

**DECISION SHEET**

**COUNCIL BUDGET - WEDNESDAY, 6 MARCH 2024**

	<b>Item Title</b>	<b>Council Decision</b>	<b>Services Required to take action</b>	<b>Officer to Action</b>
1.1	<b><u>Notification of urgent business</u></b>	No urgent business		
2.1	<b><u>Determination of exempt business</u></b>	No exempt business		
3.1	<b><u>Declarations of interest and transparency statements</u></b>	None at that point on the agenda		
4.1	<b><u>Deputations</u></b>	<b><u>The Council resolved:-</u></b> to not suspend Standing Orders to hear the deputation.		
5.1	<b><u>Council Delivery Plan 2024/25 - COM/24/060</u></b>	<b><u>The Council resolved:-</u></b> (i) to note the content of the Council Delivery Plan 2024/25; (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; and (iii) to instruct all Chief Officers to report performance improvement priorities for 2024/25 and progress towards improvement through arrangements	Data Insights	Martin Murchie



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		<p>(v) to acknowledge its continued support for the Fairer Aberdeen Fund by providing it with £1.54million to distribute to third sector organisations and projects, which provides vital support to communities to tackle poverty and inequality in priority areas, with outcomes aligned to the Local Outcome Improvement Plan and Locality Plans;</p> <p>(vi) to acknowledge the freeze to school meals provided for 2024/25;  <b>A City of Opportunity</b></p> <p>(vii) to note that the innovative family support model in children’s social care is playing a key part in tackling health inequalities, improving the physical and mental wellbeing of young people;</p> <p>(viii) to welcome the expansion of learning opportunities for young people through joint working with universities, further education partners and the private sector so that schools offer a greater diversity learning opportunities;</p> <p>(ix) to welcome the continuation of Easter, Summer and Autumn in the City as effective learning experiences that offer a wide range of activities for young people;</p> <p>(x) to acknowledge Aberdeen City Council provides 1,140 hours for all 3 and 4 year olds, and eligible 2 year olds, funded by the Scottish Government;</p>		

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		<p>(xi) to acknowledge the Council's continued commitment to equal access to music tuition across the city, promoting talent in music;</p> <p>(xii) to welcome the School Estate Plan, based on need and condition, and in particular welcome the commitment to build a new Hazlehead Academy, the building of a new school building for Riverbank Primary, the commitment to create a refurbished and expanded home for St Peter's Primary and the long overdue investment in Victorian school buildings;</p> <p><b>A Vibrant City</b></p> <p>(xiii) to instruct the Director of City Regeneration and Environment to proceed with an Outline Business Case for an urban park at Queen Street, with active travel routes linking to the proposed wider city centre cycle network, at the earliest opportunity and report subsequent decisions and progress through the Finance and Resources Committee;</p> <p>(xiv) to instruct the Director of City Regeneration and Environment to proceed with a Full Business Case to refurbish the Castlegate, with active travel routes linking the proposed wider city centre cycle network, at the earliest opportunity noting the funds allocated as per the Non Housing Capital Programme, and report subsequent decisions and progress</p>	<p>City Regeneration and Environment</p> <p>Governance</p> <p>City Regeneration and Environment</p> <p>Governance</p>	<p>Gale Beattie</p> <p>Mark Masson (business planner)</p> <p>Gale Beattie</p> <p>Mark Masson (business planner)</p>

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		<p>through the Finance and Resources Committee;</p> <p>(xv) to instruct the Director of City Regeneration and Environment to end the funding for the City Centre Manager on 31 March 2024, and to create a City Centre Manager post within the Council, and recruit to the post as soon as possible;</p> <p>(xvi) to instruct the Director of City Regeneration and Environment to implement £1 off-street parking fees after 5pm, and to run this for six months before reporting the impact on the city centre to the Net Zero, Environment and Transport Committee;</p> <p>(xvii) to recognise the importance of the arts and therefore agree to provide Aberdeen Performing Arts (APA) with their £710,000 core grant as outlined, and a further £175,000 to support festivals such as Granite Noir, as per Appendix 4 circulated separately;</p> <p>(xviii) to agree to continue to support SPECTRA - Scotland's Festival of Light - noting that Aberdeen City Council had been awarded £275,000 from the Shared Prosperity Fund to support the delivery of SPECTRA;</p> <p>(xix) to agree the allocation of £50,000 from the Common Good to support the delivery of phase 2 of the Denis Law Legacy trail, as per Appendix 6 circulated separately;</p>	<p>City Regeneration and Environment</p> <p>City Regeneration and Environment</p> <p>Governance</p>	<p>Gale Beattie</p> <p>Gale Beattie</p> <p>Steph Dunsmuir (business planner)</p>



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		<p>to improve air quality in the city centre suitable for any surplus income generated from the implementation of the Low Emission Zone;  <b>Greener Transport, Safer Streets, Real Choices</b></p> <p>(xxiv) to agree that the Kingswells supported bus service be funded from the Bus Lane Enforcement (BLE) fund for 2024/25 and in future years;</p> <p>(xxv) to instruct the Director of Corporate Services, with regard to the B999 Shielhill Road Junction improvements, to ensure necessary legal matters are concluded as soon as possible, and instruct the Director of City Regeneration and Environment to bring forward the delivery of the project where possible;</p> <p>(xxvi) to reaffirm its commitment to expanding 20mph speed limits in residential communities and other areas where there is community support, noting the funding provided within the General Fund Capital Programme;</p> <p>(xxvii) to welcome the investment of an additional £3million in 2024/25 in resurfacing, repairing and improving the standards of Aberdeen's roads and pavements as part of the multi-year programme;</p> <p>(xxviii) to note the current road restrictions at Greyhope Road and instruct the Chief Officer - Operations to carry out</p>	<p>Corporate Services</p> <p>City Regeneration and Environment</p> <p>Operations</p>	<p>Andy MacDonald</p> <p>Gale Beattie</p> <p>Mark Reilly</p>

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		<p>mitigation works to ensure continued access to the Torry Battery area, and to fund these works from the Planned Renewal &amp; Replacement of Roads Infrastructure budget within the General Fund Capital Programme;  <b>An Active City</b></p> <p>(xxix) to agree an increase to Sport Aberdeen's funding for 2024/25, to incorporate the operating costs of Bucksburn Swimming Pool, ensuring citizens would continue to engage in activities which promote health and wellbeing as per Appendix 4 circulated separately;  <b>A Prosperous City</b></p> <p>(xxx) to instruct the Director of City Regeneration and Environment to ensure there are Planning, Building Standards and Conservation Officers with specific responsibility for the city centre to support the reuse of shops and upper floors of Union Street;</p> <p>(xxxi) to note the General Fund Capital Programme included £150,000 in capital grants to Aberdeen City Heritage Trust to support a 3-year programme of projects targeted at the west end of Union Street, enabled by a capital investment of £450,000 which would complement the work ongoing through the Historic Places Programme on the east end of Union Street;  <b>Empowering Aberdeen's</b></p>	<p>City Regeneration and Environment</p>	<p>Gale Beattie</p>



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		<p><b>Communities</b>            (xxxii) to instruct the Director of Families and Communities to increase the funding to the Leased Community Centres by £70,000 for 2024/25, which represented an overall increase of 62.5% since 2022/23 as part of the commitment to double funding to ensure they continue to deliver the important services and activities they provide;</p> <p><b>A Transparent, Accessible and Accountable City</b>            (xxxiii) to instruct the Chief Executive to bring forward proposed changes to the budget protocol confirming the consultation requirements for savings options which may breach Scottish Government grant conditions, breach legislation or guidance within the budget protocol with a lessons learned report submitted to the April meeting of Council;</p> <p>(xxxiv) to instruct the Chief Executive to continue to engage third sector, ALEOs, public sector partners, Aberdeen Youth Movement, school students and Higher and Further Education students, as part of the budget consultation moving forward;</p> <p><b>Balance Sheet Recommendations</b>            (xxxv) having given due regard to the Financial Resilience Framework, the Prudential Indicators and Risk Appetite Statement, to approve the</p>	<p>Families and Communities</p> <p>Chief Executive Governance</p> <p>Chief Executive</p>	<p>Eleanor Sheppard</p> <p>Angela Scott</p> <p>Martyn Orchard (business planner)</p> <p>Angela Scott</p>

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		<p>General Fund Capital Programme as at Appendix 1 circulated separately;</p> <p>(xxxvi) to approve the Prudential Indicators as at Appendix 2 circulated separately;</p> <p>(xxxvii) to approve the Revenue and Capital Reserves Statement for 2024/25 as detailed in Appendix 6 of the report;</p> <p>(xxxviii) to approve the use of the Service Concessions Reserve to the value of £30million for the Capital Programme in 2023/24;</p> <p>(xxxix) to approve the use of the remaining Service Concession Reserve to support the commitment to no compulsory redundancies, as a funding source for continued use of the voluntary severance/early retirement scheme (VSER);</p> <p>(xl) to approve an annual cap on capital funding costs of 12% of General Fund Net Expenditure;</p> <p>(xli) to instruct the Chief Officer - Finance to build a long-term outlook model for the Council and submit it, alongside the Medium Term Financial Strategy, to the Council by the end of September 2024;</p> <p><b>Medium-Term Financial Projections</b></p> <p>(xlii) to instruct the Chief Officer - Finance to refresh the Medium Term Financial Strategy and report to the Council by the end of September 2024 in line with the requirements of the Budget</p>	<p>Finance</p> <p>Governance</p> <p>Finance</p> <p>Governance</p>	<p>Jonathan Belford</p> <p>Martyn Orchard (business planner)</p> <p>Jonathan Belford</p> <p>Martyn Orchard (business planner)</p>

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		<p>Protocol;  <b>Risks</b></p> <p>(xliii) to instruct the Chief Officer - Finance to monitor budget planning assumptions on pay award, supply chain risk and cost of borrowing and to advise the Finance and Resources Committee of any in year changes required via Financial Performance Quarter 1 report;</p> <p>(xliv) to instruct the Chief Officer - Capital, in consultation with the Chief Officer - Corporate Landlord and Chief Officer - Finance, to keep the Capital Programme under review from a value for money perspective;</p> <p><b>Revenue Budget</b></p> <p><b>Recommendations</b></p> <p>(xlv) having due regard to the contents of the report and appendices and taken advice from the Chief Officer - Finance in relation to the use of non-recurring funding, specifically in respect of the 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, to approve the use of various savings options to set at least a balanced budget for financial year 2024/25 as detailed in Appendices 3, 5 and 7 circulated separately;</p> <p>(xlvi) to approve the Commissioning</p>	<p>Finance</p> <p>Capital</p>	<p>Jonathan Belford</p> <p>John Wilson</p>

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		<p>Intentions and Service Standards as described in Appendix 11 of the report, subject to any amendments approved and included in (xlv) above, noting that the Chief Officer - Finance had confirmed, as far as possible, that the Commissioning Intentions and Service Standards being implemented were consistent with the draft budget 2024/25;</p> <p>(xlvii) to approve the level of funding for the Aberdeen City Health &amp; Social Care Partnership IJB 2024/25 to meet the conditions of the Scottish Government Financial Settlement, described in paragraph 6.10 of the report, and as shown in Appendix 4 circulated separately, noting that it would be for the IJB itself to determine how it would balance its budget;</p> <p>(xlviii) to approve the fees and charges for the Aberdeen City Health &amp; Social Care Partnership IJB, as shown in Appendix 5 circulated separately;</p> <p>(xlix) to approve the level of funding for the Council's other group entities and Arm's Length External Organisations (ALEOs) in 2024/25 as shown in Appendix 4 circulated separately;</p> <p>(l) to instruct the Chief Officer - Finance to give notice to the Board of Directors of NYOP Education (Aberdeen) Ltd to disburse £1,203,052 to Sport Aberdeen, being the nominated charity of NYOP;</p>	Finance	Jonathan Belford



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		<p>Finance Act 1992, as amended by the Local Government etc. (Scotland) Act 1994;</p> <p>(lvi) to approve the Empty Property Relief Scheme for Aberdeen City with effect from 1 April 2024, as set out in Appendix 3 circulated separately;</p> <p>(lvii) to impose and levy Non-Domestic Rates assessments for the period 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025 on all occupiers in Aberdeen City to be paid by those liable;</p> <p><b>Integrated Impact Assessments</b></p> <p>(lviii) to consider and note the Integrated Impact Assessments as per Appendix 7 circulated separately, prepared in support of the decisions taken by the Council in approving the General Fund and Common Good budgets for 2024/25;</p> <p><b>Further resolutions</b></p> <p>(lix) to instruct the Chief Executive to continue to seek external funding for the delivery of long-term objectives for the Council's infrastructure/capital plans, including but not limited to the City Centre and Beach Masterplans, the school estate, active travel network(s) and Net Zero;</p> <p>(lx) to acknowledge that a number of staff now work flexibly and from home, and fewer desks are occupied in the Council operational estate. Therefore to instruct the Chief Officer - Corporate Landlord to carry out a</p>	<p>Chief Executive</p> <p>Corporate Landlord</p>	<p>Angela Scott</p> <p>Stephen Booth</p>

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		<p>review of all Aberdeen City Council assets, including but not limited to Marischal College and the Town House, with a view to rationalising space used by the Council and maximising alternative uses for the space identified income generating opportunities;</p> <p>(lxi) to instruct officers to engage with all Governments, relevant regulatory and professional bodies, working groups with regard to RAAC;</p> <p><b>Common Good</b></p> <p>(lxii) to approve the Common Good budget for 2024/25 as detailed in the Common Good budget report, modified as detailed in Appendix 6 circulated separately;</p> <p>(lxiii) to instruct the Chief Officer - Finance to carry out a review of the Common Good budget, and the grant application criteria, and report to the Finance and Resources Committee by September 2024;</p> <p>(lxiv) to note that in making grant funding available to external organisations, all payments of such funding were subject to the Chief Officer - Finance being satisfied that any necessary planning or other consents had been obtained and that such grant awards were managed in accordance with the Following the Public Pound guidance;</p> <p><b>Carbon Budget</b></p> <p>(lxv) to agree to set the Council's target of</p>	<p>Finance</p> <p>Governance</p>	<p>Jonathan Belford</p> <p>Mark Masson (business planner)</p>

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		<p>maximum carbon emissions for 2024/25 at 24,113 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO2e);</p> <p>(Ixvi) to instruct the Chief Officer - Strategic Place Planning, following consultation with the Chief Officer Data Insights, to establish a Council Carbon Data Forum, to review and mature the Council's approach to carbon data; and</p> <p>(Ixvii) to instruct the Chief Officer - Strategic Place Planning, following consultation with the Chief Officer - Capital, to develop methodologies for estimating and assessing carbon impacts; and to report on the processes in the annual Climate Change Report to the Net Zero, Environment and Transport Committee.</p>	<p>Strategic Place Planning</p> <p>Strategic Place Planning</p> <p>Governance</p>	<p>David Dunne/ Alison Leslie</p> <p>David Dunne</p> <p>Steph Dunsmuir (business planner)</p>
6.1	<b><u>Exempt/confidential business</u></b>	No exempt/confidential business		

If you require any further information about this decision sheet, please contact Martyn Orchard, tel 01224 067598 or [morchard@aberdeencity.gov.uk](mailto:morchard@aberdeencity.gov.uk)