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<u>To</u>: Councillor McLellan, <u>Convener</u>; Councillor Yuill, <u>Vice-Convener</u>; and Councillors Allard, Brooks, Cooke, Farquhar, Greig, Malik and Watson.

Town House, ABERDEEN 5 November 2025

FINANCE AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE (RECONVENED)

The Members of the **FINANCE AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE** are requested to meet in **Committee Room 2 - Town House on <u>THURSDAY</u>**, 6 NOVEMBER 2025 at 10.30 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

**** Please note this agenda has been produced for the purposes of the website and webcast. If Members and officers could refer to the original agenda for the meeting of 5 November 2025 at 10.00am for any annotations made and associated page numbers, that would be appreciated ****

JENNI LAWSON CHIEF OFFICER – GOVERNANCE

BUSINESS

BUDGETS

9.5. <u>Place Based Investment Programme/UK Shared Prosperity Fund - CR&E/25/241</u> (Pages 3 - 20)

<u>CITY DEVELOPMENT AND REGENERATION AND STRATEGIC PLACE</u> PLANNING

- 11.1. Tall Ships Aberdeen <u>2025 Evaluation CR&E/25/245</u> (Pages 21 88)
- 11.2. World Rally Championship Bid CR&E/25/252 (Pages 89 114)

There is an exempt appendix in the Exempt Appendices section below.

11.4. Aberdeen eBike Hire Scheme - CR&E/25/238 (Pages 115 - 122)

There is an exempt appendix in the Exempt Appendices section below.

PROPERTY AND ESTATES

12.1. Northfield Area Asset Review - Strategic Outline Business Case - F&C/25/233 (Pages 123 - 148)

WORK PLAN AND BUSINESS CASES

13.1. Work Plan and Business Cases - CORS/25/234 (Pages 149 - 162)

There are exempt appendices in the Exempt Appendices section below.

EXEMPT/CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS

- 14.1. Aberdeen City H2 Programme CR&E/25/244 (Pages 163 174)
- 14.2. Proposed Sale of Land at Granitehill Road F&C/25/236 (Pages 175 186)

EXEMPT APPENDICES

- 15.3. World Rally Championship Bid Exempt Appendix (Pages 187 248)
- 15.4. Aberdeen eBike Hire Scheme Exempt Appendix (Pages 249 254)
- 15.5. Work Plan and Business Cases Exempt Appendices (Pages 255 304)

Integrated Impact Assessments related to reports on this agenda can be viewed here

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Should you require any further information about this agenda, please contact Mark Masson, mmasson@aberdeencity.gov.uk or 01224 067556

Website Address: aberdeencity.gov.uk

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Finance and Resources
DATE	05 November 2025
EXEMPT	No
CONFIDENTIAL	No
REPORT TITLE	Place Based Investment Programme/UK Shared
	Prosperity Fund
REPORT NUMBER	CR&E/25/241
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	Acting Director: David Dunne
CHIEF OFFICER	Julie Wood
REPORT AUTHOR	Charlotte Farquhar
TERMS OF REFERENCE	1.1.8 & 1.1.11

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 The purpose of this report is to (1) secure the Committee's approval for the proposed allocation of grant funding from the Place Based Investment Programme (PBIP) Fund 2025/26 and (2) seek approval to reallocate underspend from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

Place Based Investment Programme 2025/26

That the Committee :-

- 2.1 Approve an allocation to Aberdeen Hindu Temple Trust of up to £41,041.00 for the Improving Energy Efficiency Project;
- 2.2 Approve an allocation to Aberdeen City Council of up to £36,126.46 for the Smart and Clean Street project;
- 2.3 Approve an allocation to Aberdeen City Council Business Support of up to £37,400.00 for the Empty Shops Activation Kit Project;
- 2.4 Approve an allocation to Albury Community Sports Hub of up to £60,676.90 for the Refurbishment of Tennis Courts and Replacement of Existing Fencing Project;
- 2.5 Approve an allocation to Camphill Wellbeing Trust of up to £71,500.00 for the Compass Project Road Resurfacing and Accessible Path (Phase 3 Infrastructure) Project;

- 2.6 Approve an allocation to CFINE of up to £65,889.90 for the CFINE Pantry + project;
- 2.7 Approve an allocation to Code the City of up to £19,537.00 for The Soap Factory Community Facilities Project;
- 2.8 Approve an allocation to Fersands and Fountain SCIO of up to £14,300.00 for the Fersands Youth Zone Renovation Project;
- 2.9 Approve an allocation to Aberdeen Association of Social Service (operating as VSA) of up to £34,137.70 for the Fields of Opportunity: Barn Refurbishment & Learning Hub Project:
- 2.10 Approve an allocation to Aberdeen Performing Arts of up to £78,750.00 for the Music Hall Energy Saving Encore Project;
- 2.11 Approve an allocation to Aberdeen City Council of up to £130,641.04 for the Inchgarth Community Centre Project, pending confirmation of Tranche 2 of the proposed 2025/26 PBIP funding from the Scottish Government;
- 2.12 Authorise the Chief Officer City Development and Regeneration to approve the reallocation of funding within previously approved projects should any underspends be reported, following consultation with the Convener and Vice Convener of Finance and Resources Committee:
- 2.13 Authorise the Chief Officer City Development and Regeneration to approve new projects up to a value of £30,000 should any underspends be reported, following consultation with the Chief Officer Finance, Chief Officer Commercial and Procurement Services and Convener of Finance and Resources Committee.

UK Shared Prosperity Fund 2025/26 - Communities and Place

- 2.14 Note that the Station House Media Unit: Phase 2 Extension Project is now no longer viable to be complete by March 31st 2026; and consequently
- 2.15 Approve the reallocation of up to £110,000 from Station House Media Unit's Phase 2 Extension Project to Station House Media Unit's Phase 1 Redevelopment Project.

3. CURRENT SITUATION

Place Based Investment Programme

3.1 The 2020-21 Programme for the Scottish Government announced the creation of a Place Based Investment Programme Fund with £275million of capital funding to support community led regeneration, town centre revitalisation, community wealth building and 20 minute neighbourhoods (neighbourhood location where people can access most of their basic needs within a 20-minute

walk.) It is a multi-annual capital fund with the Scottish Government distributing £23 million to Local Government across Scotland.

- 3.2 The main objectives of the Place Based Investment Programme Fund are:
 - to link and align place-based initiatives and establish a coherent local framework to implement the Place Principle;
 - to support place policy ambitions such as town centre revitalisation, community led regeneration, 20-minute neighbourhoods and Community Wealth Building;
 - to ensure that all place-based investments are shaped by the needs and aspirations of local communities;
 - to accelerate ambitions for net zero, wellbeing and inclusive economic development, tackling inequality and disadvantage, community involvement and ownership.
- 3.3 Scottish Government announced local authority allocations for the Place Based Investment Programme Fund on June 25th 2025. Approval for the partial release of funds was announced, with a second tranche being potentially announced later this year. Aberdeen City Council was awarded £461,970 in Tranche 1 and may receive a further £128,030 in Tranche 2.
- 3.4 The PBIP Fund Grant Scheme was subsequently launched on August 1st 2025 and closed on 1st September 2025. Non-profit organisations were eligible to apply to support capital projects. As stipulated by Scottish Government, all contracts have to be signed by March 31st 2026. A total of 21 applications were received with a total ask of £1,104,334
- 3.5 Applications were scored on a number of merits, including: Alignment to PBIP objectives; support of Council priorities, such as the Local Outcome Improvement Plan; risk management and mitigation; and deliverability to ensure that contracts are signed by March 31st 2026. Applicants were also assessed on technical compliance, such as complying with Following the Public Pound guidance and eligible expenditure being capital.
- 3.6 A significant number of projects did not provide sufficient evidence of their ability to commit to having contracts signed by 31st March 2026, which is a key condition of the fund, due to factors such as awaiting confirmation of match funding and planning permissions. They did, however, address a number of key criteria of the grant and would be encouraged to apply again in future should the programme continue.
- 3.7 A summary of applications recommended for approval are contained within Appendix 1. A summary of all applications are contained within Appendix 2.

UK Shared Prosperity Fund

3.8 Station House Media Unit (SHMU) were awarded £110,000 from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund at Finance and Resources Committee on 7 May 2025 to support a planned extension of their existing building. Due to inability to secure match funding and cost increases, this project is no longer viable to be delivered by 31st March 2026 – a stipulation of the UK Government funding.

- 3.9 SHMU had secured funding to enable Phase 1 redevelopment of the existing site. Due to rising costs and unforeseen challenges, overall project costs have increased beyond the original funding secured. SHMU have subsequently requested that the £110,000 originally allocated to support Phase 2 be reallocated to support completion of Phase 1 works. This will enable SHMU to deliver a high-quality, energy-efficient community facility, and deliver immediate, tangible benefits for Aberdeen's priority communities. Details of this are contained within Appendix 3.
- 3.10 Following unsuccessful applications to secure match funding and cost increases, the extension is no longer viable in the current financial year. Station House Media Unit have requested the transferal of funds from phase two to phase one due to cost increases and unforeseen issues arising during the redevelopment.
- 3.11 Officers reviewed the capital applications previously submitted to UKSPF that were unsuccessful, to ensure no other projects could be considered for funding. There are no other projects currently in a position to be awarded this funding.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Place Based Investment Programme

- 4.1 The Council has a confirmed allocation of £461,970 (Tranche 1) of Place Based Investment Programme 2025/26 from the Scottish Government. A further £128,030 (Tranche 2) may be made available at a later date. This paper makes recommendations for the full £590,000 (Tranche 1 and 2 combined) funding, including a provisional recommendation for Tranche 2 funding in the event it becomes available.
- 4.2 All spend must be committed by 31st March 2026 this is considered to be a commitment of expenditure which can be evidenced by a fully awarded contract or commencement of works. Only capital costs are eligible. All projects recommended to receive funds have demonstrated that they can achieve this. It is essential that the projects from the Place Based Investment Programme Fund comply with the set requirements to avoid issues around eligibility and potential repayment of grant to the Scottish Government if conditions are not complied with.
- 4.3 All recommended organisations have been subject to review for compliance with Following the Public Pound.

Table 1: Place Based Investment Programme Allocations 2025/26

Organisation	Project	Total Project Investment	Recommended Grant Award 2025/26	Officer Review Outcome and
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				Proposed Award
Aberdeen Hindu Temple Trust	Improving Energy Efficiency	£41,041.00	£41,041.00	To award up to £41,041.00. Project demonstrated a strong link to the objectives of the fund supporting net zero contributions.
Aberdeen City Council	Smart and Clean Streets Project	£36,126.46	£36,126.46	To award up to £36,126.46. The project demonstrates a strong fit with town centre revitalisation.
Aberdeen City Council – Business Support	Empty Shops Activation Kit	£40,000.00	£37,400.00	To award up to £37,400. The project shows strong links to town centre revitalisation.
Albury Community Sports Hub		£95,676.90	£60,676.90	To award up to £60,676.90. Project shows high support to the aims and objectives of the fund.
Camphill Wellbeing Trust	Compass Project - Road Resurfacing and Accessible Path (Phase 3 Infrastructure)	£85,800.00	£71,500.00	To award up to £71,500. Project aligns well to PIBP and LOIP.
CFINE	CFINE Pantry +	£ 65,889.90	£65,889.90	To award up to £65,889.90. Project shows high benefits to community aligning well to the fund.

				To award up to
				£19,537.00.
		040 505 00		Project aligns
	The Soap Factory	£19,537.00		well to the
	Community			fund's
Code the City	Facilities		£19,537.00	objectives.
			·	To award up to
				£14,300.
				Project shows
		£25,300.00		good value for
				money and is a
Fersands and	Fersands Youth			good fit for
Fountain SCIO	Zone Renovation		£14,300.00	PBIP.
				To award
				£34,137.70.
Aberdeen		C47 700 70		Project shows
Association of	Fields of	£47,792.78		good value for
Social Service	Opportunity: Barn			money and
(operating as	Refurbishment &			strong links to
VSA)	Learning Hub		£34,137.70	LOIP.
				A partial award
				of up to
				£78,750 for the
		£164,174.19		screen element
		2104,174.15		of the project.
				Project aligns
				well to the
Aberdeen	Music Hall Energy			ambitions of the
Performing Arts	Saving Encore		£78,750.00	fund.
				To award up to
				£130,641.04
				pending
				confirmation of
				Tranche 2
		0420 044 04		funding from
		£130,641.04		the Scottish
				Government.
	Inchaorth			Project aligns
ACC Inchaceth	Inchgarth			well to the
ACC Inchgarth	Community Centre Café/ Kitchen Fit			fund's
Contro			£130 641 04	objectives and LOIP outcomes.
Centre	Out		£130,641.04	LOIF OULCOTTIES.
Total		£751,979.27	£590,000.00	

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Grant Agreements will require to be put in place between Aberdeen City Council and those organisations which are awarded grant funding.
- 5.2 Officers have established a subsidy control scheme for the Place Based Investment Programme 2025-26 (Subsidy Control Number: SC11402) to ensure compliance with the Subsidy Control Act 2022. All awards will be uploaded to the UK Government's Subsidy Control database and Transparency Register, where required.

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.

Category	Risk	Primary Controls/Control Actions to achieve Target Risk level	Target Risks Level Low (L) Medium (M) High (H)	Does target Risk Level Match Appetite Set?
Strategic Risk	Projects do not support Council and Regional Priorities	All applications must demonstrate how they support local and regional strategies	L	Yes
Compliance	Non-compliance with grant conditions will require return of grant	External Funding team are familiar with the compliance requirements and will advise and monitor projects as required to ensure compliance	L	Yes
	Subsidy Control	To ensure all external grants awarded are compliant	L	Yes
Operational	Projects cannot deliver signed contracts by 31 March 2026	All projects have been assessed to ensure that they can evidence deliverability by March 31st 2026. Officers will monitor	L	Yes

Financial	Any unspent, or unallocated funds will require to be returned to Scottish Government/UK	projects closely to ensure timescales are met. Close project monitoring will take place throughout to ensure these timescales will be met.	L	Yes
Reputational	Risk of reputational damage if funds are not spent in accordance with the grant conditions	Officers will work with projects to ensure proposals and applications meet the conditions of grant	L	Yes
Environment / Climate	No risks identified	None	L	Yes

8. OUTCOMES

COUNCIL DELIVERY PLAN 2025-26		
	Impact of Report	
Aberdeen City Council Policy Statement Working in Partnership for Aberdeen	All applicants were requested to detail the contribution of their project to Aberdeen City Council policy and strategies. Work constructively with the Scottish Government to seek additional funding for Aberdeen. Seek to gain the maximum benefits for Aberdeen's people and businesses from the	
	Scottish Government.	
<u>Local C</u>	Outcome Improvement Plan	
Prosperous Economy Stretch Outcomes	All applicants were requested to detail the contribution of their project to the LOIP as part of the application process. The projects within this report align with Prosperous Economy LOIP outcomes. For example, Aberdeen City Council - Empty Shops	

	Activation Kit project through support for entrepreneurs and SME Growth meeting stretch outcome 1 and 2.
Prosperous People Stretch Outcomes	The projects within this report align with Prosperous People LOIP outcomes. For example, Fersands and Fountain supports delivery of Outcome 4 by providing skill-building workshops and mentoring that prepares young people for employment or further education, as well as outcome 6 by the young people helping to shape and run the space, fostering ownership and civic engagement.
Prosperous Place Stretch Outcomes	The projects within this report align with Prosperous Place LOIP outcomes. For example, Aberdeen Hindu Temple Trust support stretch outcome 12 through the installation of solar panels to the building significantly reducing their carbon footprint.
Community Empowerment Stretch Outcomes	The projects within this report align with Community Empowerment LOIP outcomes. For example, VSA supports delivery of outcome 16 through activities which are co-designed with people who have learning disabilities and mental health conditions. People are supported to participate in decisions to change things for the better and improve their outcomes.
Regional and City Strategies	

9. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Assessment	Outcome
Integrated Impact Assessment	New Integrated Impact Assessment has been completed
Data Protection Impact Assessment	Not required
Other	Not required

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

10.1 CR&E/25/100, UK Shared Prosperity fund 2025-26, Finance and Resources Committee, 7 May 2025.

11. APPENDICES

- 11.1 Appendix 1 Application Summaries Recommended for Approval.
- 11.2 Appendix 2 Application Summaries Not Recommended for Approval.
- 11.3 Appendix 3 UKSPF SHMU Update.

12. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

Name	Charlotte Farquhar	
Title	External Funding and Policy Officer	
Email Address	Chfarquhar@aberdeencity.gov.uk	

Appendix 1: Summary of PBIP 2025 – 2026 Projects

Recommended for Funding – Tranche 1 £461,970 (Listed in order of scoring)

Aberdeen Hindu Temple Trust - Amount requested £41,041

Funding to install a solar PV system with integrated battery storage at Old Stoneywood Church, reducing emissions and energy costs to keep the multi- use community space warm, affordable, and resilient; planning submitted and procurement complete.

CFINE - Amount Requested £65,889.90

Funding is sought to transform CFINE's existing Community Food Pantry into a more inclusive, accessible, and efficient Pantry+ model allowing for increased capacity. The project will regenerate internal space at CFINE's Aberdeen premises, enabling increased access to surplus food, reducing stigma, and advancing wellbeing, and anti-poverty goals through community-led regeneration and wealth building.

Camphill Wellbeing Trust - Amount requested £71,500

Proposal to resurface internal roads and add a delineated accessible footpath at the Compass site in Cults, improving safe circulation for pedestrians, wheelchair users, cyclists and families with buggies, expanding disabled parking, and creating step- free links to new Phase 3 facilities (café, play café, training kitchen and raised- bed gardens).

VSA – Amount Requested £34,137.80

Funding is sought to refurbish two barn rooms at Easter Anguston Farm to create inclusive, flexible learning and training spaces supporting a circular textile economy. The project will enable SQA-accredited programmes, creative upcycling, and wellbeing activities for people with additional support needs, laying the foundation for future phases focused on textile recycling, employability, and community enterprise.

Code the City – Amount Requested £19,537

Proposal to equip The Soap Factory, a community-led tech skills hub in central Aberdeen, with flexible furniture, acoustic meeting pods, and digital training equipment. The project will enhance accessibility for neurodiverse users, support digital inclusion for disadvantaged groups, and enable delivery of coding and data skills programmes for all ages, regenerating an underused urban space and advancing community wealth building and inclusive economic development.

Fersands and Foundation SCIO – Amount Requested £14,300

Bid to renovate and equip a dedicated youth zone within the Woodside Fountain Centre, creating a safe, inclusive space for young people in a regeneration area. The project includes structural improvements, a new kitchen and dining area, and facilities for counselling, creative activities, and life skills development. It supports youth-led regeneration, tackles inequality, and builds community wealth through free services, skills training, and grassroots engagement.

Albury Community Sports Hub - Amount requested £60,676.90

Proposal to refurbish four tennis courts and replace deteriorating perimeter fencing at Albury Outdoor Sports Centre, protecting a high- use community asset, improving safety and playability, and supporting social, school and pay- and- play use.

Aberdeen City Council - Business Support - Amount recommended £37,400

Initiative to create an "Empty Shops Activation Kit" (Shopfit Library) of reusable shelving, counters, POS, vinyl printer, and related equipment to enable low-cost popups and meanwhile uses in vacant units and markets, accelerating town centre revitalisation, circular reuse, and SME trial-to-tenancy pathways.

<u>Aberdeen Performing Arts - Amount requested £164,174.19 amount recommended £78,750.00</u>

Proposal to advance the Music Hall's net-zero journey by upgrading stage lighting to energy-efficient LED (with remote operation) and replacing the Stepping In Screen, reducing energy use and hire/transport emissions while enhancing a key city-centre cultural venue for audiences and community activity.

Recommended: screen only - £78, 750

<u>Aberdeen City Council: Smart & Clean Streets Project – Amount Requested</u> <u>£60,000</u>

Funding requested to replace aging Big Belly Bins and procure modern cleaning equipment to improve waste management and street cleanliness in Aberdeen City Centre. The project supports net zero goals, civic pride, and town centre revitalisation by enhancing public realm infrastructure, empowering community-led regeneration, and enabling responsive environmental services.

Recommended: £36,126.46

Tranche 2

Aberdeen City Council - Inchgarth Community Centre - Inchgarth Community Centre Café/ Kitchen Fit Out amount recommended £130,641.04

This project will deliver increased capacity to the very popular cafe, increase the cooking capabilities and replace kitchen equipment and white goods that are at end of life with new energy efficient appliances within the new extension. The old cafe space will be turned into a library space for the community. This project is in addition to the funding already awarded for the extension of the facility.

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Appendix 2 - Projects not recommended for approval:

Greyhope Bay Ltd – Amount Requested £98,230

Funding will support design development and planning consent for expanding the Greyhope Bay Centre at Torry Battery. The project aims to increase visitor capacity, protect heritage, and improve accessibility, with a strong focus on net-zero energy and community-led regeneration.

Absafe SCIO - Amount requested £36,126.46

Request to install an air source heat pump with associated electrical upgrades at Balgownie Lodge, Bridge of Don, replacing plug-in heaters to cut emissions and costs, ensure year-round warmth, and sustain a multi-use community hub.

Friends of Sunnybank Park – Amount Requested £15,000

Funding requested to expand Sunnybank Park's outdoor calisthenics equipment, increasing accessibility and capacity for free, inclusive fitness activities in a priority neighbourhood. The project will install new equipment tailored to diverse body types and abilities, and support community-led regeneration, wellbeing, and social cohesion through self-organised training groups and volunteer engagement.

St Mary's Episcopal Church-Amount Requested £30,000

Bid to transform a derelict area of St Mary's Episcopal Church grounds into a publicly accessible landscaped garden with seating, a labyrinth, and biodiversity planting. The project will improve drainage, repair historic masonry, and create a safe, inclusive space for local residents, schoolchildren, and business staff, supporting wellbeing, town centre revitalisation, and community-led regeneration.

Aberdeen Inspired - Amount requested £41,926

Proposal to install two Aberdeen Gift Card self-service sales kiosks at high footfall city locations, increasing visibility and ease of purchase to drive local spend, footfall, and city centre vibrancy. The expansion builds on proven kiosk performance and aims to generate incremental sales while promoting shop local behaviour across retail, hospitality, and culture.

<u>Tillydrone Community Development Trust: Jacob's Ladder Restoration –</u> Amount Requested £70,000

Funding requested to restore and reopen Jacob's Ladder, a historic riverside staircase, improving safe pedestrian access, celebrating industrial heritage, and connecting core paths and regeneration areas. The project will deliver structural repairs, lighting, signage, and heritage interpretation, supporting community-led regeneration, active travel, and inclusive access to green and cultural assets.

<u>Tillydrone Community Development Trust: Wallace Tower – Amount Requested</u> £60,395

Proposal to complete the second phase of the community-led restoration of Benholm's Tower, transforming the upper floors into a flexible meeting hall and coworking hub. The revitalised facility will offer affordable workspace for small businesses and artists, a venue for events and exhibitions, and training space for digital and enterprise skills, supporting local economic development and community regeneration.

Aberdeen City Council – Employability Support - Amount requested £100,000

Bid to create a training kitchen and café at Aberdeen Maritime Museum (with Employability & Skills), funding kitchen/café fit-out, equipment, and training resources to deliver Real Living Wage paid work experience for priority groups, build a hospitality talent pipeline, and boost city-centre footfall.

Glow Grey CIC - Amount Requested £16,000

Proposal to pilot Glow Me, a solar-powered smart light system for bus stops that improves visibility and accessibility for passengers, especially older adults, disabled people, and newcomers. The project will install button-activated lights at priority locations across Aberdeen, enhancing safety, reducing missed stops, and supporting inclusive, net-zero public transport through innovation.

Belmont Community Cinema Ltd - Amount requested £50,000

Proposal to buy a portable laser projector to run free/low cost popup screenings in community centres, schools, care settings and outdoor spaces citywide, reaching people facing cost, mobility and transport barriers; the unit will later be installed in Screen 3 to support films, education and hires, providing an energy efficient, flexible asset that grows audiences and activates partnerships across the city.

Aberdeen Ethnic Minority Women's Group CIC - Amount requested £18,000

Funding is sought to establish a permanent, community-owned Threads of Change Skills Hub providing textile reuse/repair training, trauma aware peer support, and pathways to microenterprise for women in SIMD areas and ethnic minority communities, regenerating an underused space and advancing circular economy goals.

Appendix 3 – SHMU Update

Station House Media Unit (shmu) is currently delivering the first phase of a major redevelopment of the Woodside headquarters, supported by UKSPF, PBIP, CARES, Foundation Scotland and Business Energy Scotland. Phase 1 focuses on the refurbishment and environmental upgrade of the original building, creating an energy-efficient, sustainable facility that will provide a long-term community asset, whilst Phase 2 focuses on an extension.

Since works began, unforeseen additional costs have arisen due to the poor condition of the original building, including extensive floor works, enhanced insulation around underfloor heating, and other building interventions required to meet design and regulatory standards. These costs have significantly increased the Phase 1 budget beyond initial projections.

The Quantity Surveyor has confirmed that Phase 2 costs will be significantly higher than originally estimated, largely due to rising contractor and construction sector costs. In addition, given the current timeframe and the delays in completing Phase 1, it is highly unlikely that SHMU will be able to secure the substantial additional investment required for Phase 2 before March 2026.

The £110,000 UKSPF award would fund the following additional elements of Phase 1:

Ground Floor Fit-Out

- Professional-standard studio installation, which will include a digital laser projector, retractable screen, surround sound package, Dolby cinema processor, and audio desk with wall boxes.
- Blackout and green screen drapes with track systems to support film production and live performance.
- Theatre-grade lighting grid with LED fixtures, control nodes and lighting desk to deliver industry standard training and productions.
- Additional electrics and control systems to integrate technical installations with the building infrastructure.
- Flexible furniture (stacking chairs, folding tables and trolleys) to enable adaptable spaces for training, workshops, screenings and community events.

First Floor Fit-Out

- Interactive touchscreen TV to support collaborative, interactive learning.
- Logitech Rally video conferencing system to enable hybrid training and events.
- Tables and stacking chairs to furnish refurbished learning and meeting spaces.

This fit-out is in addition to the Phase 1 construction already funded and is essential to ensuring that the building is fully equipped, flexible and sustainable.

Repurposing the £110,000 UKSPF award to fund the Phase 1 technical fit-out represents a responsible and impactful use of this investment. It will guarantee full spend within the UKSPF timeframe, ensure that a high-quality, energy-efficient community facility is completed, and deliver immediate, tangible benefits for Aberdeen's priority communities. This approach also provides a strong platform from which to secure the significant funding required for Phase 2, avoiding the risk of a partially complete redevelopment and maximising the return on public investment.

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ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Finance and Resources
DATE	5 th November 2025
EXEMPT	No
CONFIDENTIAL	No
REPORT TITLE	Tall Ships Aberdeen 2025 Evaluation
REPORT NUMBER	CR&E/25/245
DIRECTOR	David Dunne
CHIEF OFFICER	Julie Wood
REPORT AUTHOR	Matthew Williams
TERMS OF REFERENCE	1.1.2, 1.1.3, 1.1.8, 2.1.1

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Committee with an interim evaluation of the Tall Ships Races Aberdeen 2025 including contracted and additional elements of the event, and an interim budget.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

That the Committee:-

- 2.1 Notes that a designed evaluation document will be circulated in the new year with full budgets included in the year end budget pack;
- 2.2 Instructs the Chief Officer City Development and Regeneration to engage with cultural and heritage partners to develop Festival of the Sea 2026, in order to build upon the legacy of Tall Ships and by allocating monies from the Coastal Communities Fund and seeking further grants and private sponsorship to support; and
- 2.3 Instructs the Chief Officer City Development and Regeneration to work with regional youth sail training partners to ensure opportunities for young people from Aberdeen to take part in the Tall Ships Races 2026 on a fully-funded basis; and to seek grants and sponsorship to widen this programme as far as possible.

3. CURRENT SITUATION

- 3.1 Aberdeen successfully staged the Tall Ships Races Aberdeen 2025 as noted in the Urgent Notice of Motion by the Convener and Cllr Greig which was approved by the Special Finance and Resources meeting on 31st July 2025. The event met and exceeded a range of goals, performance indicators and contractual obligations as outlined below. The goals for the event were set out in the Tall Ships Aberdeen 2025 Report from 7th August 2024 (CR&E/24/227) They were:
 - Stage a world-class event at the heart of the city.
 - Recruit 100+ Aberdonian youth sail trainees to join the Tall Ships Races.
 - Recruit 400+ Volunteers to help run the event.
 - Deliver a Tall Ships education programme in our schools.
 - Create a Discovery Zone on the Castlegate.

- Create high quality sport, culture and entertainment programmes.
- Drive Aberdeen's economic growth.

This Report and attached appendices will outline how those goals were achieved using responses and data from a range of evaluation surveys of visitors, city businesses, trainees, volunteers and retail vendors on the site, as well as financial data from the budget, returns from all food and beverage vendors, and city footfall monitoring via Huq. Anecdotal feedback has also been included where appropriate using written submissions or media recordings.

Meeting the Event Goals

3.2 Stage a world-class event at the heart of the city.

Boosting Aberdeen's reputation and people's pride in the city

The Tall Ships Races Aberdeen 2025 took place very successfully from 19th to 22nd July at Port of Aberdeen and other sites including Castlegate, Union Terrace Gardens, the City Centre and Aberdeen Sports Village. It exceeded the scale and scope of the Tall Ships in 1997 becoming the largest event ever held in the city and the most attended free event in Scotland in 2025.

Key Metrics:

- 496,000 visits to the event
- 94% of visitors rated their experience as Excellent (71%) or Good (23%)
- 91% agreed that the event had a positive impact on their perception of Aberdeen
- 86% agreed that the event increased their pride in the City
- 91% strongly agreed that the event should be repeated
- 0 arrests resulted in Aberdeen being called 'the Friendly City' in national media

Wider reputation: The event had huge positive media impact for the city with a total of 1343 media articles across broadcast, print and online. This included UK and Scottish major news and radio channels with multiple live broadcasts from the Port of Aberdeen. Of all media coverage 74% was positive and 25% balanced. A media overview is attached as Appendix A.

3.3 Recruit 100+ Aberdonian youth sail trainees to join the Tall Ships Races.

Focusing on young people aged 15-25 from all backgrounds.

Recruitment

This was a contractual requirement and reputationally important for Aberdeen with Sail Training International, ship operators and other host ports. Traditionally recruiting trainees from disadvantaged and marginalised backgrounds is very difficult for all Host Ports so this area was a focus for 2024/25.

- 41 presentations were delivered in schools, youth clubs, children's care homes and colleges in the City and Shire
- 40% of all sign-ups were as a direct result of this activity
- Trainee Working Group included
 - Ocean Youth Trust
 - Association of Sail Training Organisations
 - Sea Cadets
 - Previous youth sail trainees
- 673 applications received

Selection and Engagement

- Assessment methodology developed and applied.
- Trainee engagement programme following selection including full day activities in April, May and June.
- Safeguarding programme in consultation with ACC educational visits lead and sail training specialist agency Windseeker, including 15 chaperones travelling with more vulnerable trainees.

Results

The project team beat all expectations by sending 244 trainees, a breakdown of trainee details and the exceedingly high feedback scores can be found in Appendix B

3.4 Recruit 400+ Volunteers to help run the event.

Aligned with the city's new Volunteer Charter (CORS/24/179)

The Volunteer Working Group encompassed over 40 external members drawn from a variety of charitable and sailing organisations from Aberdeen and beyond. A full breakdown of those involved is included in Appendix B The team met monthly delivering a large number of events and locations in the lead-up to volunteer recruitment.

It was determined that 320 volunteers would be optimal for event delivery. They were selected from over 1400 applicants and participated in a number of roles, including nearly 100 Volunteer Liaison Officers who directly looked after the needs of visiting ships and their crews during the event.

Key Outcomes:

- Overall volunteer experience rated at 4.4 stars
- 87% felt valued
- 86% felt they had a tangible impact on the event
- 91% thought that their Team Aberdeen uniform promoted the event well

More details can be found in Appendix B

3.5 Deliver a Tall Ships education programme in our schools.

Meeting curriculum aims and nurturing pupil interest in the event

A full breakdown of the activity strands outlined below can be found in Appendix B

An extensive education programme, including all Primary Schools in Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire, was managed by Aberdeen City Council's Education and Lifelong Learning teams, the Youth Music Service, and additional activity from the Creative Learning team. The education programme was part-funded by a grant from the UK Shared Prosperity fund. Key strands included:

- Tall Ships Learning Packs and Treasure Boxes
- Adopt a Ship!
- Tall Ships Anthem and the Big Sing!
- Tall Ships Art Competition
- Creative Learning Fish n' Ships project

Support

The combined education programme was a hugely valuable part of the Tall Ships Races project which went unseen by most in the city. However, the impact on children

and young people, and resulting attendance by families at the event, stands as testimony to the skills and hard work of teachers, musicians and education leaders across the city. In this work they were supported by organisations who provided information for learning packs, materials for the treasure boxes, and classroom learning support, including, Ocean Youth Trust Scotland, Royal Yachting Association, Association of Sail Training Organisations, Aberdeen Line 200 Heritage Group, Whale and Dolphin Conservation, Royal National Lifeboat Institution

More details can be found in Appendix B

3.6 Create a Discovery Zone on the Castlegate.

Three days of STEAM activities for children aged c.5-12. Delivered by partners.

Discovery Zone Main Partners

The Discovery Zone on the Castlegate was a great success for the event and project partners. It attracted around 60,000 visits to a wide-range of educational activities for families and helped to disperse activity around the event site and bring the tall ships experience into the city centre. Partners were: University of Aberdeen, North East Scotland College, Skills Development Scotland, MacDuff Marine Aquarium, Aberdeen Line 200 Heritage Group, Aberdeen Science Centre, Sea Cadets, Royal National Lifeboat Institution, Gordon Highlanders Museum, Aberdeen Archives, TechFest, Norco Energy

A full breakdown of additional activities, including the Military Village which saw attendance of 26,500 is included in Appendix B

3.7 Create high quality sport, culture and entertainment programmes.

Working with the city's major venues, production companies and creative sector.

There were three main areas of activity – as set out below:

A. Festival of the Sea 2025 programme

The Festival was delivered by partners across the city and beyond with activities which wrapped around and enhanced the main event, giving the opportunity for groups to join in with Tall Ships without having events clash with the fleet visit.

More details are included in Appendix B with the full programme attached as Appendix C which details the 5 exhibitions, 33 further activities and 16 event partners involved in the Festival.

B. Stage Programme

Peterson Seabase: An enormous event space donated by Peterson as part of their in-kind sponsorship of the event. This was used for Quayside Concerts and the main stage daytime programme

Quayside Concerts: A 7000-capacity festival-standard space was created in Peterson Seabase. Kilimanjaro Live Ltd acted as booking support agent. Deacon Blue, Ministry of Sound Orchestra, Tidelines and Kaiser Chiefs were secured with significant support acts. All gigs old out.

Key Outcomes:

- 22,000 tickets sold
- Direct revenue from tickets was £171,000

- The Tidelines gig raised £31,000 for the Royal National Lifeboat Institution
- 300 customers were facilitated on the Accessible Viewing Platform which was funded by Event Scotland
- Paid social media advertising had nearly 2m impressions

Main Stage Daytime Programme

A free programme with community, amateur and professional acts from the city with a variety of acts including a focus on trad music. This provided a showcase of citywide talent and an opportunity for acts to perform at a scale not usually open to them. A full breakdown of acts can be found in Appendix B.

Transit Stage Programme

This stage was located on Regent Quay and utilised the Council's trailer stage for a free daytime and evening programme. The line-up consisted of regional high-quality bands showcasing the range and diversity of acts in the city. A full breakdown can be found in Appendix B.

Family Zone

The Streamline yard on Blaikie's Quay was secured. This allowed extra space for a Family Zone. A Children's Stage was added with a programme of entertainment and events which included Zumba, dancing and storytelling including in the Doric language.

C. Official Events

In addition a range of official events took place, many supported by cultural and heritage activities. These included the Opening Ceremony with youth and community performances, and the Crew Parade featuring the Band of His Majesty's Royal Marines.

An overview of Tall Ships concerts and events can be found in Appendix B

3.8 Drive Aberdeen's economic growth.

By increasing visits to the city for the event, post-event tourism, and heightened economic activity by programme participants.

Economic impact measures:

Performance Indicator	Total
Gross Spend	£21.8m
Gross Value Added	£32.2m
Employment (FTEs)	703

Projection was for between £12.5m and £20m GVA so the event impact has far exceeded expectations.

Increasing visits to the city:

There were 496,000 visits to the event.

This includes 406,000 visits at Port of Aberdeen, Peterson Seabase, Discovery Zone on Castlegate, King Street Funfair, and Military Village in Union Terrace Gardens. Plus a further 90,000 visits to Aberdeen Beach, Torry Battery and Peterson Seabase for the arrival and departure of the fleet, the Red Arrows display, and the Deacon Blue concert.

Visits by location (Sat-Tues):

Location	Percentage
Aberdeen City	48.5%
Aberdeenshire	30.4%
Elsewhere Scotland and UK	18.9%
Overseas	2.2%

Heightened economic activity by programme participants

Direct income after any taxes or associated costs:

Revenue Source	Income
Combined hospitality and bar	£293,000
Combined retail sales	£19,000
Park and Ride	£21,000
Concert Programme	£158,000
Sponsorship (in cash)	£266,000
Sponsorship (in kind valuation)	£241,000
Grant support	£1.08m
TOTAL	£2.08m

Other economic data shows an increase in hotel occupancy and room rates, positive business impacts for stall holders, and a majority of city businesses reporting that the event was good for their business with 44% seeing increased turnover.

Post-event tourism

Noting the reach of the Comms programme in 3.2, and the total race route coverage in France, Norway and Denmark, this objective is likely to be met as the profile of the city was raised across the UK and Europe. Data gathered by VisitAberdeenshire's Scottish Tourism Economic Activity Model, including data from accommodation providers, will be used to monitor effects on future tourism.

3.9 Legacy

A number of measures were outlined in Tall Ships Aberdeen 2025 (CR&E/24/227). Realisation of these objectives is underway. Use of the Festival of the Sea 2026 and continuing sail traineeships as ways to build on the event are outlined in 3.14 and 3.15.

- 3.10 On 30th September a jobs fair was held at the Beach Ballroom as part of ABZ Works existing programme. All trainees and volunteers were invited to attend, and all sponsors with live recruitment were invited.
- 3.11 On 9th October a sponsor debrief was held at Aberdeen Art Gallery which saw the soft launch of a campaign to bring in sponsors for major city events including Festival of the Sea, Christmas Village, Spectra and NuArt. The aim is to keep sponsors engaged via a 'one-stop-shop' to ensure that each opportunity is matched to their aims e.g. corporate social responsibility, client entertainment or brand visibility.
- 3.12 Educational assets outlined in Appendix B have been retained by schools for future use. This could be linked to future Festivals of the Sea, providing a flexible approach to involvement in those events.
- 3.13 Links with cultural organisations will be maintained through future Festivals of the Sea with certain assets, such as the BookBench sculptures, re-used in future years.

3.14 The event sought to build Aberdeen's reputation as the perfect stage for major international events. Measures taken included winning the Host Port Seminar for the city (see Appendix B, Civic Events), attendance by the CEO and officers from EventScotland, and visits by the First Minister of Scotland and the Minister for Business of Scotland.

3.15 Festival of the Sea 2026

To capitalise on the success of the Tall Ships and drive further tourism in the years ahead, Officers recommend proceeding with plans for Festival of the Sea 2026 (see 2.3) with costs met from the Coastal Communities Fund, a UK-wide programme created and funded by the UK Government with the aim of encouraging the economic development of UK coastal communities, alongside external grant funding or sponsorship. This will fulfil some of the legacy aims laid out in Tall Ships Aberdeen 2025 (CR&E/24/227) including:

- Re-use of existing cultural and educational assets (as noted above)
- Maintaining sponsor and supporter relationships through engagement for Festival of the Sea and other high-profile events in the city.
- 3.16 As part of the legacy for the event, it is recommended that Aberdeen City Council commits to working with Scottish sail training organisations, including Ocean Youth Trust and Swan Trust to continue to build a culture of youth sail training in the city through the Festival of the Sea 2026 (see 2.4). This will reinforce positive links with the international sail training community and help the city build toward any future sailing events. This would be subject to grant or sponsor funding being found, and at a cost of around £2,000 per trainee where fully-funded.

3.17 **Target Operating Model 1.2**

Noting the event's strategic fit with the Council's health-centred prevention approach as part of Target Operating Model 1.2. The assessment outlined above and in the attached appendices shows that the event aims were fulfilled in terms of activity which attracted visitors to the event, encouraged participation in mental and physical activity, and created and sustained jobs. The event met the objectives of fostering community cohesion, participation in culture and active travel. Supporting evidence:

Metric	Measurement
Total Visits	496,500
Walked or Cycled to the event	20%
Employment Impact (FTEs)	703
Felt increased pride in Aberdeen	86%

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Tall Ships Aberdeen 2025 Report in August 2024 (CR&E/24/227) noted the original budget from 2022 projected a total cost of £2.99m (including 15% contingency) with Council contribution estimated at £1.18m and liability for a £955,000 funding gap. A potential total cost to the Council of the event of £2.14m
- 4.2 The Report outlined an increase in cost to £3.85m (including 15% contingency) with a Council contribution of £1.18m and liability for a £1.97m funding gap (or £1.33m after external funding to that date). A potential total cost to the Council of the event of £2.51m

- 4.3 The contribution from the Council included core support of £1.18m, plus a further £702,000 from the funding gap. The total cost to the Council of the event was therefore £1.8m, including a 5% contingency pending some final invoices and income payments.
- 4.4 Allocation of monies from the 2025 Coastal Communities Fund to support the Festival of the Sea 2026 in order to leverage external grant funds, provide information to potential sponsors, and allow for timely engagement with culture and sport partners to co-create the programme.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 No direct implications arise from the recommendations. Previous contractual obligations to Sail Training International have been fulfilled.

6. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 No direct implications arise from the recommendations.

7. RISK

Category	Risk	Primary Controls/Control Actions to achieve Target Risk level	Target Risks Level Low (L) Medium (M) High (H)	Does target Risk Level Match Appetite Set?
Strategic Risk	Failure to capitalise on the success of the event or learn lessons as part of a full evaluation	Evaluation processes are underway, alongside the other legacy measures outlined above.		Yes
Compliance	No risks identified	None	L	Yes
Operational	Staffing levels	Current pressure on the City Events team and other areas could lead to a reduced Festival of the Sea programme.	M	Yes
Financial	Failure of grant or commercial income to support	A scaled-down version of the event would be delivered using all or part of the Coastal Communities Fund.	L	Yes

	Festival of the Sea			
Reputational	Risk of reputational damage if event does not meet public expectation following Tall Ships 2025	Officers will work to maximise effective use of budget. Comms strategy would be revised to manage expectations	M	Yes
Environment / Climate	No risks identified	None	L	Yes

8. OUTCOMES

COUNCIL DELIVERY PLAN			
	Impact of Report		
Aberdeen City Council Policy Statement	All applicants were requested to detail the contribution of their project to Aberdeen City Council policy and strategies, and these were assessed by officers to ensure clear links.		
Aberdeen C	Aberdeen City Local Outcome Improvement Plan		
Prosperous Economy Stretch Outcomes	2.8 Support 25 individuals to gain employability skills through volunteering opportunities by 2026		
Prosperous People Stretch Outcomes	4.4 Increase by 5% the number of S1-S6 pupils who report that they feel confident by 2025. As outcome of continued sail training commitment.		
Prosperous Place Stretch Outcomes	15.1 Increase to 65% the proportion of people who feel they can regularly experience good quality natural space by 2026.		
	15.3 25% of people report that they understand the importance of nature on both their neighbourhood and individual wellbeing by 2026		
	Through engagement with the city's coastal environments.		

9. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Assessment	Outcome
Integrated Impact Assessment	Full impact assessment completed
Data Protection Impact Assessment	None
Other	Not required

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 10.1 Tall Ships Project, Urgent Business Committee, 21st October 2022 (COM/22/251, section 4)
- 10.2 Tall Ships Aberdeen 2025, Finance and Resources Committee, 7th August 2024, (CR&E/24/227)

11. APPENDICES

- 11.1 Appendix A: Tall Ships Comms Report
- 11.2 Appendix B: Tall Ships Additional Information
- 11.3 Appendix C: Festival of the Sea Programme

12. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

Name	Matthew Williams	
Title	Service Manager – Commercial	
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Tel	07813917388	







Coverage Breakdown – July 2025



1,343

Total number of coverage (Broadcast, Print & Online)



701,871,634

OTS

(Opportunities to see/hear)



Pieces of broadcast coverage



253,167,847Total OTS of broadcast coverage



Pieces of print coverage



7,081,361

Total OTS of print coverage



326

Pieces of online coverage



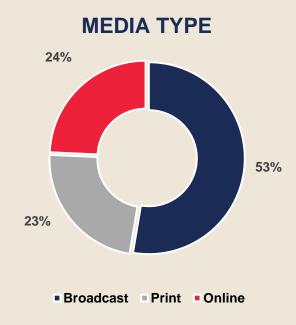
441,622,426

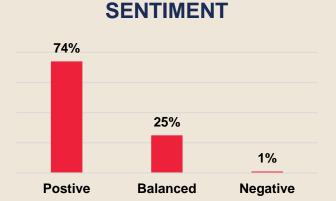
Total OTS of online coverage



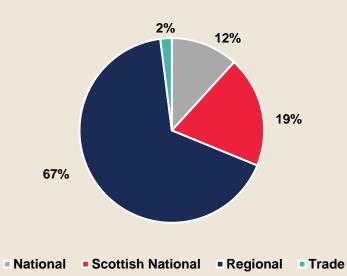


Coverage Breakdown – July 2025

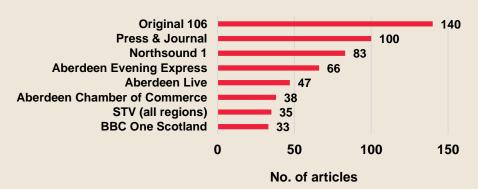




MEDIA CATEGORY



TOP PUBLICATIONS









BBC News, 19 July 2025 (10:47)



428,333Total views



STV News, 18 July 2025 (18:01)



29,000 Total views





BBC One Scotland News, 19 July 2025 (17:39)



917,000 Total views



FOR INTERNAL DISTRIBUTION ONLY •

GB News, 22 July 2025 (12:53)



25,333 Total views





Print Highlights: National & Scottish Nationals

The Herald

Tall ships start to arrive in Aberdeen ahead of festival's start









Aberdeen welcomes an invasion by tall ships













Print Highlights: Top Regionals



'I greet the first of the Tall Ships'





Evening Express

It's overcast, me hearties... but fun goes on





Colourful crews dazzle on spectacular parade















City bids fond farewell to the Tall Ships Races Crowds turn

Evening Express

out to wave

off dozens











Print Highlights: Regionals & Trade

Huntly Express

Students given dream voyages on tall ships





Make Philips from that is that a near-day conjugate price

String of countries (bits and see of the see

The control field of the contr



ELLON TIMES

The big read

Tall Ships trainees share their stories of life at sea



Facris Careir, Isla Kennely and Retrescuble lightes (Credit Alterday Depired)

Fraserburgh Herald

Tall Ships leave lasting legacy in the North-east







Aberdeen celebrates the 2025 arrival of Tall Ships Race

Selector War 172 July Decity of Bernson Will welcome around Stifful inforest over 500,000 vertices for a feet-slap exercises elective groups at the only seek part in an take in the Tall Brigo Born 1005. four different dasses of receivance

comparing them large saling slaps to small re imple master boots. The slaps are stooping a floresteen after country the facility law. selfont continuing the new toursets

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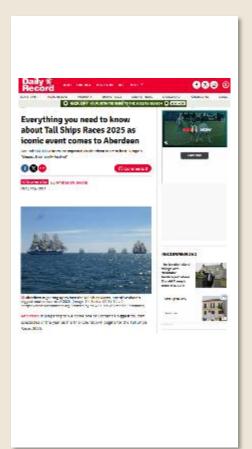






Online Highlights: National & Scottish Nationals





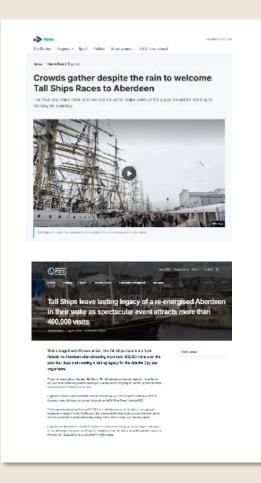








Online Highlights: Regional & Trade











Summary

- 1,343 articles across broadcast (TV & Radio), print and online
 - Broadcast had the most mentions particularly on local radio stations in the lead up to the event and post event
 - Good TV coverage appearing on both national and Scottish regional channels
 - Some of the online coverage was repeated but still had a brief mention of the event
- Overall sentiment was **74**% positive, **25**% balanced and less than **1**% negative (negative coverage was from a story around traders being charged additional Wi-Fi fees during the event)



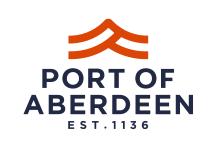




THE TALL SHIPS RACES ABERDEEN 2025

APPENDIX B: Additional Information

HOST PARTNERS



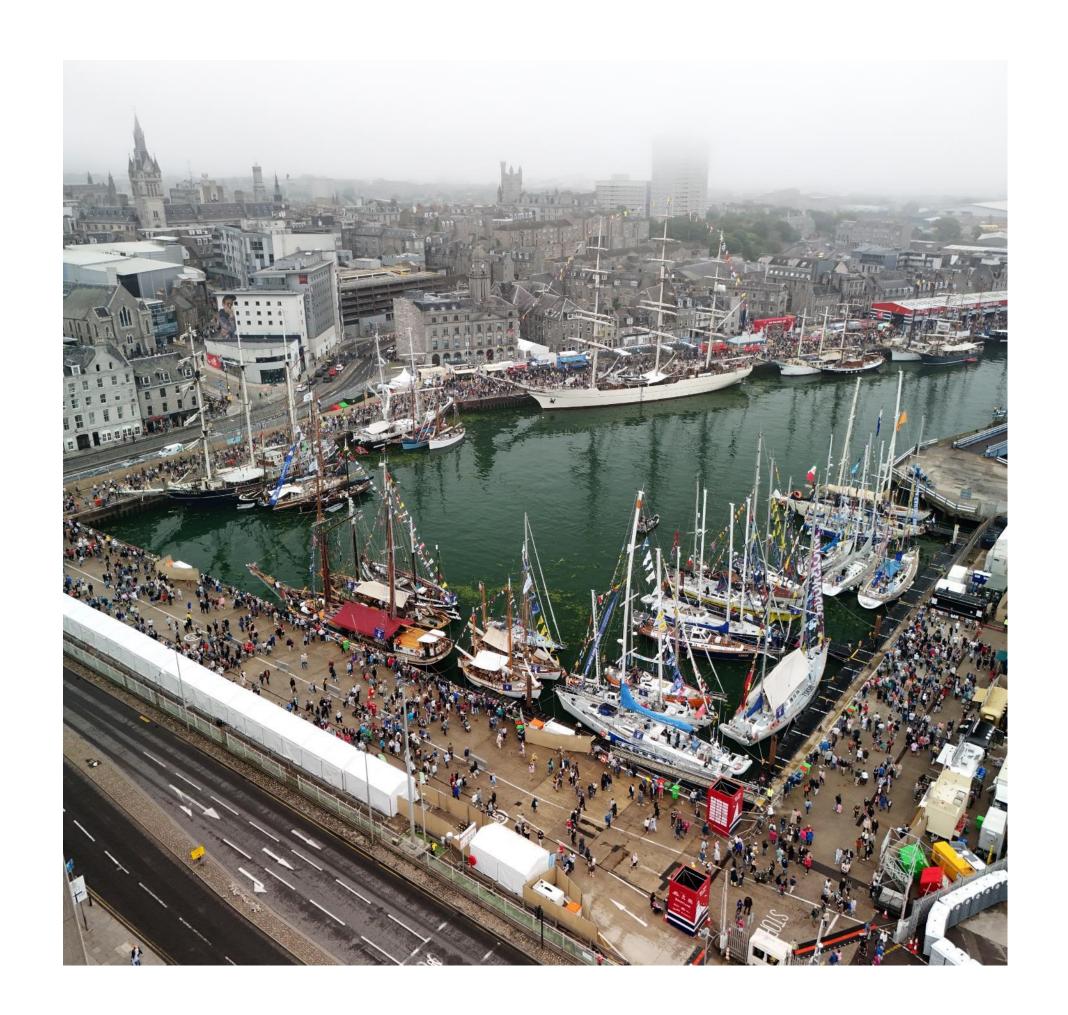




CONTENTS



- 1. Trainees
- 2. Volunteers
- 3. Education Programme
- 4. Discovery Zone
- 5. Sport and Entertainment





1. TRAINEES

Page 49



TRAINES - Recruitment



Recruitment

This was a contractual requirement and reputationally important for Aberdeen with Sail Training International, ship operators and other host ports. Traditionally recruiting trainees from disadvantaged and marginalised backgrounds is very difficult for all Host Ports so this area was a focus for 2024.

- 41 presentations were delivered in schools, youth clubs, children's care homes and colleges in the City and Shire
- 40% of all sign-ups were as a direct result of this activity
- Trainee Working Group included
 - Ocean Youth Trust
 - Association of Sail Training Organisations
 - Sea Cadets
 - Previous youth sail trainees
- 673 applications received



TRAINES - Application & Selection



organised by Sail Training International

- All applications were scored using a matrix designed by Aberdeen City Council economists
- Fully funded applications were **considered by physical barriers**, **care experience and financial barriers**. Scores were ranked and the top 100 were most eligible for a fully funded place.
- The applications were then **considered by a selection panel** of Project Officers, a sailing expert from Ocean Youth Trust and the Council's Senior Project Officer for Employability and Skills.
- The selection panel **scored applicants' personal statements** using three criteria: the **impact** the experience would have on their life, their **enthusiasm** to take part in the Tall Ships Races, and the **skills** they would bring to the ship.
- This scoring, combined with the economists scoring, **produced the top 100 applicants** eligible for a fully funded place.
- Self funded applicants were assessed on their personal statements only, rating potential impact, enthusiasm and skills.



Hollie is coming to Auchenblae Youth Club this Friday to tell young people about the amazing Tall Ships opportunity.

Come along and meet Hollie, she will share exciting details of the voyages, what life is like onboard a tall ship, and all the amazing experiences in store for them (sailing with dolphins, magnificent sunsets, stargazing on an open sea!) she will answer questions and also stay to help young people with their application forms, if interested.

AYC welcomes any local young person aged 15-25yrs interested in the opportunity to pop in and meet Hollie, if they would like to know more about this chance of a lifetime.



TRAINES - Events & Engagement



organised by Sail Training Internation

Weekly Q&A Calls: Tuesdays at 4.30pm

 A platform for trainees and parents to ask questions and engage in all things Tall Ships Races.

Welcome Day – Saturday 5th April

- Trainees introduced to Team Aberdeen
- Explored motivations for joining
- Next steps: passport info, dietary requirements

Discovery Day - Saturday 17th May

- Introduced to fellow trainees on their ship
- Team building activities
- Team Charter
- CV development

Ahoy Adventure – Saturday 28th June

- Sailing kit collection
- Ropework and knot skills
- Travel arrangements
- Q&A



TRAINEES - Travel & Safeguarding



SAFEGUARDING AND WELFARE

- All travel plans to Dunkirk and home from Kristiansand were produced in consultation with Aberdeen City Council's educational visits lead.
- The Safeguarding Management Plan was informed by previous host port learnings and travel agency Windseeker's safeguarding protocol for ships.
- 9 chaperones joined 141 trainees to Dunkirk, 6 chaperones joined 97 trainees home from Kristiansand
- All chaperones that accompanied trainees during their travel held a PVG (Protecting Vulnerable Groups clearance).
- Chaperones included Tall Ships Project Managers, Ship Liaison Officers, School Teachers, Aberdeen Ambassadors, Port of Aberdeen staff and Youth Workers



TRAVEL PLANNING

- Sail Trainees were assisted with passport applications
- Funded trainees had passport costs covered by the programme
- Sail Trainees purchased their own travel insurance
- Sail Trainees applied for the GHIC card, free from the NHS

TRAINEES - Metrics



Metric	Breakdown
Totals	Target: 100
	Total: 244
Funding	Fully Funded: 111
	Self Funded: 133
Gender	Male: 133
	Female: 106
	Non-binary: 5
Ages	15-17: 161
	18-25: 83
Race	Race 2 (Dunkirk – Aberdeen): 145
	Race 3 (Aberdeen – Kristiansand): 99
Trainee Cost	£2000 includes travel, ship fees, agency
	fees, uniform, training, admin, hardship
	funds Ships receive approx £1,040 per
	trainee directly as income
	11 3111 3 3 311 3 3 11 3 313 1 1 13 3 11 13 13

AWARD WINNER!

Aberdeen-funded trainee Keiran Side was selected over 5,700 other trainees to receive the Torbay Cup for his outstanding contribution and personal development.

The Captain of his ship the Gulden Leeuw wrote a detailed account of why Keiran should win citing his extraordinary effort, outstanding contribution and how he had overcome personal challenge to make remarkable progress.

14 NEWS

Sailor Keiran's on top of the world as Tall Ships winner





TRAINES - Feedback Survey



organised by Sail Training Internation

Overall, my confidence has improved massively. Summer of 2025 was the BEST, all thanks to getting such a great opportunity. P.S, I love you Team Aberdeen

The programme gave me the confidence to step outside the comfortable life I had built for myself and make a massive change by going to university in a new city. It's a huge step, and I don't think I would have been able to take it without the confidence and self-belief I gained from this experience.

Its something that would stay with anyone forever, and it will give you stories to tell for years to come. I know these are all very generic things that you'll hear everyone say, but it truly is impossible to put something this life changing into words.

I have autism and was made welcome and felt included the experience has made me realise that I can do anything.

I honestly just want to thank you all so much for this opportunity, it has been the most exciting thing I've ever done and likely will ever do in my life. Nothing could ever compare to the memories I've made and people I've met.

It has encouraged me to volunteer more and help others

It has motivated me to say yes to every opportunity I get and reach out to more people

99% of trainees felt well supported by the Tall Ships teams throughout the Sail Trainee Programme 98% of sail trainees
think the
programme has had
a positive impact on
their lives

91% of sail trainees reported their confidence and self-esteem had grown

67% of sail trainees described the experience as life changing







2. VOLUNTEERS



VOLUNTEERS - Recruitment



organised by Sail Training Internation

- Early engagement saw volunteers attend events across the city and wider region raising awareness of the event and volunteering opportunities. The wide variety is shown in the table.
- The involvement of specialist sail training and other third sector organisations was vital to the success of the entire programme from recruitment to recognition and reward.
- 1400 applications received with 320 volunteers recruited to 'Team Aberdeen'

Ocean Youth Trust
Association of Sail
Training Organisations
Royal Yacht Club
Sea Cadets
Royal National Lifeboat
Institution

Assocation of Voluntary Organisations, etc

AWAITING
CONFIRMATION OF FULL
LIST

Community Councils
Youth Clubs
Port of Aberdeen
Big Belmont Bash
University of Aberdeen
Deen Divas
Aberdeen Football Club
Union Square
Schools – City & Shire
Robert Gordons College
RACH
Aberdeen Art Gallery

Aberdeen Inspired
Bon Accord
Grampian Pride
Braemar Highland Games
Alzheimer Scotland
NorthLink Ferries
Van Gogh Live
TECA
Aberdeen Highland
Games
VisitAberdeenshire
Discovery Dundee
Port Soy Boat Festival



VOLUNTEERS - Programme



- Volunteers joined 'Team Aberdeen' a brand that was used successfully throughout the event to generate inclusivity and group pride
- A volunteer welcome event at Pittodrie brought the whole team together to galvanise them in advance of the event
- Dorry the Dolphin became a key part of the event outreach programme and a focus for the volunteer team
- Familiarisation visits to the event site helped volunteers to better understand the event areas and their roles
- A volunteer welfare centre was established for the team's use throughout the event
- Team Aberdeen kit helped to make the team feel unified, identifiable and fully part of the event
- Reward and recognition included souvenirs, Lord Provost certificates, awards, and a Team Aberdeen Wrap Party on the final day celebrating individual and collective success of the team in delivering the Tall Ships event



VOLUNTEERS - Feedback Survey



organised by Sail Training Internations

I LOVED being a part of it. It was such an amazing thing for the city and I feel really proud to have played a part of it. I've certainly gained lots of experience from it and learning for other volunteering.

Speaking with visitors from all over the world and local areas. Meeting fellow volunteers and being part of Team Aberdeen. In general, it was a memories for life experience with a terrific team.

It was just so wonderful to be part of the team! To have been selected/ trained/ felt valued and welcomed. An incredible time in my life I will never forget. On the CV now and something I will treasure forever.



I think volunteering at Tall Ships has really helped me to speak more openly and keep more calm at big events like Tall Ships 2025

The highlight was seeing everybody (all ages) so so happy and excited to be at Tall Ships 2025

Great to see a major event organised and hosted in Aberdeen, enjoyed the chance to be part of it.

My confidence has been boosted, I feel that I've done something really worthwhile

Overall volunteer experience rated at 4.4 stars

91% of volunteers thought that there Team Aberdeen kit promoted the event

87% of volunteers felt valued

86% of volunteers felt that they had a tangible impact on the event





3. EDUCATION



EDUCATION - Learning Packs



For all Primary Schools in Aberdeen, alongside a condensed version for independent schools and Primary Schools in Aberdeenshire. The packs were a specially developed programme of maritime-related activities related to key themes of the event and meeting curriculum aims around arts, culture and STEM. Activities included:

- History and Significance of Tall Ships
- Life of a Sailor: Navigation, sailing skills and more
- Ships Ahoy! Play based learning ideas
- Maritime Culture and Traditions
- Marine Wildlife
- Water Safety
- Paper Boats Activity
- Activities for sensory learners



EDUCATION - Treasure Boxes



All city Primary Schools received a treasure chest in April containing materials in support of the Learning Packs with an additional box developed for Orchard Brae.

Materials included fiction and non-fiction books, nautical flag charts, a reproduction map of the Port, educational games, rope for sailing knots, and a Captain's hat!





EDUCATION - Adopt a Ship!



organised by Sail Training Internation

Every Primary School adopted a Tall Ship from the fleet coming to Aberdeen. This was key to strengthening pupil and family engagement with the event, and fostering the international friendship and understanding so crucial to the aims of the Tall Ships Races.

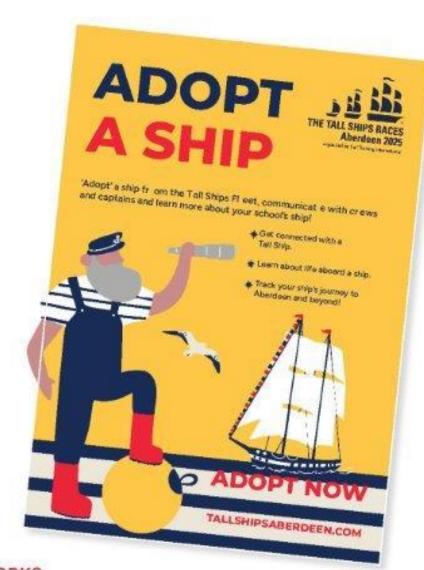
All Primary Schools chose to adopt a ship and received an Adoption Certificate and Ship Information Sheet. They were encouraged to learn more about the history and crew by connecting with the ship through emails, video or letters. They were also able to follow their ship's location through a marine tracking website. Pupils were encouraged to develop projects and share presentations about their adopted ship with the wider school community.

Engaging directly with Captains and crew members aimed to inspire a future generation of sailors and applicants to the Tall Ships Races.



ADOPT A SHIP

The Adopt a Ship program allows classes to establish a connection with one of the Tall Ships participating in the Aberdeen 2025 races.



HOW IT WORKS

Step 1 Schools will be entered into the Adopt A Ship Programme and will be matched with a Tall Ship through a number generator.

Step 2 Each school will receive an Adoption Certificate and Ship Information Sheet, including contact details for the ship's captain.

Step 3 Learn more about the history, crew, and journeys through updates from the ship's crew through emails, videos, or letters.

Step 4 Track your ship's journey through the YB tracking website

Step 5 Pupils can develop projects and presentations about their adopted ship to share with the school community.

EDUCATION - Anthem & Big Sing!



The Youth Music Service commissioned an anthem to celebrate the Races returning to Aberdeen. Local emerging composer Clara-Jane Maunder wrote the anthem 'A Sea Journey' which focused on feelings of nostalgia and returning home and features prominent city landmarks.

The anthem was first performed by a primary school children's choir at the Cowdray Hall in March before an audience of 150 people, and received good coverage including a package from STV News. One young singer describing the performance on stage as 'the happiest moment of my life'!

The anthem was performed again at The Big Sing in Duthie Park in May with over 3000 pupils participating accompanied by a youth orchestra wearing their sailor hats. French schools from Aberdeen's twin-city Clermont-Ferrand joined the event through videocall and sang together with the children from Aberdeen in a nod to the Tall Ships voyage from Dunkirk.



EDUCATION - Anthem & Big Sing!















EDUCATION - Art Competition



This wide-ranging competition to create a Tall Ships artwork had 2490 entries from 34 Primary and 5 Secondary Schools, including Orchard Brae. This is a remarkable number for any city competition and the entries showed the breadth and depth of the programme with many young people drawing or painting their school's adopted ship.

Winning entries for all age groups were displayed on the quayside at the event for thousands of visitors to enjoy.





EDUCATION - Creative Learning



- The Creative Learning Team worked with Aberdeen Young Ambassadors to develop a 3week 'Fish n' Ships' programme for young people aged 10-15.
- This took place using full-day activities in July, easing the poverty gap for families in need of childcare during the school summer holidays.
- Graduating students from Grays School of Art delivered the creative sessions giving them
 valuable experience in youth arts programmes.
- The workshops explored maritime heritage and ecology in particular plastics pollution.
- Outcomes included public engagement around the city swapping artworks for nonrecyclable plastics and working from a from a Fish n' Ships van parked at the beach for the Red Arrows and Parade of Sail.





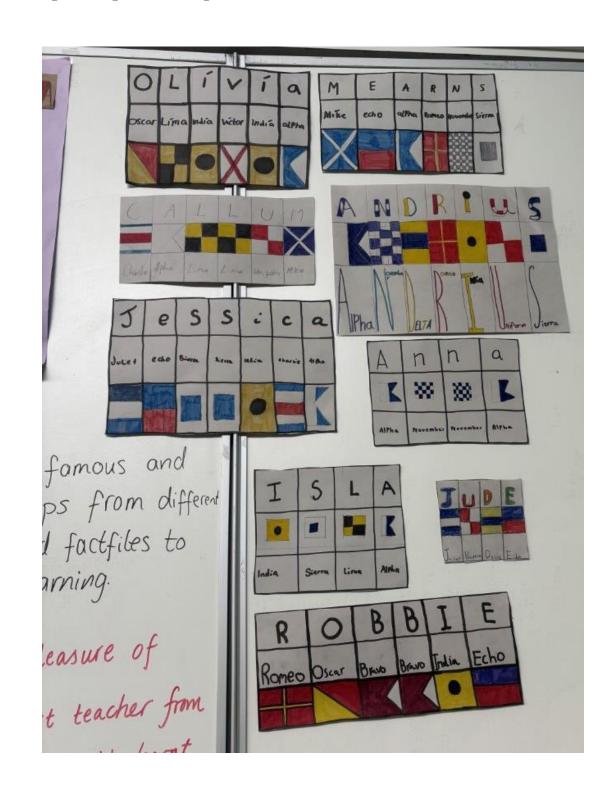




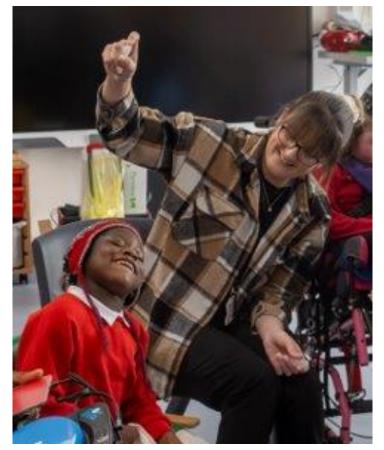
EDUCATION - Engagement Notes

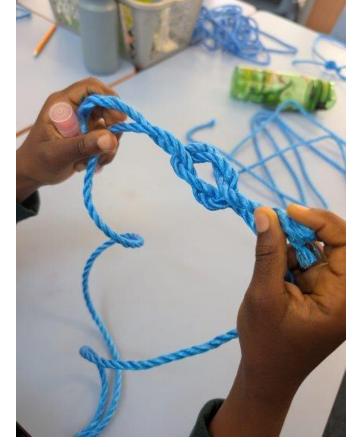


There are too many examples of excellent work to include but they range from a P1 classroom converted into a Tall Ship, to class visits to the Monsters of the Deep exhibition at Aberdeen Art Gallery, to a miniature Tall Ships STEM challenge, wall charts, porthole artwork on paper plates, nautical flag spelling and visits from mascot Dorry.













4. DISCOVERY ZONE



DISCOVERY ZONE



ZONE PARTNERS

- University of Aberdeen
- North East Scotland College
- Skills Development Scotland
- MacDuff Marine
 Aquarium
- Aberdeen Line 200
 Heritage Group
- Aberdeen Science
 Centre
- Sea Cadets
- Royal National Lifeboat Institution
- Gordon Highlanders
 Museum
- Aberdeen Archives
- TechFest
- Norco Energy

The Discovery Zone on the Castlegate was a great success for the event and project partners.

It attracted around 60,000 visits to a widerange of educational activities for families and helped to disperse activity around the event site and bring the tall ships experience into the city centre.

There were additional live performances by groups including Rock Choir, Silver City Singers, Love RaRa, Granite City Brass, a commissioned promenade dance work by City Moves funded by a grant from UK Shared Prosperity Fund, and street performers including mermaids and pirates.



MILITARY VILLAGE- Overview



- Attendance in Union Terrace Gardens was 26,500.
- Main attraction was the scale model Chinook helicopter from the Royal Air Force
- There were numerous tents from the RAF and other armed forces, with a focus on STEM activity as well as information about careers available within the services.
- Flight Lieutenant George Morris, who co-ordinated the armed services involvement, thanked the team in writing for keeping everything running smoothly, safeguarding the site during the limited protest activity, and the Council for use of the 'hugely impressive, well situated and useful site'.
- Limited protest was expected and this was dealt with by stewards onsite. The perimeter control
 of the site made this relatively straightforward, and it was certainly a better location for this
 activity than the Discovery Zone as originally planned
- The RAF are keen to return to other Aberdeen-based events in future



5. SPORT & ENTERTAINMENT



CULTURE - Festival of the Sea



- Festival delivered by city creative partners (see right) and Full Programme, Appendix C
- Opportunity to participate without a direct clash with Tall Ships fleet visit
- Festival co-ordination and central comms activity delivered by Aberdeen City Council and the Art Gallery team with true Team Aberdeen wraparound from partners
- 5 exhibitions and 33 further activities including storytelling, holiday camps, trails, art and creative writing, workshops, dance, theatre and music
- Highlights
 - Monsters of the Deep at Aberdeen Art Gallery
 - Tales of the Tall Ships at Aberdeen Maritime Museum
 - Stepping in Screen: David Cass Tall Ships Commission at the Music Hall
 - Clan Cancer Support Bookbench Trail feat. 12 Tall Ships Benches funded by UK Shared Prosperity Fund
 - Pirates! by Scottish Dance Theatre at His Majesty's Theatre
 - Coastal Discovery events around Greyhope Bay

Aberdeen Art Gallery Aberdeen Arts Centre Aberdeen City Libraries Aberdeen Maritime Museum Aberdeen Sports Village Aberdeen Young Ambassadors Citymoves Dance Agency Clan Cancer Support Deemouth Artist Studios Fittie Community Development Trust Greyhope Bay Centre Harbour Voices Choir His Majesty's Theatre Music Hall Old Aberdeen Library **Open Road** Pushing Out the Boat Stonehaven Folk Festival **Torry Community Library** University of Aberdeen

FREE DAYTIME PROGRAMME







FREE DAYTIME PROGRAMME



organised by Sail Training Internation

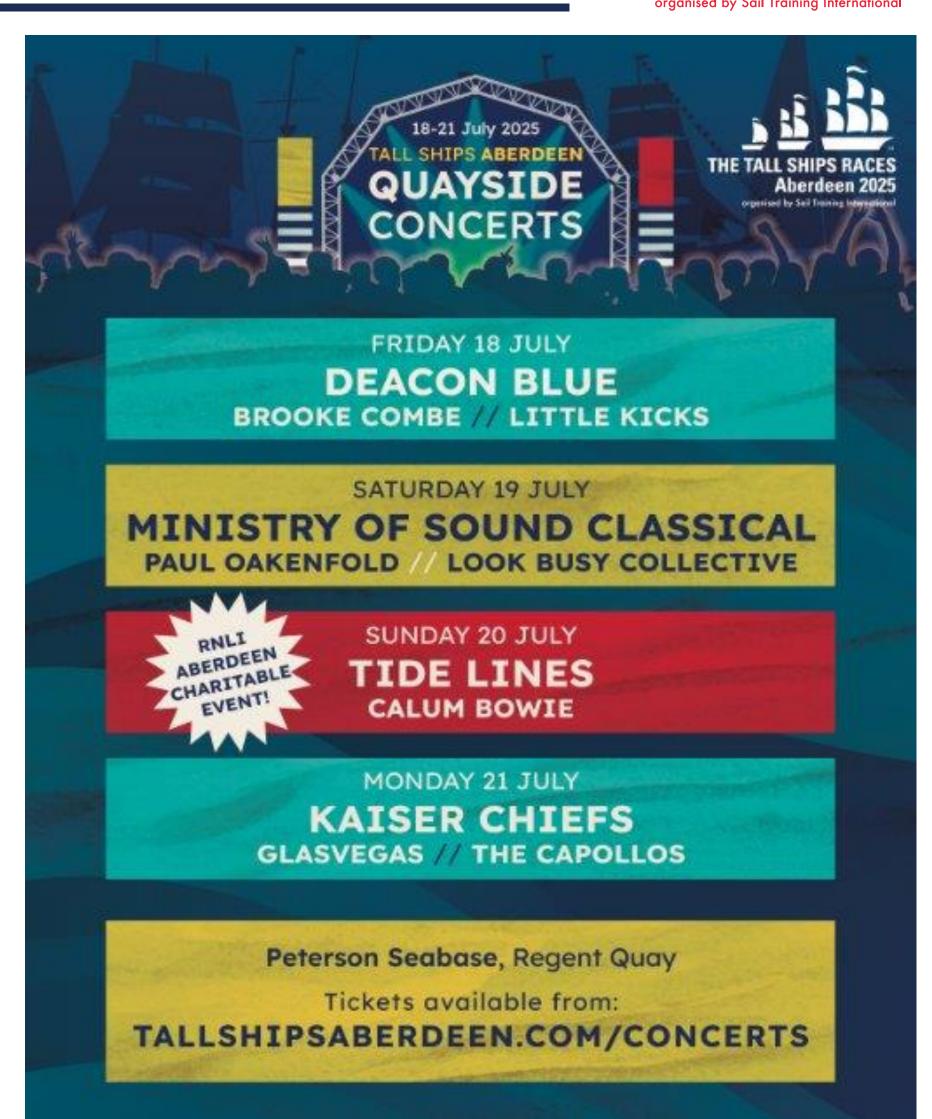




QUAYSIDE CONCERTS - Background



- A large area and mainstage was a contractual requirement of the Tall Ships bid in order to host the crew prizegiving.
- As detailed in the Tall Ships Report in August 2024 REF this resulted in a large cost (approaching £250k) with no income to offset it.
- Permission was granted for Officers to seek major acts, turning the 7000-capacity space into a revenue stream to support the event and reduce costs.
- It was later decided to make the Tidelines gig a £5 minimum donation to the Royal National Lifeboat Institution instead of a paid event.
- Kilimanjaro Live Ltd were secured as booking support agent which resulted in the premium line-up (right)
- Tickets were sold through Ticketmaster, with allocations for Aberdeen Performing Arts and city hotels to encourage overnight stay packages with tickets.



QUAYSIDE CONCERTS - Outcomes



- All concerts sold out with 22,000 tickets sold
- Direct revenue of £171,000
- £31,000 raised for the Royal National Lifeboat Institution
- Additional income from bars and food concessions at Peterson Seabase
- £20,000 value of sponsor support from Tennents saved bar operating costs
- Ticket sales exceeded music industry expectations as well as national trends for volume and speed
- 300 customers facilitated on the Accessible Viewing Platform which was funded by Event Scotland
- Paid social media advertising had nearly 2m impressions with a unique reach of 600k – growing awareness of the wider event alongside the gig series

Date	Main Act	Support	Ticket Sales
18 July	Deacon Blue	Brook Combe & Little Kicks	6500
19 July	Ministry of Sound Orchestra	Paul Oakenfold & Look Busy Collective	5000
20 July	Tidelines	Calum Bowie	5500
21 July	Kaiser Chiefs	Glasvegas & The Capollos	5000

- Tickets were held in reserve for all crew and trainees to attend the concerts for free
- Fewer were held on Sunday night due to the crew party held at the same time

CREW SPORT & CULTURE PROGRAMME

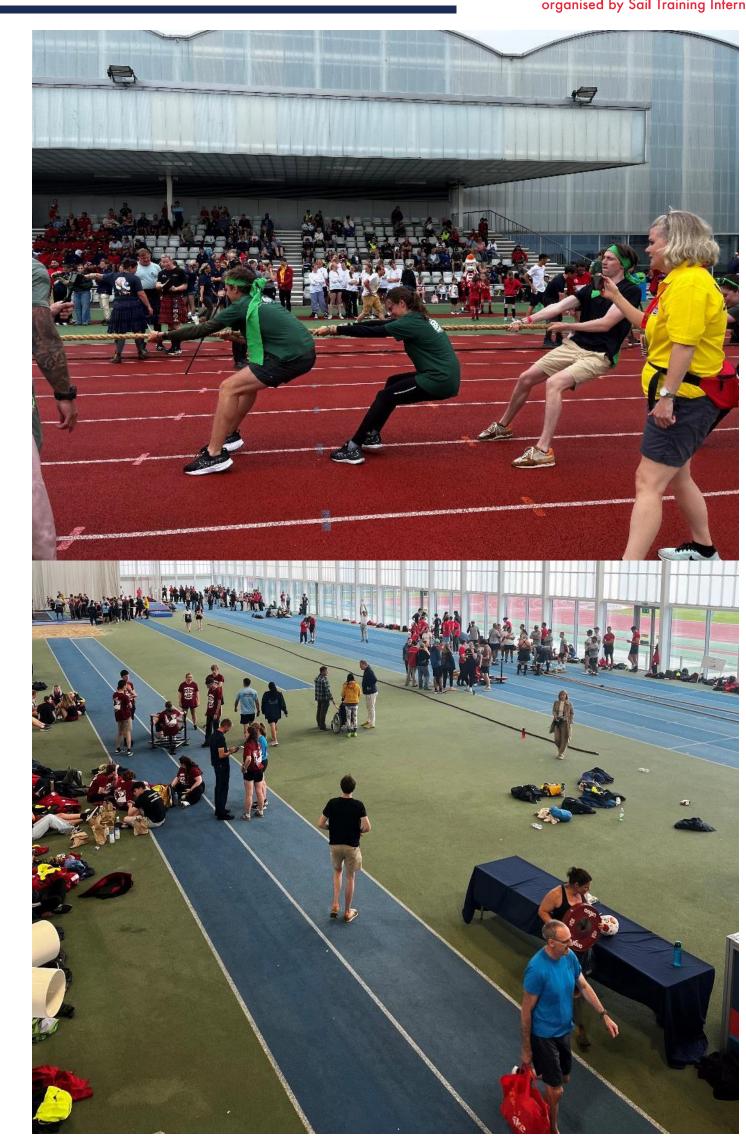


Tall Ships Aberdeen created an entire programme of events for 1700 international crew to enjoy a taste of Scottish hospitality!

The highlight event: Crew Sports Festival complete with Highland Games, football tournaments and table tennis hosted at Aberdeen Sports Village.

Crew could also enjoy:

- Seabird Safaris
- Pure Gym Group Exercise Classes
- Four Pillars presents LGBTQ+ Maritime History, Crafting, Yoga
- City Centre Walking Tours
- Aberdeen Art Gallery and Aberdeen Maritime Museum Tours
- Martial Arts Classes
- Pilates
- Maritime Careers Presentation, NESCOL
- Peacock Printmaking Studio Tour
- Kiltwear Try On
- ACE Voices Generational Choir Music Session
- Greyhope Bay and Fittie Beach Cleans
- Marine Operations Guided Tour
- Coastal Run by Cosmic Hillbashers
- Celebrating the Home of Norwegian Seafarers for 50 years
- RRS Discovery at the Planetarium, NESCOL



OFFICIAL EVENTS PROGRAMME



organised by Sail Training Internation

These events are mostly contractual requirements for a Tall Ships Host Port, with the ask that each has a local flavour to give crew the full international experience.

- Ribbon Cutting featuring a fanfare from the Band of His Majesty's Royal Marines
- Official Opening Ceremony organised by the Civic Team and including performances from youth groups and community choirs, as well as the Tall Ships Anthem. A real community welcome for the fleet and event visitors.
- Captain's Dinner held at the Music Hall for all Ship Captains and VIPs, including the His Excellency the Ambassador of Peru, and the mayors of Tall Ships Anchor Ports, Esbjerg and Harlingen alongside representatives from Ports of Lerwick and Antwerp. Guests experienced traditional ceilidh music and dancing and a whisky tasting
- The Crew Parade was a highlight of the official events with the parade taking place from Union Terrace past the Art Gallery, Marischal College and down to Peterson Seabase. It featured the Band of His Majesty's Royal Marines, a pipe band and carnival acts as well as every ship in the fleet.





OFFICIAL EVENTS PROGRAMME



organised by Sail Training Internation

- Townhouse Reception organised by the Civic Team this saw VIPs invited to the Town House to view the Crew Parade. It included the Lord Lieutenants as well as representatives from the armed forces, Sea Cadets and Royal Marines.
- Prize Giving an exuberant celebration of the Races and individual ship achievements and an opportunity for all of the vessels in the fleet to celebrate each others success. This took place on the main stage in Peterson Seabase, featured a live DJ and was compered by local media personality Lauren Mitchell
- Crew Party held in the two transit sheds on Regent Quay this
 was a chance for the crews to relax and socialise after a long
 day with Crew Sports, Parade and Prize Giving. It featured
 Scottish food and drink on the quayside, traditional ceilidh
 music and dance from Laura Harrington and Friends, in Shed 1
 as well as DJ sets and entertainment from Bongo's Bingo in
 Shed 2.
- The Red Arrows not a contractual event, but an added spectacle for the city. Sadly the display was cut short due to adverse weather, but the crowds enjoyed a little of the excitement nonetheless.





OFFICIAL EVENTS PROGRAMME



- Host Port Seminar one Port each year hosts this full day workshop series for past, present and future Host Ports organised by the team from Sail Training International. Project organisers were asked to speak alongside sessions from STI. Held in the Cowdray Hall, this was a great opportunity for Aberdeen to show off the city and event organisation to international ports and organisers from across Europe and even Nova Scotia.
- Parade of Sail the city turned out to bid a fine farewell to the fleet as they left Aberdeen for Kristiansand, or went on elsewhere. The spectacle was enjoyed by over 100,000 people with ships getting under sail once clear of the harbour.
- Blessing of the Sails orgnised by the Civic team the blessing involved a variety of faiths and organisations from across the city. We know from Sail Training International that this was appreciated by the ships as they departed.



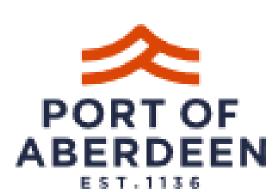




DISCOVER MORE...

TALLSHIPSABERDEEN.COM

HOST PARTNERS







SUPPORTED BY

EventScotland



FESTIVAL OF THE SEA

ABERDEEN 12-27 JULY 2025

Ahoy Aberdeen! The Tall Ships are on the horizon and the city's getting ready to celebrate with a whole raft of maritime-themed activities either side of the big weekend - and you're

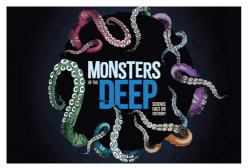
invited! From sports camps to singing and storytelling, dancing to sea dragons and coastal discovery tours, and from creative writing to watercolour workshops, there's something for all ages and interests to enjoy either side of the Tall Ships weekend.



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WHATS ON - AT A GLANCE







Aberdeen Arts Centre: Sky and Sea

Exhibitions

Until 26 July	Exhibition	Stepping in Screen: David Cass – Tall Ships commission	Free	All ages	Music Hall
14-24 July 10:00-16:00	Exhibition	University of Aberdeen: Explore the Zoology Museum	Free	All ages	Zoology Museum
Until 26 October	Exhibition	Monsters of the Deep	£10 adults / £7 Friends of AAGM and concessions / £14 exhibition pass / under 12s free	All ages	Aberdeen Art Gallery
Until 11 January	Exhibition	From the Archive: Aberdeen Harbour	Free	All ages	Aberdeen Art Gallery
Until 29 March	Exhibition	Tales of the Tall Ships	Free	All ages	Aberdeen Maritime Museum

Events

Until 15 August	Holiday Camp	Holiday sports camps and family swim sessions	Various		Aberdeen Sports Village
Until 23 August	Storytelling	Aberdeen Reads challenge	Free	All ages	Aberdeen City Libraries

30 June-26 August	11		Free	All ages	City Wide
7–18 July Holiday Camp		Creative Camp: Sky and Sea	£40 per day /£150 per week	Ages 5-11	Aberdeen Arts Centre
10-13 July	Music	Stonehaven Folk Festival	Free and paid events	All ages	Stonehaven Town Hall
Sat 12 July 11:00–13:00	Workshop	University of Aberdeen Collections: Map making	Free	All ages	Sir Duncan Rice Library
		Sea Dragon	£8 per child	Families	Aberdeen Art Gallery (Cowdray Hall)
Mon 14 July 18:30-20:30	Workshop	Creative writing: Aberdeen Harbour	£15	Ages 16+	Fittie Community Hall
Tue 15 July 10:00–12:00	Talk	Sailing the fully rigged ship Sørlandet	Free	All ages	Greyhope Bay Centre
Tue 15 July 14:00–16:30	Workshop	Watercolour seascapes for beginners with Emma Louise Wilson	£28	Adults	Greyhope Bay Centre
Wed 16 July 12:30-13:15	Talk	Lunchtime talk: Cool stories of exploration and discovery	Pay what you can	All ages	Aberdeen Maritime Museum
Wed 16 July 18:30-20:00	Music	Harbour Voices choir	Free	All ages	Fittie Community Hall
Thu 17 July 18:00–20:00	Workshop	Seaweed printing on textiles	£20	Families with children aged 5+	Fittie Community Hall
		Viktor Wynd and the Museum of Curiosities	£10 adults / £7 concessions	All ages	Aberdeen Art Gallery (Cowdray Hall)
Sat 19 July 10:00–16:00	Arts and Crafts	Fittie arts and crafts fair	Free	All ages	Fittie Community Hall
Sat 19 July 18:00–21:00 Workshop Watercolour seascapes for beginners with Emma Louise Wilson		£28	Adults	Greyhope Bay Centre	
Sat 19 July 10:30–11:00	Storytelling	Bookbug - Tall Ships in Aberdeen	Free, booking essential	Under 5s and their families	Old Aberdeen Library







Greyhope Bay: Watercolour Seascapes

Greyhope Bay: Coastal Discovery Beachcombing

Sat 19, Sun 20 July 14:00 & 19:00	Theatre	Scottish Dance Theatre: Pirates!	£17.50 - £12.50	Ages 7-12 and their families	His Majesty's Theatre
Sun 20 July 14:00–16:00	Storytelling	The power of the sea: Stories and poems from Pushing Out the Boat magazine	Entry by donation	Adults and young people 11+	The Blue Lamp
Mon 21 July	Dance	My Friend Selkie: Performances from What moves you / Citymoves Dance Agency	Free	All ages	Street Performance
Mon 21 July 10:00–16:00	Outdoors	Coastal discovery day	Free	All ages	Greyhope Bay Centre
Mon 21 July 13:00-14:30	Outdoors	Coastal bird walk	£10 adult / £5 child	All ages	Greyhope Bay Centre
Mon 21 July 15:00-16:30	Outdoors	Coastal discovery beachcombing	£6 adult / £4 child	All ages	Greyhope Bay Centre
Mon 21–Fri 25 July	Holiday Camp	Creatures of the Deep youth summer camp	£40 per day / £175 per week	Ages 5 – 12	Citymoves Dance Agency
Tue 22 July 18:00–19:00	Talk	Sea monsters on medieval and renaissance maps with Chet Van Duzer	Free	All ages	Online
Wed 23 July 18:30-20:00	Music	Harbour Voices choir	Free	All ages	Fittie Community Hall

WHATS ON - AT A GLANCE







Fittie Arts and Crafts Fair

Wed 23-Sun 27 July	Arts and Crafts	Deemouth Artist Studios workshop weekender	From £35	Adults	Deemouth Business Centre
Thu 24 July 14:15-14:45	Storytelling	Storytelling Bookbug – Tall Ships in Aberdeen		Under 5s and their families	Torry Library
Thu 24 July 18:00-21:00	Workshop	Watercolours of Fittie and the sea	£20	Ages 16+	Fittie Community Hall
Fri 25 July 11:00–12:30	Wellbeing	Memories Scotland – Tall Ships in Aberdeen	Free, booking essential	Adults	Torry Library
Sat 26 July 18:00-20:30	Workshop	Rocks and ripples in watercolour: A coastal art- geology workshop	£28	Adults	Greyhope Bay Centre
Sat 26 July 19:00–20:30	Music	Joss Cameron: The sea salt shore	£10 adult / £8 under 18s	Ages 8+	Fittie Community Hall

Opportunities

Applications	Arts and	Artist Opportunity:	Free	Adults	Online
open 12 July	Crafts	Aberdeen Archives, Gallery			submission
Deadline 10 August		& Museums micro- commissions			aagm.co.uk

ADDRESSES

Aberdeen Art Gallery Schoolhill, Aberdeen AB10 1FQ

Aberdeen Arts Centre 33 King Street, Aberdeen AB24 5AA

Aberdeen Maritime Museum Shiprow, Aberdeen AB11 5BY

Aberdeen Sports Village Linksfield Road, Aberdeen AB24 5RU

Citymoves Dance Agency c/o The Anatomy Rooms, Shoe Lane, Aberdeen AB10 1AL

Deemouth Business Centre South Esplanade East, Torry, Aberdeen AB11 9PB

Fittie Community Hall New Pier Road, Fittie AB11 5DR

Greyhope Bay Centre Torry Battery, Greyhope Road, Aberdeen AB11 8QX

His Majesty's Theatre Rosemount Viaduct, Aberdeen AB25 1GL

Old Aberdeen Library Sir Duncan Rice Library, The University of Aberdeen, Bedford Road, Aberdeen AB24 3AA

Music Hall Union Street, Aberdeen AB10 1QS

Sir Duncan Rice Library The University of Aberdeen, Bedford Road, Aberdeen AB24 3AA

Stonehaven Town Hall Allardice Street, Stonehaven AB39 2BU

The Blue Lamp 121 Gallowgate, Aberdeen AB25 1BU

Torry Library Greyhope Community Hub, Tullos Circle, Torry, Aberdeen AB11 8HD

Zoology Museum The University of Aberdeen, Zoology Building, Tillydrone
Avenue, Aberdeen AB24 2TZ

For full details and to book visit www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/festivalofthesea

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Finance and Resources
DATE	5 th November 2025
EXEMPT	No, but the Appendix C is exempt under paragraph 6 of schedule 7A to the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 - information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (other than
	the authority)
CONFIDENTIAL	No
REPORT TITLE	World Rally Championship Bid
REPORT NUMBER	CR&E/25/252
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	David Dunne
CHIEF OFFICER	Julie Wood
REPORT AUTHOR	Matthew Williams
TERMS OF REFERENCE	3.2

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To update members on the progress and next steps on a Partnership bid to host the World Rally Championship (WRC) and to seek approval to enter a Memorandum of Understanding with Motorsport UK.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

That the Committee:

- 2.1 Notes the support for the North East of Scotland to host the World Rally Championships (WRC) by regional partners and Tourism Levy development partners, and the associated benefits. Appendix A;
- 2.2 Notes the competitive bidding process and timeline partners are following to apply to host this event in the North East of Scotland;
- 2.3 Agrees that Aberdeen City Council will contribute to the costs outlined by Motorsport UK for three Councils at £3M over three years, with the intention that Aberdeen City's share will be reimbursed by the Visitor Levy;
- 2.4 Instructs the Chief Officer City Development & Regeneration to enter a Memorandum of Understanding with Motorsport UK, Appendix B, which will allow Motorsport UK to submit an application to host the World Rally Championships in Aberdeen City Boundaries; and

2.5 Should the bid be successful, instruct Chief Officer – City Development & Regeneration to provide an update on planning proposals and council governance at a future Finance and Resources committee.

3. CURRENT SITUATION

- 3.1 The FIA World Rally Championship (WRC) is a globally recognised motorsport series. Motorsport UK, in partnership with EventScotland and the WRC Promoter, has identified the North East of Scotland as a preferred host location for a UK round of the WRC for an initial three-year period (2027–2029). The event would be headquartered at P&J Live in Aberdeen, with stages across Aberdeen, Aberdeenshire, and Moray.
- 3.2 A competitive bidding process is underway, with partners working to a strict timeline to submit a comprehensive application to the WRC Promoter and FIA. Securing Scotland's inclusion on the WRC calendar is subject to a sustainable business model, robust partnership, and demonstration of regional and national support.
- 3.3 In order to submit a bid, Motorsport UK are seeking the agreement of funding and support from all partners in the form of a Memorandum of Understanding. Aberdeenshire Council, Moray Council and the Scottish Government have also been approached for funding and are considering the opportunity. The Scottish Government recognises that Local Authority funding would be contingent on Scottish Government funding being agreed.

3.4 **Timeline:**

- Aberdeen City Council Committee: 5th November 2025
- Aberdeenshire Committee: 20th November 2025
- Moray Committee: 6th November 2025
- Scottish Government: November 2025
- Motorsport UK Board: 25th November 2025
- Submission of bid: Nov/Dec 2025
- Decision by WRC Promoter/FIA: Expected early 2026
- Event delivery: 2027–2029

3.5 Roles and Responsibilities:

- Motorsport UK: Lead organiser, responsible for event delivery, safety, finances sponsorship, and compliance.
- Aberdeen City Council and Partners: Provide financial support (up to the agreed amount), infrastructure, communications, community engagement, and access to public assets.
- 3.6 The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) (Appendix B) sets out the anticipated expectations for Aberdeen City Council. Spanning across Council Clusters Services, officers have had the opportunity to comment on

deliverability and resource. Learning has also been taken from the recently completed Tall Ships 2025.

	MOU	Response
3.7	The three local authorities to contribute £3,000,000 plus inflation to the events budget to secure the event for three years	Should committee agree Aberdeen City's contribution, it is intended that this will be paid back from the Visitor Levy. This proposal has received support from the Visitor Levy Development Group Partners recognising the need to bid years in advance for major events.
3.8	Support in developing and amplification of annual communications plans around the event and its core themes	This would be led by Motorsport UK. ACC role along with City partners would be to promote the comms on existing channels and partnerships. ACC partners, businesses and key media outlets would be invited to support communications in the form of a city wide- communications working group.
3.9	to local communities and	This would be led by Motorsport UK. ACC role along with City partners would be to embed WRC into existing and planned consultations with communities and to socialise and gain support/sign post communities into the event through existing forums and groups.
3.10	Support liaison with authorities in communication and co-ordination with the local councils, police, safety, emergency services throughout the planning process.	This would be led by Motorsport UK and additional costs would be covered by Motorsport UK. ACC role would be to attend as a category one responder – offering support and learning to the planning process.
3.11	and coordinating with highway agencies and the lifting of any road works around the event geographies to facilitate ease of access for event traffic, including	This would be led by Motorsport UK and additional costs would be covered by Motorsport UK. ACC role would be to attend as a Roads authority and support in the planning and coordination including any requirements for additional bus provision and Park and Ride. ACC will support with applications to existing or new funding streams for example sustainable transport, from Bus Priority Lane Funding.
3.12	Support with social impact and EDI projects to inspire communities	It is anticipated that external funding would be sought for communities to bid into to support the event. Recent success includes UKSPF for this type of event. Education and

3.13	Support with infrastructure for	employability teams along with partners, including local businesses would be required to maximise engagement with STEM activities. This is additional activity and not core to event delivery. This would be led by Motorsport UK with
	crowd control: With thousands of spectators expected, local police and other authorities are vital for managing crowds and traffic. This can include directing traffic, providing security, and enforcing rules in spectator areas	assistance from City Events and oversight from Emergency Planning and multi-agency partners. Additional costs for stewards would be covered by Motorsport UK. ACC would support the call-out for volunteers where appropriate. This would involve the Safety Advisory Group
3.14	Access to publicly owned spaces and facilities required in execution of the event or venues including event infrastructure	This would be facilitated by City Events in line with other events. It would involve resource from Roads team, street cleansing, etc, as appropriate.

- 3.15 The financial ask from Motorsport UK from the Council over three years will be between £1.2m and £1.5m depending on the final agreement, there is a direct ask of staff time to contribute to working groups. These working groups will develop opportunities arising from the event to maximise benefits to the city. As, Motorsport UK are the lead organiser of the event, plus the delivery will be in-venue at P&J Live for much of the programme, this would be less resource intensive than, for example, Tall Ships.
- 3.16 An initial workshop with relevant council teams explored the resources needed at this stage, and it was agreed that resource support could be offered to working groups to develop proposals, alongside the employment of a project team to oversee the event for three years. Noting the opportunity to accelerate many of the city's strategic objectives, and local outcomes, officers and partners would seek opportunities to embed WRC planning into delivery plans to maximise impact and seek external funding and sponsorship opportunities to maximise benefits of hosting the WRC in this region. The total cost additional activities and staffing would be in the region of £700,000 over three years.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The indicative ask is £1 million per year for three years, shared between Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire, and Moray Councils. This share may not be equal but dependent on the weighting of economic benefit to each Council from hosting the event. The preferred funding mechanism is the Visitor Levy, but Aberdeen City Council may need to underwrite the contribution if revenues are insufficient or delayed. Cost-sharing by partner councils is a condition of underwriting.
- 4.2 External funding and sponsorship will be sought for maximising community involvement.

4.3 Staff resource should align to delivering existing strategic objectives and outcomes for the city residents as outlined in Section 8 below.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 This Memorandum of Understanding ("MoU") sets out the mutual intentions of Motorsport UK with Aberdeen City Council to collaborate on a bid to host the World Rally Championship. It is a statement of intent and does not create legally binding obligations.

6. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The event racing vehicles will use sustainable fuels (P1 Fuel) and promote lowemission technologies, aligning with Aberdeen's Net Zero Route map. A carbon planning framework will be implemented, and environmental assessments will be undertaken.
- 6.2 The event should be used to promote Aberdeen as a world energy leader and showcase the cities leading sustainability projects and infrastructure.
- 6.3 The city could create the opportunity for a renewable fuels conference or similar to highlight existing hydrogen projects in addition to research and development in other areas, such as hydrogen-powered generators for events.

7. RISK

Category	Risks	Primary Controls/Control Actions to achieve. Target Risk Level	*Target Risk Level (L, M or H) *Taking into account controls/control actions	*Does Target Risk Level Match Appetite Set?
Strategic Risk	Formal approval to submit bid required across all 3 councils and partners is required to proceed.	Formal meetings have been positive, agreed timelines for seeking approval, continued regular partner meetings. However, this is still subject to agreement from all partners committees and board by a Dec deadline.	Н	Yes
Compliance	Event does not adhere to Council guidelines /risk appetite	Officers will attend working groups and share best practice. All statutory and compulsory legislation will be adhered to.	L	Yes
Operational	Complex logistics, multi-location event	Experienced partners, event frameworks	L	Yes

Financial	Funding shortfall if Visitor Levy delayed	Underwriting, phased agreements,	M	Yes
Reputational	ACC is not leading deliver of event	Experienced teams with proven track record delivering event.	L	Yes
Environment / Climate	Misinformation is perceived as a negative.	Opportunity to showcase sustainable fuels, transport models and Aberdeen's clean energy mix as well as driving forward campaign and environmental/climate messaging	Ĺ	Yes

8. OUTCOMES

COUNCIL DELIVERY PLAN 2025-26		
	Impact of Report	
Aberdeen City Council	Partnership Working	
Policy Statement	Multi-agency stakeholder group, broad consultation, shared delivery.	
Mantin a in Danta analyin fan	Community Engagement & Empowerment,	
Working in Partnership for Aberdeen	Volunteering, STEM, diversity, co-design, local	
Aberdeen	legacy	
	Economic Growth & Sustainability €100m impact,	
	tourism, jobs, Net Zero, sustainable fuels	
	Maximising Resources & Best Value,	
	Underwriting, diversified funding, cost-sharing, multi-year model	
	Innovation & Continuous Improvement STEM,	
	skills, legacy, robust governance, outcome	
	measurement	
Loca	l Outcome Improvement Plan	
Prosperous People Stretch	4.4 Increase by 5% the number of S1-S6 pupils	
Outcomes	who report that they feel confident by 2025.	
	6.4 Increase the percentage of learners entering a	
	positive and sustained destination to be ahead of	
	the Virtual Comparator for all groups by 2025	
	-Deliver accredited training and upskilling for	
	volunteers.	
	- Provides STEM outreach and education	
	programmes for schools and colleges Partners with Scottish Action for Mental Health	
	(SAMH) for wellbeing initiatives.	
	- Implements diversity and inclusion programmes	
	(Girls on Track, Race for Diversity).	
	(Since Sir Hading Hadde for Divoloty)	

14.3 Reduce car kms by 5% by 2026 Provision of effective public transport to/from event sites and promote walkability of P&J Live to/from Aberdeen Airport and local hotels
15.1 Increase to 65% the proportion of people who feel they can regularly experience good quality natural space by 2026
- Major parts of the event will take place outdoors in Aberdeenshire, with local people expected to spend time in those woodland areas and green spaces.
Regional Economic Strategy
The feasibility study demonstrates strong alignment with the Regional Economic Strategy by projecting over €100 million in economic impact for the North East, attracting international investment, and creating jobs in tourism, hospitality, event management, and supply chain sectors. The event supports Aberdeen's designation as an Investment Zone and major events hosting, driving economic transformation and diversification for the region. References: Executive Summary (p.9), Economic Impact (p.49), Investment Zone (p.50), Stakeholder Support (p.10), Recommendation (p.13)
Regional Transport Strategy
WRC Rally Scotland leverages Aberdeen's transport infrastructure, including P&J Live and regional connectivity, and requires coordination with local transport providers. The event promotes sustainable travel, improves accessibility for visitors and residents, and shows how major events can be integrated into regional transport planning, supporting the aims of the Regional Transport Strategy. References: Event Operations (p.28–31), Central Hub & Event Layout (p.30), Transport & Logistics (p.54)

Regional Skills Strategy

The feasibility study supports the Regional Skills Strategy by delivering accredited training and upskilling for volunteers, providing STEM outreach and education programmes for schools and colleges, and creating a legacy of expertise for future events. These activities contribute to workforce development and skills enhancement across the region.

References: Skills Development and Legacy (p.37), STEM Showcase (p.24–25), Education Programme (p.44)

Local Development Plan

The event invests in local infrastructure, venues, and environmental legacy projects, supporting sustainable development and enhancing Aberdeen's appeal as a vibrant, attractive city. By improving public assets and promoting regeneration, the WRC aligns with the ambitions of the Local Development Plan.

References: Legacy Infrastructure (p.43), Event Operations (p.28–31), P&J Live Venue (p.31)

Local Housing Strategy

By attracting international visitors and investment, WRC Rally Scotland can stimulate demand for housing and regeneration, supporting the city's goals for inward investment and sustainable growth. The event's economic impact and legacy infrastructure contribute to the wider housing strategy.

References: Economic Impact (p.49–50), Investment Zone (p.50)

Children's Services Plan

The feasibility study includes optional STEM outreach and education programmes, partnerships with schools, and initiatives to inspire young people to pursue careers in engineering, digital media, and event management. These activities could support positive destinations for children and young people, in line with the Children's Services Plan.

References: STEM Showcase (p.24–25), Education Programme (p.44), Diversity & Inclusion (p.46–47)

Net Zero Routemap for the City

WRC Rally Scotland showcases Aberdeen's Net Zero ambitions and sustainable event practices, implements a carbon planning framework, promotes sustainable fuels, and achieves FIA Three-Star Environmental Accreditation. The event's environmental commitments directly support the Net Zero Routemap for the City.

References: Sustainability Leadership (p.9, p.26), Environmental Sustainability (p.32, p.42–43), Net Zero (p.26)

Medium Term Financial Strategy

Motorsport UK will underwrite the event, protecting public funds and ensuring financial security. The funding model is diversified, with revenue from sponsorship, ticket sales, and host support, reducing reliance on council budgets. Multi-year agreements and cost-sharing across partners support best value and financial sustainability, in line with the Medium-Term Financial Strategy. **References:** Financial Security (p.10, p.52–54), Funding Model (p.13–14), Financial Assessment (p.52–54)

Estates and Assets Strategy

The event maximises use of existing public assets (e.g., P&J Live, roads, venues), demonstrates flexible, multi-use asset planning, and supports the Council's ambition to optimise estate use for economic and social return. The legacy infrastructure and venue improvements align with the Estates and Assets Strategy.

References: Event Operations (p.28–31), P&J Live Venue (p.31), Legacy Infrastructure (p.43)

9. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Assessment	Outcome
Integrated Impact Assessment	New Integrated Impact Assessment has been completed.
Data Protection Impact Assessment	Required
Other	

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

10.1 6 August 2025 - Finance and Resources Committee Report: Opportunity To Host The World Rally Championships In North East Scotland - CR&E/25/184

11. APPENDICES

11.1 Appendix A: Partner Support

Appendix B: Memorandum of Understanding

Appendix C; **Exempt** Feasibility Study

12. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

Name	Matthew Williams
Title	Service Manager – Commercial
Email Address	matwilliams@aberdeencity.gov.uk

Contact: Graeme Dale

Email: grdale@sportaberdeen.co.uk

Phone: 01224 047929

Date: 22nd October 2025



Sport Aberdeen

4th Floor, The Bridge Kings Way Bridge of Don Aberdeen AB23 8BL 01224 507744 www.sportaberdeen.co.uk

To Whom It May Concern

REF: Letter of Support – FIA World Rally Championships

I am writing on behalf of Sport Aberdeen to express it's strong support for Aberdeen City Council's bid to host the FIA World Rally Championship in 2027, 2028 and 2029.

The FIA Rally Championships represents an important opportunity to bring thousands of visitors to the city, raise the profile of Aberdeen through national and internation media coverage and increase the city's standing as a place to host major events. Sport Aberdeen is pleased to endorse this application due to the benefits and opportunities that it would undoubtable bring to the city.

Whilst there are other examples, the success of the Tall Ships highlights not only the economic and cultural impact that these types of events can bring but also the city's ability to successful organise and host high profile events. The FIA World Rally Championships would undoubtable be another one of these.

The use of the new Visitor Levy is an ideal method to provide the funding required to secure the event as the aim of this fund and the outcomes generated by hosting the FIA World Rally Championships are in alignment. Sport Aberdeen is supportive of this funding being used for this type of event.

I sincerely hope that you will give the application to host this event for the 3-year period your full consideration.

Yours sincerely

Graeme Dale

Director of Sport & Active Communities





















The Hub **Exploration Drive** Aberdeen Energy Park Bridge of Don Aberdeen **AB23 8GX**

T 01224 343900 E info@agcc.co.uk www.agcc.co.uk

Finance & Resources Committee Aberdeen City Council

15th October 2025

Aberdeen's bid to host the FIA World Rally Championship 2027-2029 - Letter of support

I am writing to you in my capacity as Chief Executive at Aberdeen & Grampian Chamber of Commerce (AGCC).

AGCC is Scotland's largest Chamber representing around 1,300 organisations in the North-east of Scotland region collectively employing over 100,000 people and we are recognised as one of the most active and influential Chambers in the UK. We get things done.

We sit at the heart of 'Team Aberdeen', are a co-author and key delivery partner of the Regional Economic Strategy which, in the last ten years, has made significant progress with supporting key growth sectors to diversify the economy. One of these being tourism.

A hotbed for business and corporate visitors for fifty years, a key part of the sector diversification strategy over the last decade has been putting this part of the world firmly back on the leisure tourism map.

Our destination management organisation VisitAberdeenshire has overseen remarkable growth and recent analysis of tourism data has highlighted that the economic impact of tourism in Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire increased year-on-year to £1.27billion in 2024. Driven by 3.7 million visitors staying overnight in 2024 and further boosted by 2.59 million day visits with our guests experiencing the region's quality tourism and hospitality products and experiences.

As well as our facilities, coastline, countryside, unique architecture, castles, golf courses, museums, art galleries visitor attractions and more, our tourism product is underpinned by a fantastic culture, festivals, events and hospitality offer.

World class events here in the recent past include BBC Sports Personality of the Year together with the Grand Depart and final stage of the Tour of Britain cycling. This year we hosted Europe's largest free event, the Tall Ships Race with hundreds of thousands of visitors enjoying the city at its best.

All of this in turn helps make Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire attractive places to live and work, helping us retain and attract the very best talent here.

Myth would have it that the Aberdeen region is 'far away' and 'difficult to reach'. Not true of course! Our International Airport services 31-36 flights to and from UK cities daily plus a further 12-14 per day to European destinations. This includes connecting hubs like London, Dublin, Amsterdam, Manchester and Copenhagen meaning Aberdeen is one stop from almost anywhere in the world.







And once in the UK, there are hourly trains from and to Glasgow and Edinburgh enabling visitors to be in Aberdeen in around two and a half hours via some of the most stunning scenery on any rail journey in the country as well as direct services from London, Newcastle and Leeds.

The newly completed £420m South Harbour enables our city to host the largest cruise and commercial vessels in the world. It is the largest new build port in the UK for over a century.

With more than 7,000 modern, traditional and luxury hotel bedrooms, the city's accommodation provision is the envy of many, making Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire one of the best and most hospitable destinations for leisure visitors and conference delegates in the UK.

High-end accommodation can provide an unforgettable experience in castles, country houses and boutique urban hotels. While, for delegates on a restricted budget, there is a wealth of affordable guest houses and quality budget hotels – all offering excellent facilities and warm, local hospitality.

Based on product, value for money and available capacity, Scotland's national tourist organisation Visit Scotland now sees the North-east as being the region that will drive future growth.

Having a major global media and live spectator event like the WRC in the region for a three year period will help turn this ambition into reality. It will bring tens of thousands of national and international overnight visitors here, supporting the city's transport hubs, accommodation, hospitality, retail and attractions businesses. And it will introduce millions of viewers from around the world to our region as a 'must visit' destination.

For all these reasons, we believe that Aberdeen should proceed with its bid to host the FIA World Rally Championships. This would be a highly appropriate early use of funding from the Visitor Levy to provide the necessary subvention and signal how, used well, the Levy can be a force for good.

Yours sincerely,

Russell Borthwick

Chief Executive

MILLU NO Mill

Aberdeen and Grampian Chamber of Commerce







20th October 2025

ABERDEEN BUSINESS SCHOOL

Robert Gordon University Garthdee Road Aberdeen **AB10 7QE United Kingdom**

Tel: 01224 263800

To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of Aberdeen Business School at Robert Gordon University (RGU), we are writing to offer our strong support for Aberdeen City Council's bid to host a stage of the FIA World Rally Championship.

As a vocationally focused University, we recognise the potential that hosting an international event would have on developing the attractiveness of Aberdeen City for our student community.

Our Event Management and International Tourism Management programmes are designed to prepare students to contribute meaningfully to the events and tourism economies at all levels; national, regional and international. The FIA World Rally Championship being held in Aberdeen would offer a real-world learning platform for students to engage directly with a major international event. These opportunities would link to the vocational focus of our school and course in applied learning such as volunteering, research, internships, and live project work. It would allow students to witness first-hand the complexities of staging a world-class event, including areas such as operations, sustainability, stakeholder engagement, marketing, and community impact.

Furthermore, this event aligns with the university's broader strategic aim of enhancing our positioning as a university within a dynamic, visitor friendly and eventful destination. This rally has the potential at industry level to stimulate the hospitality and tourism sectors and inspire the next generation of event professionals emerging from our programmes.

As an institution committed to civic engagement and industry collaboration, RGU would welcome the opportunity to support the planning and delivery of the event through academic expertise, student involvement, and strategic partnership. Yours sincerely,

Dr Jo Royle

Dean, Aberdeen Business School

K.Goldie

Katie Goldie Course Leader, BA (Hons) Events Management On behalf of Craig Leith, Principal Subject Leader Tourism, Hospitality and Events





21 October 2025

Mr Matthew Williams
Service Manager – Commercial Development
Aberdeen City Council
City Development & Regeneration
Aberdeen Art Gallery
Schoolhill
Aberdeen
AV10 1FQ

Dear Matthew,

FIA World Rally Championship (WRC) in 2027, 2028 and 2029

Aberdeen Sports Village is delighted to support the bid to host the FIA World Rally Championship (WRC) in 2027, 2028 and 2029 in Aberdeen.

Aberdeen has experience of successfully securing and hosting international sporting events in conjunction with a range of local, national and international partners. At Aberdeen Sports Village, these events include the British Masters Swimming, Citi Para Swimming World Series and Netball Europe.

The opportunity for Aberdeen to host this prestigious event will support our ambitions to raise the profile of Aberdeen, showcase the city's world class facilities and promote the city as a destination of choice for sporting events.

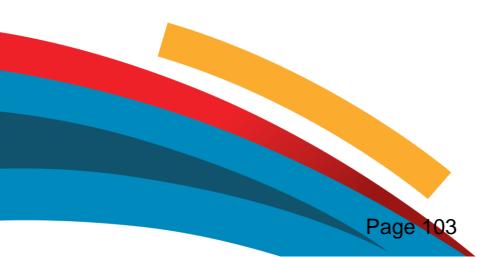
We believe the city of Aberdeen has the facilities, infrastructure and capabilities to deliver an impactful conference. If this event is successful in coming to Aberdeen, we look forward to working alongside Aberdeen City Council and partners to ensure the event is a success.

Yours sincerely

Graham Morrison

Head of Sport and Events

graham@aberdeensportsvillage.com 01224 438926



Your lifestyle. One village.

E: info@aberdeensportsvillage.com

T: 01224 438900

Linksfield Road, Aberdeen, AB24 5RU

www.aberdeensportsvillage.com



Julie Wood Chief Officer – City Development & Regeneration Aberdeen City Council Marischal College Aberdeen

20 October 2025

Dear Julie

Support for World Rally Championship (WRC)

Hosting a round of the World Rally Championships (WRC) will be an excellent fit with the skills, expertise, infrastructure and natural capital of Aberdeen and the North-east. It will also align perfectly with the ambition to further grow the visitor economy in the North-east. Furthermore, the October dates will help to extend the visitor season when there is more capacity to fill hotel rooms without significant displacement of existing business. This will also present an opportunity for greater revenues per available room, and a significant business opportunity for the wider hospitality sector in the city.

Evidence from Jyväskylä, a small city in Finland, illustrates that the impact of hosting a round of WRC is significant, and expansive beyond the visitor economy, as echoed in Motorsport UK's feasibility report for an event in Scotland. Research undertaken in Jyväskylä in 2023 reported 267,000 spectator visits to the rally sites and that attendance has grown by 51% since 2017 indicating strong demand to experience motorsport in urban and rural settings. This brought over 19 million euros into the city economy over the race weekend in 2023. In addition, over 400 accredited media take the story to a cumulative audience of 47 million in 44 territories through 780 hours of broadcast.

Beyond the economic return, there is civic pride, and the opportunity to further build Aberdeen's reputation as a welcoming city not only to visit, but to live, work, study and do business. Considering the potential benefits of binging WRC to the North-east and the forecast revenues from a Visitor Levy, there is a good fit between the proposed objectives and structure for reinvestment of proceeds from a levy, and the requirement to allocate funding to meet the share of costs to host this event.

Yours sincerely

Chris Foy

Chief Executive. VisitAberdeenshire



13 October 2025

Matthew Williams
Service Manager – Commercial Development
Aberdeen City Council
Schoolhill
AB10 1FQ

Dear Matthew,

Port of Aberdeen is pleased to offer its full support for Aberdeen's bid to host the FIA World Rally Championship (WRC) in 2027, 2028, and 2029.

The recent success of The Tall Ships Races Aberdeen 2025 highlighted the significant potential that major international events such as the WRC bring to our region.

The Championship would provide a significant boost to the local economy, attracting thousands of visitors, generating increased demand for accommodation, hospitality, and transport services, and showcasing the North East of Scotland to a global audience.

The WRC's international media reach would further reignite the Aberdeen's international profile as an ambitious, forward-looking city that embraces innovation and adventure.

Port of Aberdeen would welcome the opportunity to work collaboratively with Aberdeen City Council, Motorsport UK, and partners across the region to ensure the success of the WRC.

Yours sincerely,

Bob Sanguinetti DL Chief Executive



The Event Complex Aberdeen

East Burn Road

Stoneywood

Aberdeen AB21 9FX

14 October 2025

Julie Wood
Chief Officer – City Development & Regeneration
Aberdeen City Council
Marischal College
Aberdeen

Dear Julie

Subject: Letter of Support - World Rally Championship (WRC) Rally Scotland

I write to you on behalf of P&J Live to express our enthusiastic and full support for Aberdeen and the wider North-East of Scotland to host future rounds of the FIA World Rally Championship (WRC), through the proposed "WRC Rally Scotland" event. This is a unique opportunity not only to bring a world-class motorsport spectacle to our region, but to deliver genuine, measurable benefits to our economy, communities, environment, and future generations.

I have been fortunate to see the detailed feasibility report prepared by Motorsport UK, the governing body for four-wheeled motorsport in the UK, and they have set out an ambitious and socially responsible framework that makes WRC Rally Scotland far more than a sporting event. Under the FIA's 'Beyond Rally' programme, Motorsport UK is committed to delivering a holistic impact agenda, structured around three pillars: Sustainability; Community, Education & Health; and Diversity & Inclusion.

Sustainability: Motorsport UK and the WRC already hold the FIA's Three-Star Environmental Accreditation, the highest possible in global motorsport. The event will showcase the future of sustainable fuels, harnessing biofuels and synthetic carbonneutral alternatives, while promoting local green partnerships, including collaborations with Scotland's thriving wind energy sector. Responsible forestry practices, tree replanting, road repair commitments, and the integration of eco-friendly infrastructure underscore a clear commitment to responsible land use and carbon reduction.

Community, Education & Health: WRC Rally Scotland presents a unique opportunity to deliver social impact in the North-East. From STEM-based education programmes for schools, mental health awareness in partnership with SAMH, and outreach through Esports and simulators – including for those with disabilities – this initiative offers community access to a global event that educates, inspires, and connects. It is particularly well positioned to engage rural communities across Aberdeen, Aberdeenshire, and Moray.

Diversity & Inclusion: Through initiatives like *Girls on Track*, Motorsport UK and the FIA are leading efforts to break down gender barriers in motorsport. These programmes have already reached thousands of young women and would be expanded locally to create lasting pathways into motorsport, engineering, media, and event roles.

Beyond the core social agenda, the economic opportunity is compelling. International WRC events consistently deliver direct financial impact ranging from €35m to over €50m per year. It is projected that WRC Rally Scotland could deliver more than €100 million to the North-East economy over three years. This includes increased tourism, hotel occupancy, spend in hospitality and retail, temporary job creation, and global media exposure for the region.

Aberdeen has the infrastructure, accommodation capacity, event delivery experience, and international accessibility to host such an event successfully. From the Granite City to rural Aberdeenshire, we have an unmatched natural stage for rallying and an engaged, passionate community ready to welcome the world.

As someone with a strong background in motorsport and an understanding of the value this could bring to the city, region and country, I would strongly urge Aberdeen City Council to offer its backing, both in principle and through the necessary funding and facilitation partnerships, to bring the WRC to Scotland.

This is a chance to lead, to inspire, and to realise substantial return on investment for the region.

Yours sincerely

Rob Wicks

Managing Director - P&J Live



The Event Complex Aberdeen

East Burn Road

Stoneywood

Aberdeen AB21 9FX

14 October 2025

Julie Wood
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Aberdeen City Council
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This is a chance to lead, to inspire, and to realise substantial return on investment for the region.

Yours sincerely

Rob Wicks

Managing Director - P&J Live



Matthew

The idea of attracting another large-scale event to the Northeast of Scotland is compelling. The boost that the Tall Ships provided was huge.

The city-centre aspect of the proposed Rally Event makes it exciting and accessible for all.

The boost to the economy would be welcomed.

The boost to public sentiment and morale is very important too.

The boost to our reputation as a great place to host events would be priceless.

This seems to be a wholly appropriate use of the Visitor Levy, and I would support the application for funding from the City Council's Finance and Resources Committee.

We would look forward to working with you and other organisations to ensure that the event reaches as many as possible and that the spin of events that might promote the STEM subjects for instance are fully developed.

Bob Keiller

Chair

Our Union Street



WRC Rally Scotland Heads of Terms/ Concept Paper

SUBJECT TO CONTRACT

Date:

Parties:

- 1. Motorsport UK, Bicester Motion, Command Works, Launton, Bicester OX27 8AL
- 2. EventScotland acting for and behalf of the Scottish Government
- 3. Aberdeen City Council, Marischal College Broad Street Aberdeen AB10 1AB
- 4. Aberdeenshire Council, Woodhill House, Westburn Road, Aberdeen, AB16 5GB
- 5. Moray Council, PO Box 6760, Elgin, Moray, IV30 9BX

Whereas;

The Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile ("FIA") is the sole body governing international motorsport for vehicles with more than 3 wheels and recognized by its Members as the sole authority entitled to make and enforce regulations within the territories of the FIA. The FIA owns a number of World Championships including the World Rally Championship (WRC), whose commercial rights are licenced to its nominated WRC promoter. Motorsport UK is recognised by the FIA as the sole authority for the control of motor sport with more than 3 wheels in the United Kingdom ('Motorsport UK') and is in advanced discussions with the FIA's appointed WRC promoter in respect of securing a UK based round of the WRC, based in the North East of Scotland, for an initial three-year term from 2027.

Securing Scotland's inclusion on the WRC calendar is subject to an appropriate and sustainable business model with revenue derived from a number of sources including, but not limited to, entry fees, sponsorship, licencing, concessions, hospitality, merchandise, ticketing, venue fees and upon approval grant award funding from the Scottish Government and Local Authorities.

Purpose

This Concept Paper intends to set out in a non-binding manner potential and likely obligations of each party to the event's successful planning and execution.

These are summarised, but not limited to the following obligations of each party.

Motorsport UK Obligations

Motorsport UK, as the contracting party with the FIA and nominated WRC promoter have a number of obligations to the Scottish Government and Local Authorities as part of any funding agreement, not limited to, but including;

- 1. Securing a date on the annual WRC calendar for a North East Scotland based event
- 2. Secure commercial sponsorship of the event
- 3. Ticket sales of the event





- 4. Under-writing of annual operating plan and budget
- 5. Creating and implementing a governance structure of the event that is inclusive of stakeholder representation
- 6. Organising, promoting and executing a world-class sporting event
- 7. Sanctioning and permitting the event to be held legally in the UK
- 8. Oversight of all safety aspects of the event, ensure compliance with FIA, WRC and Motorsport UK safety planning including alignment with Stage Rally Safety Requirements, Incident Management Plans, and Operational Plans to ensure executing of an event safe for competitors, officials, spectators and media
- 9. As part of Motorsport UK's commitment to sustainability it shall ensure that the event is delivered consistent with the FIA Three Star Environmental Accreditation
- 10. Creating an event that has wider business and local resident community reach, relevance and involvement
- 11. Creation and execution of an annual marketing and communications plan to maximise amplification of the event visibility both in the region, across the UK and overseas
- 12. Creating a legacy for communities and the sport directly resultant from the event
- 13. Deliver a social impact via programmes to embrace equality, diversity and inclusion
- 14. Provide post-event reporting evidencing that that the event delivers successfully across Scottish Government and LA events strategies

Scottish Government and Local Authority Obligations

The successful operational execution of a WRC event requires extensive support from local authorities, including regional and the Scottish Government agencies who will be required to support various aspects of the events planning and execution, including, but not limited to the following;

- 1. Financial and economic contribution in support of the event's viability with a stakeholder contribution to the event's annual budget of three million pounds sterling (£3,000,000 GBP) in 2027 and and a similar fee in future years with annual inflationary rises
- 2. Support in developing and amplification of annual communications plans around the event and its core themes
- 3. Support in socialisation of the event to local communities and communication of event details and benefits that the event offers residents and local businesses including any community consultations
- 4. Support liaison with authorities in communication and co-ordination with the local councils, police, safety, emergency services throughout the planning process.
- 5. Co-ordination with roads authorities on traffic management strategies, signage, parking plans, and coordinating with highway agencies and the lifting of any road works around the event geographies to facilitate ease of access for event traffic, including competitors, officials and spectators
- 6. Support with social impact and EDI projects to inspire communities



- 7. Support with infrastructure for crowd control: With thousands of spectators expected, local police and other authorities are vital for managing crowds and traffic. This can include directing traffic, providing security, and enforcing rules in spectator areas.
- 8. Access to publicly owned spaces and facilities required in execution of the event or venues including event infrastructure
- 9. Provision of public services like waste management, sanitation (toilets), and water supply for attendees often requires coordination with local council services.

Specifically with regard to the Scottish Government, they shall support Motorsport UK in facilitating affordable and cost-effective access to the national forest estate managed by Forestry and Land Scotland (FLS), consistent with existing forestry access arrangements. All parties acknowledge that any material reduction in the budgeted fees currently anticipated in the event budget relating to accessing the FLS estate would directly and proportionately reduce the headline financial contribution requested from Government and Local Authorities.

All parties shall work purposefully to secure the requisite funding at the earliest opportunity, in order that by November Motorsport UK can agree terms with the FIA's WRC promoter to secure a three-year term to return the WRC to the UK in a North East Scotland based event from 2027.

Parties acknowledge that calendar availability of both the WRC and the Service Park venue is strictly limited and that time is of the essence to seize the opportunity for Scotland.
Signed by Authorised Signatories:
Motorsport UK
EventScotland acting for and behalf of the Scottish Government
Aberdeen City Council
Aberdeenshire Council
Moray Council

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ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Finance and Resources
DATE	05 November 2025
EXEMPT	Appendix 1 to this report is exempt under the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (Paragraph 9 – Contractual Terms)
CONFIDENTIAL	No
REPORT TITLE	Aberdeen eBike Hire Scheme
REPORT NUMBER	CORS/25/238
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	Gale Beattie
CHIEF OFFICER	David Dunne
REPORT AUTHOR	Jane Obi
TERMS OF REFERENCE	1.1.5; 2.1.1

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform Members of the outcome of a procurement exercise undertaken to identify a supplier to provide and operate an eBike hire scheme in Aberdeen.
- 1.2 To seek approval from Members to formally appoint and enter into contract with the identified supplier

2. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

That the Committee:-

- 2.1 Note the procurement exercise undertaken to identify a preferred operator to provide and operate an eBike hire scheme in Aberdeen within approved budget;
- 2.2 Note the outcome of the procurement exercise which identifies the preferred operator; and,
- 2.3 Instruct the Chief Officer Strategic Place Planning to formally enter into contract with the preferred operator as set out in the conditions of contract associated with the procurement, for a period of 3 years with option to extend by two further 12 month periods, with a financial contribution from the Council as detailed in this report.

3. CURRENT SITUATION

- 3.1 Aberdeen previously had an operational bike hire scheme from autumn 2022 to spring 2024. Since its termination, Aberdeen City Council has received enquiries from members of the public expressing interest in reinstatement of the scheme, indicating a sustained appetite for accessible cycling options in the city.
- 3.2 In response, a report was submitted to the Finance and Resources Committee on 8 May 2024, seeking approval "to explore options around how a future

- scheme might operate" and to report findings to the Net Zero, Environment and Transport Committee in September 2024.
- 3.3 Subsequently, on <u>3 September 2024</u>, a report was presented to the Net Zero, Environment and Transport Committee informing Members of the options available to operate a future eBike hire scheme in Aberdeen, outlining the available operational models for the scheme (i.e. 100% Private, 100% Public and Public/Private Partnership). The recommendation was to proceed with a public/private partnership model.
- 3.4 The Committee resolved "to instruct the Chief Officer Strategic Place Planning to prepare a Business Case for a new eBike scheme based on the public/private partnership model and to report this Business Case to a subsequent meeting of the Finance and Resources Committee".
- 3.5 This was followed by a report to the Finance and Resources Committee on 12 September 2024, where it was agreed by Committee to "instruct the Chief Officer Strategic Place Planning to undertake a procurement exercise to identify a private partner to enter into a public/private partnership model with the Council to deliver a new eBike hire scheme for the city, with public funding to support the programme identified as being taken from the Bus Lane Enforcement surplus" [please note, following the Council Budget Meeting decision of March 2025, this funding source to support the scheme was revised to the Low Emission Zone surplus].
- 3.6 The procurement exercise commenced with an Invitation to Tender (ITT) launched on Public Contracts Scotland on 8 July 2025 with a deadline of 21 August 2025. Lessons learned from the previous eBike hire scheme were reflected in the requirements of the ITT for the new scheme.
- 3.7 The table below provides an overview of the features of the scheme which were reflected in the Invitation to Tender. The scheme is supported by a set operational subsidy from the Low Emission Zone surplus and is designed to be inclusive, accessible, and financially self-sustaining, with a robust performance framework and Community Benefit commitments.

Table 1: An Overview of some features of the eBike Hire Scheme as required of the Invitation to Tender

- Minimum of 200 eBikes at launch, scalable to over 350 during the contract
- An initial contract period of 3 years. This period can be extended by a further 12-months on two occasions.
- Use of zero-emission vehicles for operation of the scheme
- Inclusion of Community Benefits, such as employment, in the contract
- Partnership with Getabout to champion sustainable travel
- Robust monitoring and scheme management built-in with reports and Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

- The Council's financial contribution will be released based on attainment of key milestones and KPIs as outlined in the ITT
- Inclusive pricing (i.e. includes concessionary rates) with all rates fixed for the first year of the scheme
- 24/7 scheme availability with a minimum 85% fleet availability at all times
- Parking compliance greater than or equal to 90%
- Profit-sharing mechanism during extension years of the contract
- 3.8 A robust assessment of the tender responses was undertaken, based on both the quality of the submissions received, and the anticipated cost to the public of using the scheme. Exempt Appendix 1 provides further details. The award criteria was 60% Quality, 40% Price. The preferred operator scored higher on both quality and cost criteria. Their proposal demonstrated clear strengths across all seven method statements in the Award Questionnaire, offering a scalable, inclusive, and environmentally aligned solution.
- 3.9 The preferred operator represents a delivery partner that combines commercial viability with public value, offering a scalable, inclusive, and climate-aligned solution that supports Aberdeen's transport, health, and environmental sustainability ambitions.
- 3.10 The preferred operator's pricing structure is designed to ensure affordability, accessibility, and financial sustainability. These measures, supported by the Council's operational subsidy, all aim to maximise public benefit and ensure the scheme is inclusive, equitable, and financially sustainable.
- 3.11 The mobile application for booking/hiring and parking the bikes at the end of a hire will also be fully configured for Aberdeen.
- 3.12 The Council is now in a position to formally appoint the preferred operator and enter into contract, enabling mobilisation to begin. The scheme is anticipated to launch in Spring 2026, following a mobilisation period of four to six months to enable successful logistics around procurement and deployment of the bikes and human resources to commence the scheme. The operator will be responsible for all aspects of the scheme delivery, including infrastructure deployment, customer service, maintenance, financial and performance reporting.
- 3.13 Given the public interest, strategic alignment with transport and sustainability goals, and the successful outcome of the procurement exercise, the recommendations in Section 2 seeks approval to appoint and enter into contract with the preferred operator. This will allow the Council to progress towards working with a partner to deliver a high-quality, inclusive eBike hire scheme for Aberdeen again.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Aberdeen City Council will provide a financial contribution of £200,000 to support the operation of the eBike hire scheme over the initial three-year contract period. This contribution will be drawn from the Low Emission Zone surplus (see Council Budget Decision (lxiv) 5 March 2025).
- 4.2 The financial contribution will be disbursed in milestone-based instalments, aligned with key delivery stages of the scheme, including mobilisation, infrastructure deployment, system readiness, scheme launch, and annual performance reviews. Each payment will be subject to satisfactory evidence of progress and compliance with agreed Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), as outlined in the Invitation to Tender.
- 4.3 The Council's contribution is strictly for operational support and will not be used for the procurement of eBikes, which remains the responsibility of the preferred operator. The scheme is expected to become financially self-sustaining during the initial contract period, with no further public funding anticipated beyond the agreed contribution.
- 4.4 There are no additional staffing costs to the Council arising from the recommendations of this report. While the operator's staff will be responsible for all aspects of the scheme's delivery, including operations, maintenance, and customer service, Council staff time will be required to manage the contract. This will be accommodated within existing revenue budgets.
- 4.5 The financial implications have been assessed and are considered to be proportionate and manageable within existing budgets. The scheme offers a cost-effective approach to delivering sustainable transport outcomes and aligns with the Council's strategic priorities.
- 4.6 In accordance with the contract terms, a profit-sharing mechanism will apply should the Council exercise the optional extension periods (in Years 4 and 5).
- 4.7 In conclusion, the financial commitment represents a targeted investment in sustainable mobility, with clear controls in place to ensure value for money and alignment with the Council's transport and environmental objectives.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The Council's Commercial and Procurement Legal team developed a bespoke terms and conditions of Contract for the scheme ensuring legal safeguards are in place to protect the Council's interests. This document was appended to the ITT package and made available to all tenderers. Consequently, there are no direct legal implications out with the contract, arising from the recommendations of this report.
- 5.2 This contract does not prohibit others from operating a similar scheme in Aberdeen without financial support from the Council, subject to the necessary approvals and permissions being issued.

5.3 The operator can terminate this contract with 6 months written notice, provided that the council is compensated up to the level of Council contribution already paid to the operator plus any costs and expenses reasonably and properly incurred by the Council as a result of such termination.

6. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The preferred operator commits to net-zero operation of the scheme integrating the Net Zero Toolkit, enabling quantification of carbon savings and continuous improvement in environmental performance.
- 6.2 The re-introduction of an eBike hire scheme is expected to continue delivering positive environmental impacts as demonstrated by the previous scheme as data collected between December 2022 and January 2024 showed a consistent month-to-month increase in estimated emissions savings, rising from 1,760kg in the first month to 49,463kg by January 2024. This upward trend reflected a growing uptake and use of the scheme, supporting a shift to cycling for short journeys. The preferred operator's commitment to operate a net-zero scheme provides strong assurance that a reintroduced scheme will continue to contribute meaningfully to Aberdeen City Council's net-zero targets and broader climate commitments.
- 6.4 The scheme's proposed design encourages responsible parking through in-app prompts and verifications, public awareness efforts to minimise street clutter and protect pedestrian access.
- 6.5 In conclusion, the scheme aligns with the Council's duty to act sustainably and is anticipated to deliver measurable environmental benefits through modal shift, operational practices, and infrastructure design.

7. RISK

Category	Risks	Primary Controls/Control Actions to achieve Target Risk Level	*Target Risk Level (L, M or H) *taking into account controls/control actions	*Does Target Risk Level Match Appetite Set?
Strategic Risk	Failure to deliver the scheme could impact Aberdeen's transport and sustainability goals.	Contractual obligations, milestone-based funding, and performance monitoring.		Yes
Compliance	Risk of non- compliance with procurement regulations.	Procurement conducted under Public Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2015.	L	Yes

Operational	Disruption to service delivery due to supplier failure or poor performance.	Monthly and quarterly performance reviews, KPI framework, openbook accounting.	L	Yes
Financial	Risk of poor value for money or misuse of public funds.	Milestone-based payments, audit rights, financial reporting requirements.	L	Yes
Reputational	Negative public perception if scheme fails to meet expectations or experiences service issues.	Community engagement, robust customer service, transparent reporting, contract management procedures and performance monitoring.	L	Yes
Environment / Climate	Risk of underperformance in carbon reduction or environmental sustainability targets.	Net zero operations from launch, use of zero-emission vehicles.	L	Yes

All identified risks are considered manageable within the Council's risk appetite, with appropriate controls and monitoring mechanisms in place.

8. OUTCOMES

COUN	CIL DELIVERY PLAN 2025-26
	Impact of Report
Aberdeen City Council	The proposals within this report support the delivery
Policy Statement	of the following aspects of the policy statement:
	Greener Transport, Safer Streets, Real Choices
Working in Partnership for	
<u>Aberdeen</u>	
Loca	l Outcome Improvement Plan
Prosperous Economy	The outcome of the proposal within this report
Stretch Outcomes	supports the delivery of the LOIP Prosperous
	Economy Stretch Outcome 2 by contributing to an
	increased access to sustainable transport, improving
	connectivity to employment and services.
Prosperous People Stretch	The outcome of the proposal within this report
Outcomes	supports the delivery of LOIP Prosperous People
	Stretch Outcome 10 by contributing to: - Improved
	physical and mental wellbeing through increased

Prosperous Place Stretch Outcomes	access to active travel Reduced transport barriers to education, employment, and health services Inclusive access for disadvantaged groups, including young people, care-experienced individuals. The outcome of the proposal within this report supports the delivery of LOIP <i>Prosperous Place Stretch Outcome 14 by</i> contributing to: - reducing reliance on private vehicles for short journeys promoting active travel through a bike hire scheme delivering net zero operations from launch, including the use of zero-emission support vehicles.	
Community Empowerment Stretch Outcomes	The outcome of the proposal within this report supports the delivery of LOIP Community Empowerment Stretch Outcomes by -Engaging with communities through Getabout and other outreach channels to promote sustainable travel and identify new locations for the bikes as well as further expansion of the schemeOffering concessionary pricing and inclusive access for disadvantaged groups, enabling broader participation in a city-wide mobility system.	
Regional and City	The proposal within this report support both the	
Strategies	The proposal within this report support both the Regional and Local Transport Strategies by	
Regional Strategies:	recommending the formal appointment of a supplier	
Regional Transport Strategy	to provide and operate an eBike hire scheme in	
City Strategies: Local	Aberdeen, thereby enhancing sustainable travel	
Transport Strategy	options within the city.	

9. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Assessment	Outcome		
Integrated Impact Assessment	Previous Integrated Impact Assessment relating to Aberdeen eBike Hire Scheme has been reviewed and changes made.		
Data Protection Impact Assessment	Required		
Other	N/A		

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 10.1 NZET Committee, 03 September 2024, Item 15 Operation of a Future Aberdeen eBike Hire Scheme CR&E/24/255 (Pages 1347 1356)
- 10.2 <u>F&R Committee</u>, 08 May 2024, <u>Item 12 Aberdeen eBike Hire Scheme CR&E/24/132 (Pages 141 148)</u>

11. APPENDICES (Exempt)

■ Appendix 1 – Tender Outcome

12. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

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ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Finance and Resources
DATE	05 November 2025
EXEMPT	No
CONFIDENTIAL	No
REPORT TITLE	Northfield Area Asset Review – Strategic Outline
	Business Case
REPORT NUMBER	F&C/25/233
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	Eleanor Sheppard
CHIEF OFFICER	Stephen Booth
REPORT AUTHOR	Andrew Jones
TERMS OF REFERENCE	4.1

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 This report presents a Strategic Outline Case, which summarises the findings of the recent Northfield Area Asset Review, and includes high level options for improving future primary and secondary education and potential consolidation of other assets in the Northfield area, to bring about improvements in the delivery of Council services to members of the Northfield community.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Committee:-

- 2.1 Approves the Strategic Outline Case included at Appendix A of this report; and
- 2.2 Notes the decision of the Education and Children's Services Committee on 16 September 2025, to:
 - Instruct the Chief Officer Corporate Landlord to develop an Outline Business Case, to present detailed options and costings for the creation of new community campus facilities to serve the Northfield Area, which would support the delivery of the Family Support Model in Northfield, allow for the reduction of excess school capacity, and provide opportunities for the consolidation of existing Council buildings in Northfield.
 - Instruct the Chief Officer Corporate Landlord to submit the completed Outline Business Case for approval to the budget setting process for 2026/27.

3. CURRENT SITUATION

3.1 A feasibility study was undertaken in 2023, focusing on the primary schools within Northfield and with the intention of identifying options for reducing excess

pupil capacity within these. The feasibility study did not lead to any conclusive recommendations, and officers were instructed by the Education and Children's Services Committee in February 2024 to carry out further work to identify potential future options for primary school provision in Northfield, alongside a review of the long term future for Northfield Academy, to provide solutions for removing any risks associated with Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) known to be present within the building.

- 3.2 At its meeting of 17 September 2024, the Education and Children's Services Committee further instructed officers to widen the scope of the review to include all Council owned assets in the area, alongside the schools. This was to allow for a wider range of options to be considered, in terms of consolidating buildings and offering services in different ways, which would help to maximise the potential savings and improvements which could be achieved.
- 3.3 An area wide asset review was carried out between March and June 2025, which focused on all Council operational assets within the Middlefield, Mastrick, Cummings Park, Northfield, and Heathryfold localities (collectively referred to within this report as 'the Northfield area'). This included education, sports, leisure, and community facilities, with the objective of identifying potential asset consolidation and enhancing Council services across the area.
- 3.4 The Strategic Outline Case, presented at Appendix A of this report, provides the findings of the asset review and sets out a number of high level options for improving and consolidating assets in the Northfield area.
- 3.5 The options presented within the Strategic Outline Case focus on opportunities to enhance community and learning provision, which follow the principles of the Community Campus Model and Family Support Model.
- 3.6 The Council's Community Campus model was approved by the former Education Operational Delivery Committee in November 2021, and aims to encourage the shared use of facilities by communities, to improve collaboration and integrated service delivery, and encourage more effective and efficient use of resources to meet a broader range of community needs at a single location. This approach supports delivery of multi-agency spaces, drives efficiency through the co-location of services, supporting the needs of a particular community, and has the potential to maximise opportunities for early intervention, in keeping with the Local Outcome Improvement Plan.
- 3.7 The high level options set out within the Strategic Outline Case at Appendix A therefore include opportunities for providing new primary and secondary education facilities in Northfield, which would support the principles of the Community Campus model. This would allow for some existing primary school provision to be consolidated, helping to reduce the excess capacity which exists within the primary schools, and provide solutions for removing RAAC at Northfield Academy. The options also give consideration to the possibility of improving the delivery of other Council services in Northfield, which could lead to the consolidation of other Council assets in the area.

- 3.8 The Family Support Model, approved by the Education and Children's Services Committee in July 2024, is intended to help tackle poverty and deprivation by improving wellbeing, increasing income and employability and reducing the cost of living for individuals and families, especially in priority areas such as Northfield. It focuses on building stronger communities and emphasises early intervention and prevention rather than just a crisis response. This approach recognises the importance of establishing a community space that is accessible without 'referral' and which provides an environment that is welcoming and trauma informed.
- 3.9 The Family Support Model is currently in development, and officers have identified an opportunity for the outcomes of the Northfield Asset Review to be linked to the development and rollout of the model, by including provision for a new type of community space within the options to be explored for Northfield. This would ensure that any new assets for providing education and wider community services in the Northfield area are planned and designed to facilitate the delivery of the model, for the benefit of the Northfield community.
- 3.10 At its meeting of 16 September 2025, the Education and Children's Services Committee instructed officers to develop an Outline Business Case, to further develop the high level options presented at Appendix A of this report, and to present this for approval as part of the budget setting process for 2026/27.
- 3.11 During the development of the Outline Business Case, further work will be undertaken to tie in with the emerging findings from the work on the Family Support Model, so that the options to be presented in the Outline Business Case include further details of how any proposed new assets could support the delivery of the Family Support Model. The Outline Business Case will also present more detailed cost estimates for the available options, to enable an affordability check and to assist elected members in making a decision on preferred next steps.
- 3.12 The high level options within the Strategic Outline Case include the potential for the development of the existing Northfield Academy site and adjacent playing fields, for the provision of new community campus facilities. Desktop studies undertaken during the asset review have confirmed that this area of Northfield is a former quarry. There is therefore a risk of poor ground conditions, which could add significantly to the cost of any development, and also to delivery timescales. Officers are making arrangements to undertake detailed physical site investigations, during development of the Outline Business Case, so that the extent of this risk and likely cost implications can be fully understood, to support Elected Member decision making. Findings from the site investigations will be reported within the Outline Business Case.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The cost of developing the Outline Business Case and costs associated with site investigations will be met from existing budgets for delivery of the School Estate Plan.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Section 1 of the Education (Scotland) Act 1980 provides that it shall be the duty of every education authority to secure that there is made for their area adequate and efficient provision of school education.
- 5.2 Section 17 of the Education (Scotland) Act 1980 provides that it shall be the duty of an education authority in the performance of their functions under sections 1 to 6 of the Act, to provide for their area, sufficient accommodation in public schools and other educational establishments under their management to enable them to perform their said functions. In addition, an education authority shall maintain and keep efficient every public school, and other educational establishment under their management, and shall from time to time provide such additional accommodation as may be necessary to enable them to perform their functions under the Act and may, provide, alter, improve, enlarge, equip and maintain schools and other educational establishments within their area.

6. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 This report outlines the approaches which could be taken to bring about positive impacts on the environment in the future, through proposing new build assets which would contribute to the Council's net zero carbon ambitions, and through ensuring improved resource efficiency by rationalising assets where appropriate.
- 6.2 All new build and refurbishment projects are compliant with the Council's Building Performance policy, and through the location and design of new buildings we will seek to promote active and sustainable travel to school.
- 6.3 Designing new assets for the future presents opportunities to make positive impacts on other aspects of the natural environment, including, for example, making space for nature through sustainable approaches to landscaping, avoiding over-use of synthetic materials in school grounds, and providing space for food growing initiatives. Officers will continue to work closely with colleagues in Environmental Planning when designing new and refurbished outdoor spaces, to ensure consideration is given to these important factors.
- 6.4 However it is also recognised that carrying out physical changes to the Council estate, such as removing surplus capacity or constructing new buildings, could potentially result in a negative impact on the environment, for example through disturbance to habitats and roosting animals, or affecting existing open spaces. Any such activity will be planned carefully to minimise any such negative impacts wherever possible.

7. RISK

Category	Risks	Primary Controls/Control Actions to achieve Target Risk Level	*Target Risk Level (L, M or H) *taking into account	*Does Target Risk Level Match
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			controls/control actions	Appetite Set?
Strategic Risk	No significant risks identified			
Compliance	(1) Failure to plan effectively for the school estate, leading to the Council being unable to fulfil its duty to make adequate and efficient provision (2) Failure to consult formally with stakeholders on changes to schools would be in breach of legislation	1) The report sets out opportunities to ensure adequate and efficient provision is maintained (2) Any proposed changes to schools arising from the proposed Outline Business Case will incorporate full statutory consultation to ensure compliance with legislation	L	Yes
Operational	Failure to engage and consult with communities on the future of the school estate which serves them, could lead to reputational damage for the Council.	Any proposed changes to existing assets and services arising from the proposed Outline Business Case will be subject to full community consultation prior to any final decisions being taken.	L	Yes
Financial	There is currently a high risk of poor ground conditions at the Northfield Academy site and adjacent playing fields which could add	Physical site investigations to be carried out during development of the Outline Business Case would ensure any risks can be fully identified and would allow mitigations to be put in place.	M	Yes

	significant costs to the project.			
Reputational	Failure to engage and consult with communities on the future of the school estate which serves them, could lead to reputational damage for the Council.	Any proposed changes to existing assets and services arising from the proposed Outline Business Case will be subject to full community consultation prior to any final decisions being taken.	L	Yes
Environment / Climate	Development of new assets could lead to increased carbon emissions	Climate risks and the need for the estate to contribute to the Council's net zero carbon emissions targets will be embedded into planning and decision making.	L	Yes

8. OUTCOMES

COUNCIL DELIVERY PLAN 2025-26		
	Impact of Report	
Aberdeen City Council	The report supports the delivery of the following	
Policy Statement	policy statements:	
Working in Partnership for Aberdeen	A City of Opportunity Policy Statement 2 - Review and invest in our school estate, ensuring all of Aberdeen's schools are fit for the educational needs and the challenges of the 21st century. The report presents options for improving the school estate in Northfield.	
	A Prosperous City Policy Statement 8 - Seek to buy goods, services and food locally whenever possible, subject to complying with the law and public tendering requirements. Opportunities to do this will be considered for any projects which are progressed as a result of the proposed Outline Business Case.	

Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2016-2026		
Prosperous People Stretch Outcomes The report supports the delivery of Stretch Outcomes 6 in the LOIP — children living in our principal neighbourhoods will sustain a positive destination leaving school — proposals in this report will assess improving education provision in Northfield.		
Regional and City Strategies	The recommendations in the report support the delivery of the Council's Property and Estates Strategy.	

9. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Assessment	Outcome	
Integrated Impact Assessment	New Integrated Impact Assessment has been completed	
Data Protection Impact Assessment	Not required	
Other	No other assessments required	

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 10.1 Education and Children's Services Committee, 17 September 2024: <u>Agenda Item 12: School Estate Plan Annual Update</u>
- 10.2 Education and Children's Services Committee, 16 September 2025: <u>Agenda</u> <u>Item 10.2</u>: <u>Northfield Area Asset Review Strategic Outline Business Case</u>

11. APPENDICES

11.1 Appendix A: Northfield Area Asset Review Strategic Outline Case

12. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

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Project Name	Northfield Area Asset Review		
Sponsoring Cluster	Corporate Landlord		
Senior Responsible Officer	Stephen Booth		
Gateway Review by	Strategic Outline Case agreed	Yes 🗵	No 🗆
Sponsoring Cluster	Project scope modified – further options?	Yes □	No ⊠
The Sponsoring Cluster must confirm their support for the project and, crucially, have the resources necessary	Pilot exercise to test assumptions	Yes □	No ⊠
to deliver the project to conclusion.	Postpone or abandon	Yes □	No ⊠

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(F9 function key will update contents after completion of document – guidance here)

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Project Overview......2

1. Project Overview

A detailed review of Council owned non-domestic assets within the Northfield area was undertaken between March and June 2025, to identify opportunities for consolidation of assets, to help reduce costs, and improve Council services to the area. This Strategic Outline Case presents the findings of that review and sets out options for bringing about improvements.

The asset review builds on a separate feasibility study undertaken in 2023, which focused on the primary schools within Northfield and the potential for reducing excess pupil capacity within these. The feasibility study did not lead to any conclusive recommendations, and officers were instructed by the Education and Children's Services ECS Committee in February 2024 to carry out further work to identify potential future options for primary school provision in Northfield, alongside a review of the long term future for Northfield Academy.

The 2025 asset review focused on all Council operational assets within the Middlefield, Mastrick, Cummings Park, Northfield, and Heathryfold localities (collectively referred to herein as 'the Northfield area') including education, sports, leisure, and community facilities, with the objective of identifying potential asset consolidation and enhancing Council services across the area. The review covered:

- Current asset utilisation and future service requirements
- Building running costs and annual maintenance costs
- Building condition and suitability (including backlog maintenance and ability to meet net zero ambitions)
- Opportunities for asset rationalisation, to better meet future service requirements and reduce overall costs
- Opportunities to deliver services in a more integrated way, for example by delivering a range of services from the same building
- Viability of progressing options in relation to required capital spend against revenue savings.

A map of the area to be reviewed along with a list of the assets reviewed is shown at **Appendix 1**.

This document sets out a number of high level options for improving and consolidating assets in the Northfield area, which have been informed by the findings of the asset review, and recommends that officers are instructed to develop these options further in an outline business case, which would identify a preferred option to be taken forwards.

2. Business Aims, Needs, Objectives and Constraints

The Sponsoring Organisation for this project is Corporate Landlord.

By identifying the options for improving buildings and services and potentially consolidating assets within the Northfield area, the project will support the delivery of Stretch Outcomes detailed in the LOIP:

- No 3 in the LOIP addressing that 95% of all children will reach their expected developmental milestones. By supporting young peoples physical, mental and emotional health & wellbeing through improving access to services.
- No 5 in the LOIP Our care experienced children and young people will have the same levels
 of attainment in education and positive destinations as their peers. By improving the quality of
 the buildings and combining multiple services this will increase access to the services available
 in the community.
- No13 in the LOIP Addressing climate change by reducing Aberdeen's carbon emissions by at least 61% by 2026 and adapting to the impacts of our changing climate. Reducing the

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number of operational buildings within the area and particularly removing older buildings which are less efficient to run, will help to reduce the overall carbon emissions from the estate.

The project supports the overall delivery of the School Estate Plan, approved by Committee in September 2022. In turn the School Estate Plan acts as a strategic implementation plan for the Council's Property and Estates Strategy.

Implementing the actions from the School Estate Plan as instructed by Committee will help to ensure that the school estate is effectively managed and can continue to support and contribute to the delivery of high quality services for children and young people, and for wider school communities.



To address the Strategic Priorities above, the review has explored various options, from a minimal approach with limited benefits, to a full community campus solution with potentially substantial advantages for the community and partners. More detailed information can be found in Section 5.

School Capacity in Northfield

Certain primary schools within the Northfield Associated Schools Group (ASG) are located in close proximity to each other, including Bramble Brae and Manor Park Schools, which are less than one mile apart. Pupil numbers at Bramble Brae School are expected to fall to 42% of its capacity by 2032 and the roll at Muirfield School is predicted to fall to as low as 32% of its available capacity within that timescale. Pupil numbers at Northfield Academy are expected to remain at or around 80% of the school's capacity for the foreseeable future.

In light of the forecast decline in primary pupil numbers, there is a requirement to consider the options for reducing the excess primary school capacity in the Northfield ASG, to help ensure that pupil rolls at the schools in this area can be maintained at sustainable levels in the medium to long term.

Northfield Academy

At Northfield Academy, Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) has been found to be present within the roof structure in various locations around the school site. Although there were no immediate safety concerns reported by the specialist engineers who inspected and tested the roof panels in the school, this will require to be reviewed on a regular basis and could require more intrusive work in the future leading to unplanned closure.

Asset Review

In light of the above, officers were instructed by the ECS Committee in February 2024 to carry out further work to identify potential future options for improving and consolidating primary school provision in Northfield, alongside a review of the long term future of Northfield Academy to provide solutions for removing any risks associated with the RAAC in the building.

In September 2024, the ECS Committee further instructed officers to widen the scope of the review to include all Council owned assets in the area, alongside the schools. This was to allow for a wider range of options to be considered, in terms of consolidating buildings and offering services in different ways, which will help to maximise the potential savings and improvements which could be achieved. The Committee instruction emphasised the need for the review to encompass the principles of the Council's Community Campus and Family Support models.

The options described in Section 5 below therefore focus on the potential for consolidating existing primary school provision, to reduce excess capacity, and for providing solutions for removing RAAC at Northfield Academy. The options also give consideration to the possibility of improving the delivery of other Council services in Northfield, which could lead to the consolidation of other, non-education assets in the area.

Community Campus Model

A key focus of the Council's Community Campus model is to encourage the shared use of facilities by communities, to improve collaboration and integrated service delivery, and encourage more effective and efficient use of resources to meet a broader range of community needs at a single location. This approach supports delivery of multi-agency spaces, drives efficiency through the co-location of services, supporting the needs of a particular community, and has the potential to maximise opportunities for early intervention, in keeping with the Local Outcome Improvement Plan.

By proposing solutions for Northfield which follow the principles of the Community Campus model, this project provides an opportunity to deliver significant and valuable improvements for the Northfield community, not only in terms of providing quality education facilities, but also in improving access to a wide range of local services to support the community as a whole.

Family Support Model

The Family Support Model, which has been developed over the past year by the Fairer Futures Partnership and with the Northfield community as an initial test site, aims to shift the focus from reactive and risk-based services to upstream and preventative approaches. The model was based in part on the findings of the Scottish Government's Independent Care Review (2020) which highlighted the importance of partnership working, shared culture and leadership, holistic and person-centred practice, and locality-based service delivery.

The intention is for the Family Support Model to help tackle poverty and deprivation by improving wellbeing, increasing income and employability and reducing the cost of living for individuals and families, especially in priority areas such as Northfield. It focuses on building stronger communities and emphasises early intervention and prevention rather than just a crisis response. This new approach recognises the importance of establishing a community space that is accessible without 'referral' and which provides an environment that is welcoming and trauma informed.

The options for improving assets within Northfield which are set out below provide an opportunity to support the further development and rollout of the Family Support model, by providing spaces within buildings which are designed to be used flexibly to deliver a variety of key services in different ways to support the above principles, which also link well with the principles of the Community Campus model.

For example there is scope to include a community library function within any new build development, and expand access to community sports facilities. In addition and depending on service requirements there could be the opportunity to provide office accommodation or customer contact space for Health and Social Care. The project provides an opportunity to work collaboratively with the Fairer Futures Partnership to provide facilities which can effectively deliver the Family Support Model in Northfield.

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The asset review was limited to non-residential, operational properties only within the review area – as defined within the map and assets list at **Appendix 1** of this document.

Given the linkages with the separate and ongoing work around the Family Support Model described above, at this stage of the project it has not been possible to define in detail the types of community services which would be provided within a new Community Campus, and therefore which of the existing non-education assets in Northfield could potentially be consolidated. It will be necessary to wait for the Fairer Futures Partnership to conclude its work, and consideration could then be given to how a Community Campus in Northfield could support any recommendations from the Partnership on the future use of assets for service delivery in Northfield. At this stage the high level options presented in Section 5 below include an allocation of space to be used for the delivery of community services. More detail on this, including the identification of any existing assets which could be consolidated as a result, will be provided in the proposed Outline Business Case.

The Local Development Plan highlights new housing at Greenferns and potential brownfield development at Granitehill. This was taken into account as part of the asset review, and the proposed options outlined below have been developed to ensure sufficient school capacity will be available to meet demand from future new housing in the area.

There is currently no budget allocation within the Council's capital programme to support the construction of any new assets in Northfield. The identified options which involve new construction projects are therefore subject to the identification of appropriate funding sources to deliver them.

In terms of location for a suitable development, a number of sites in ACC ownership have been explored for a potential community campus solution, to include the existing Northfield Academy site and surrounding Cummings Park area, together with the development land at Greenferns Farm. Each of the sites is likely to have planning restrictions and will require a strategy to mitigate the loss of green space and / or future housing allocation.

3. Stakeholder Issues

There are several stakeholder groups who will have an interest in the outcomes of the wider assets review, including people who live in Northfield, parents of all pupils attending the schools, local elected members, MPs and MSPs, community councils, Health & Social Care and also the staff and pupils within the ACC owned and operated assets.

A questionnaire for building managers was developed to ascertain the core data required to determine the suitability, accessibility, conditionality, energy performance and utilisation rating of the assets in scope. In addition, one to one interviews were conducted with the Health & Social Care team, the Fairer Futures Team with input from the Communities Team and partners such as Police Scotland and NHS Grampian. The output of this information is included in **Appendix 2**, and rated to highlight the buildings which are likely to require intervention in the near future. This exercise has highlighted that 16 properties may require capital intervention in the near future to maintain the property and deliver the service.

The consultation was conducted with responses from 28 service lines and followed up with one to one interviews, where further information was required:

- 1. Children & Families Team
- 2. Communities Team
- 3. Libraries Team
- 4. NHS Grampian (Partnership Team)
- 5. Fairer Futures Team
- 6. Sport Aberdeen

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Initial consultation has been progressed with the Health & Social Care Partnership and also Police Scotland to determine if there is a requirement for accommodation, and this will be dependent on their own reviews of services in this location.

In addition to the above the Community Planning Team are updating the Local Outcome Improvement Plan and have completed consultation through the Your Place; Your Plans; Your Futures initiative, which will provide additional input into the community aspirations for the North area of the city.

Sport Aberdeen are currently undertaking a review of all of their operational assets in the city, which may have future implications for the sports facilities in Northfield; any relevant findings or recommendations from that review will be accounted for within the proposed Outline Business Case.

With regard to the education estate, The School Estate Plan sets out a commitment to engage with all stakeholder groups from an early stage, so that views and feedback about the available options can be gathered and considered prior to any decisions being taken.

Any recommendations to close schools or change the arrangements for primary school provision will also require formal statutory public consultation, before any final decisions on making changes can be taken.

4. Management and Implementation

The project will be led by Corporate Landlord with support from Hub North Scotland.

Strategic and technical support for developing the feasibility studies will be provided by the Design Team within the Capital cluster. Consultancy Support is likely to be required, particularly to provide specialist engineering and ground investigation to inform the development of the outline business case.

5. Consideration of Options

In order to meet the Strategic Priorities listed above, a series of options have been explored below with the benefits and disbenefits detailed.

Option 1: Do Nothing

Description:

Continue with current maintenance / inspections of roof structure at Northfield Academy. No consolidation of assets in Northfield.

Benefits:

- 1. Limited capital required
- 2. Limited disruption (until any unplanned closure)

Disbenefits:

- 1. Ongoing revenue implications
- 2. Potential unplanned closure of school
- 3. No benefit for community or new campus facility
- 4. Does not mitigate backlog maintenance
- 5. Does not positively impact energy usage
- 6. Does not address RAAC removal from estate

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7. Does not allow for any consolidation of the primary estate or non-education assets, and cost savings that are associated with this.

Option 2: Do Minimum / Health & Safety Works at Northfield Academy

Description:

Carry out minimum works necessary at Northfield Academy to make existing building structurally sound (i.e. address RAAC). No consolidation of assets in Northfield.

Benefits:

- 1. Limited capital required
- 2. Limited disruption
- 3. Removes RAAC from estate

Disbenefits:

- 1. Limited lifespan of the Northfield Academy building will require replacement in future.
- 2. No benefit for community facility
- 3. Does not mitigate backlog maintenance
- 4. Does not positively impact energy usage
- 8. Does not allow for any consolidation of the primary estate or non-education assets, and cost savings that are associated with this.

Option 3: Consolidation of primary school capacity and enhancement of Northfield Campus

Description:

Upgrade Northfield Academy (with extension) to provide 1,000 secondary places, new build two or three-stream primary school and community space on Northfield site, to consolidate existing assets. Community provision to align with the Family Support model – further detail to be added at OBC stage.

Benefits:

- 1. Develops a part education campus on a shared site with access to shared leisure facilities
- 2. Allows consolidation of primary estate and non-education buildings, and reuse or disposal of surplus sites.
- 3. Removes RAAC from estate
- 4. Improves Condition / Suitability of existing Northfield Academy
- 5. Potentially reduces energy use of existing Northfield Academy and improves thermal performance

Disbenefits:

- 1. Limits benefits of joint / combined spaces and the efficiencies that go with developing a joint campus and shared communal spaces.
- 2. Limited lifespan of the existing Northfield Academy building will require replacement at some point in the future.
- 3. No cost saving by developing in one phase. By developing in stages any benefit (shared prelims / groundworks / mobilisation) will be lost.
- 4. Will require full or phased decant of pupils and disruption during construction
- 5. Will require temporary decant facilities therefore further cost implications.

Option 4: Consolidation of existing assets and new Community Campus on a single site Description:

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Replacement Northfield Academy, consolidated primary school provision and consolidated and improved delivery of and access to community services, in a single campus location. Community provision to align with the Family Support model – further detail to be added at OBC stage.

Benefits:

- 1. Develops a shared community campus on a single site
- 2. Allows consolidation of primary estate and non-education buildings. and reuse or disposal of surplus sites. Reduces revenue costs for multiple dated buildings.
- 3. Removes RAAC from estate
- 4. Potential reduction in overall floorspace / shared communal facilities. Potentially reduces overall development costs.
- 5. Improves thermal efficiency of existing assets
- 6. Depending on preferred site, could limit disruption / decant for pupils.
- 7. Provide the opportunity for other ACC service lines to co-locate and potentially reuse part of the existing Northfield Estate. Potential for NHSG / H&SC to reuse space.
- 8. Ensures condition / suitability of education assets is A rated
- 9. Removes backlog maintenance liability

Disbenefits:

- 1. Significant capital cost
- 2. Could be a number of years before the benefits are realised
- 3. Loss of greenspace

Option 5: Consolidation of existing assets with new secondary and primary school provision on separate sites

Description:

New two or three stream primary school and replacement Northfield Academy on separates sites. Improved delivery of and access to community services to align with the Family Support model – further detail to be added at OBC stage.

Benefits:

- 1. Improves education / community facilities in multiple locations within Northfield area
- 2. Allows consolidation of existing assets and reuse of buildings or disposal of surplus sites. Reduces revenue costs for multiple dated buildings.
- 3. Provides opportunities to form a community campus with existing primary schools adjacent to the secondary school site
- 4. Removes RAAC from estate
- 5. Improves thermal efficiency of existing assets
- 6. Would limit disruption / decant for pupils.
- 7. Provide the opportunity for other ACC service lines to co-locate and potentially reuse part of the existing Northfield Estate. Potential for NHSG / H&SC to reuse space.
- 8. Ensures condition / suitability of the education estate is A rated
- 9. Removes backlog maintenance liability

Disbenefits:

- 1. Likely to be highest requirement for capital as limited benefit for shared site works
- 2. Could be a number of years before the benefits are realised
- 3. Potentially additional travel time for access to leisure facilities

Recommendation

It is recommended that officers are instructed to develop an Outline Business Case (OBC) to explore the above options further, and for the completed Outline Business Case to be included within the budget setting process for 2026/27.

Programme

An indicative programme has been drafted, which details the governance process and committee schedules below:

- SOC to be presented to ECS Committee September 2025 and F&R Committee November 2025, setting out high level options for improving assets in Northfield, based on findings of the asset review
- Seek approval from Committee and instruction to develop an Outline Business Case (commencing September 2025) to add more detail to the options, carry out site investigations and to identify a preferred option
- OBC to be presented by March 2026 (budget setting)
- OBC to identify preferred option, to seek approval of funding in capital programme, and an instruction to proceed with design development

6. Costs, Benefits and Risks

Due to the scope of this project at this strategic stage, the projects will require more detailed information to provide project budgets. Due to the nature of the buildings and their condition, a detailed building survey will be required for each of the primary and secondary schools included in the project scope.

Financial savings will be expected from any consolidation of primary schools into a single location / campus and the saving on ongoing / planned and future maintenance requirements, which will be defined through the building condition surveys.

In terms of budget for new build facilities and utilising information available through similar projects a budget estimate has been provided for the following:

New build development options utilising campus approach or a split site - £120m to £180m

The above makes limited allowances for site conditions / abnormals, inflation and programme, which will be provided through the business case process.

The OBC may identify opportunities for consolidating buildings, which will ultimately help to reduce any inefficiencies associated with the current condition and utilisation of assets and reduce the overall cost of running the estate. It also has the potential to bring about improvements to service delivery, through achieving efficiencies in the deployment of staff and resources across a smaller number of buildings.

Depending on the options there will likely be opportunities to explore indirect benefits with partners such as NHS / Health & Social Care to either repurpose existing structures or utilise space within a new build development.

Removing older, inefficient buildings will also help to contribute to the Council's net-zero carbon ambitions.

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The project is unfunded and any options are likely to have capital cost implications. Appropriate funding will need to be identified to allow any preferred option to be taken forwards.

Desktop studies undertaken during the asset review have confirmed that the existing Northfield Academy site and adjacent playing fields were formed on a former quarry site. There is therefore a risk of poor ground conditions, which could add significantly to the cost of any development, and also to delivery timescales. As part of the development process to be explored through the OBC, it is anticipated to carry out detailed site investigation work to minimise risks associated with the sites.

7. Operational Carbon Impact

The Northfield asset review considers the rationalisation of a number of primary and secondary school assets in the area together with community facilities. Northfield Academy is central to the asset review with proposal being assessed for a decommission and rebuild or a refurbishment and expansion of the existing footprint.

As part of this Strategic Outline Case the current operational carbon impact has been considered to present an overview of the current and expected future emissions of Northfield Academy under its current operation.

Energy use intensity factors have been calculated to rationalise the current building's operational efficiency against other similar assets. These benchmarks have been calculated using CIBSE industry recognised benchmarks and incorporate annual building energy consumption. The next step of analysis will seek to use available data to assess how different energy efficiency measures might impact the building's operation and carbon footprint. Further analysis is needed of the proposed scenarios to support an operational carbon comparison.

It should be noted that benchmarking has been carried out on the other public assets in the Northfield area however, focus has been given to Northfield Academy due to its prevalence in the asset review and that it is the single largest gas consumer in the area and has the largest carbon footprint of any of the Council's assets in the area. Other school assets have been shown to follow a similar trend so considerations for energy and refurbishment options are considered to be common to both.

Further detail on the likely carbon impact of this project will be provided in the Outline Business Case.

8. Funding and Affordability

Development of OBC will need input from the consultancy team and would likely be in the region of £150,000

In addition there will be costs associated with Site Investigation, which are likely to be in the region of £150.000

These costs will be met from existing budgets for the delivery of the School Estate Plan.

9. Assumptions

Budget estimates provided in this document include high level assumptions on:

School Roll Projections

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- Design Development Risk
- Post Contract Risk
- Main Contractors Margin
- Design Team Fees
- Survey Costs
- Inflation in Construction Costs throughout project period to Q1 xxxxxx
- Allowance for preliminaries
- Ground condition risk

These will be further explored during development of the Outline Business Case.

10. Support Services Consulted

Service	Consultee	Comments	Date
City Regeneration and Environment	Chief Officer, Capital <u>AlanMcKay@aberdeencity.gov.uk</u>		
City Regeneration and Environment	Chief Officer, City Development and Regeneration <u>irichardswood@aberdeencity.gov.uk</u>	Comments provided	04/08/25
Communications	David Ewen, Communication and Marketing Manager DaEwen@aberdeencity.gov.uk		
Corporate Services	Chief Officer, Finance jbelford@aberdeencity.gov.uk		
Corporate Services	Jade Leyden, Locality Planning & Community Development Manager jleyden@aberdeencity.gov.uk		
Design – Public Buildings	lan Flett, Senior Architect <u>laFlett@aberdeencity.gov.uk</u>	No comments at this stage	05/08/25
Emergency Planning Officer	Fiona Mann FioMann@aberdeencity.gov.uk		
Families and Communities	Chief Officer, Corporate Landlord stbooth@aberdeencity.gov.uk		
Families and Communities	Chief Officer, Education & Lifelong Learning shmilne@aberdeencity.gov.uk		
Families and Communities	Guch Dillon, Fairer Futures Partnership Lead gdhillon@aberdeencity.gov.uk		
Families and Communities (Asset Management)	Andrew Jones, Service Manager ajones@aberdeencity.gov.uk		

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Service	Consultee	Comments	Date
Finance	Scott Paterson, Finance Partner spaterson@aberdeencity.gov.uk		
Fleet (if your project has fleet implications)	John Weir, Fleet Manager jweir@aberdeencity.gov.uk		
Governance	Chief Officer, Governance jelawson@aberdeencity.gov.uk		
Grounds Maintenance	Steven Shaw, Environmental Manager stevens@aberdeencity.gov.uk	No comments.	05/08/25
ICT – Digital and Technology	Steve Robertson, Service Manager, Engineering and Operations sterobertson@aberdeencity.gov.uk		
Legal (Commercial and Procurement)	Michele Pittendreigh, Team Leader MPittendreigh@aberdeencity.gov.uk		
Legal (Property/ Planning and Environment)	Ross Campbell roscampbell@aberdeencity.gov.uk		
Operations	Chief Officer, Operations mareilly@aberdeencity.gov.uk		
Operations (Facilities)	Andy Campbell, Facilities Manager AnCampbell@aberdeencity.gov.uk		
People and Citizen Service	Linsey Blackhurst, Organisation, Change & Design Lead (Interim) Iblackhurst@aberdeencity.gov.uk		
Procurement	Gillian Ross giross@aberdeencity.gov.uk		
Programme Management Office (PMO)	PMO Programme Manager RMacTaggart@aberdeencity.gov.uk	No comment at this stage	5/08/2025
Roads Management	Stuart Allan, Team Leader Technical StuAllan@aberdeencity.gov.uk Vycki Ritson, Team Leader Engineering vritson@aberdeencity.gov.uk		
Roads Projects	Stuart Andrew, Senior Engineer standrew@aberdeencity.gov.uk		
Strategic Place Planning	Chief Officer, Strategic Place Planning DDunne@aberdeencity.gov.uk		

Service	Consultee	Comments	Date
Climate and Environment Policy	EPConsultations@aberdeencity.gov.uk		
Equalities Team	equality_and_diversity@aberdeencity.gov.uk		
Estates	Property Estates Manager		

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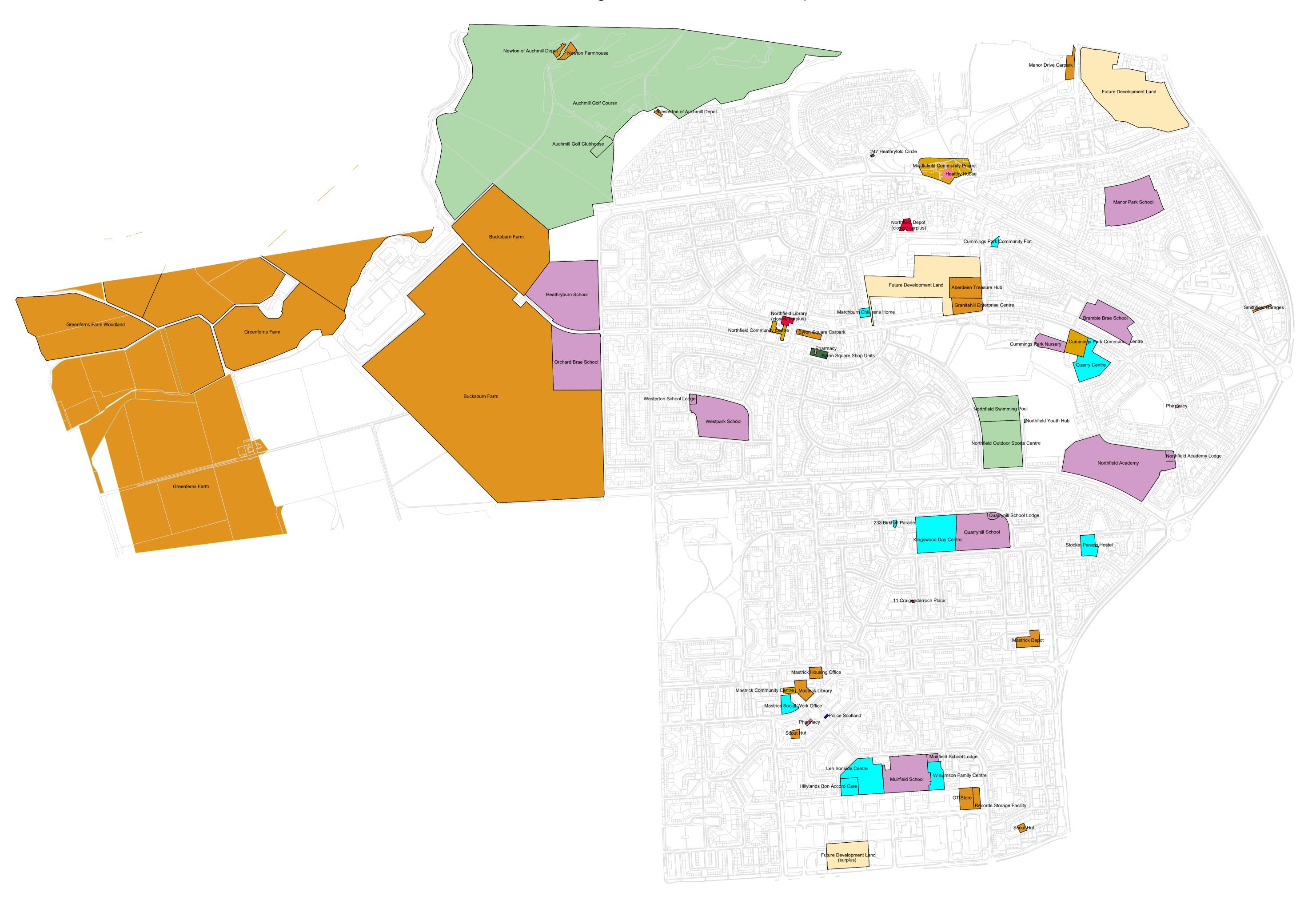
Service	Consultee	Comments	Date
	Estates@aberdeencity.gov.uk		
Planning	Local Development Plan Team LDP@aberdeencity.gov.uk Development Management Pl@aberdeencity.gov.uk	Comments provided	06/08/25
Transportation Strategy and Programmes	transportstrategy@aberdeencity.gov.uk	No comments	08/08/25

11. Decision by Capital Board	Date
*Approved/Not Approved to prepare an Outline Business Case.	

^{*}indicate whether approved, as well as any additional stipulations.

12. Document Revision History			
Version	Reason	Ву	Date
1.0	First Draft SOC for Consultation	MW/AJ	04/08/25
1.1	Updated draft submitted with Director Draft committee report	AJ	12/08/25
1.2	Final Draft submitted for Committee	AJ	03/09/25

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Drenowby / Address	Condition Rating	Suitability Rating	Access	EPC*	Hailiantian Doting	Notes
Property / Address Northfield Academy Granitehill Place Northfield Aberdeen AB16 7AU	B B	C C	Access	E	Utilisation Rating 50-75%	Nutes
Mastrick Community Centre Greenfern Road Mastrick Aberdeen AB16 6TR	В	А	С	?	50-75%	Citizens advice, aa, alcohol and drugs action and social security Scotland, for help with all Scottish benefits. Councillor surgeries. Leased community asset - 10 years - likely 2032 expiry. New Take away Coffee pod / possible lottery funded.
Northfield Community Centre Byron Square Northfield Aberdeen AB16 7LL	В	В	В	E+	50-75%	Community volunteers. childrens club, bingo, lunch group, foodbank, Andys man club, byron boxing, salsa dancing, browies & rainbows, a.a.&da, aa, pathways, befriend a child,private lets on an adhock times. birthday parties, kids discos, youth pool, darts foozeball session. c.a.b. art club. Leased community asset - 10 years - likely 2032 expiry. interest from community (all life changes) for community asset transfer.
Cummings Park Learning Centre Cummings Park Crescent Northfield Aberdeen AB16 7AR	В	В	В	G	50-75%	AHSCP, Schools, Sport Aberdeen, Ranger Services, Unpaid Work Team
Cummings Park Community Flat 122 Cummings Park Drive Northfield Aberdeen AB16 7BB	В	А	D	n/a	50-75%	Groups, classes and one to one session. Agencies include SAFE, Pathways, Adult Learning, SCS, councillors, Intergeneration group (Heatheryburn School), boys brigade, craft for kids, well being for adults and a church service on a Sunday is provided by our partner agency. 14 volunteers support the flat.
The Quarry Centre 35 Cummings Park Crescent Aberdeen AB16 7AS	В	В	В	E+	75-99%	Property performing well on paper. Number of condition and suitability issues raised which are impacting on service delivery. Opportunity for partial colocation
Williamson Family Centre Mastrick Close Mastrick Aberdeen AB16 6XZ	А	А	В	F	100%	Williamson is a critical Social Work Hub for Children's Social Work across the city. 155 - 165 people per month (visitors) 30 Staff based here. 20 workstations
Mastrick Area Social Work Office Greenfern Road Mastrick Aberdeen AB16 6SH	В	А	В	?	75-99%	Multi agency work being undertaken and conference room utilised for this. Would consider co-location however, would need careful planning / set up due to sensitivities. Location critical. Access to service can be fraught with challenges. Secure safe facility required to protect staff from difficult situations. Used as a hub for staff to return too during the day. Frequent support required from Police. Very location specific and provides locality support for the families in area. Difficult to co-locate with other services, however, community / library space could be used if ever available. 40 FTE staff. 50 workstations.
Mastrick Housing Office Spey Road Mastrick Aberdeen AB16 6SF	В	В	В	D+	75-99%	Works Depot, the team also work from this base. The building is open to the public from 9am-1pm each working day. 30 staff work from this office. Co location already in place with Northfield Works depot staff. Regular public access required.
Mastrick Library Greenfern Road Mastrick Aberdeen AB16 6TR	В	В	В	G	50-75%	Feedback from Libraries Team - Future Library Model - under development. Consider co-location / community hub model. Require mix of spaces / open / private / 1 to 1 / club space / internet / point of access for services. A shared space or building will need access managed to save any antisocial behaviour in shared public access spaces. Consider a co located service for Northfield. people access Library often to access services in times of crisis. Signposting.
Community Equipment OT Store Unit C/D Whitemyres Avenue Mastrick Aberdeen AB16 6HQ	В	В	В	n/a	100%	Property has previously been flagged by service with number of condition and suitability issues, opportunities for co-location. The Joint Equipment Service provides equipment to support residents of Aberdeen City on behalf of ACC, ACHSCP and NHSG. The community alarm and telecare service is also part of this service providing community alarm and telecare to 2500 people across Aberdeen City. 43 Staff and 25 workstations
Hillylands - Community Special Needs 2 Croft Road Mastrick Aberdeen AB16 6RB	В	A	В	n/a	75-95%	Staff Welfare facilities - only 3 toilets available for a building capacity of 50+ during courses. Upgrade of heating system and air conditioning Installation of electrical sockets in proximity to desks Refurbish existing toilets to increase capacity Upgrade WiFi to fit for purpose system. Limited collaborative opportunity.
Westpark School (formerly Westerton) Cruden Crescent Northfield Aberdeen AB16 7JD	В	В		E+	55%	Table assistant as part of Education Estate as a sufficient and EDO
Muirfield School Mastrick Drive Mastrick Aberdeen AB16 6UE	В	В		D+	50%	To be reviewed as part of Education Estate - poor utilisation and EPC To be reviewed as part of Education Estate - poor utilisation and EPC
Quarryhill Primary School Birkhall Parade Mastrick Aberdeen AB16 5QT	В	С		D+	71%	To be reviewed as part of Education Estate - poor utilisation and EPC
Bramble Brae Primary School Cummings Park	В	В		F+	58%	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,
Drive Aberdeen AB16 7BL Depot Cairnwell Drive Mastrick Aberdeen AB16 5ND	В	В	n/a	n/a	75-99%	To be reviewed as part of Education Estate - poor utilisation and EPC Remove from scope of this project, property to be considered as wider Depot Review. Requires increase in EV charging points. Otherwise suitable. Do office staff need to be based here?
Northfield Outdoor Sports Centre Provost Fraser Drive Northfield Aberdeen AB16 5TL	В	В	В	n/a	n/a	Pavillion (Closed) in poor condition - depending on option for Northfield Academy site option to provide improved changing facilities
(Quarryhill School Lodge) 55 Birkhall Parade Mastrick AB16 5QT						This may have to be reviewed depending on outcome of school site
Muirfield School Lodge, Mastrick Drive, AB16 6UE						This may have to be reviewed depending on outcome of school site
Northfield Academy Lodge, Granitehill Place, Northfield, AB16 7NW						This may have to be reviewed depending on outcome of school site
Westerton School Lodge, Cruden Crescent, Aberdeen, AB16 7JD Len Ironside Centre Mastrick Drive Aberdeen AB16 6UE	А	A	Modern Standards - assumed accessible	n/a	100%	This may have to be reviewed depending on outcome of school site Performing well in all categories. Co location with NHS / Community Learning Disability Team. Building well utilised. Some investment in changing facilities / EV and car parking.
Day Care Centre Kingswood Court Invercauld Road Aberdeen AB16 5RX	А	A	А	n/a	75-90%	Performing well in all categories. This part of the Kingswood Court complex is used as a day care centre for vulnerable adults. 5 staff 4 Workstations. Offices, Hairdressing Salon. large open plan area for activities, kitchen. open Mon-Friday. Well utilised facility during week. Could community use during weekend?
Marchburn Childrens Home 8 Marchburn Road Aberdeen AB16 7NN	А	В	n/a	n/a	75-99%	Performing well in all categories. To provide a statutory residential care service to children in need of care and protection. City wide service. Service requirement may reduce over time. Up to 20 FTE. Residential care - no collaborative opportunities.

						_
Northfield Swimming Pool & Fitness Centre Kettlehills Crescent Northfield Aberdeen AB16 5PL	A	А	Modern Standards - assumed accessible	В	50-75%	Recently refurbished, performing well. Some challenges to running the service. Physical and building related. There is scope to increase collaboration with the Health Partnership given they are in the building regularly.
Stocket Parade Hostel 16 Stocket Parade Aberdeen AB16 5QN	В	А	n/a	n/a	100%	Performing well in all categories. Housing Support services for 18 Adults with a Learning disability. They all have ACC occupancy agreements for their homes. Stocket Parade is regulated by the Care Inspectorate and some buildings have HMO licences. 23 staff are employed by ACHSCP to provide 24 hour support for the adults. Residential care - no collaborative opportunities.
House 11 Craigendarroch Place Aberdeen AB16 5SE	В	А	n/a	n/a	100%	Performing well in all categories. This is a 3 bedroomed house, it provides accommodation for 1 client with a Learning disability. Registered for 3 clients. Single care housing facility. No collaborative opportunities.
House 233 Birkhall Parade 233 Birkhall Parade Mastrick Aberdeen AB16 5QT	В	В	n/a	n/a	100%	Performing well in all categories
Aberdeen Treasure Hub Granitehill Road Aberdeen AB16 7AX	A	А	А	n/a	25-50% (office)	Performing well in all categories, utilisation relates to office only therefore scope to look at co-location. Purpose built secure facility. Occupancy is low. Consider increase with ACC Staff or community use in controlled areas. Will require investment.
Records Storage Facility Unit A Whitemyres Avenue Mastrick Industrial Estate Aberdeen City AB16 6HQ	В	А	n/a	n/a	25%	Performing well in all categories, utilisation relates to office only. Leased until 2034. Very suitable for function. No staff based there and no public access. Any possibility to incorporate into Archive Storage?
Social Care & Wellbeing Records Store Unit B Whitemyres Avenue Mastrick Industrial Estate Aberdeen AB16 6HQ	В	A	n/a	n/a	100%	Performing well in all categories. Leased until 2034. Warehouse used for Accession & Storage of Social Work Client paper files in line with Corporate Retention Schedules. Office area 3 FTE for management of Unit 2 (Social Care & Wellbeing Records Store, Whitemyres) & Unit 1 (Corporate Records Store, Whitemyres) Office area also used by 2 FTE (IT Support Analysts Networks) & 2 FTE (IT Support Analysts Education) as Base for Hybrid working on networks and Education Establishments.
Orchard Brae School Howes Road Aberdeen AB16 7RW	А	А	Modern Standards - assumed accessible		?	Performing well in all categories
Cummings Park Nursery Cumming Park Crescent Aberdeen AB16 7AS	А	А	Modern Standards - assumed accessible		?	Performing well in all categories
Heathryburn Primary School Davidson Drive Aberdeen AB16 7FQ	А	А		В	104%	To be reviewed as part of Education Estate - although performing well in all categories
Manor Park School Danestone Circle Northfield Aberdeen AB16 7YB	А	А	Modern Standards - assumed accessible	В	81%	To be reviewed as part of Education Estate - although performing well in all categories
Middlefield Community Project Lord Provost Henry E Rae Community Centre Manor Avenue Aberdeen AB16 7UR	В	А	А	В	100%	To be reviewed as part of Education Estate - although performing well in all categories

*Key to EPC (Energy Performance Certificate) Ratings:

- A: Outstanding energy efficiency, requiring minimal energy to operate.

 B: Very efficient; minor upgrades could push it to an A.

 C: Above average; often seen in modern, well-designed buildings.

 D: Average efficiency; improvements may be necessary to enhance performance.

 E: Below average; upgrades will likely be needed to reduce operating costs.

 F: Poor efficiency, indicating high energy consumption and expenses.

 G: Very inefficient; urgent improvements are required to comply with regulations and reduce

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Finance and Resources
DATE	05 November 2025
EXEMPT	This report is not exempt, but
	Appendices 2 and 5-11 are (paragraph 8)
CONFIDENTIAL	No
REPORT TITLE	Work Plan & Business Cases
REPORT NUMBER	CORS/25/234
DIRECTOR	Andy MacDonald
CHIEF OFFICER	Craig Innes
REPORT AUTHOR	Mel Mackenzie
TERMS OF REFERENCE	1.1.5 & 1.1.6

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 The purpose of this report is to present procurement work plans where expenditure is included for the Corporate Services, Families and Communities and City Regeneration & Environment Functions to Committee for review and to seek approval of the total estimated expenditure for the proposed contracts as contained in the work plans and Procurement Business Cases appended to the report.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Committee: -

- 2.1 reviews the Corporate Services, Families and Communities, City Regeneration & Environment and Cross Function work plans as detailed in the appendices;
- 2.2 approves the procurement business cases (Appendix 5 11), including the total estimated expenditure for each of the proposed contracts; and
- 2.3 notes the content of Appendix 3 3.10 Memo Approvals and Appendix 4 4.1.3 Technical Exemption Approvals.

3. CURRENT SITUATION

- 3.1 The ACC Procurement Regulations 2024 require that authority to incur expenditure must be sought prior to any invitation to tender or contract entered into. Contracts above £50,000 (supplies/services) or £250,000 (works) to be listed on a workplan with an associated Procurement Business Case and submitted by the relevant Chief Officer to the Finance and Resources Committee, committee approval is required prior to the procurement being undertaken.
- 3.2 Committee is asked to review the work plans presented for each Function and to approve the expenditure detailed in the Procurement Business Cases appended to the report.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The indicative value of the proposed contract is shown within the workplan and in the Appendices. The ability to have an overview of contract expenditure is aligned to Core Outcomes of the LOIP and the whole systems commissioning cycle approach. The robust approach to governance ensures that all contracts are aligned to the approved budget provision for each financial year with controls in place for flexibility if required.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The contracts shall be procured in accordance with procurement legislation and the Commercial Legal Team within C&PS shall provide legal advice, legal commentary has been sought and is included within each Business Case.

6. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Consideration is included within each Business Case as to how the proposed contract will support the Council's climate commitments. If these are not to be included, officers are asked to confirm why this is the case. Standard wording is included in procurement templates to ensure this is captured at tender stage through to awarded contract.

7. RISK

Category	Risks	Primary Controls/Control Actions to achieve Target Risk Level	*Target Risk Level (L, M or H) *taking into account controls/control actions	*Does Target Risk Level Match Appetite Set?
Strategic Risk	Contract expectations not being monitored or managed.	Contract Management consideration in business cases, guidance and training available for officers.	M	Yes
Compliance	Failure to comply with internal procurement regulations and procurement legislation	Robust process for review of individual business cases and proposed approach to procurement.	L	Yes

Operational	Unable to control demand	Robust process and focus on demand reduction strategies, contract terms developed to be more flexible.	L	Yes
Financial	Escalation of costs Differing market conditions depending on commodity or service	A strong focus on value for money in all commissioning activities and market engagement or use of Business Intelligence to engage with market / ascertain changes/trends.	M	Yes
Reputational	Insufficient information provided by officers, lack of transparency.	Robust process for review of individual business cases and proposed approach to procurement.	L	Yes
Environment/ Climate	Failure to consider sustainable options.	Environmental consideration within business cases and environmental clauses within tender documents.	L	Yes

8. OUTCOMES

COUNCIL DELIVERY PLAN						
Impact of Report						
Aberdeen City Council Policy Statement	The ability to have an overview of contract expenditure is aligned to Core Outcomes of the LOIP and the whole systems commissioning cycle approach.					

Aberdeen City Local Out	Aberdeen City Local Outcome Improvement Plan						
Stretch Outcomes	Community Benefits, Fair Work and Climate						
(Prosperous	requirements are incorporated into all ACC						
Economy/People/Place)	Procurement Activity, consideration is given to the						
	Stretch Outcomes within the LOIP at the development						
phase.							
Regional and City Strategies	Details of anticipated outcomes and how they support key strategies are contained within the business case attached.						
UK and Scottish Legislative and Policy Programmes	Details of the legislative and policy programmes to be complied with is contained within the business case attached.						

9. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Assessment	Outcome		
Integrated Impact Assessment	N/A - IIA screening and assessment will be conducted where required for individual business cases.		
Data Protection Impact Assessment	Not required		
Other	Not required		

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

11. APPENDICES

Public

Appendix 1- Final Revenue Work Plans- PUBLIC_FR_051125 Appendix 3_3.10 Memo's (Exemption Urgency) _PUBLIC_F&R_051125 Appendix 4_4.1.3 Forms (Technical Exemption) _PUBLIC_F&R_051125

Private

Appendix 2_Final Revenue _Work Plans_PRIVATE_F&R_051125
Appendix 5_Business Case_Production Partner for Events_PRIVATE_051125
Appendix 6_Business Case_Festive Lighting_PRIVATE_051125
Appendix 7_Business Case_Vehicle Telematics & CCTV_PRIVATE_051125
Appendix 8_Business Case_Free Period Products_PRIVATE_051125
Appendix 9_Business Case_Bottled Gas_PRIVATE_051125
Appendix 10_Business Case_Furniture Storage_PRIVATE_051125
Appendix 11_Business Case_Security Services_PRIVATE_051125

12. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

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Appendix I:	City Regeneration	Committee: Finance &	Date of Committee: 05 November 2025
Revenue Work Plans	& Environment	Resources	
Public	Work Plan		

F	deference	Function	Cluster	Description of Requirement	Type of Budget	Estimated Start date of Contract or Extension	Estimated End date of Contract (Excluding extension)	Maximum Extension Period (months)	Estimated End date of Contract (Including extension)	Summary
	CRN00041654	City Regeneration & Environment	City Development & Regeneration	Production Partner - (Public Address, Staging, Lighting, Power, Power Distribution, Equipment and AV etc)	Revenue	01/04/2026	31/03/2030	0	31/03/2030	The framework will encompass the supply of all event production requirements for Aberdeen City Council's annual events programme. The requirements include, but are not limited to, the supply of stages, power, power distribution, lighting, public address systems, AV equipment, as well as the management, sign off, storage and transportation of Aberdeen City Council owned event equipment.
	CRN000041657	City Regeneration & Environment	City Development & Regeneration	Management of Catenary Wires and Festive Lighting	Revenue	22/06/2026	21/06/2029	24	21/06/2031	The contract will encompass the storage, testing, maintenance and installation of Aberdeen City Council's festive lights, as well as accompanying works, such as structural testing and maintenance of city centre catenary wires.
	CRN00038834	City Regeneration & Environment	Operations	Vehicle Telematics and CCTV including Hardware/Software	Revenue Capital	12/01/2026	11/01/2031	24	11/01/2033	This Contract will help improve the efficiency of the Council's fleet operations and optimise fleet, driver and risk management. Telematics refers to information technology and telecommunications being used to track the movement of vehicles and extract data to inform decision making. Telematics devices such as tracking devices, CCTV cameras, dash-cams, and plug and play devices can be linked into the vehicle Can-bus or installed into the On-Board Diagnostics (OBD) port to collect vehicle data. The data is then transmitted to a secure data hub which can be

Appendix I:	Corporate Services	Committee: Finance &	Date of Committee: 05 November 2025
Revenue Work Plans	Work Plan	Resources	
Public			

Reference	Function	Cluster	Description of Requirement	Type of Budget	Estimated Start date of Contract or Extension	Estimated End date of Contract (Excluding extension)	Maximum Extension Period (months)	Estimated End date of Contract (Including extension)	Summary
CRN00041809	Corporate Services	People and Citizen Services	Management and Distribution of Free Period Products	Revenue	01/04/2026	31/03/2029	24	31/03/2031	Contract for the provision of free period products to schools, other council facilities, the wider community, and businesses which will ensure the Council can meet its statutory duty under the Period Products (Free Provision) (Scotland) Act 2021 to make period products available free of charge for anyone who needs them.
CRN00040464	Corporate Services	Commercial & Procurement	Framework for the Supply and Delivery of Bottled Gas, Industrial Gas and Associated Products	Revenue	01/04/2026	31/03/2030	0	31/03/2030	The establishment of a Framework Agreement for the provision of the supply and delivery of bottled gas and industrial gas will provide services across the Council with a compliant mechanism to purchase their requirements.

Appendix I:	Families &	Committee: Finance &	Date of Committee: 05 November 2025
Revenue Work Plans	Communities Work	Resources	
Public	Plan		

Reference	Function	Cluster	Description of Requirement	Type of Budget	Estimated Start date of Contract or Extension	Estimated End date of Contract (Excluding extension)	Maximum Extension Period (months)	Estimated End date of Contract (Including extension)	Summary
CRN00040220	Families and Communities	Housing	Collection, Storage and Redelivery of Household Belongings.	Revenue	01/04/2026	31/03/2029	24	31/03/2031	Collection, storage and redelivery of household belongings. for homeless households and removal of household belongings for discretionary housing moves.

Appendix I:	Cross Function	Committee: Finance &	Date of Committee: 05 November
Revenue Work Plans	Work Plan	Resources	2025
Public			

Reference	Function	Cluster	Description of Requirement	Type of Budget	Estimated Start date of Contract or Extension	Estimated End date of Contract (Excluding extension)	Maximum Extension Period (months)	Estimated End date of Contract (Including extension)	Summary
Various as per Business	Corporate Services	Corporate Landlord People & Citizen							The procurement exercise is a collaborative exercise between four services and will result in the award of four separate contracts:
Case	Families & Communities	Services Housing Governance	Provision of Security Services	Revenue	01/03/2026	28/02/2028	6	31/08/2028	-Building Services Security Provisions -Customer Services Security Provisions -Housing Security Provisions -Taxi Marshalling

Appendix 3 - 3.10 Memo's (Exemption Urgency)

Function	Cluster	Description of Contract	Estimated Start date of Contract	Estimated End date of Contract	Total Estimated Contract Value £	Summary of explanation of why the contract was urgently required and justification for suspension of procurement regulations, in whole or in part:
City Regeneration & Environment	City Development & Regeneration	Cabaret Mechanical Theatre Contract - Special Exhibition that spans the May to October period, which is family friendly, of public interest and generates income to offset or exceed the contract value. Exhibition proposals are gathered together through direct proposals to the gallery, discussions with potential UK-wide partners and the Touring Exhibition Group marketplace. Science, art and educational legacy were discussed amongst our review panel, and we recommended Cabaret Mechanical Theatre to Service Manager for final decision based on all Service/Cluster priorities and commissioning intentions, that align with Event 365 strategy, Council Delivery Plan and Partnership Priorities. Cabaret Mechanical Theatre is the only UK provider to offer this touring exhibition option that addresses STEM activities available on the market today.	30/06/2025	30/11/2026	£60,000.00	Discussions with Cabaret Mechanical Theatre Limited (CMTL) regarding the development of the exhibition, Make it Move (working title), its content and curatorial approach, took longer than planned. This was due to lack of resources within Aberdeen Archives, Gallery & Museums (AAGM). The Exhibitions Manager and his team were fully focused on the delivery of this summer's exhibitions and associated programme to support to Tall Ships Races and Festival of the Sea being held in July 2025. The exhibition contract requires to be signed to allow the first payment to be made to CMTL in July 2025, and work on the project to commence. Project development timescales are now tight to allow for opening the exhibition in May 2026. Further delay risk the service and city not having a family-focused, large-scale exhibition in its summer programme for both its local and visiting audiences. If AAGM does not go ahead with the exhibition this will result in all current activity ceasing, in order to focus staff resources on delivering an in-house generated exhibition, at significant cost and in short timescales.
Corporate Services	Digital & Technology	Paolo Alto firewall appliances Contract - Increase the capacity of the Paolo Alto firewalls to cope with increased traffic. The current licensing and support is in place until May 2026, this agreement will augment the capacity of each firewall.	01/07/2025	01/05/2026	£225,000.00	In April 2025 slow access was experienced across the Aberdeen City Council network. Technical changes wern made to network infrastructure, and the immediate problems were resolved. In May the problems re-occurre and further configuration changes have failed to properly resolve key issues. The IT helpdesk has over 200 opinicidents relating to slow performance and non-availability of printing. In June the council engaged the servicion a network and firewall expert and identified additional changes that could be made. The advice was that in the changes were not successful it might be necessary to upgrade capacity on the firewalls. In July Aberdeen Schools broke up for the summer and the network issues improved significantly. This led the technical teams to conclude that the existing firewalls are struggling with capacity. Aberdeen Schools will resume and at that point there is a credible risk that performance issues will recur. It should be stressed that the firewalls were scheduled to be uprated in 2026 as part of the ongoing network improvements. It is also clear that the improvements made across the IT estate have meant that the capacity predictions completed as part of 2025 planning have been exceeded. These issues are not caused by school traffic. It is important that the capacity is increased before 20 August due to the considerations outlined above.

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Appendix 4 - 4.1.3 Forms (Technical Exemption)

Function	Cluster	Description of Contract	Estimated Start date of Contract		Total Estimated Contract Value £	Reason for seeking approval under 4.1.3 Technical Exemption:
City Regeneration and Environment	Strategic Place Planning	I Bike Schools - I Bike Schools is a project run in both primary and secondary schools by Sustrans Scotland. The aim of the I Bike Schools project is to encourage children and young people to travel actively during their commute to school and in their free time. The I Bike Schools Officer is employed by Sustrans Scotland and works as an embedded officer within Aberdeen City Council (ACC).	01.07.2025	30.06.2026	£116,000.00	Sustrans Scotland are the only supplier that offers the I Bike Schools project. Market testing revealed that although there are other projects which offer cycle training, they either do not offer as wide an active travel grounding, work as intensively with a school cluster or teach cycle skills and work with children, in the same way that I Bike Schools does. I Bike Schools offers participating pupils a wide variety of different sessions including scooter skills, Bikeability Levels 1, 2 & 3, bike maintenance training, led walks, road safety sessions, active travel breakfasts, smoothie bike, participation in national active travel weeks and many more. Other sustainable travel projects, that work with children, are far more focused around gamification rather than teaching skills. An internet search was carried out, no other organisation that works with schools in this way and offers the aforementioned activities (see section above) is currently available. Sustrans Scotland are the only supplier that offers the I Bike Schools project and delivers a programme of this kind. No other potential provider offers an embedded Officer that works with Local Authorities to deliver the vast range of active travel activities that the I Bike Schools project can offer.

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Agenda Item 14.1

Exempt information as described in paragraph(s) 4, 6 of Schedule 7A of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.



Agenda Item 14.2

Exempt information as described in paragraph(s) 9 of Schedule 7A of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.





Agenda Item 15.3

Exempt information as described in paragraph(s) 6 of Schedule 7A of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.



Agenda Item 15.4

Exempt information as described in paragraph(s) 9 of Schedule 7A of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.



Agenda Item 15.5

Exempt information as described in paragraph(s) 8 of Schedule 7A of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.















