

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

Town House,
ABERDEEN, 17 August 2011

MINUTES OF MEETING OF ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

Sederunt:

Lord Provost Peter Stephen, Chairperson;
Councillor Bill Cormie, the Depute Provost; and

COUNCILLORS

GEORGE ADAM	NEIL MacGREGOR
YVONNE ALLAN	CALLUM McCAIG
MARIE BOULTON	MARK McDONALD MSP
NORMAN COLLIE	AILEEN MALONE
NEIL COONEY	ANDREW MAY
JOHN CORALL	ALAN MILNE
IRENE CORMACK	JAMES NOBLE
BARNEY CROCKETT	GEORGE PENNY
KATHERINE DEAN	JOHN REYNOLDS
ALAN DONNELLY	RICHARD ROBERTSON
JACQUELINE DUNBAR	JENNIFER STEWART
JAMES FARQUHARSON	JOHN STEWART
NEIL FLETCHER	KEVIN STEWART MSP
GORDON GRAHAM	WENDY STUART
MARTIN GREIG	GORDON TOWNSON
JAMES HUNTER	JOHN WEST
LEONARD IRONSIDE	KIRSTY WEST
MURIEL JAFFREY	JILLIAN WISELY
JAMES KIDDIE	WILLIAM YOUNG
JENNIFER LAING	and
GORDON LESLIE	IAN YUILL

Lord Provost Peter Stephen, in the Chair;

The agenda and reports associated with this minute can be found at:-
<http://committees.aberdeencity.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=122&MId=1972&Ver=4>

ADMISSION OF BURGESSES

1. The persons undermentioned were admitted into the presence of the Council and passed as Burgesses of Guild in respect of their respective Acts of Admission in the Guild Burgess Book:-

Alistair C Blues, Financial Manager, Aberdeen
 Professor Christopher Gane, Vice Principal and Head of College, Aberdeen
 Duncan Hendry, Chief Executive, Aberdeen
 Susan L Muncer, Head Teacher, Aberdeen
 John Derek Sanderson, Musician/Musical Director, Aberdeen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

2. The Lord Provost advised that the Business Improvement District (BID) ballot process had recently concluded, with 291 votes cast - 182 voting yes and 109 voting no, which represented a 62.54% yes vote. The Economic and Business Development Programme Director emphasised that the vote represented a solid recommendation for the future of the city. Councillor Kevin Stewart MSP expressed his gratitude to John Michie who had chaired the BID Board.

The Council resolved:-

to thank all officers who had been involved in the process and John Michie for his work as Chairperson.

DETERMINATION OF EXEMPT BUSINESS

3. The Council was requested to determine that the following items of business, which contained exempt information as described in Schedule 7(A) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, be taken in private:-

- 10(a) City Events - Report by Director of Enterprise, Planning and Infrastructure
- 10(b) Electronic Monitoring System for Care at Home Services - Report by Director of Social Care and Wellbeing

Councillor Young moved as a procedural motion, seconded by Councillor Cooney:-
 That the Council consider item 10(a) in public.

The following vote was taken by roll call after it became apparent that there were idiosyncrasies with the electronic voting system, and therefore the vote required to be retaken.

On a division, there voted:-

For the procedural motion (11) - Councillors Adam, Allan, Collie, Cooney, Crockett, Donnelly, Graham, Hunter, Ironside, Laing and Young.

Against the procedural motion (29) - Lord Provost Peter Stephen; Depute Provost Cormie; and Councillors Corall, Cormack, Dean, Dunbar, Fletcher, Greig, Jaffrey, Kiddie, Leslie, MacGregor, McCaig, McDonald MSP, Malone, May, Milne, Noble,

Penny, Reynolds, Robertson, Jennifer Stewart, John Stewart, Kevin Stewart MSP, Wendy Stuart, Townson, John West, Kirsty West and Yuill.

Declined to vote (3) - Councillors Boulton, Farquharson and Wisely.

The Council resolved:-

- (i) to reject the procedural motion; and
- (ii) in terms of Section 50(A)(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, to exclude the press and public from the meeting during consideration of the aforementioned item of business (Article 17 of this minute refers) so as to avoid disclosure of exempt information of the class described in paragraph 6 of Schedule 7(A) of the Act.

The Council further resolved:-

in terms of Section 50(A)(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, to exclude the press and public from the meeting during consideration of item 10(b) (Article 18 of this minute refers) so as to avoid disclosure of exempt information of the classes described in paragraphs 6 and 8 of Schedule 7(A) of the Act.

MINUTE OF MEETING OF ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL OF 29TH JUNE 2011

4. The Council had before it the minute of meeting of Aberdeen City Council of 29th June 2011.

Councillor Young moved as a procedural motion, seconded by Councillor Graham:-

That the words "and also possible Council representation on the City Gardens Trust" be removed from the first resolution within Article 9 pertaining to the City Garden Project within the Council Business Statement.

The following vote was taken by roll call after it became apparent that there were idiosyncrasies with the electronic voting system, and therefore the vote required to be retaken.

On a division, there voted:-

For the procedural motion (10) - Councillors Adam, Allan, Collie, Cooney, Crockett, Graham, Hunter, Ironside, Laing and Young.

Against the procedural motion (27) - Lord Provost Peter Stephen; Depute Provost Cormie; and Councillors Cormack, Dean, Donnelly, Dunbar, Fletcher, Greig, Jaffrey, Kiddie, Leslie, MacGregor, McCaig, Malone, May, Noble, Penny, Reynolds, Robertson, Jennifer Stewart, John Stewart, Kevin Stewart MSP, Wendy Stuart, Townson, John West, Kirsty West and Yuill.

Declined to vote (6) - Councillors Boulton, Corall, Farquharson, McDonald MSP, Milne and Wisely.

The Council resolved:-

- (i) to reject the procedural motion, and thereby approve the minute; and

- (ii) to request that the Council Business Statement be updated for the next meeting in relation to the 50m Pool regarding clarification from Aberdeenshire Council that their revenue funding contribution remained intact.

MINUTE OF MEETING OF URGENT BUSINESS COMMITTEE OF 19TH JULY 2011

5. The Council had before it the minute of meeting of the Urgent Business Committee of 19th July 2011.

The Council resolved:-

to approve the minute.

PAMPHLET OF MINUTES

6. The Council had before it a pamphlet of standing committee minutes from 24th May to 7th July 2011.

The Council resolved:-

to note the minutes.

BUSINESS STATEMENT

7. The Council had before it a statement of Council business which had been prepared by the Head of Legal and Democratic Services.

The Council resolved:-

- (i) to note that a report on the 50m Pool would be submitted to the next Council meeting;
- (ii) to note that a report on the City Garden Project would be submitted to the next Council meeting, and that officers would take on board members' comments regarding publication of information on the Council website relating to the project and associated work by various external bodies; and
- (iii) otherwise to note the statement.

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL BUSINESS PLAN 2011/12 - 2015/16 - OCE/11/07

8. With reference to Article 15 of the minute of its meeting of 29th June 2011, the Council had before it a report by the Chief Executive which sought approval of the Aberdeen City Council Business Plan 2011/12 - 2015/16.

The report recommended:-

that the Council -

- (a) approve the business plan for 2011/12 - 2015/16; and
- (b) instruct the Director of Corporate Governance, in conjunction with the Corporate Management Team, to report to the Corporate Policy and Performance Committee on a six-monthly basis on progress with the delivery of the business plan.

Councillor McCaig moved, seconded by Councillor Malone:-

That the Council approve the recommendations contained within the report, and agree to call a meeting of the Local Government Employees Joint Consultative Committee to discuss the implementation of the business plan following a review of the Joint Consultative Committee procedures by the next meeting of the Corporate Policy and Performance Committee.

Councillor Crockett moved as an amendment, seconded by Councillor Graham:-

That the Council -

- (i) defer consideration of the Business Plan 2011/12 - 2015/16 to the next Council meeting;
- (ii) arrange for the Local Government Employees Joint Consultative Committee to meet within the next four weeks to discuss the business plan and how it is to be implemented; and
- (iii) instruct the Chief Executive to report the comments from the above said meeting to the next Council meeting in order for the Council to consider any recommendations that come from the said meeting.

During the course of debate, Councillor John West questioned whether the Labour Group actually had an opinion on the matter and speculated that they were asking the trade unions for their opinion so that they could be told what to think. Councillor Crockett requested that Councillor John West's comments be recorded in the minute and this was agreed.

The following vote was taken by roll call as the electronic voting system was still not operational.

On a division, there voted:-

For the motion (33) - Lord Provost Peter Stephen; Depute Provost Cormie; and Councillors Boulton, Corall, Cormack, Dean, Donnelly, Dunbar, Farquharson, Fletcher, Greig, Jaffrey, Kiddie, Leslie, MacGregor, McCaig, McDonald MSP, Malone, May, Milne, Noble, Penny, Reynolds, Robertson, Jennifer Stewart, John Stewart, Kevin Stewart MSP, Wendy Stuart, Townson, John West, Kirsty West, Wisely and Yuill.

For the amendment (10) - Councillors Adam, Allan, Collie, Cooney, Crockett, Graham, Hunter, Ironside, Laing and Young.

The Council resolved:-
to adopt the motion.

COMMITTEE PLACES, REMITS AND REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES, BOARDS AND TRUSTS - CG/11/104

9. With reference to Article 4 of the minute of its meeting of 29th June 2011, the Council had before it a report by the Director of Corporate Governance which asked the Council to (1) consider the composition of its committees following the by-election results, and the formation of the Independent Alliance Group within the Council; (2) take a number of decisions on outstanding issues relating to various positions; and (3)

approve revised Orders of Reference for the Corporate Policy and Performance and Finance and Resources Committees.

The report recommended:-

that the Council -

- (a) agree the composition of the various committees, being guided by the indicative calculations as outlined in section 6.2 of the report;
- (b) appoint members to those committees;
- (c) appoint replacement members for the vacant positions as outlined in section 6.3 of the report; and
- (d) approve the revised Orders of Reference for the Corporate Policy and Performance and Finance and Resources Committees as appended to the report.

The Council resolved:-

- (i) to agree the committee compositions as outlined below:-

Committee	Total Places	SNP	Liberal Democrat	Labour	Independent Alliance	Conservative
Education, Culture and Sport	18	6	6	4	1	1
Social Care and Wellbeing	15	6	4	3	1	1
Housing and Environment	15	5	4	4	1	1
Enterprise, Planning and Infrastructure	15	5	5	3	1	1
Corporate Policy and Performance	15	5	4	4	1	1
Finance and Resources	15	6	5	3	1	0
Audit and Risk	15	5	4	4	1	1
Licensing	15	5	5	3	1	1
Appeals	9	3	3	2	1	0
Development Management	11	4	3	3	1	0

Committee	Total Places	SNP	Liberal Democrat	Labour	Independent Alliance	Conservative
Sub Committee						
Totals	143	50	43	33	10	7

- (ii) that Councillor McCaig replace Councillor Kevin Stewart MSP on NESTRANS;
- (iii) that Councillor John Stewart replace Councillor Kevin Stewart MSP on the COSLA Resources and Capacity Executive Group;
- (iv) that Councillor McCaig replace Councillor Kevin Stewart MSP on the COSLA Strategic Human Resource Management Executive Group;
- (v) that Councillor Robertson replace Councillor Leslie as a substitute member of the Northern Community Justice Authority, and as a member of the Community Health Partnership, the Alcohol and Drugs Partnership and the Disabled Persons Housing Service;
- (vi) that the vacancy on the Aberdeen Prison Visiting Committee remain vacant;
- (vii) that Councillor MacGregor replace former Councillor Clark on the Aberdeen Airport Consultative Committee;
- (viii) that all other vacancies pertaining to former Councillor Clark be left to the Administration to determine;
- (ix) that Councillor Townson replace former Councillor Cassie on the Board of Garthdee Alpine Sports;
- (x) that Councillor Kiddie replace Councillor McDonald MSP on the COSLA Community Wellbeing and Safety Executive Group, with Councillor Malone sharing the position;
- (xi) that Councillor MacGregor replace Councillor McDonald MSP on the Grampian Fire and Rescue Board;
- (xii) that the vacancies on the East Grampian Coastal Partnership Management Group and Scotland Excel, pertaining to Councillor McDonald MSP, be left to the Administration to determine;
- (xiii) that Councillor McCaig replace Councillor John Stewart on ACSEF (Aberdeen City and Shire Economic Future), and AREG (Aberdeen Renewable Energy Group) as Council Leader;
- (xiv) that Councillors Yuill and Graham be appointed to Community Planning Aberdeen;
- (xv) that Councillors Wendy Stuart, Greig and Malone be appointed to the Aberdeen Community Safety Partnership;
- (xvi) to note that the Administration would give consideration to filling vacancies relating to Peacock Visual Arts and Aberdeen Greenspace;
- (xvii) to note that the Director of Corporate Governance was progressing a piece of work with Internal Audit on the roles and responsibilities of elected members in relation to outside bodies, boards and trusts; and
- (xviii) to approve the revised Orders of Reference for the Corporate Policy and Performance and Finance and Resources Committees as appended to the report.

Councillor Boulton moved as a procedural motion, seconded by Councillor Milne:-
That Standing Order 2(1) be suspended to enable the Council to consider the position of the Vice Convener of the Audit and Risk Committee.

The Council was advised that the electronic voting system would not be operational for the remainder of the meeting, and therefore all remaining votes would require to be taken by roll call.

On a division, there voted:-

For the procedural motion (25) - Lord Provost Peter Stephen; Depute Provost Cormie; and Councillors Adam, Allan, Boulton, Collie, Cooney, Corall, Cormack, Crockett, Dunbar, Farquharson, Graham, Hunter, Ironside, Jaffrey, Kiddie, Laing, McCaig, McDonald MSP, Milne, Noble, Wendy Stuart, Kirsty West and Young.

Against the procedural motion (13) - Councillors Dean, Donnelly, Fletcher, Greig, Leslie, Penny, Robertson, John Stewart, Kevin Stewart MSP, Townson, John West, Wisely and Yuill.

Declined to vote (5) - Councillors MacGregor, Malone, May, Reynolds and Jennifer Stewart.

The Council resolved:-

to accept the procedural motion.

Councillor Boulton moved, seconded by Councillor Milne:-

That Councillor Farquharson be appointed Vice Convener of the Audit and Risk Committee.

Councillor Wisely moved, seconded by Councillor McDonald MSP:-

That Councillor Donnelly remain in the role of Vice Convener of the Audit and Risk Committee.

On a division, there voted:-

For Councillor Farquharson (3) - Councillors Boulton, Farquharson and Milne.

For Councillor Donnelly (21) - Depute Provost Cormie; and Councillors Corall, Cormack, Dean, Donnelly, Fletcher, Greig, Jaffrey, Kiddie, Leslie, MacGregor, McDonald MSP, Penny, Reynolds, Robertson, Kevin Stewart MSP, Wendy Stuart, Townson, John West, Wisely and Yuill.

Declined to vote (19) - Lord Provost Peter Stephen; and Councillors Adam, Allan, Collie, Cooney, Crockett, Dunbar, Graham, Hunter, Ironside, Laing, McCaig, Malone, May, Noble, Jennifer Stewart, John Stewart, Kirsty West and Young.

The Council further resolved:-

that Councillor Donnelly remain as Vice Convener of the Audit and Risk Committee.

In accordance with Standing Order 15(6), Councillors Allan, Boulton, Farquharson and Milne intimated their dissent against the foregoing decision.

COUNCIL DIARY - JANUARY TO JUNE 2012 - CG/11/083

10. The Council had before it a report by the Director of Corporate Governance which presented the proposed Council diary for the period January to June 2012.

The report recommended:-

that the Council -

- (a) agree that no paper diary inserts be produced for 2012, noting that paper diaries could be purchased in place of inserts if required by individual members; and
- (b) approve one option from the five diary proposals appended to the report, making any amendments as appropriate.

Councillor McCaig moved, seconded by Councillor John Stewart:-

That the Council approve option 5 as appended to the report, noting that the Social Care and Wellbeing Committee would be held on 26th January 2012, and agreeing that an additional meeting of the Licensing Committee be held on 17th April 2012, and an additional meeting of the Development Management Sub Committee be held on 19th April 2012.

Councillor Hunter moved as an amendment, seconded by Councillor Allan:-

That the Council approve option 1 as appended to the report.

On a division, there voted:-

For the motion (30) - Lord Provost Peter Stephen; Depute Provost Cormie; and Councillors Corall, Cormack, Dean, Donnelly, Dunbar, Fletcher, Greig, Jaffrey, Kiddie, Leslie, MacGregor, McCaig, McDonald MSP, Malone, May, Noble, Penny, Reynolds, Robertson, Jennifer Stewart, John Stewart, Kevin Stewart MSP, Wendy Stuart, Townson, John West, Kirsty West, Wisely and Yuill.

For the amendment (13) - Councillors Adam, Allan, Boulton, Collie, Cooney, Crockett, Farquharson, Graham, Hunter, Ironside, Laing, Milne and Young.

The Council resolved:-

- (i) to adopt the motion; and
- (ii) to request that all committee appointments on the groupwise email system be sent to all members for information in view of the decision that no paper diary inserts be produced.

(Note that the Council requires to determine whether the Council meeting should be held on 28th March 2012 or 4th April 2012)

QUESTIONS

11. The Council had before it the following questions, of which due notice had been given in terms of Standing Order 20(2), which had been placed on the agenda as the questioners had indicated they were unhappy with the responses.

Councillor Allan

QUESTION -

To ask the Chief Executive

“Due to the full time Youth Worker complement being reduced to four for the whole city, can I be advised of the programme for youth work in Torry?”

ANSWER (by the Chief Executive) -

The work to implement the decision to reduce the communities' team budget by £1.4m in 2011/12 is underway. The staffing budget available for staff, including Community Learning and Development, Youth Workers, Community Training and Economic Development and Neighbourhood Community Planning staff has been reduced by approximately 67%.

A new management and operational structure is developed and the job matching process almost complete. The team has completed approximately 150 matching interviews during June 2011 for posts within the new structure.

Officers are working to manage the transformation of the service and to support the transition to leased community centres. Within the new structure, a member of staff has been appointed to the new post of Development Manager for Young People. This post holder will have a team of four youth development officers, a small team of community learning youth workers and a small budget for session staff. The team will support the delivery of youth work across the city, including providing support for leased centre committees who want to commission youth work in their areas.

The transition process is underway between those staff leaving and those staff taking up the new posts and reviewing how services will be delivered. A meeting is scheduled on 25th August 2011 to finalise the plans for the delivery of youth work across the city, including in the Torry area. The available resources will be used to target priority areas which will include Torry.

The programme at Tullos has stopped as normal, over the summer break. It is likely that this will continue, but as part of the achievement programme with schools. The work of the Torry Youth project will operate with limited funds which will require to be targeted. The facilities at Torry Youth project will continue to be available for use.

Officers will work with community centre management to facilitate their support for the delivery of youth work in their area. The city wide plan for youth work is being finalised during August.

The Council resolved:-
to note the details.

Councillor Young

QUESTION -

To the Vice Convener of the Finance and Resources Committee

“To ask the former Vice Convener for Corporate Policy and Performance and now Vice Convener for Finance and Resources if he can provide an explanation as to why a decision taken under his convenership in March 2011 at the Corporate Policy and Performance and Committee regarding Aberdeen City Gardens Trust Limited Board Membership Invitation which stated “The membership invitation will be considered by Council on 29th June 2011, and therefore will be removed from the business statement” was not discussed at the Council meeting of 29th June? Can he further confirm what discussions if any he has had with any officers of the Council relating to this matter and finally does he agree with me that when a Committee determines that a piece of business is put before Council for members to determine, that business should go before the Council without fear or favour?”

ANSWER (by Councillor Noble) -

I write in reply to your question to Council regarding the Aberdeen City Gardens Board membership invitation. You are quite correct that this matter came up at the Corporate Policy and Performance meeting chaired by myself in the absence of the then Convener Councillor Jennifer Stewart on the 31st March 2011. At that meeting, the committee resolved to defer consideration of the invitation to a future meeting of the appropriate committee in order to receive clarity on what a "special" member entailed and also to receive articles of association.

I can confirm that subsequent to the above mentioned meeting I have had no discussions with officers relating to this matter and I would agree with your point on matters going to Council from Committee.

In accordance with Standing Order 20(4), the Lord Provost ruled that the question had been answered satisfactorily.

The Council resolved:-
to note the details.

QUESTION -

To the Chief Executive

“To ask the Chief Executive to confirm how many meetings the Chief Executive, her predecessor or Council officials have had with Sir Ian Wood or his representatives since I last asked this question (December 2010) in order to finalise the £50million donation with regard to the Union Terrace Gardens project and to further ask the Chief Executive to confirm when the legal documents confirming the £50million gift will be ready for signature by both the donator and the City Council?”

ANSWER (by the Chief Executive) -

No meetings have been held between Council officials and Sir Ian Wood or his representatives for this purpose since December 2010. I have had one introductory meeting with Sir Ian since my arrival in March 2011. The legal documentation concerning Sir Ian's donation will primarily be a matter for discussion between his legal representatives and those of the City Gardens Trust.

In accordance with Standing Order 20(4), the Lord Provost ruled that the question had been answered satisfactorily.

The Council resolved:-

to note the details.

QUESTION -

To the Chief Executive

"To ask the Chief Executive if it is normal for third parties who currently do not own, lease or have any pecuniary property rights over a public asset such as Union Terrace Gardens to actively promote, encourage architectural design briefs on an asset they currently do not own, lease or have any pecuniary right over?"

ANSWER (by the Chief Executive) -

No. Any party does so at their own financial risk. However, the Council by virtue of their decision of May 2010 and those of subsequent meetings, have noted and encouraged the course of action undertaken by the City Gardens Trust.

In accordance with Standing Order 20(4), the Lord Provost ruled that the question had been answered satisfactorily.

The Council resolved:-

to note the details.

QUESTION -

To the Leader of the Council

"To ask the Leader of the Council who owns the land in and around the proposed Union Terrace Gardens development and if it does belong mostly to the city of Aberdeen or is under their direct control what are the consequences to the Council tax payer or Council itself if for any reason the Council transfers control of Union Terrace Gardens by whatever means to a third party and for whatever reason the proposed development gets into financial difficulties and in this regard can he confirm or otherwise if any of the proposed businesses currently behind the scheme have indicated a willingness to underwrite the project in order that the Council tax payer is protected should any proposed development become financially challenged?"

ANSWER (by Councillor McCaig) -

The land comprising Union Terrace Gardens belongs to the Council. In the event of the Council transferring the control of Union Terrace Gardens, appropriate agreements will be put in place at that time to protect the Council's interests. The project is not sufficiently advanced to respond to the remainder of the question and the matters raised will no doubt be discussed at the appropriate time.

In accordance with Standing Order 20(4), the Lord Provost ruled that the question had been answered satisfactorily.

The Council resolved:-

to note the details.

QUESTION -

To the Leader of the Council

"To ask the Leader of the Council to provide Council with (1) the total financial cost to the Council from May 2007 until May 2011 of employing consultants regardless of capacity of employment giving a break down in terms of each year over the last 4 years; and (2) the total financial cost to the Council from May 2007 until May 2011 of employing agency staff regardless of capacity of employment giving a breakdown in terms of each year over the last 4 years."

ANSWER (by Councillor McCaig) -

Cost of Employing Consultants and Agency Staff

Following Councillor Young's questions requesting the cost of employing consultants (regardless of capacity of employment) and agency staff a review of the Council's financial ledger was undertaken to identify the financial cost.

1. The cost of employing consultants is shown in the table below by financial year. This is also shown in the context of the Council's total gross budget annually and showing the level of spend as a percentage of total budget:

	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	20011/12
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000*
Gross Budget	640,318	659,188	689,554	672,313	688,006
Consultants Fees	1,140	2,016	2,736	1,317	151
Fees as % of Budget	0.32%	0.31%	0.39%	0.20%	0.02%

* Shows year to date expenditure against full year budget

- This shows that over the period covered the Council has spent £7.4 million from a total gross budget of £3,349 million or 0.24% of the total spend for the period (less than a quarter of 1%). These costs have been incurred to assist the Council in improving service delivery, reducing expenditure levels for future

years (spend to save initiatives) and to deliver new projects (often to meet new statutory requirements).

2. The cost of employing agency staff is shown in the table below by financial year along with the total staffing budget along with the percentage of total staffing costs that agency costs represent:

	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000*
Gross Budget	640,318	659,188	689,554	672,313	688,006
Agency Costs	8,911	8,164	7,889	7,695	901
Costs as % of Budget	1.39%	1.24%	1.14%	1.14%	0.13%

* Shows year to date expenditure against full year budget

- This shows that over the period covered the Council has spent £33.6 million from a total gross budget of £3,349 million or 1% of the total spend for the period.

- The types of posts that the Council has used agency staff for tend to be traditional trades (joiners, electricians, plumbers, etc.), vehicle drivers, social care workers, and other seasonal type work (such as grounds maintenance staff). The reason for relying on agency staff will be due to a number of factors such as difficulty in recruitment and Council policy to specifically utilise agency staff for seasonal or fixed term contract work. All costs were budgeted for or met from existing budgets and resulted in the Council meeting its legal obligations within the annually set budget. That is, the Council did not exceed the total staffing budget for any of the financial years.

- The level of spend on agency staff has fallen year on year. This has been due to a number of factors, such as the Council moving to reduce the level of agency staff it employs and the economic down turn means that more people are now seeking full time employment allowing the Council to fill posts that it previously has had difficulties recruiting into.
- It should also be noted that in certain instances it is more economically advantageous for the Council to employ agency staff rather than employ staff directly.

In accordance with Standing Order 20(4), the Lord Provost ruled that the question had been answered satisfactorily.

The Council resolved:-
to note the details.

MOTIONS

12. Councillor Yuill, pursuant to notice, moved:-

“That given the ongoing difficulties caused by HGVs using Broomhill Road as a through route, Council instructs officers to report to the appropriate committee on the introduction of an ‘except for access’ weight or width restriction on some or all of Broomhill Road between Holburn Street and South Anderson Drive.”

The Council resolved:-

to refer the motion to the Enterprise, Planning and Infrastructure Committee.

13. Councillor Yuill, pursuant to notice, moved:-

“That this Council instructs officers to report to the appropriate committee on the extension westwards to a point west of Northcote Road of the 30mph speed limit on North Deeside Road, Mannofield.”

The Council resolved:-

to refer the motion to the Enterprise, Planning and Infrastructure Committee.

14. Councillor Yuill, pursuant to notice, moved:-

“That, given the ongoing difficulties caused by lorries using Morningside Road, Cranford Road and Duthie Terrace as through routes so as to avoid the junction of Great Western Road and South Anderson Drive, Council instructs officers to report to the appropriate committee on the introduction of an ‘except for access’ weight restriction on these roads plus that part of Hammerfield Avenue not already covered by such a restriction.”

The Council resolved:-

to refer the motion to the Enterprise, Planning and Infrastructure Committee.

15. Councillor Yuill, pursuant to notice, moved:-

“That, given the significant inconvenience and difficulties caused to householders and others by bollards opposite the entrance from Deeside Drive to the rear lane lying between the rear of properties on Deeside Drive and Deeside Crescent, Council instructs officers to report to the appropriate committee on the removal of these bollards.”

The Council resolved:-

to refer the motion to the Enterprise, Planning and Infrastructure Committee.

16. Councillor Young, pursuant to notice, moved:-

“Council agrees that in order to provide proper scrutiny over an area of land currently under the City Council’s control, and to ensure that no citizen or citizens of Aberdeen can accuse the Council of “losing control” over the City Gardens Project, as well as to ensure beyond reasonable doubt that there will be a local democratic audit of plans for an area of the city centre that many

Aberdonians care passionately about, Council undertakes without delay to determine a design brief to be provided to architects which meets the requirements of the citizens of Aberdeen as approved by elected members, the democratically elected guardians of this fine city.”

The Council resolved:-

to refer the motion to the Enterprise, Planning and Infrastructure Committee.

In accordance with the decision recorded under Article 3 of this minute, the following items of business were considered with the press and public excluded.

CITY EVENTS - EPI/11/232

17. The Council had before it a report by the Director of Enterprise, Planning and Infrastructure which sought approval to reinstate the City of Aberdeen Hogmanay fireworks celebration and to support a homecoming parade for the 4th Battalion, Royal Regiment of Scotland (Highlanders).

The report recommended:-

that the Council -

- (a) support the reinstatement of the City of Aberdeen Hogmanay fireworks celebration;
- (b) agree the sponsorship proposal by Rainbow City Taxis and Central Coaches of £30,000 per annum;
- (c) agree that a maximum of £15,000 for one year only be approved from the Common Good Fund to support the reinstatement of the City of Aberdeen Hogmanay fireworks celebration in December 2011;
- (d) agree to support a homecoming parade for the 4th Battalion, Royal Regiment of Scotland (Highlanders) on 30th November 2011; and
- (e) agree that a maximum of £3,500 be approved from the Common Good Fund to support the delivery of the aforementioned homecoming parade.

The Council resolved:-

- (i) to approve the recommendations; and
- (ii) to request officers to take on board Councillor Hunter’s concerns regarding damage to vehicles in the area as a result of fireworks.

MATTER OF URGENCY

The Lord Provost intimated that he had directed in terms of Section 50(B)(4)(b) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, that the following item be considered as a matter of urgency as a delay in considering the report could result in an adverse affect in the delivery of savings.

**ELECTRONIC MONITORING SYSTEM FOR CARE AT HOME SERVICES -
PRIORITY BASED BUDGETING (PBB) NEW LT8**

18. The Council had before it a report by the Director of Social Care and Wellbeing which sought approval to purchase an Electronic Monitoring System (EMS) for care at home services together with the relevant estimated expenditure.

The report recommended:-

that the Council -

- (a) approve the purchase of an EMS for care at home services by extension of an existing contract as detailed in the report;
- (b) invoke Standing Order 1(6)(A) relating to contracts and procurement, thereby exempting the contract from the requirements of those Standing Orders which require a competitive procurement to be undertaken, as applicable, on the grounds that the exemption is justified by special circumstances;
- (c) agree that the special circumstances referred to above are -
 - (i) that the service requires to replace the CareTime module of CareFirst, the service's electronic case management system;
 - (ii) that the service requires to purchase the provider's enhanced replacement product for CareTime, an EMS, in order to retain the full benefits of the integrated CareFirst product suite; and
 - (iii) that there is a degree of urgency to the implementation of the CareTime replacement with the new EMS product, to ensure that PBB savings can be achieved; and
- (d) approve the estimated expenditure of £700,000 over five years for this purpose.

The Council resolved:-

to refer the report to the next meeting of the Social Care and Wellbeing Committee, delegating authority to enable the committee to make the necessary decisions.

- PETER STEPHEN, Lord Provost.