

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

Town House,
ABERDEEN, 7 March 2022

MINUTES OF MEETING OF ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

Sederunt:

Lord Provost Barney Crockett, Chairperson;
Depute Provost Jennifer Stewart; and

COUNCILLORS

GILLIAN AL-SAMARAI
YVONNE ALLAN
CHRISTIAN ALLARD
ALISON ALPHONSE
PHILIP BELL
MARIE BOULTON
DAVID CAMERON
JOHN COOKE
NEIL COPLAND
WILLIAM CORMIE
SARAH CROSS
STEVEN DELANEY
ALAN DONNELLY
JACQUELINE DUNBAR MSP
LESLEY DUNBAR
SARAH DUNCAN
GORDON GRAHAM
ROSS GRANT
MARTIN GREIG
DELL HENRICKSON
RYAN HOUGHTON
MICHAEL HUTCHISON

CLAIRE IMRIE
FREDDIE JOHN
JENNIFER LAING
DOUGLAS LUMSDEN MSP
SANDRA MACDONALD
NEIL MacGREGOR
AVRIL MacKENZIE
ALEXANDER McLELLAN
CIARÁN McRAE
M. TAUQEER MALIK
THOMAS MASON
JESSICA MENNIE
ALEX NICOLL
AUDREY NICOLL MSP
JAMES NOBLE
MIRANDA RADLEY
JOHN REYNOLDS
PHILIP SELLAR
GORDON TOWNSON
JOHN WHEELER
and
IAN YUILL

Lord Provost Barney Crockett, in the Chair.

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

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

Council Meeting, Monday, 7 March 2022

COUNCIL DELIVERY PLAN 2022/23 - CUS/22/059

1. The Council had before it a report by the Director of Commissioning which presented the Council Delivery Plan for 2022/23.

The report recommended:-

that the Council -

- (a) note the content of the Council Delivery Plan 2022/23; and
- (b) instruct the Chief Executive to realign any of the delivery commitments set out in the Plan that may be required, as a result of any potential Council budget decisions, to meet Council's instructions.

The Council resolved:-

- (i) to agree the content of the Council Delivery Plan 2022/23, noting some factual highlights from the report as detailed below:
 - The Aberdeen City Region Deal (ACRD) is now in its fifth year and has grown in value from £826million to £936million primarily as a result of additional investment from the private sector
 - The Council made available a total of 14,564 chromebooks and 500 MFi connections to ensure children and young people could access learning during periods of lockdown
 - During school holiday periods, the Council provided supermarket vouchers to parents/carers of our young people who are entitled to free school meals on the basis of low income. In the year to date, vouchers provided were equivalent to the value of 300,570 school meals. We estimate that a further 62,400 meal equivalent vouchers will be issued in the year, bringing the total to 362,970
 - The Council made over 15,000 play opportunities available to children and young people as part of our Summer of Play where the average rating for enjoyment from children and young people was 9.5/10
 - The Council progressed both Council led and developer led sites to deliver 2,000 new Council house units, of which 283 new units were delivered this financial year
 - The Council completed £580,000 of play area design and refurbishment work
 - Aberdeen was awarded Gold Medal in the Beautiful Scotland Awards
 - Clean Up Aberdeen continues to be a success. 2021 saw a record number of clean ups, 496, completed with over 2,000 volunteers involved
 - Community partnerships continue to grow, with more than 150 collaborations in place, including volunteers, communities, businesses, schools, third sector organisations and companies. Thousands of volunteer hours spent in Aberdeen's parks and green spaces
 - The Accounts Commission commended Aberdeen City Council on the strong changes, improvements and ambition that have been put in place since our 2015 and 2008 Best Value reports
 - The Accounts Commission also welcomed the fact the Council continues to display a self-awareness about its need to further increase its pace of

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improvement if it is to deliver its ambitious vision with its partners to bring positive change for all of the people of Aberdeen

- The Best Value audit report also acknowledged that the major transformation programme undertaken by the Council, with the Target Operating Model and digital strategy at its centre, had led to improvements in organisational structure and governance. It was also noted that the governance put in place had received external recognitions when the Council became the first Scottish Council to be awarded CIPFA's Governance Mark of Excellence; and
- (ii) to instruct the Chief Executive to realign any of the delivery commitments set out in the Plan that may be required, as a result of any potential Council budget decisions, to meet Council's instructions.

At this juncture, it was agreed that the reports on the General Fund Revenue Budget and Capital Programme and the Common Good Budget be considered together as the next item of business.

GENERAL FUND REVENUE BUDGET AND CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2022/23 TO 2026/27 - RES/22/061; AND COMMON GOOD BUDGET 2022/23 - RES/22/058

2. (A) The Council had before it a report by the Chief Officer - Finance which provided information on both the revenue budget for 2022/23 and capital programme for the period 2022/23 to 2026/27 in order that the approved budgets and Council Tax value could be set by the Council for the year commencing 1 April 2022.

The report recommended:-

that the Council -

Balance Sheet

- (a) note the projected balance sheet position including the reserves as at 31 March 2022, shown at Appendix 1;
- (b) consider the Council's Financial Resilience Framework measures, included at Appendix 2, and Prudential Indicators, at Appendix 3, providing current and forward-looking data and insight to aid understanding of the implications of capital investment prior to setting Council Tax and the Revenue and Capital budgets;
- (c) approve the Prudential Indicators as attached at Appendix 3;
- (d) approve the General Fund Capital Programme as attached at Appendix 4;
- (e) consider the capital projects described in Appendix 5, which were referred to the General Fund Capital Programme;
- (f) approve the Revenue and Capital Reserves Policy for 2022/23 as detailed in Appendix 6;

Medium-Term Financial Projections

- (g) note the forecast medium-term financial projection for the period ending 31 March 2027 as shown in paragraph 3.36;

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- (h) note that the Scottish Government has stated the intention to publish a Resource Spending Review in May 2022;
- (i) note the important context of climate change and in particular the Net Zero Aberdeen Routemap and associated place based strategies that are in line with the Net Zero Vision to achieve the goal of a Net Zero Aberdeen by 2045, as approved by Council on 28 February 2022 (COM/22/054);
- (j) note that the National Care Service consultation that took place during 2021/22 has potential implications for Council resources and operational arrangements during the period of the next Medium Term Financial Strategy;
- (k) instruct the Chief Officer - Finance to refresh the Medium Term Financial Strategy and report to the Council by the end of August 2022;
- (l) instruct the Chief Executive to report to the Council, by the end of August 2022, on a refreshed Target Operating Model, to address the challenges of the next 5 years;

Revenue Budget

- (m) note that the conditions outlined by the Scottish Government within the Local Government Finance Settlement for 2022/23 are met by the proposals set out in the report;
- (n) note the ongoing exceptional operating environment created because of the Covid-19 pandemic and price inflation that there are known and unknown risks that arise as described in the report, consideration should be given to increasing the £4m of in-year contingencies included in the budget;
- (o) approve the redesign of Council services to address demand, in line with the commissioning led approach described in the report, and to set at least a balanced budget for financial year 2022/23, having due regard to:
 - a) The Budget Model as contained in paragraph 3.36 that identifies a funding shortfall of £32.2m for 2022/23;
 - b) The impact of service redesign on services and fees and charges described in Appendix 7;
 - c) The Revenue and Capital Reserves Policy, that sets out the Council should maintain uncommitted General Fund balances of £12m;
 - d) The Financial Resilience Framework data shown in Appendix 2;
 - d) The Prudential Indicators and impact of the General Fund Capital Programme on revenue expenditure, Appendix 3;
 - e) The savings options and cost of implementation put forward in Appendix 8 and Fees and Charges proposals in Appendix 9;
 - f) The Cosla commitment to 1% of the budget being subject to participatory budgeting;
 - f) The revenue items referred to the budget process, as shown in Appendix 10;
 - h) The Council's Risk Appetite Statement; and
 - i) Integrated impact assessments and screening results provided in the background papers;
- (p) approve the Commissioning Intentions and Service Standards as described in Appendices 10 and 11 respectively, subject to any amendments approved as per 2.3.3 above, noting that the Chief Officer - Finance has confirmed that the Commissioning Intentions being implemented are consistent with the draft budget for 2022/23 and Medium Term Financial Strategy;

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- (q) approve the level of funding for the Aberdeen City Health & Social Care Partnership IJB 2022/23 to meet the conditions of the Scottish Government Financial Settlement, described in paragraphs 3.96 and 3.101 to 3.106, and to note that it will be for the IJB itself to determine how it will balance its budget;
- (r) approve the fees and charges for the Aberdeen City Health & Social Care Partnership IJB, as shown in Appendix 9;
- (s) approve the level of funding for the Council's other group entities and Arm's Length External Organisations (ALEOs), in 2022/23 with reference to paragraphs 3.91 to 3.114;
- (t) approve the continued delegation of authority to the Chief Officer - Finance to approve the allocation of Covid19 related funding retained as an earmarked General Fund reserve at 31 March 2022, and any further sums distributed to the Council, to meet need and demand or to cover for lost income where it arises during 2022/23, reporting the use of funds to the City Growth and Resources Committee in the quarterly financial performance reports;
- (u) note the Council's approach towards meeting the target of 1% of revenue funding being available for Participatory Budgeting, paragraph 3.83, and instruct the Chief Officer - Early Intervention and Community Empowerment to report to a future Council meeting on the impact of Participatory Budgeting in Aberdeen;
- (v) instruct the Chief Officer - Finance to give notice to the Board of Directors of NYOP Education (Aberdeen) Ltd to disburse £387,000 to Sport Aberdeen and £130,000 to VSA, being nominated charities of NYOP;
- (w) instruct the Chief Officer - Finance to recover the full costs associated with being the Administering Authority of the North East Scotland Pension Fund from the Pension Fund.

Taxation

- (x) approve a Band D equivalent Council Tax rate of £1,422.75 (3.3% increase), with effect from 1 April 2022;
- (y) impose and levy Council Tax assessments for the period 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023 on all chargeable dwellings in Aberdeen City to be paid by the persons liable therefor under the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended by the Local Government etc. (Scotland) Act 1994;
- (z) note the Scottish Government's announcement of £150 for households in Council Tax Bands A-D and those eligible for Council Tax Reduction, and that this will be applied as a credit to Council Tax accounts in 2022/23;
- (aa) note that the Council implements revisions to National Non-Domestic Rates as defined by the Scottish Government within the relevant legislation and Finance Circulars, with effect from 1 April 2022; and
- (bb) impose and levy Non-Domestic Rates assessments for the period 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023 on all occupiers in Aberdeen City to be paid by those liable.

(B) The Council had before it a report by the Chief Officer - Finance which provided details of the draft Common Good budget for 2022/23, to enable the Council to approve a final budget that would take effect on 1 April 2022.

The report recommended:-
that the Council -

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- (a) approve the Common Good budget for 2022/23 as detailed in Appendix 1; and
- (b) consider and decide on each of the new requests for funding detailed in Appendix 3 to the report, taking account of the affordable funding available for 2022/23.

Councillor Houghton moved, seconded by Councillor Laing:-
That the Council:

Balance Sheet

- I. note the projected balance sheet position including the reserves as at 31 March 2022, shown at Appendix 1 of the report;
- II. note the Council's Financial Resilience Framework measures, included at Appendix 2 of the report and instruct the Chief Officer - Finance to continue the development of the Framework, reporting progress in the refreshed Medium Term Financial Strategy;
- III. approve the General Fund Capital Programme as attached at Appendix 1 of the motion;
- IV. approve the Prudential Indicators as attached at Appendix 2 of the motion;
- V. approve the Revenue and Capital Reserves Policy for 2022/23 as detailed in Appendix 6 of the report;
- VI. instruct the Chief Officer - Operations and Protective Services to reprioritise schemes already committed and add the resurfacing of the Hazlehead car park beside the old bus terminus and the resurfacing of North Burn Avenue, Westholme Crescent North, Stronsay Avenue and Angusfield Avenue, all to be taken from the additional £10m investment in roads that was committed;
- VII. note that in December 2016 Council agreed a Memorandum of Understanding for Additional £254m Investment from the Scottish government. Note part of that investment was for £20 million in infrastructure funding to unlock housing sites that are of strategic importance to the local authorities. Note the development Land at Inchgarth Road, Cults, Aberdeen 181/224/PPP cannot be taken forward until such time as a link road is built. instruct the Chief Officer - Capital to work with the parties that have control over the land to unlock this strategically important site supported by the Access to the south study and agreed as part of the Strategic Infrastructure plan for Aberdeen City Council. Instruct the Chief Officer - Capital to investigate the options for entering into a legally binding contract with the parties that have control over the site to build the much-needed strategically important link road on the basis that the capital costs for the link road are repaid by the parties that have control over the land once it is developed. Agree to put £5m into the Capital plan for this purpose;
- VIII. note the signed agreement of the Aberdeen City Region Deal by the Council Leader, the UK government and the Scottish Government in 2015;
- IX. note the commitment given by both governments in relation to transport. Agree that as both governments agreed to work with the local authority to explore how the Strategic Investment will be prioritised instruct the Chief Executive to explore financial assistance from the Scottish Government to deliver the Wellington Road Multimodal Corridor and to report back on the outcome of the discussion in August 2022;
- X. note, that having given due regard to the revised Medium Term Financial Strategy and financial information in relation to 2021/22, as recommended in the report, agree the Capital Programme for the City Centre Masterplan (CCMP) no

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longer has funding support for the next phase of development at Mither Kirk (£358,000) and His Majesty's Theatre (HMT) (£225,000) restoring £583,000 to the programme;

- XI. instruct the Chief Executive to arrange for a soft opening of Union Terrace Gardens on 26th April 2022;

Medium-Term Financial Projections

- XII. note the forecast medium-term financial projection for the period ending 31 March 2027 as shown in paragraph 3.36 of the report;
- XIII. note that the Scottish Government has stated the intention to publish a Resource Spending Review in May 2022;
- XIV. agree the important context of climate change and in particular the Net Zero Aberdeen Routemap and associated place based strategies that are in line with the Net Zero Vision to achieve the goal of a Net Zero Aberdeen by 2045, as approved by Council on 28 February 2022 (COM/22/054);
- XV. agree that the National Care Service consultation that took place during 2021/22 has potential to significantly impact local services, Council duties, obligations and funding as per 3.86 of this report and should be resisted;
- XVI. instruct the Chief Officer - Finance to refresh the Medium Term Financial Strategy and report to Full Council by the end of August 2022;
- XVII. instruct the Chief Executive to report to Full Council, by the end of August 2022, on a refreshed Target Operating Model, to address the challenges of the next 5 years;

Revenue Budget Recommendations

- XVIII. note that the conditions outlined by the Scottish Government within the Local Government Finance Settlement for 2022/23 are met by the proposals set out in the report;
- XIX. having due regard to the contents of the report, background papers, and appendices and taken advice from the Chief Officer - Finance in relation to the use of non-recurring funding, specifically in respect of Fiscal Flexibilities and use of Reserves; and had due regard to protected characteristics and how the authority could reduce inequalities of outcome caused by socio-economic disadvantage in terms of the Equality Act 2010, approve the use of various savings options to set at least a balanced budget for financial year 2022/23 as detailed in Appendix 3 of the motion and the schedule of fees and charges in Appendix 5 of the motion;
- XX. approve the Commissioning Intentions and Service Standards as described in Appendices 11 and 12 of the report, respectively, subject to any amendments approved as per point XIX above, noting that the Chief Officer – Finance has confirmed that the Commissioning Intentions being implemented are consistent with the draft budget for 2022/23 and Medium Term Financial Strategy;
- XXI. approve the level of funding for the Aberdeen City Health & Social Care Partnership IJB 2022/23 to meet the conditions of the Scottish Government Financial Settlement, described in paragraphs 3.96 and 3.101 to 3.106 of the report, and as shown in Appendix 4 of the motion noting that it will be for the IJB itself to determine how it will balance its budget;

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- XXII. approve the fees and charges for the Aberdeen City Health & Social Care Partnership IJB, as shown in Appendix 5 of the motion;
- XXIII. approve the level of funding for the Council's other group entities and Arm's Length External Organisations (ALEOs), in 2022/23 as shown in Appendix 4 of the motion;
- XXIV. approve the continued delegation of authority to the Chief Officer - Finance to approve the allocation of Covid19 related funding retained as an earmarked General Fund reserve at 31 March 2022, and any further sums distributed to the Council, to meet need and demand or to cover for lost income where it arises during 2022/23, reporting the use of funds to the City Growth and Resources Committee in the quarterly financial performance reports;
- XXV. note the Council's approach towards meeting the target of 1% of revenue funding being available for Participatory Budgeting, paragraph 3.83 of the report, and instruct the Chief Officer - Early Intervention and Community Empowerment to report to a future meeting of the Operational Delivery Committee on the impact of Participatory Budgeting in Aberdeen;
- XXVI. instruct the Chief Officer - Finance to give notice to the Board of Directors of NYOP Education (Aberdeen) Ltd to disburse £387,000 to Sport Aberdeen and £130,000 to VSA, being nominated charities of NYOP;
- XXVII. instruct the Chief Officer - Finance to recover the full costs associated with being the Administering Authority of the North East Scotland Pension Fund from the Pension Fund;
- XXVIII. note that the income from Bus Lane Enforcements (BLE) is estimated to result in £700,000 of uncommitted funds at year end. Therefore instruct the Chief Officer - Strategic Place Planning to update the Bus Lane Enforcement (BLE) programme to commit £360,000 to support the revenue costs of the Low Emission Zone for 2022/23 and 2023/24;
- XXIX. agree to allocate £1,000,000 for an Aberdeen Fuel Poverty Fund to help the most vulnerable in our community with energy costs and instruct the Chief Officers - Early Intervention and Community Empowerment and Customer Experience to prepare the details of a scheme in a report for approval by Full Council at its meeting in June 2022;
- XXX. allocate funding of £250,000 to expand the successful Tillydrone 'Hit Squad' initiative, across the city to address Fly Tipping;
- XXXI. instruct the Chief Officer - Early Intervention and Community Empowerment to explore cost neutral options to supplement the enforcement of fly tipping, littering and dog fouling and implement a 12 month test of change and report back to Operational Delivery Committee with a full evaluation of the test of change;
- XXXII. note the success of the COP26 Senior Pupil Conference held within the Town House on 3rd March 2022. Recognise that the young people of Aberdeen are passionate about climate change and want to help drive the Net Zero Agenda, therefore agrees to allocate £150,000 to fund projects they prioritise as part of their action plan;
- XXXIII. note Council's support for both the Sustainable Food Places Partnership in Aberdeen City (SFPPA) and the Glasgow Declaration on Food and Climate Change and agree an allocation of £50,000, for the Chief Officer - Strategic Place Planning to ensure our commitment to the Glasgow Declaration on food and climate change is delivered in full;
- XXXIV. agree to continue our policy of no compulsory redundancies;

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- XXXV. note that there has been no monies provided to the Gomel Trust since 2018/19 and agree no funding be allocated for financial year 2022/23;
- XXXVI. agree that this budget contains the following recommendations:
- No increase to Garden waste charge
 - No increase to car parking permits
 - No reduction in hours of street lighting
 - Continued funding for the Care and Repair Service.
 - No increase in fees and charges for Aberdeen residents unless enforced by the Scottish Government.
 - No cut to Fairer Aberdeen Fund
 - No cut to community project funding
 - No cut to community centre development programme funding
 - No cut to grant provision to equalities organisations
 - No cut to revenue grant to SHMU
 - No closures of Libraries
 - No cut to SISTEMA funding
 - No increase to school meals charges
 - No cuts to our cultural programme
 - No reduction in subsidised bus services
 - No reduction in funding to maintenance of parks and gardens, and associated ancillary services
 - No closure of public toilets
 - Retain pets corner at Hazlehead Park
 - Maintaining free breakfasts, free fruit and milk in primary schools
 - Retaining all priority 1 school crossing patrol services
 - No increase in fees and charges through the Aberdeen City Health and Social Care IJB.

Taxation Recommendations

- XXXVII. approve a Band D equivalent Council Tax rate of £1,418.62 excluding Water charges (3.0% increase), with effect from 1 April 2022, noting that the impact of Scottish Government Council Tax reform which places additional burden on tax payers in valuation Bands E to H, amounting to £130.04 (Band E), £256.14 (Band F), £413.76 (Band G) and £638.38 (Band H) in 2022/23 as shown in Table 1. below;
- XXXVIII. impose and levy Council Tax assessments for the period 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023 on all chargeable dwellings in Aberdeen City to be paid by the persons liable therefor under the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended by the Local Government etc. (Scotland) Act 1994;
- XXXIX. agree to deduct the £150 for households in Council Tax Bands A-D and those eligible for Council Tax Reduction at source, and that this will be applied as a credit to Council Tax accounts in 2022/23;
- XL. note that the Council implements revisions to National Non-Domestic Rates as defined by the Scottish Government within the relevant legislation and Finance Circulars, with effect from 1 April 2022;
- XLI. impose and levy Non-Domestic Rates assessments for the period 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023 on all occupiers in Aberdeen City to be paid by those liable;

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Common Good

- XLII. approve the Common Good budget for 2022/23 as detailed in the Common Good budget report, modified as detailed in Appendix 6 of the motion;
- XLIII. note this includes approval of £25,000 for providing support to Ukrainian refugees when they reach Aberdeen, having had to flee from their country following the invasion of Ukraine by Russia, and instruct the Chief Officer - Early Intervention and Community Empowerment to put in place arrangements to support them in the city; and
- XLIV. note the Common Good cash balances have increased by £27,370,000 over the last 10 years of this Administration as shown in Table 2. Below.

Table 1.

Council Tax Charge - Impact of Council Tax Reform	Band A (subject to disabled relief)	Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D	Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H
2021/22 Original Council Tax proportions	£ 765.17	£ 918.20	£ 1,071.23	£ 1,224.27	£ 1,377.30	£ 1,683.37	£ 1,989.43	£ 2,295.50	£ 2,754.60
2021/22 Council Tax Reform changes	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ 126.25	£ 248.68	£ 401.71	£ 619.79
2021/22 Total	£ 765.17	£ 918.20	£ 1,071.23	£ 1,224.27	£ 1,377.30	£ 1,809.62	£ 2,238.11	£ 2,697.21	£ 3,374.39
Increase for year	3.0%								
2022/23 Original Council Tax proportions	£ 788.12	£ 945.75	£ 1,103.37	£ 1,261.00	£ 1,418.62	£ 1,733.87	£ 2,049.12	£ 2,364.37	£ 2,837.24
2022/23 Council Tax Reform changes	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ 130.04	£ 256.14	£ 413.76	£ 638.38
2022/23 Total	£ 788.12	£ 945.75	£ 1,103.37	£ 1,261.00	£ 1,418.62	£ 1,863.91	£ 2,305.26	£ 2,778.13	£ 3,475.62

Table 2.

Common Good	31-Mar 2012	31-Mar 2013	31-Mar 2014	31-Mar 2015	31-Mar 2016	31-Mar 2017	31-Mar 2018	31-Mar 2019	31-Mar 2020	31-Mar 2021	Increase since 2012
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Cash Balances	7,051	7,853	10,680	15,040	16,900	22,068	28,289	29,729	30,299	34,421	27,370
Property Investments	66,802	70,312	88,662	90,694	95,592	89,107	86,095	90,818	93,850	92,696	25,894
Common Good Net Worth	73,853	78,165	99,342	105,734	112,492	111,175	114,384	120,547	124,149	127,117	53,264

(Budgets associated with Councillor Houghton's motion are available [here](#))

Councillor Alex Nicoll moved as an amendment, seconded by Councillor Cameron:-
That the Council:

Balance Sheet

- I. note the projected balance sheet position including the reserves as at 31 March 2022, shown at Appendix 1 of the report;
- II. note the Council's Financial Resilience Framework measures, included at Appendix 2 of the report and instruct the Chief Officer - Finance to continue the development of the Framework, reporting progress in the refreshed Medium Term Financial Strategy;
- III. approve the General Fund Capital Programme as attached at Appendix 1 of the Amendment;
- IV. approve the Prudential Indicators as attached at Appendix 2 of the Amendment;
- V. approve the Revenue and Capital Reserves Policy for 2022/23 as detailed in Appendix 6 of the report;

Medium-Term Financial Projections

- VI. note the forecast medium-term financial projection for the period ending 31 March 2027 as shown in paragraph 3.36 of the report;
- VII. instruct the Chief Officer - Finance to refresh the Medium Term Financial Strategy and report to the Council by the end of August 2022;

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- VIII. instruct the Chief Executive to report to the Council, by the end of August 2022, on a refreshed Target Operating Model, to address the challenges of the next 5 years.

Revenue Budget Recommendations

- IX. note that the conditions outlined by the Scottish Government within the Local Government Finance Settlement for 2022/23 are met by the proposals set out in the report;
- X. having due regard to the contents of the report, background papers and appendices and taken advice from the Chief Officer - Finance in relation to the use of non-recurring funding, specifically in respect of Fiscal Flexibilities and use of Reserves; and had due regard to protected characteristics and how the authority could reduce inequalities of outcome caused by socio-economic disadvantage in terms of the Equality Act 2010, approve the use of various savings options to set at least a balanced budget for financial year 2022/23 as detailed in Appendix 3 of the amendment and the schedule of fees and charges in Appendix 5 of the amendment;
- XI. approve the Commissioning Intentions and Service Standards as described in Appendices 11 and 12 of the report, respectively, subject to any amendments approved as per point X above, noting that the Chief Officer - Finance has confirmed that the Commissioning Intentions being implemented are consistent with the draft budget for 2022/23 and Medium Term Financial Strategy;
- XII. approve the level of funding for the Aberdeen City Health & Social Care Partnership IJB 2022/23 to meet the conditions of the Scottish Government Financial Settlement, described in paragraphs 3.96 and 3.101 to 3.106 of the report, and as shown in Appendix 4 of the Amendment noting that it will be for the IJB itself to determine how it will balance its budget;
- XIII. approve the fees and charges for the Aberdeen City Health & Social Care Partnership IJB, as shown in Appendix 5 of the amendment;
- XIV. approve the level of funding for the Council's other group entities and Arm's Length External Organisations (ALEOs), in 2022/23 as shown in Appendix 4 of the amendment, including maintaining funding in 2022/23 at current levels for Aberdeen Sports Village and Aberdeen Performing Arts, and increasing funding for Sport Aberdeen by £275,000 for 2022/23 only;
- XV. approve the continued delegation of authority to the Chief Officer - Finance to approve the allocation of Covid19 related funding retained as an earmarked General Fund reserve at 31 March 2022, and any further sums distributed to the Council, to meet need and demand or to cover for lost income where it arises during 2022/23, reporting the use of funds to the City Growth and Resources Committee in the quarterly financial performance reports;
- XVI. note the Council's approach towards meeting the target of 1% of revenue funding being available for Participatory Budgeting, paragraph 3.83 of the report, and instruct the Chief Officer - Early Intervention and Community Empowerment to report to a future Council meeting on the impact of Participatory Budgeting in Aberdeen;
- XVII. instruct the Chief Officer - Finance to give notice to the Board of Directors of NYOP Education (Aberdeen) Ltd to disburse £387,000 to Sport Aberdeen and £130,000 to VSA, being nominated charities of NYOP;

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- XVIII. instruct the Chief Officer - Finance to recover the full costs associated with being the Administering Authority of the North East Scotland Pension Fund from the Pension Fund;
- XIX. instruct the Chief Officer - Operations and Protective Services to prepare for and consult on alternatives to the current parking zones, including three zones, and report back to the City Growth and Resources Committee by summer 2023;
- XX. note that the income from Bus Lane Enforcements (BLE) is estimated to result in £700,000 of uncommitted funds at year end. Therefore instruct the Chief Officer - Strategic Place Planning to update the BLE programme to commit £360,000 to support the revenue costs of the Low Emission Zone for 2022/23 and 2023/24;

Taxation Recommendations

- XXI. approve a Band D equivalent Council Tax rate of £1,407.60 excluding Water charges (2.2% increase), with effect from 1 April 2022;
- XXII. impose and levy Council Tax assessments for the period 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023 on all chargeable dwellings in Aberdeen City to be paid by the persons liable therefor under the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended by the Local Government etc. (Scotland) Act 1994;
- XXIII. note the Scottish Government's announcement of £150 for households in Council Tax Bands A-D and those eligible for Council Tax Reduction, and that this will be applied as a credit to Council Tax accounts in 2022/23;
- XXIV. note that the Council implements revisions to National Non-Domestic Rates as defined by the Scottish Government within the relevant legislation and Finance Circulars, with effect from 1 April 2022;
- XXV. impose and levy Non-Domestic Rates assessments for the period 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023 on all occupiers in Aberdeen City to be paid by those liable.

Common Good

- XXVI. approve the Common Good budget for 2022/23 as detailed in the Common Good budget report, modified as detailed in Appendix 6 of the amendment; and
- XXVII. instruct the Chief Officer - Finance to prepare a report to a future meeting of Full Council with options for improving the effective management, distribution and use of the Common Good resources for the benefit of everyone in the city. This should include application process, criteria for recurring funding and further guidance on eligibility, as well as a description of reporting responsibilities of those in receipt of funding.

(Budgets associated with Councillor Alex Nicoll's amendment are available [here](#))

Councillor Yuill moved as a further amendment, seconded by Councillor Delaney:-
That the Council:

Balance Sheet

- I. note the projected balance sheet position including the reserves as at 31 March 2022, shown at Appendix 1 of the report;
- II. note the Council's Financial Resilience Framework measures, included at Appendix 2 of the report and instruct the Chief Officer - Finance to continue the development of the Framework, reporting progress in the refreshed Medium Term Financial Strategy;

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- III. approve the General Fund Capital Programme as attached at Appendix 1 of the Amendment;
- IV. note that included in the revised General Fund Capital Programme is:
 - £24.4 million for Torry Primary School and Hub
 - £2 million for the Bucksburn Academy extension
 - £17 million for the St. Peter's Primary School relocation
 - £3 million for early learning and childcare at St. Joseph's School
 - £16 million for additional investment in electric vehicle charging infrastructure
 - £2 million to extend 20mph zones to all residential areas in Aberdeen
 - £1.9 million for the Inchgarth Community Centre extension
 - £14 million of additional investment in road and pavement resurfacing and repairs
 - The creation of a Road Safety Fund with an annual capital budget of £0.5 million
- V. approve the Prudential Indicators as attached at Appendix 2 of the amendment;
- VI. approve the Revenue and Capital Reserves Policy for 2022/23 as detailed in Appendix 6 of the report;
- VII. instruct the Chief Executive to arrange for a soft opening of Union Terrace Gardens on 26th April 2022;

Medium-Term Financial Projections

- VIII. note the forecast medium-term financial projection for the period ending 31 March 2027 as shown in paragraph 3.36 of the report;
- IX. instruct the Chief Officer - Finance to refresh the Medium Term Financial Strategy and report to the Council by the end of August 2022;
- X. instruct the Chief Executive to report to the Council, by the end of August 2022, on a refreshed Target Operating Model, to address the challenges of the next 5 years;
- XI. agree that the National Care Service consultation that took place during 2021/22 has potential to significantly impact local services, Council duties, obligations and funding as per 3.86 of this report and should be resisted;

Revenue Budget Recommendations

- XII. note that the conditions outlined by the Scottish Government within the Local Government Finance Settlement for 2022/23 are met by the proposals set out in the report;
- XIII. having due regard to the contents of the report, background papers and appendices and taken advice from the Chief Officer - Finance in relation to the use of non-recurring funding, specifically in respect of Fiscal Flexibilities and use of Reserves; and had due regard to protected characteristics and how the authority could reduce inequalities of outcome caused by socio-economic disadvantage in terms of the Equality Act 2010, approve the use of various savings options to set at least a balanced budget for financial year 2022/23 as detailed in Appendix 3 of the amendment and the schedule of fees and charges in Appendix 5 of the amendment;
- XIV. approve the Commissioning Intentions and Service Standards as described in Appendices 11 and 12 of the report, respectively, subject to any amendments approved as per point XII above, noting that the Chief Officer - Finance has confirmed that the Commissioning Intentions being implemented are consistent with the draft budget for 2022/23 and Medium Term Financial Strategy;

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- XV. approve the level of funding for the Aberdeen City Health & Social Care Partnership IJB 2022/23 to meet the conditions of the Scottish Government Financial Settlement, described in paragraphs 3.96 and 3.101 to 3.106 of the report, and as shown in Appendix 4 of the amendment noting that it will be for the IJB itself to determine how it will balance its budget;
- XVI. approve the fees and charges for the Aberdeen City Health & Social Care Partnership IJB, as shown in Appendix 5 of the amendment;
- XVII. approve the level of funding for the Council's other group entities and Arm's Length External Organisations (ALEOs), in 2022/23 as shown in Appendix 4 of the amendment;
- XVIII. approve the continued delegation of authority to the Chief Officer - Finance to approve the allocation of Covid19 related funding retained as an earmarked General Fund reserve at 31 March 2022, and any further sums distributed to the Council, to meet need and demand or to cover for lost income where it arises during 2022/23, reporting the use of funds to the City Growth and Resources Committee in the quarterly financial performance reports;
- XIX. note the Council's approach towards meeting the target of 1% of revenue funding being available for Participatory Budgeting, paragraph 3.83 of the report, and instruct the Chief Officer - Early Intervention and Community Empowerment to report to a future Council meeting on the impact of Participatory Budgeting in Aberdeen;
- XX. instruct the Chief Officer - Finance to give notice to the Board of Directors of NYOP Education (Aberdeen) Ltd to disburse £387,000 to Sport Aberdeen and £130,000 to VSA, being nominated charities of NYOP;
- XXI. instruct the Chief Officer - Finance to recover the full costs associated with being the Administering Authority of the North East Scotland Pension Fund from the Pension Fund;
- XXII. note that the Lang Stracht already forms part of the A944 corridor study options appraisal as part of the Bus Partnership Fund and Instruct the Chief Officer - Strategic Place Planning to report to the next meeting of the Operational Delivery Committee with shorter term interim options available to improve traffic flow along the length of the Lang Stracht (A944 West of North Anderson Drive);
- XXIII. to note that the income from Bus Lane Enforcements (BLE) is estimated to result in £700,000 of uncommitted funds at year end. Therefore instruct the Chief Officer - Strategic Place Planning to update the Bus Lane Enforcement (BLE) programme to commit a further £100,000 to enhance supported bus services, £400,000 to increase investment in Cycling, Walking and Safer Routes and £200,000 to support core paths, with a programme of works being developed for these in line with the agreed governance arrangements and application process;
- XXIV. instruct the Chief Officer - Corporate Landlord to report to a future meeting of the City Growth and Resources Committee on the feasibility and costs of installing ground source heat pumps into areas of open ground owned by the Council (such as playing fields and parks), selling the energy generated and so creating both an environmental benefit and a financial return for the Council;
- XXV. instruct the Chief Officer - Operations and Protective Services to report to a future meeting of the City Growth and Resources Committee on how the soft landscaping along the routes of the former trunk roads in Aberdeen could be enhanced to create feature areas, with particular emphasis on rose planting, to

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provide a sustainable improvement to the visual amenity of those routes and what the capital and revenue implications of this would be;

- XXVI. instruct the Chief Officer - Operations and Protective Services to report to the City Growth and Resources Committee on how open areas, formerly maintained as close mown grass, could be best be managed to sustainably enhance biodiversity and what impact that would have on the revenue budget in future years
- XXVII. instruct the Chief Officer - Corporate Landlord to report to a future meeting of the City Growth and Resources Committee on the feasibility and costs of reopening Hazlehead Swimming Pool, noting that a budget of £10,000 has been included in the budget for survey works;
- XXVIII. instruct the Chief Officer - Strategic Place Planning to report to the City Growth and Resources Committee on the cost of improving core path 64;
- XXIX. agree to continue our policy of no compulsory redundancies;
- XXX. note that there has been no monies provided to the Gomel Trust since 2018/19 and agree no funding be allocated for financial year 2022/23;

Taxation Recommendations

- XXXI. approve a Band D equivalent Council Tax rate of £1,422.75 excluding Water charges (3.3% increase), with effect from 1 April 2022;
- XXXII. impose and levy Council Tax assessments for the period 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023 on all chargeable dwellings in Aberdeen City to be paid by the persons liable therefor under the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended by the Local Government etc. (Scotland) Act 1994;
- XXXIII. note the Scottish Government's announcement of £150 for households in Council Tax Bands A-D and those eligible for Council Tax Reduction, and that this will be applied as a credit to Council Tax accounts in 2022/23;
- XXXIV. note that the Council implements revisions to National Non-Domestic Rates as defined by the Scottish Government within the relevant legislation and Finance Circulars, with effect from 1 April 2022;
- XXXV. impose and levy Non-Domestic Rates assessments for the period 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023 on all occupiers in Aberdeen City to be paid by those liable;

Common Good

- XXXVI. approve the Common Good budget for 2022/23 as detailed in the Common Good budget report, modified as detailed in Appendix 6 of the amendment;
- XXXVII. note that to be added is approval of £25,000 for providing support to Ukrainian refugees when they reach Aberdeen, having had to flee from their country following the invasion of Ukraine by Russia (to be funded by reducing the Common Good Fund cash balances from £515,000 to £490,000) and instruct the Chief Officer - Early Intervention and Community Empowerment to put in place arrangements to support them in the city; and
- XXXVIII. instruct the Chief Officer - City Growth to report to the City Growth and Resources Committee on options for the use of the £150,000 allocated for Christmas and festive activities, to include a city centre Christmas market for local makers, crafters and producers and community based Christmas and festive events.

(Budgets associated with Councillor Yuill's amendment are available [here](#))

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The Lord Provost advised that budget proposals which had been put forward by Councillor Boulton had been withdrawn.

During the course of their summing up, Councillors Yuill, Alex Nicoll and Laing reiterated their thanks to the officers who had assisted them with their budgets, and paid tribute to the elected members who were not seeking re-election and wished them well in their future endeavours.

There being a motion and two amendments, the Council first divided between the amendment by Councillor Alex Nicoll and the amendment by Councillor Yuill.

On a division, there voted:-

For the amendment by Councillor Alex Nicoll (19) - Councillors Al-Samarai, Allard, Alphonse, Cameron, Cooke, Copland, Cormie, Jackie Dunbar MSP, Henrickson, Hutchison, MacGregor, McLellan, McRae, Mennie, Alex Nicoll, Audrey Nicoll MSP, Noble, Radley and Townson.

For the amendment by Councillor Yuill (3) - Councillors Delaney, Greig and Yuill.

Declined to vote (23) - Lord Provost; Depute Provost; and Councillors Allan, Bell, Boulton, Cross, Donnelly, Lesley Dunbar, Duncan, Graham, Grant, Houghton, Imrie, John, Laing, Lumsden MSP, Macdonald, MacKenzie, Malik, Mason, Reynolds, Sellar and Wheeler.

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

On a division, there voted:-

For the motion (22) - Lord Provost; Depute Provost; and Councillors Allan, Bell, Cross, Donnelly, Lesley Dunbar, Duncan, Graham, Grant, Houghton, Imrie, John, Laing, Lumsden MSP, Macdonald, MacKenzie, Malik, Mason, Reynolds, Sellar and Wheeler.

For the amendment by Councillor Alex Nicoll (19) - Councillors Al-Samarai, Allard, Alphonse, Cameron, Cooke, Copland, Cormie, Jackie Dunbar MSP, Henrickson, Hutchison, MacGregor, McLellan, McRae, Mennie, Alex Nicoll, Audrey Nicoll MSP, Noble, Radley and Townson.

Declined to vote (4) - Councillors Boulton, Delaney, Greig and Yuill.

The Council resolved:-
to adopt the motion.

HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT 2022/23 - RES/22/060

3. The Council had before it a report by the Chief Officer - Finance which provided information to enable the Council to approve a revenue and capital budget for 2022/23,

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including setting of rents and other charges on the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) for the financial year.

The report recommended:-

that the Committee -

- (a) approve the budget as attached in Appendix 1 (pages 2 to 3) of the report;
- (b) note the Council decision on 10 March 2021 to maintain in 2022/23 the weekly unrebated rents for municipal houses at the level set in 2020/21;
- (c) approve the level of revenue contribution to the Housing Capital budget for 2022/23 as well as note the provisional contribution for the subsequent four financial years as detailed in Appendix 1, pages 9 to 11;
- (d) agree to maintain the working balances at 10% to meet future contingencies;
- (e) note the Council decision on 10 March 2021 to maintain in 2022/23 the level of miscellaneous rents and service charges, including Heat with Rent at the levels set in 2020/21;
- (f) approve, based on a rent freeze, the Base Capital Programme for the financial year 2022/23 Appendix 1 (pages 9 to 11);
- (g) note the indicative level of the Base Capital Programme for the financial years 2023/24 to 2026/27 Appendix 1 (pages 9 to 11);
- (h) delegate authority to the Chief Officer - Capital, following consultation with the Head of Commercial and Procurement, to procure the necessary professional services and construction works referred to in Appendix 1 entitled 'New Housing Capital Programme Budget' without the need for further approval from any other committee of the Council subject to due diligence, consistency with the financial model and affordability; and
- (i) note that the delivery and programme management of the new build project was being delivered with the use of frameworks for professional services contracts which included programme and project management, technical support and quality assurance, all of which was being delivered with the normal fee scales for Housing Projects. These services would continue across the programme as new projects were identified.

The Council resolved:-

- (i) to approve the budget as attached in Appendix 1 (pages 2 to 3) of the report;
- (ii) to note the Council decision on 10 March 2021 to maintain in 2022/23 the weekly unrebated rents for municipal houses at the level set in 2020/21;
- (iii) to approve the level of revenue contribution to the Housing Capital budget for 2022/23 as well as note the provisional contribution for the subsequent four financial years as detailed in Appendix 1, pages 9 to 11, of the report;
- (iv) to agree to maintain the working balances at 10% to meet future contingencies;
- (v) to note the Council decision on 10 March 2021 to maintain in 2022/23 the level of miscellaneous rents and service charges, including Heat with Rent at the levels set in 2020/21;
- (vi) to approve, based on a rent freeze, the Base Capital Programme for the financial year 2022/23, Appendix 1 of the report (pages 9 to 11);
- (vii) to note the indicative level of the Base Capital Programme for the financial years 2023/24 to 2026/27, Appendix 1 of the report (pages 9 to 11);
- (viii) to delegate authority to the Chief Officer - Capital, following consultation with the Head of Commercial and Procurement, to procure the necessary professional services and construction works referred to in Appendix 1 entitled 'New Housing

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- Capital Programme Budget' without the need for further approval from any other committee of the Council subject to due diligence, consistency with the financial model and affordability;
- (ix) to note that the delivery and programme management of the new build project was being delivered with the use of frameworks for professional services contracts which included programme and project management, technical support and quality assurance, all of which was being delivered with the normal fee scales for Housing Projects. These services would continue across the programme as new projects were identified;
- (x) to instruct the Chief Officer - Corporate Landlord, following consultation with the Chief Officer - Capital, to continue to progress the delivery of the developer led Grandhome housing project and enter into a conditional Developer Agreement subject to meeting due diligence criteria, in particular in terms of technical, legal and financial requirements;
- (xi) to agree that the Administration, between 2017-2022, has completed or has currently under construction over 2,000 Council homes as detailed below -
 179 homes at Smithfield and Manor Walk
 190 homes purchased through the buy-back scheme
 283 homes at Wellheads, Dyce
 369 homes at Summerhill
 92 homes at Auchmill Road
 536 homes at Bridge of Don
 212 homes at Kincorth
 99 homes at Craighill
 70 homes in Tillydrone
 35 homes in Kaimhill -
 Total 2,605 as noted in Appendix 1;
- (xii) to agree that the Administration has delivered 1,548 affordable homes between 2017-2022 as noted in the table below:-

Year	External (includes RSL's)
2021/22	349
2020/21	315
2019/20	289
2018/19	259
2017/18	336
Total	1,548

- ; and
- (xiii) to agree that a total of 3,613 homes for social rent have been delivered or are under construction by the Administration between 2017-2022, a record number for Aberdeen.

VALEDICTORIES

4. The Lord Provost noted that this was the last Council meeting of the current Council term and paid tribute to Colin Taylor, Lord Dean of Guild, as this was his last Council meeting in his tenure as Lord Dean. The Lord Provost highlighted that the Lord

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Dean was an absolute stalwart to the city, and he had been a magnificent support to him during his term as Lord Provost.

The Lord Dean thanked the Lord Provost for his tribute and appreciated the opportunity to say a few words. He thanked Angela Scott, Jonathan Belford and Fraser Bell in particular, along with the Lord Provost, former Lord Provost George Adam and various members of staff, past and present, in the Council's civic team. The Lord Dean added that he had received support from so many people and had made many friendships which he hoped would continue once he demitted office in 8 weeks' time. He highlighted various achievements during his term of office and wished members well for the future.

Councillors Boulton, Houghton, Laing, Alex Nicoll and Yuill each paid their own tributes to the Lord Dean and thanked him for his excellent service.

At this juncture, Councillor Laing noted that she was stepping down at the next election after 15 years as a Councillor and 8 years as Council Leader, and thanked members for the various comments during the meeting. Councillor Laing underlined that it had been the most rewarding experience of her life and she was very thankful for the opportunity that she had been given. She thanked Angela Scott, the current Council Directors and Jonathan Belford and Fraser Bell in particular but paid tribute to Council officers from across the organisation for their efforts.

Councillor Laing summarised various highs and lows during her time as Council Leader and noted the various political opponents she had faced, as well as the political partners she had worked with. She paid tribute to Councillor Lumsden MSP who she had worked alongside as Co-Leader for four years and thanked him for his support and friendship. She also thanked Councillors Cormie and Mason as her fellow ward members as they had worked very well together in the ward; and Councillors Allan, Lesley Dunbar and Duncan within her own group who were not seeking re-election and thanked them for their service.

Councillor Laing concluded that she would miss the people and the comradeship and working with young people in particular, which had been one of the most rewarding experiences of the role. She underlined that she was proud of the Administration's record this past 10 years and wished all members well for the future.

The Lord Provost thanked all members for their support; however he had no intention of giving up. He stated that he had enjoyed every second of being Lord Provost and remembered who had elected him and put him in office, and there were too many people to thank, however he was very grateful to them all. The Lord Provost wished all members seeking re-election good luck and thanked those members who were stepping down for their service. He underlined that the democratic process was hugely appreciated, particularly at this difficult time in Europe, and reiterated his thanks to officers for their role in that, as well as across the organisation.

- BARNEY CROCKETT, Lord Provost.