employee, monthly	1.28		1.63		1.76			
Establishment actual FTE	413.72		410		407.22			

\*Absence data throughout this report reflects robust calculations of FTE based absence but with recognition that minimal variances in accuracy can arise in longitudinal and service comparisons where part time/variable hours working contracts are more common. The impact of this technical/statistical issue has been assessed as producing a marginal inflationary effect on absence levels within Services where a greater proportion of these types of contract are appropriate to effective service delivery.

\*\*This indicator calculates the working days lost due to sickness per month per employee. This is calculated by dividing the total number of days lost due to sickness during the respective month by the average of all the FTE staff employed during the same month.

#### 4. Finance & Controls – Building Services

Performance Indicator	Sep 2025		Oct 2025		Nov 2025		2025/26 Target	Long Trend
	Value	Status	Value	Status	Value	Status		
Staff Costs - % Spend to Date (FYB)	54.1%		61.8%		69.7%		100%	

## 1. Customer – Facilities Management

Performance Indicator	Q4 2024/25		Q1 2025/26		Q2 2025/26		2025/26 Target	Long Trend
	Value	Status	Value	Status	Value	Status		
Total No. complaints received (stage 1 and 2) - Facilities	2		6		2			
% of complaints resolved within timescale (stage 1 and 2) - Facilities	100%		100%		100%		75%	
No. of complaints resolved within timescale (stage 1 and 2) - Facilities	2		6		2			
% of complaints with at least one point upheld (stage 1 and 2) - Facilities	0%		50%		0%			
Total No. of lessons learnt identified (stage 1 and 2) - Facilities	0		0		0			

Performance Indicator	Q4 2024/25		Q1 2026/26		Q2 2025/26		2025/26 Q2 Target	Long Trend
	Value	Status	Value	Status	Value	Status		
*Number of school lunches served in the year - Primary (YTD)	2,081,065		572,946		920,787		905,200	

\*The expansion of free school meal provision and increasing pupil rolls at schools across the city have combined to see more school meals being served in our Primary schools. The service will continue to monitor pupil rolls and meal uptakes as we work through the year and will revise targets appropriately.

Performance Indicator	Current Status	2025/26 Target
All meals served to children and young people in our schools will meet The Nutritional Requirements for Food and Drink in Schools (Scotland) Regulations 2020		100%
The Nutritional Requirements for Food and Drink in Schools (Scotland) Regulations 2020 came into effect from April 2021. Our School Catering service aims for 100% compliance with the regulations to ensure that whilst in school, our children and young people are receiving the nutrition they require to be effective learners. We have set this as a service standard particular to Aberdeen City Council's school Catering Service and there is no comparative benchmarking information which we can use to compare performance with other local authorities. Performance is not reported as a metric, but the intention of the measure is to highlight to Committee any reports received on nutritional non-compliance from Education Scotland's school inspection visits.		

## 2. Processes – Facilities Management

Performance Indicator	Sep 2025		Oct 2025		Nov 2025		2025/26 Target	Long Trend
	Value	Status	Value	Status	Value	Status		
% Fly tipping alerts at housing multi-storeyblocks responded to within 60 hours	76.5%	🔴	100%	🟢	100%	🟢	100%	⬆️
% Response cleaning alerts responded to within priority timescales	45.5%	🔴	100%	🟢	100%	🟢	100%	⬆️
*% Void cleaning alerts responded to within priority timescales	100%	🟢	100%	🟢	68.4%	🔴	100%	⬇️

\*The November data for % Void cleaning alerts responded to within priority timescales is interim. Unusually high levels of sickness have been experienced within the Voids team over recent weeks. This has led to difficulties with administration which mean that we are unable to confirm the exact number of jobs carried out (19) that were completed within set timescales. This will be resolved when the appropriate staff return from sick leave at which point we will be able to update these figures for accuracy.

Performance Indicator	Q4 2024/25		Q1 2025/26		Q2 2025/26		2025/26 Target	Long Trend
	Value	Status	Value	Status	Value	Status		
% Local bus service registration changes reviewed and responded to within the prescribed 28-day period	100%	🟢	100%	🟢	100%	🟢	100%	▬
% Mainstream Transport Applications assessed within target timescale	100%	🟢	100%	🟢	88.6%	🟡	100%	⬇️
% ASN/Exceptional Applications processed within target timescale	100%	🟢	100%	🟢	96.2%	🟢	100%	▬
*% School Transport Contracts Spot Checked within time period	59.3%	🟢	0%	🔴	18%	🔴	25% (Q2)	⬆️

\*Contract Monitoring Officer was on Maternity Leave until August 2025 so most visits will be conducted over Q3 and Q4, as a result. Visits were able to recommence on 19 August and 22 of the 61 visits required annually have now been completed.

Performance Indicator	Current Status	2025/26 Target
We will deliver 39 weeks contracted school cleaning to the standards set in our generic specification.		100%
Cleaning service is delivered by the in-house team at all non-3Rs schools in the city, for the 190 days of the school session plus the 5 annual in-service days. We will use this measure to highlight any instances where a school has been unable to open due to our inability to provide a satisfactory cleaning service.		

Performance Indicator	Current Status	2025/26 Target
We will deliver cleaning services within all (non-school) operational properties to the standards set in our generic specification.		100%
Cleaning service is delivered by the in-house team throughout the year at all other operational properties across the city, on all weekdays minus public holidays (a limited number of properties also receive service over weekends). We will use this measure to highlight any instances where a property has been unable to open due to our inability to provide a satisfactory cleaning service.		

### 3. Staff – Facilities Management

Performance Indicator	Q4 2024/25		Q1 2025/26		Q2 2025/26		2025/26 Target	Long Trend
	Value	Status	Value	Status	Value	Status		
Accidents - Reportable - Employees (No in Quarter)	0		0		0			
Accidents - Non-Reportable - Employees (No Quarter)	6		10		5			

Performance Indicator	Sep 2025		Oct 2025		Nov 2025		2025/26 Target (Corporate Average)	Long Trend
	Value	Status	Value	Status	Value	Status		
*Sickness Absence – Average Number of Days Lost - Facilities	9		8.8		8.8		5	
Average number of working days lost due to sickness absence per FTE employee, monthly	1.84		1.93		2.14			
Establishment actual FTE	519.83		520.48		526.35			
Establishment actual FTE (Catering)	177.34		177.23		178.62			
Establishment actual FTE (Cleaning)	228.03		227.22		230.78			
Establishment actual FTE (Janitorial)	66.3		66.3		67			
Establishment actual FTE (Office & Building Management)	15.93		16.93		16.93			
Establishment actual FTE (Passenger Transport Unit)	30.61		31.18		48.27			

#### 4. Finance & Controls - Facilities Management

Performance Indicator	Sep 2025		Oct 2025		Nov 2025		2025/26 Target	Long Trend
	Value	Status	Value	Status	Value	Status		
Inspection - Number of overdue corrective actions requests as at month end	0		0		0		0	
Staff Costs - % Spend to Date (FYB)	53.8%		62.4%		71.2%		100%	

#### Governance

##### Protective Services

###### 1. Citizen – Protective Services

Performance Indicator	Q4 2024/25		Q1 2025/26		Q2 2025/26		2025/26 Target	Long Trend
	Value	Status	Value	Status	Value	Status		
Total No. complaints received - Protective Services	14		5		7			
% of complaints resolved within timescale - Protective Services	85.7%		80%		85.7%		75%	
No. of complaints resolved within timescale (stage 1 and 2) – Protective Services	12		4		6			
% of complaints with at least one point upheld (stage 1 and 2) - Protective Services	0%		40%		14.3%			
Total No. of lessons learnt identified (stage 1 and 2) - Protective Services	0		0		2			

###### 2. Processes - Protective Services

Performance Indicator	Q4 2024/25		Q1 2025/26		Q2 2025/26		2025/26 Target	Long Trend
	Value	Status	Value	Status	Value	Status		
% of Samples reported within specified turnaround times (Aberdeen Scientific Services Laboratory)	71.4%		83%		75.5%		80%	

Performance Indicator	Q4 2024/25		Q1 2025/26		Q2 2025/26		2025/26 Target	Long Trend
	Value	Status	Value	Status	Value	Status		
*% of registered tobacco retailers visited to give Business Advice on compliance with tobacco legislation - Year to Date	33.3%		12.6%		14.6%			
*% of registered tobacco retailers subjected to Test Purchasing for retailer compliance with age restrictions - Year to Date	16%		4.6%		4.6%			
*% of registered Nicotine Vapour Products retailers visited to give Business Advice on compliance with legislation - Year to Date	33.3%		13.4%		17.7%			
*% of registered Nicotine Vapour Products retailers subjected to Test Purchasing for retailer compliance with age restrictions - Year to Date	20%		10.2%		10.2%			
% of scheduled food service premises inspections (where access was possible) carried out on time, in line with Food Regulatory Service Plan	100%		100%		100%		100%	

\*The Scottish Government (SG) has set targets for all local authority Trading Standards Services to carry out test purchasing from retail premises to test for compliance with the age restriction on the supply of tobacco and nicotine vaping products (e-cigarettes) set out in the Tobacco and Primary Medical Services (Scotland) Act 2010. The requirement is that 10% of registered tobacco and e-cigarettes retailers in each jurisdiction should be tested on an annual basis. Accordingly, at the beginning of each financial year Aberdeen City Council Trading Standards service plans this work so that these targets are achieved (along with the related PI of visiting 20% of each to provide Business Advice). This work is dependent upon the availability of 16 year old volunteers to work alongside officers. That notwithstanding, this service regularly achieves these targets, which are reported to the SG via the Society of Chief Officers of Trading Standards in Scotland (SCOTSS).

Performance Indicator	Sep 2025		Oct 2025		Nov 2025		2025/26 Target	Long Trend
	Value	Status	Value	Status	Value	Status		
Non-Domestic Noise % responded to within 2 days	100%		100%		97.1%		100%	
High Priority Pest Control % responded to within 2 days	100%		97.8%		98.8%		100%	
High Priority Public Health % responded to within 2 days	98.7%		98.7%		100%		100%	
All Other Dog Requests - % responded to within 5 days	100%		100%		100%		100%	

## 2. Processes – Community Safety

Performance Indicator	Sep 2025		Oct 2025		Nov 2025		2025/26 Target	Long Trend
	Value	Status	Value	Status	Value	Status		
YTD Percentage of anti-social behaviour cases reported which were resolved	93.87%		94.39%		94.11%		100%	
YTD % of calls attended to by the ASBIT Team within 1 hour	98.8%		99.4%		96.3%		95%	

## 3. Staff - Protective Services

Performance Indicator	Q4 2024/25		Q1 2025/26		Q2 2025/26		2025/26 Target	Long Trend
	Value	Status	Value	Status	Value	Status		
Accidents - Reportable - Employees (No. In Quarter - Protective Services)	0		0		0			
Accidents - Non-Reportable - Employees (No. In Quarter - Protective Services)	0		0		0			

Performance Indicator	Sep 2025		Oct 2025		Nov 2025		2025/26 Target (Corporate Average)	Long Trend
	Value	Status	Value	Status	Value	Status		
Sickness Absence – Average Number of Days Lost – Protective Services	2.6		2.3		2.1		5	
Average number of working days lost due to sickness absence per FTE employee, monthly	0.88		1.09		0.98			
Establishment actual FTE	62.73		62.23		62.03			

#### 4. Finance & Controls - Protective Services

Performance Indicator	Q4 2024/25		Q1 2025/26		Q2 2025/26		2025/26 Target	Long Trend
	Value	Status	Value	Status	Value	Status		
% of External Quality Assurance reported results that were satisfactory (Aberdeen Scientific Services Laboratory)	97.1%		100%		90.4%		95%	

Performance Indicator	Sep 2025		Oct 2025		Nov 2025		2025/26 Target	Long Trend
	Value	Status	Value	Status	Value	Status		
Staff Costs - % Spend to Date (FYB)	51%		58.9%		66.7%		100%	

#### Corporate Services

##### People & Citizen Services

###### 1. Citizen – People & Citizen Services

Performance Indicator	Q4 2024/25		Q1 2025/26		Q2 2025/26		2025/26 Target	Long Trend
	Value	Status	Value	Status	Value	Status		
Total No. complaints received – People & Citizen Services	108		105		103			
% of complaints resolved within timescale – People & Citizen Services	87%		86.7%		80.6%		75%	
No. of complaints resolved within timescale (stage 1 and 2) – People & Citizen Services	94		91		83			
% of complaints with atleast one point upheld (stage 1 and 2) – People & Citizen Services	32.4%		28.6%		41.7%			
Total No. of lessons learnt identified (stage 1 and 2) – People & Citizen Services	6		8		8			

Performance Indicator	Sep 2025		Oct 2025		Nov 2025		2025/26 Target	Long Trend
	Value	Status	Value	Status	Value	Status		
Financial Inclusion - No of open cases per month	184		202		246			
Financial Inclusion - No of enquiries per month	99		96		68			

## 2. Processes – People & Citizen Services

Performance Indicator	Sep 2025		Oct 2025		Nov 2025		2025/26 Target	Long Trend
	Value	Status	Value	Status	Value	Status		
Average time in minutes and seconds to answer calls to Customer Contact Centre	4.00		4.09		4.14		5.00	
% Copy birth, death, marriage and civil partnership certificates issued within target timescale (7 days)	98.84%		98.07%		99.51%		100%	
Welfare Rights - % of Successful Appeals	No appeals in September		100%		No appeals in November			

## 3. Staff – People & Citizen Services

Performance Indicator	Q4 2024/25		Q1 2024/25		Q2 2025/26		2025/26 Target	Long Trend
	Value	Status	Value	Status	Value	Status		
Accidents - Reportable - Employees (No in Quarter – People & Citizen Services)	0		0		0			
Accidents - Non-Reportable - Employees (No in Quarter – People & Citizen Services)	0		0		0			

Performance Indicator	Sep 2025		Oct 2025		Nov 2025		2025/26 Target (Corporate Average)	Long Trend
	Value	Status	Value	Status	Value	Status		
Sickness Absence – Average Number of Days Lost – People & Citizen Services	5.7		5.6		5.6		5	

Performance Indicator	Sep 2025		Oct 2025		Nov 2025		2025/26 Target (Corporate Average)	Long Trend
	Value	Status	Value	Status	Value	Status		
Average number of working days lost due to sickness absence per FTE employee, monthly	1.29		1.18		1.15			
Establishment actual FTE	183.26		187.73		186.49			

#### 4. Finance & Controls – People & Citizen Services

Performance Indicator	Sep 2025		Oct 2025		Nov 2025		2025/26 Target	Long Trend
	Value	Status	Value	Status	Value	Status		
Staff Costs - % Spend to Date (FYB)	46.1%		53.3%		60.9%		100%	
Financial Inclusion - Total Financial Gains Achieved per month	£310,069		£266,950		£198,481			

#### Families & Communities

##### Housing

###### 1. Citizen – Housing

Performance Indicator	Q4 2024/25		Q1 2025/26		Q2 2025/26		2025/26 Target	Long Trend
	Value	Status	Value	Status	Value	Status		
Total No. complaints received – Housing	55		89		98			
% of complaints resolved within timescale - Housing	58.2%		76.4%		78.6%		75%	
No. of complaints resolved within timescale (stage 1 and 2) – Housing	32		68		77			
% of complaints with at least one point upheld (stage 1 and 2) - Housing	29.1%		16.9%		44.9%			
Total No. of lessons learnt identified (stage 1 and 2) - Housing	4		2		5			

Performance Indicator	Sep 2025		Oct 2025		Nov 2025		Nov 2025	Long Trend
	Value	Status	Value	Status	Value	Status		
Percentage of tenants satisfied with the standard of their home when moving in YTD	70.4%		74.3%		68.9%		75%	
*Satisfaction of new tenants with the overall service received (Year To Date)	62.96%		65.7%		64.4%		85%	

#### \*Service Commentary – Satisfaction of new tenants with the overall service received

The processes through which new tenant satisfaction data is collated, and addressed, was outlined in the report to November Committee. This noted that the number of new tenants who were dissatisfied with the overall service are, in any monitoring period, extremely small in comparison with both the number of new tenancies, and in the context of extended surveying of all current Council tenancies. A significant proportion of those surveyed either offer no specific response or record a neutral stance on their experience which influences the levels of satisfaction. Of the 45 responses received, 29 of these were satisfied/very satisfied with the level of service provided.

## 2. Processes – Housing

Performance Indicator	Sep 2025		Oct 2025		Nov 2025		2025/26 Target	Long Trend
	Value	Status	Value	Status	Value	Status		
YTD % of cases reassessed as being homeless or potentially homeless within 12 months* of a previous case being closed. (Data Provided by Scottish Government on a Quarterly Basis)	3.8%		2.7%		2.7%		4%	
*YTD % of statutory homeless decisions reached within 28 Days Unintentional RRTP	52.3%		52.2%		52.8%		100%	
*YTD Average length of journey in days for applicants assessed as unintentionally homeless (RRTP)	114.6		116		116		100	
Number of Statutory Homeless Households Residing in Temporary Accommodation at Month End	458		486		478			
The YTD number of Legal reposessions following decree (Arrears) - Citywide	39		49		57			
**Housing Applications processed 28 days YTD %	65.3%		64.4%		64.8%		100%	
***Statutory Customer Service Actions - Decisions/Outcomes within statutory timescale	89.2%		89%		89.4%		100%	
****The YTD Average time taken to re-let all properties (Citywide - days)	249.7		247.1		242.6		210	
Void properties awaiting / undergoing preparation for relet	1,788		1,634		1,658			

\*Service Commentary – YTD % of statutory homeless decisions reached within 28 Days / Average length of journey in days for applicants assessed as unintentionally homeless

The service continues to operate at an average decision time of 27 days, which is an improvement on the 30.1 days position in 24/25 and 39.5 days in 23/24. As reflected through our use of personas within the Housing Emergency Action Plan, levels of complexity are increasing and therefore the investigation required for certain cases now takes significantly longer.

It is crucial that we consider both the decision time and journey time together, as the journey time highlights the outcome for a person experiencing homelessness. Our average journey time year to date has fallen by 19 days when compared with the 24/25 year end position.

As outlined in our Housing Emergency Action Plan we will continue to reduce journey time by focussing on making increased lets available within ACC, RSL and the private rented sector (where sustainable), however it is important to note the increasing demands into this system, at an increase of 23%, present challenges that are forecasted to continue into 2026.

\*\*Service Commentary – YTD % of Housing Applications processed within 28 days

As outlined in the commentary for the period of July –August, this decline in performance had been expected as we continue to experience a period of adjustment around operating approach, coupled with staff vacancies and holidays/absences, triggering an increase in processing time. Recruitment has progressed with a period of training required for the new starts within the team. A review around how to improve the recording of this measure continues.

We continue to experience a high demand across this area of the service for application processing and for the generation of offers. To date a total of 3147 new applications have been registered across all housing lists and over 5000 offers generated for temporary and permanent housing.

\*\*\*Service Commentary – Statutory Customer Service Actions – Decisions/Outcomes within statutory timescales

The overall year-to-date figure shows a modest improvement in recent months, with an increased rate of timely completion of actions. The service will maintain close monitoring to ensure that all actions continue to be completed as scheduled.

\*\*\*\*Service Commentary - YTD Average time taken to re-let all properties

As reflected in the service commentary to the November meeting of this Committee, proposed changes to ways of working initiated by the Housing and Corporate Landlord Clusters, including approaches to the new build housing, are showing early signs of impact with the number of days taken to re-let reducing by almost 7 days from September to November. In terms of new build alone, 62 properties were let with an average letting time of 9.73 days. This represents a continuation of an improving trend in this measure since the beginning of the year. This has assisted in delivery of a positive shift in status which is consistent across the period. In addition to this, we are seeing improvement in reducing the number of void properties awaiting/undergoing preparation for relet from the November reporting of 1788 reducing to 1658. This included 78 new build properties that we added to our stock during this period. We will continue to explore the necessary actions approved within the Housing Emergency Action Plan to further drive improvement and reductions.

### 3. Staff – Housing

Performance Indicator	Q4 2024/25		Q1 2025/26		Q2 2025/26		2025/26 Target	Long Trend
	Value	Status	Value	Status	Value	Status		
Accidents - Reportable - Employees (No in Quarter - Housing)	0		0		0			
Accidents - Non-Reportable - Employees (No in Quarter – Housing)	1		1		2			

Performance Indicator	Sep 2025		Oct 2025		Nov 2025		2025/26 Target (Corporate Average)	Long Trend
	Value	Status	Value	Status	Value	Status		
Sickness Absence – Average Number of Days Lost – Housing	3.8		3.8		3.7		5	
Average number of working days lost due to sickness absence per FTE employee, monthly	0.89		1.3		0.95			
Establishment actual FTE	86.72		79.11		90.86			

#### 4. Finance & Controls – Housing

Performance Indicator	Sep 2025		Oct 2025		Nov 2025		2025/26 Target	Long Trend
	Value	Status	Value	Status	Value	Status		
Staff Costs - % Spend to Date (FYB)	57.6%		65.3%		75.6%		100%	
*Rent loss due to voids - Citywide - YTD average	7.4%		7.38%		7.34%		4.62%	

\*Service Commentary – Rent Loss Due To Voids

The percentage of rent loss is showing some improvement across the 3 months of the monitoring period, and in comparison, with the same period in 2024/25. This is a pattern of incremental positive in-year change which has been demonstrable over previous months.

#### Housing Revenue Account

##### 3. Staff – Housing Revenue Account

Performance Indicator	Sep 2025		Oct 2025		Nov 2025		2025/26 Target	Long Trend
	Value	Status	Value	Status	Value	Status		
Establishment actual FTE	188.18		187.59		186.9			

#### 4. Finance & Controls – Housing Revenue Account

Performance Indicator	Sep 2025		Oct 2025		Nov 2025		2025/26 Target	Long Trend
	Value	Status	Value	Status	Value	Status		
Staff Costs - % Spend to Date (FYB)	57.6%		66.4%		75.1%		100%	

#### Corporate

##### 1. Citizen – Corporate

Performance Indicator	Q4 2024/25		Q1 2025/26		Q2 2025/26		2025/26 Target	Long Trend
	Value	Status	Value	Status	Value	Status		
No. of Non-complex Subject Access Requests received	92		97		74			
% Non-complex Subject Access Requests responded to within 1 month	92.4%		96.9%		98.6%		100%	
No. of Complex Subject Access Requests received	5		12		20			
% Complex Subject Access Requests responded to within 3 months	40%		58.3%		70.0%		100%	
No. of Environmental Information Regulation requests received	113		70		98			
% of Environmental Info Requests replied to within 20 working days - Corporate	75.2%		77.1%		81.6%		100%	
No. of Freedom of Information requests received	351		449		463			
*% of Freedom of Information requests replied to within 20 working days - Corporate	77.5%		76.6%		71.9%		100%	
No. of Access to School Records requests received	5		9		6			
% Access to School Records requests responded to within 15 school days	100%		100%		100%		100%	
No. of Data Protection Right requests received	12		15		8			
% Data Protection Right requests responded to within 1 month	100%		92.3%		87.5%		100%	

\*Service Commentary - % of Freedom of Information requests responded to within 20 working days

The fall in response times in both Quarter 1 and Quarter 2 are materially linked to a substantive increase in the number of requests received in these periods. The Service is currently examining the drivers behind this rise in the number of requests received, and outlining potential Corporate and Cluster level actions to address this in collaboration with the Council's Performance Board.

PI Status	
	Alert (figure more than 20% out with target)
	Warning (figure between 5% and 20% out with target and being monitored)
	OK (figure within target or better)
	Data Only

Long Term Trends	
	Improving/Increasing
	No or Limited Change/Stable
	Getting Worse/Decreasing

This page is intentionally left blank

## ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

---

<b>COMMITTEE</b>	Communities, Housing and Public Protection Committee
<b>DATE</b>	13 January 2026
<b>EXEMPT</b>	No
<b>CONFIDENTIAL</b>	No
<b>REPORT TITLE</b>	Graffiti in Aberdeen
<b>REPORT NUMBER</b>	CR&E/26/005
<b>EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR</b>	Gale Beattie
<b>CHIEF OFFICER</b>	Mark Reilly
<b>REPORT AUTHOR</b>	Steven Shaw
<b>TERMS OF REFERENCE</b>	1.1.1

---

### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To update committee on the current challenges in dealing with removing graffiti in Aberdeen and also what steps are required to be taken to help reduce the graffiti problem.
- 1.2 This includes the partnership work with the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) being developed regarding efficient reporting, data / evidence gathering and enforcement.

### 2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Committee: -

- 2.1 Notes the demand being placed on, and the work being carried out by, Environmental Services to remove graffiti in Aberdeen;
- 2.2 Notes the current work being undertaken by the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) to reduce graffiti and the steps being proposed to gather data and evidence to help tackle the problem; and
- 2.3 Instructs the Chief Officer - Operations, following consultation with the Community Safety Manager, to bring a report to the Communities, Housing and Public Protection Committee in the Summer 2026 to give an update on the progress being made.

### 3. CURRENT SITUATION

- 3.1 At the Council meeting on 2 July 2025, a Notice of Motion was submitted by Councillor Bonsell in the following terms:-

That Council:-

- (1) Shares the pride of Aberdonians in our city, including its beautiful granite architecture, and wants everyone who lives, works, studies or visits here to see Aberdeen at its best;
- (2) Understands the increasing concerns of residents, businesses and community organisations that graffiti is defacing too many buildings, walls and other structures in the city centre and across Aberdeen;
- (3) Recognises the efforts of Council officers and Police Scotland in addressing the issue of graffiti, for instance, through their reporting systems, graffiti removal service, and diversionary activities, including the graffiti art wall in Sunnybank Park;
- (4) Commends citizens for their vigilance in spotting and reporting graffiti to the Council and Police Scotland;
- (5) Appreciates the positive contribution of NuArt Aberdeen to our cityscape and looks forward to the return of this cultural festival in 2026;
- (6) Instructs the Chief Officer - Operations, following consultation with the Community Safety Manager, to bring a report to the Communities, Housing and Public Protection Committee on 11 November 2025 on current efforts to reduce graffiti in Aberdeen and what more could be done, including partnership working with Police Scotland, local businesses, and community organisations.

3.2 The Council Decision resolved to approve the Notice of Motion subject to an amended part (6) as follows:-

- (6) Instructs the Chief Officer - Operations, following consultation with the Community Safety Manager, to bring a report to an appropriate Communities, Housing and Public Protection Committee on current efforts to reduce graffiti in Aberdeen and what more could be done, including partnership working with Police Scotland, local businesses, and community organisations.

### 3.3 Graffiti Removal

3.3.1 Although some graffiti can and has been viewed as artistic, if it is produced on property without the owner's permission it is a criminal offence. In Scotland, graffiti is covered by two separate criminal offences. Firstly, it could fall under the common law offence of 'malicious mischief'. Secondly, it is a form of vandalism, which is dealt with by section 52 of the Criminal Law (Consolidation) (Scotland) Act 1995 ("the 1995 Act"). Section 52(1) of the 1995 Act states that "*...any person who, without reasonable excuse, wilfully or recklessly destroys or damages any property belonging to another shall be guilty of the offence of vandalism.*"

Section 58 of the Antisocial Behaviour etc. (Scotland) Act 2004 provides that;

*Where it appears to a local authority that—*

(a) a relevant surface in its area has been defaced by graffiti; and  
(b) the defacement is—  
    (i) detrimental to the amenity of the locality; or  
    (ii) offensive,  
the authority may serve a graffiti removal notice on any responsible person.

A “relevant surface” is either the surface of a public road or any building, structure, apparatus, plant or other object on such a road or, in some circumstances, the surface of land owned, occupied or controlled by a relevant body (or of property on such land). A “relevant body” means an educational institution or a statutory undertaker.

3.3.2 Graffiti and tagging are detrimental to the urban environment and can increase peoples’ fear of crime. The Broken Window theory advocates that environmental degradation spirals when a building or area appears uncared for. It is suggested that degradation can be avoided by dealing with instances of ‘broken windows’ e.g. vandalism, littering, flytipping promptly, thereby showing the area is cared for.

3.3.3 Although there is no statutory obligation for Aberdeen City Council to remove graffiti from its properties, parks and highways, the Council has accepted responsibility for the removal. This work is undertaken by Environmental Services.

3.3.4 Environmental Services aims to remove problem graffiti quickly to reduce the perceived negative effects on the community and break the associated cycle of criminality. However, the levels of graffiti in Aberdeen have reached such an extent that the service is not able to meet the demand for removing it. The service simply does not have the resources to remove the current level of graffiti seen across Aberdeen.

Currently the service only has the capacity to deal with graffiti that is formally reported. The service does not have the resources to be proactive and clear all the tags they see.

3.3.5 Environmental Services has a team tasked with graffiti removal. The team consists of two Environmental staff trained in the removal of graffiti. An Environmental Chargehand and an Area Supervisor are also trained in carrying out graffiti removal. The team are not dealing with graffiti removal full time as their work also covers power washing jobs, cleaning of bin rooms and various other city centre deep cleaning jobs.

3.3.6 Removal methods include washing, chemical wash and painting.

- Washing is as simple as the name suggests and purely involves using a power washer to remove the graffiti. This can be in hot or cold water.
- To chemically clean graffiti, water-soluble chemicals are applied, then washed off with a power washer.
- Painting is used to cover graffiti if the original surface was painted and would be damaged by the use of a power washer. It is also used on large pieces of graffiti where the cost of chemical removal outweighs its benefits. Where

painting is necessary, the team endeavour to attain a reasonable colour match, although an exact match cannot always be guaranteed.

3.3.7 Graffiti that Environmental Services has a responsibility to clear from properties etc owned by Aberdeen City Council is targeted for removal within 16 working weeks of receipt of the report or complaint. Where private property is affected by graffiti the Council will liaise with the owners/occupiers to arrange removal. Private work is charged for.

3.3.8 Where graffiti is judged offensive it will be removed within 15 days from the receipt of the report. The following criteria is used when judging if graffiti is seen as offensive:

- Offensive language
- Language of a politically/racially/religiously insulting or inciting nature
- A hate statement
- A graphically explicit image
- A visually or textually offensive image
- Libellous, or potentially libellous, statements.

3.3.9 To date in 2025 there have been 348 instances of graffiti reported. 17 of these reports remain outstanding. 41 of the reports have been marked as offensive and cleared.

3.3.10 Graffiti and other forms of vandalism can be reported through the Council's website.

All graffiti reports are entered into a single database for removal. Information on the job such as location, removal date, materials used and time taken are all recorded.

3.3.11 Where required, Environmental Services will work with partners such as Aberdeen Inspired and the Community Safety Partnership to encourage and support enforcement activities with the aim of preventing future incidents.

3.3.12 Aberdeen Inspired, businesses and local communities have been very supportive of the Environmental Services team. These partners want to continue their support and help where they can to remove graffiti and reduce the incidents of tagging. Discussion with these partners will continue in 2026.

#### 3.4 Intelligence gathering and supporting insights and enforcement

3.4.1 The CSP is currently developing an analytical dashboard to enhance intelligence gathering and support insights and enforcement. This dashboard will combine information from Aberdeen City Council services and Police Scotland, along with data collected by partner teams, to create a comprehensive intelligence picture. By integrating these sources, the approach aims to strengthen the evidence base and provide greater support for enforcement operations.

- 3.4.2 In addition to this development, CSP continues to host a daily multi-agency meeting where all incidents reported in the previous 24-hour period are reviewed. Graffiti-related incidents have now been added to the scope of these discussions, ensuring that this issue receives appropriate attention and coordinated responses.
- 3.4.3 The CSP leads a monthly City Centre Anti-Social Behaviour meeting attended by CSP partners and key external stakeholders, including Aberdeen Inspired and local businesses. This forum provides an opportunity to share feedback, raise concerns, and monitor progress on city centre priorities. Graffiti will now feature as a standing agenda item within these meetings, reinforcing our commitment to addressing this issue collaboratively.
- 3.4.4 Aberdeen City Council strives to improve the total environment for its citizens and the removal of graffiti is one step towards achieving that goal. This will be done through the use of an efficient reporting system that enables the quick removal of graffiti along with prevention measures and partnership working.

#### **4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

#### **5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

#### **6. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 There are no direct environmental implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

#### **7. RISK**

The assessment of risk contained within the table below is considered to be consistent with the Council's Risk Appetite Statement.

<b>Category</b>	<b>Risks</b>	<b>Primary Controls/Control Actions to achieve Target Risk Level</b>	<b>*Target Risk Level (L, M or H)</b> <small>*taking into account controls/control actions</small>	<b>*Does Target Risk Level Match Appetite Set?</b>
<b>Strategic Risk</b>	No enforcement action and service	Improve evidence and data gathering.	Medium	<b>Yes</b>

	unable to meet demand on clearing. Problem increases			
<b>Compliance</b>	No enforcement action and service unable to meet demand on clearing. Problem increases.	Improve evidence and data gathering.	Medium	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Operational</b>	The service does not have the resources to meet demand.	Team will only deal with formal reports. There is not the capacity for the team to be proactive. Service will reach a point when only offensive graffiti can be tackled.	Medium	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Financial</b>	The revenue budget in place does not meet the requirements of the demand.	Team will only deal with formal reports. There is not the capacity for the team to be proactive. Service will reach a point when only offensive graffiti can be tackled.	Medium	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Reputational</b>	Aberdeen seen as a target for vandals and crime.	Promote awareness of challenges faced.	Medium	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Environment / Climate</b>	Risk of areas looking run down and neglected which could attract other environmental problems such as litter and flytipping.	Team will only deal with formal reports. There is not the capacity for the team to be proactive. Service will reach a point when only offensive graffiti can be tackled.	Medium	<b>Yes</b>

## 8. OUTCOMES

<b>COUNCIL DELIVERY PLAN 2025-26</b>	
Aberdeen City Council Policy Statement  <u><a href="#">Working in Partnership for Aberdeen</a></u>	<b>Impact of Report</b>  The proposals within this report support the delivery of the following aspect of the policy statement:- A Safer Aberdeen. Aberdeen City is a welcoming, peaceful and safe place to live, work and visit. We will continue to do all we can to protect individuals and communities from harm caused by crime and antisocial behaviour. Working together we will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Support, encourage and assist the city's Community Policing Teams, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service and other community safety partners.</li><li>- Improve community safety by continuing to invest in the Council's Anti-Social Behaviour Investigations Team, in City Wardens, in community safety projects.</li><li>- Promote and develop city centre community safety through sustained partnership work with Street Pastors, the private sector and others and by continuing effective measures including Taxi Marshalls.</li><li>- Tackle fly-tipping and establish a squad to tackle illegal graffiti across the city.</li></ul>
<u><a href="#">Local Outcome Improvement Plan</a></u>	
<b>Prosperous Place Stretch Outcomes</b>	15. 26% of Aberdeen's area will be protected and/or managed for nature and 60% of people report they feel that spaces and buildings are well cared for by 2026.
<b>Regional and City Strategies</b>	The proposal within this report supports a range of regional and city-wide strategies including. Regional and Local Transport Strategies, Strategic and Local Development Plan, Local Outcome Improvement Plan, Aberdeen Adapts and the Local Housing Strategy.

## 9. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

<b>Assessment</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
<b>Integrated Impact Assessment</b>	It is confirmed by the Chief Officer – Operations, 11/12/25, that no Integrated Impact Assessment is required.
<b>Data Protection Impact Assessment</b>	No identifiable data is included in this report therefore a DPIA is not required.

Other	N/A
-------	-----

## **10. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

10.1 N/A

## **11. APPENDICES**

11.1 N/A

## **12. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS**

<b>Name</b>	Steven Shaw
<b>Title</b>	Environmental Manager
<b>Email Address</b>	<a href="mailto:stevens@aberdeencity.gov.uk">stevens@aberdeencity.gov.uk</a>
<b>Tel</b>	Tel: 07786976381

## ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

---

<b>COMMITTEE</b>	Communities, Housing and Public Protection
<b>DATE</b>	13 January 2026
<b>EXEMPT</b>	No
<b>CONFIDENTIAL</b>	No
<b>REPORT TITLE</b>	Update Report on Non-Traditional Housing Stock (including City Centre Multis)
<b>REPORT NUMBER</b>	F&C/26/009
<b>EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR</b>	Eleanor Sheppard
<b>CHIEF OFFICER</b>	Stephen Booth
<b>REPORT AUTHOR</b>	Ian Perry
<b>TERMS OF REFERENCE</b>	1.1.1

---

### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The report is provided in response to a previous committee instruction to provide an update on the non-traditional housing stock including city centre multi storey buildings. The report provides members with further information on these property types, works done to date and an indication of the next steps required.

### 2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Committee:-

In relation to the non-traditional low-rise stock

- 2.1 Note the work undertaken with condition surveys for non-traditional properties and instruct the Chief Officer - Corporate Landlord to develop a programme of structural inspections of non-traditional constructed properties on a prioritised basis;
- 2.2 Instruct the Chief Officer - Capital to procure technical and economic reports on the long-term investment options (all as noted in 3.5 of this report) for each type of non-traditional building and to include the findings of these in the 30 year business plan.

In relation to the city centre multi storey properties:

- 2.3 Instruct the Chief Officer - Capital to instruct full condition surveys of the city centre multi storey buildings covered by this report; and thereafter to review the previous options appraisal to reflect these updated surveys, and changes and proposed changes to regulation, along with investment requirements over differing timeframes for each group of buildings, all as noted in this report; and to provide updates through the 30 year business plan;

- 2.4 Instruct the Chief Officers – Capital, Strategic Place Planning and City Development and Regeneration to engage with Historic Environment Scotland with regard to the technical, economic and habitability issues associated with the listed city centre blocks, so as to identify any potential technical solutions and/or funding sources in relation to investment required in the buildings;
- 2.5 Due to the fragmented nature of the ownership in the buildings, instruct the Chief Officer - Corporate Landlord and Chief Officer - Housing to investigate any funding options for private owners, but also the implications of offering a 'buy-back' or sell to rent scheme for city centre multi-storey buildings, reporting on this to committee in August 2026;
- 2.6 Instruct the Chief Officer - Corporate Landlord and Chief Officer - Housing to undertake further engagement with owners once further costings and options information is available; and
- 2.7 Instruct the Chief Officer - Housing, following consultation with the Chief Officer - Capital, to manage the scheme decisions required to allow the surveys and reports noted in recommendations to be undertaken, and to share these reports, once available, with those private owners having a shared interest in these properties.

### **3. CURRENT SITUATION**

- 3.1 There are two outstanding committee instructions in relation to non-traditional stock within the Council housing portfolio. These relate to low rise non-traditional stock and city centre multi storeys.
- 3.2 At the meeting of this Committee on 17 January 2023, it was agreed to instruct the Chief Officer – Corporate Landlord to review the HRA's non-traditional housing stock to identify properties that will be unable to meet future environmental or other standards, and to identify a budget to undertake these inspections.
- 3.3 At the meeting of this Committee on 21 November 2024, it was agreed to instruct the Chief Officer – Corporate Landlord to revisit the costs, risks, and deliverable timescales for all options in an updated Business Case, and to report this to a future meeting of this Committee, and to reflect the future risks and financial requirements for these buildings in the Housing Revenue Account.
- 3.4 There have been delays in bringing both these reports back whilst resources were focussed on other housing issues. During this time there have been wider developments as highlighted in this report which will require previous work to be re-considered in both areas.
- 3.5 Further to the HRA budget report in December 2025, the following instruction was given by Council, which is of relevance to this report: -

*(xii) to delegate authority to the Chief Officer - Corporate Landlord following consultation with the Chief Officer - Finance, Chief Officer - Capital, Chief Officer - Housing and Conveners of the Communities, Housing and Public Protection and Finance and Resources Committees to vire monies within the Housing Capital Plan to support any works that may be required to review the non-traditional housing stock and city centre multi storeys, retrospectively reporting any virement to the next available meeting of the Finance and Resources Committee as part of the Quarterly Financial Performance reports;*

### **Non-Traditional Stock**

3.6 Non-traditional construction in residential properties refers to buildings that use materials or methods that deviate from traditional construction norms. Common types of non-traditional construction include timber-framed properties, prefabricated buildings, steel-framed, and load bearing concrete panel construction (Large Panel System). The Council have 19 different types of properties which are classed as being of non-traditional construction, in addition to multi-storey buildings which are also of non-traditional construction.

3.7 Properties built using non-traditional methods may require specialised maintenance and have different insurance requirements; all of which may affect resale value and marketability. In a historical context the rise of non-traditional construction was driven by the need for rapid housing solutions during times of housing shortage, particularly after World War II.

3.8 Aberdeen City Council originally owned 5,210 properties of non-traditional construction (low rise). Due to the Right to Buy, that figure has reduced to 1,989 (approx. 8.5% of the HRA stock). Details of the types of non-traditional stock and the numbers by type; information on numbers sold and the spread of stock across the Council's letting areas is shown in Appendix A. The table below gives a high level overview.

	Number	Sold	ACC Owned	Locations
1924 Timber Framed	57	24	33	2
Aberdeen Corporation Poured Concrete	121	82	39	3
Aberdeen Corporation Timber	76	60	16	1
Aberdeen In Situ Concrete	228	120	108	1
BISF	243	135	108	1
Blackburn	200	112	88	2
Cruden	21	17	4	1
Dunedin	1606	1002	604	7
Dutch Pre Cast	24	17	7	1
Halls Precast	332	124	208	4
Marshalls Timber	43	19	24	5
Skean Dhu	167	114	53	1
Tee-Beam	236	100	136	3
Timber Local Design	11	10	1	1
Weir Jura	50	40	10	1

Weir Timber	100	61	39	1
Weir Timber Frame	137	98	39	2
Whitson Fairhurst	50	24	26	1
Wimpey No Fines	1508	1062	446	4
	5210	3221	1989	

3.9 During 2024 and into 2025, a stock conditions survey of approximately 15% of the Council's low-rise non-traditional stock was undertaken to support the development of the Council's new asset management model and to implement previous committee instruction. The information from these surveys has been 'layered over' the rest of the council stock. These surveys were based on the requirements of the Scottish Housing Quality Standard (SHQS), using external surveyor support, and included a full SHQS survey (visual review of all internal and external elements of the property) including visual surveys of the key external components such as wall and roof finishes. The knowledge gained from these surveys of council owned properties has influenced the current capital plan for replacement of key component part where the council is the owner.

3.10 This work was highlighted to the committee as there was a perception that these properties, whilst considered to have a more limited lifespan than traditional properties and additional investment work may be required. During the course of these inspections, no major issues were highlighted concerning the fabric of these properties by the surveys, though a small number showed areas of cracked render. Some of the construction types do however have a more limited life expectancy of some component parts, such as the delamination of infill panels. The type of repairs, with modern materials to some property types, also requires more consideration.

3.11 Energy performance indicators (based on SAP 2012 (SAP is the standard assessment procedure used to current calculate energy performance)) show that approximately 12.5% are EPC D, 1% are EPC E with the remainder being EPC C. A number of factors in a property affect this rating including the position of each property in a terrace, rooms in roof-spaces, upper floors properties etc. Significant changes to how energy performance is assessed are coming into force through 2026 with a move away from a SAP calculation to a different way to calculate energy performance known as the Home Energy Model. Works are in place to look at the impact this will have on all council stock and how properties will be re-assessed. This will influence future capital requirements and be reflected in the next iteration of the 30 year business plan..

3.12 Whilst regular intrusive structural inspections have been carried out to the Council's non-traditional multi storey stock, there has been no requirement for such a programme to be in place for low rise non-traditional stock. These properties range in age from approximately 45 to 100 years old. It is proposed that these properties should now be subject to more intrusive regular inspections to ensure that their structure continues to be in an acceptable condition and identification of any areas where these structural elements may require timely intervention, or a more significant intervention is required.

3.13 Committee members are asked to note that:

- all houses have a finite serviceable life. Non-traditional properties will deteriorate at different rates from traditionally, and other non-traditionally, constructed properties
- non-traditionally constructed properties will have different challenges from traditionally constructed properties when it comes to improving their thermal performance
- some non-traditionally constructed properties deteriorate at faster rates than other non-traditionally constructed properties, with particular parts of the construction being more vulnerable than others
- a significant proportion of the non-traditional properties have been purchased through the Right to Buy by private owners. This will often create a boundary condition between a property that is Council owned and privately owned properties. This will impact not only flatted accommodation but terraced and semi-detached properties. The full implications associated with the repair obligations of these boundaries are currently unknown and should be thoroughly investigated and reported upon.

3.14 The Principal Architect, Capital, has proposed that a 5 year programme of intrusive surveys and technical and economic reports be implemented with an initial focus on developing plans for:

- each of the 19 low-rise, non-traditionally constructed property types (including those of load bearing concrete panel construction (Large Panel System)); and
- with the initial, high level programme for these to be reported in the next housing bi-annual report.

3.15 While this report notes that all properties have a finite life there is no indication from visual inspections that there is any safety issues which relates to their method of construction.

3.16 As with the findings of future planned inspections on our multi-storey stock, the findings of the proposed survey on the non-traditional low-rise stock will be utilised to further improve the outcomes of the Housing Asset Management Plan. Funding for this survey work will be managed through the existing Capital Plan with investment requirements brought forward through annual budget setting.

3.17 Given that many of the property types noted are houses with gardens etc, the occupier demand profile remains good.

### **Update on City Centre Multi-storey Buildings**

3.18 A number of previous reports have been brought to committee on City Centre multi-storey buildings in relation to the Grade A listing of five of them, an option appraisal on potential development and the outcome of consultation with residents.

3.19 An option appraisal in 2023 (link attached - [May 2023 Option Appraisal Report](#)) identified 5 options for the buildings and cost range at this time, on a per unit basis, over a 30 year lifespan as follows:

1. do minimum (£270k to £350k)

2. medium level of investment (£300k to £380k)
3. high level of investment (£330k to £430k)
4. very high level of investment (£380k to 480k)
5. demolition and replacement (£420k to £480k)

3.20 A consultation exercise was undertaken in relation to these options with owners and tenants which was presented to committee in 2024. A link is attached. [November 2024 - consultation Report](#). The report identified a strong preference for 'do minimum' options from both owners and tenants, primarily influenced by affordability and concerns around the potential disruption.

3.21 The Committee are reminded that 5 of the properties are listed by Historic Environment Scotland, these being properties at Glicomstoun Land, Porthill Court, Seamount Court, Virginia Court and Marischal Court.

A link to the information leaflet on the listing prepared by Aberdeen City Council is attached [here](#)

3.22 Bringing further information to Committee and updating cost information has been delayed due to the level of officer input required across the Council in managing other building issues. During this time, regular repair and maintenance works on the buildings have continued. There have, in the interim, also been a number of other relevant factors which will affect the business case and works going forward.

3.23 During this time the normal levels of repair and maintenance have been undertaken to the buildings and engagement owners of other similar properties has been undertaken to discuss common issues.

3.24 In response to the Housing (Cladding Remediation) (Scotland) Act 2024, the Council has been successful in obtaining funding to undertake Single Building Assessments (SBA) on 27 multi-storey buildings in the city. These SBAs will relate to buildings that have been re-clad, which excludes the city centre multis. This is considered to be the first phase of works and a budget of £1.5 million is available. The SBA is a Scottish Government standardised evaluation of the fire safety of a building's external wall systems, and also internal fire safety, aimed at identifying risks and assessing compliance with the updated guidance on fire safety, within high-rises, that has been provided by the Grenfell Inquiry and Scottish Government. The learning from these initial surveys, which will be undertaken during 2026, will have an impact on the requirements of the subject properties.

3.25 The future investment requirements for the buildings will also be influenced by the Social Housing Net Zero Standard (SHNZS). This standard is expected to be launched during 2026.

3.26 In recent years the Council insurance premiums for all multi storey buildings have seen significant percentage increases. Anecdotal evidence suggests that some private owners are struggling to get reasonable insurance premiums in relation to the buildings.

3.27 As noted in previous reports, there are differing levels of private ownership within the city centre multis, albeit all buildings have some level of private ownership. All investment in repairs and upgrades to the properties requires scheme decisions, with repairs requiring a majority and improvements requiring all owners' consent. The fragmentation of ownership will make future investment decisions difficult to implement.

3.28 Previous business cases looked at the properties over a long term basis (30 years) and it is clear from the consultation undertaken that there is limited appetite from owners and some tenants for significant works to be undertaken, nor are these considered affordable for private owners. The significant level of investment identified in 3.16 should be considered against market values for individual homes which are in the region of £50,000 per property, and in the context that there is a very limited mortgage market for such properties.

3.29 There is currently a scheme decision out to consultation at Gilcomstoun Land in relation to structural repairs. This is currently live and involves a detailed survey to determine works and an estimate of required repairs that could be up to £23,000 per home. These repair works will need to be progressed but it is likely that the detailed survey will be undertaken and that there will then be a further engagement with owners to consider the priority of work and how costs can be addressed. The detailed work at Gilcomstoun Land will also influence required solutions at other properties.

3.30 It is proposed, in light of the impact of the matters noted above along with the significant uncertainty there has been around construction costs, particularly with high rise buildings, that updated detailed condition surveys are undertaken to all of the city centre multis noted in this report to reflect the various changes there have been in recent years. It is further recommended the previous business case be revisited to consider the levels of repair and investment required over different periods of time to give a wider range of investment options to extend the buildings' life and comfort to residents. Officers would propose engaging with Historic Environment Scotland on this work to help explore funding and alternative technical solutions.

3.31 It is proposed that this additional work is instructed on an individual building by building basis, rather than as a group, as the condition of each property varies, as do the listing requirements, energy options, fire safety considerations and ownership.

3.32 An outcome from previous work indicates that in all scenarios significant investment is likely to be required which may be beyond the means of current owners. Officers seek instruction to engage with owners, once further cost information is available as per 3.26, to consider what funding options may apply.

3.33 In order to deliver investment or other forms of redevelopment, scheme decisions will be required. It may be that it is in the Council's interest to have ownership control over the future of the buildings. It is recommended that officers be instructed to consider the implications of re-opening the buy-back scheme, restricting this to these city centre multi-storey buildings at this time.

Officers could also consider (similar to some other local authorities) a buy-back scheme whereby owners selling to the council could then become tenants and stay within their own home. It is proposed that proposals on this be developed and brought back to Committee in August 2026.

#### **4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 Funding for continued investment in these properties will require to be included in the HRA Business Plan going forward and will come from both capital improvement projects and revenue repair and maintenance costs.
- 4.2 Where the need for communal repairs is identified through the surveying of the tenement blocks within the non-traditional stock, owners will be responsible for paying their share of costs.
- 4.3 The life-cycle cost of communal repairs of non-traditional constructed properties has, in some instances, been found to significantly out-strip the market value of these properties, and has been found to be challenging to be affordable by both the private owners and the Council's HRA. This will be considered in future reports.

#### **5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 The Council has statutory responsibilities in relation to the management and maintenance of its housing stock under the Housing (Scotland) Act 1987, including duties to ensure that properties it owns are maintained to a reasonable standard and remain fit for occupation. The further inspection and survey work proposed in this report will assist in evidencing the condition of the buildings and in informing future investment and prioritisation decisions within the Council's Housing Asset Management framework.
- 5.2 A number of the properties referenced are in mixed ownership. Where works relate to common parts, the Council must comply with the relevant title conditions and, where applicable, the statutory framework for tenement management under the Tenements (Scotland) Act 2004, including the operation of the Tenement Management Scheme (TMS). The legal classification of proposed works as repairs or improvements will be a material consideration in determining the applicable decision-making thresholds and delivery route.
- 5.3 Where necessary works are identified but are delayed or frustrated by fragmented ownership, affordability or lack of owner engagement, the Council has statutory powers which may be relevant in defined circumstances. These include powers under the Building (Scotland) Act 2003 to require works to be carried out to address defective buildings and, where statutory criteria are met, to undertake works and recover costs. In addition, provisions under the Housing (Scotland) Act 2006 may, in limited circumstances, allow the Council to meet a missing share of common repair costs to enable works to proceed, subject to appropriate governance and recovery arrangements. The suitability and

proportionality of such mechanisms would require to be assessed on a case-by-case basis, informed by the findings of the proposed surveys and inspections.

5.4 There is currently no active buy-back or sell-to-rent scheme in place. Any future proposal to introduce or recommission such a scheme should include consideration of Best Value, valuation methodology, equality and human rights impacts, and the interaction with alternative statutory repair and recovery mechanisms (if implemented). Property acquisition should not be assumed as the default delivery route and would require to be justified as a proportionate response to the issues identified. Any such proposals would require to be reported to Committee for decision.

5.5 The disclosure of survey findings, options appraisals or long-term investment scenarios may have implications for the marketability and value of privately owned properties. This risk will require to be managed through careful sequencing of engagement and communications with owners and does not of itself predetermine future enforcement, investment, or acquisition decisions.

## 6. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no direct environmental implications arising from this report at this time.

## 7. RISK

Category	Risks	Primary Controls/Control Actions to achieve Target Risk Level	*Target Risk Level (L, M or H) <small>*taking into account controls/control actions</small>	*Does Target Risk Level Match Appetite Set?
<b>Strategic Risk</b>	Quality of housing may reduce without effective maintenance, repairs, and capital improvement	Implementation of recommendations in this report.	M	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Compliance</b>	Failure to provide quality housing will breach requirements of legislation and the	Implementation of recommendations in this report.	M	<b>Yes</b>

	Scottish Housing Regulator.			
<b>Operational</b>	Provision of housing is a priority for residents of Aberdeen City. Failure to ensure there is an adequate supply of good quality housing may result in people seeking to be housed elsewhere.	Implementation recommendations in this report.	M	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Financial</b>	Failure to improve the quality of Council homes may impact on the Council's ability to let these homes, which will result in a significant loss of rental income.	Implementation recommendations in this report.	L	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Reputational</b>	Failure to improve the quality of Council homes may harm the Council's reputation if the properties need repairs.	Implementation recommendations in this report.	M	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Environment / Climate</b>	Improvement to homes has a positive impact on carbon reduction. Failure to effectively implement the proposals may result in increased carbon emissions.	Implementation recommendations in this report.	L	<b>Yes</b>

<b>COUNCIL DELIVERY PLAN 2025-26</b>	
<b>Aberdeen City Council Policy Statement</b>	<b>Impact of Report</b>
<u><a href="#">Working in Partnership for Aberdeen</a></u>	<b>Homes for the Future</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investigate whether the Council's housing stock can be upgraded to help meet our Net-Zero targets.</li> </ul>
<b>Local Outcome Improvement Plan</b>	
Prosperous People Stretch Outcomes	Ensuring the adequate supply of housing across all tenures and homes are the right size, type, and location
Prosperous Place Stretch Outcomes	Addressing climate change by reducing Aberdeen's carbon emissions by at least 61% by 2026 and adapting to the impacts of our changing climate.
Community Empowerment Stretch Outcomes	<a href="#">No Impact</a>
<b>Regional and City Strategies</b>	The further work identified in this report will impact on the Housing Asset Management model and the HRA 30 year business plan.

## 9. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

<b>Assessment</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
<b>Integrated Impact Assessment</b>	No assessment required. I confirm this has been discussed and agreed with Stephen Booth, Chief Officer Corporate Landlord on 18 December 2025.
<b>Data Protection Impact Assessment</b>	Not required.
<b>Other</b>	N/A

## 10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

10.1 N/A

## 11. APPENDICES

11.1 Appendix A provides information on the types of non-traditional housing within the Council's housing stock

## 12. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

<b>Name</b>	Ian Perry
<b>Title</b>	Housing Assets Team Leader
<b>Email Address</b>	lperry@aberdeencity.gov.uk