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To: All Members of the Council

Town House,
ABERDEEN, 13 December 2023

COUNCIL - ADJOURNED MEETING

The Members of the **COUNCIL** are requested to meet in Council Chamber - Town House on **THURSDAY, 14 DECEMBER 2023 at 10.30am.**

JENNI LAWSON
INTERIM CHIEF OFFICER - GOVERNANCE
(LEGAL)

BUSINESS

GENERAL BUSINESS

- 9.1 Libraries and Bucksburn Swimming Pool Consultation Results - CUS/23/386
(Pages 3 - 258)
- 9.2 Budget Protocol: Phase 2 Consultation and Budget Update - RES/23/388 (Pages 259 - 314)
- 9.3 Housing Revenue Account Budget 2024/25 - RES/23/385 (Pages 315 - 348)
- 9.4 Aberdeen Planning Guidance - Energy Transition Zone Draft Masterplan Consultation Responses - COM/23/382 (Pages 349 - 628)
- 9.6 Council Annual Effectiveness Report and Committee Annual Effectiveness Reports - COM/23/380 (Pages 629 - 780)

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ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Council
DATE	13 December 2023
EXEMPT	No
CONFIDENTIAL	No
REPORT TITLE	Libraries and Bucksburn Swimming Pool Consultation results
REPORT NUMBER	CUS/23/386
DIRECTOR	Andy MacDonald
CHIEF OFFICERS	Jacqui McKenzie / Stephen Booth
REPORT AUTHORS	Margaret Stewart, Service Manager, Libraries and Community Learning; Alastair Reid, Team Manager, Asset Management ; and Alan Thomson, Interim Legal Services Manager.
TERMS OF REFERENCE	2

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report is to provide elected members with the outcome of consultations and engagement on six libraries; Cornhill, Cults, Ferryhill, Kaimhill, Northfield and Woodside, and Bucksburn Swimming Pool and enable members to give due regard to the needs of the Public Sector Equality Duty and consider any potential impacts identified on those with protected characteristics prior to considering the recommendations.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That Council: -

- 2.1 Thank the communities, campaign groups and individuals for their welcome participation and input to the online consultations and focus group sessions.
- 2.2 Give due regard to the needs of the Public Sector Equality Duty and consider any potential impacts on those with protected characteristics along with any mitigations to address any impact identified in the updated Integrated Impact Assessments (IIAs).
- 2.3 Agree that feedback, ideas and suggestions from the library consultations are used to inform the Future Library Service Report
- 2.4 Consider the overall findings of the report and agree one of the following options:

- Option 1 – Reaffirm the original budget decision to close the 6 libraries
 - Option 2 – Overturn the original budget decision to close the 6 libraries and to recommission all 6 and to instruct the Chief Officer – Early Intervention and Community Empowerment to commence planning for the recommissioning of facilities, referring ongoing funding implications to the 2024/25 budget
- 2.5 Consider the overall findings of the report and agree one of the following options in regard to the Reduction in Sport Aberdeen Funding Option:
- Option 1 – Reaffirm the original budget decision regarding the reduction of funding
 - Option 2 – Request Sport Aberdeen to recommission Bucksburn Pool and instruct the Chief Officer – Corporate Landlord, following consultation with the Chief Officer – Finance, to work with Sport Aberdeen to investigate how the possible recommissioning of the Pool could be funded, referring any ongoing funding implications to the 2024/25 budget

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 On 1st March 2023, during consideration of the budget options, the Council made decisions to close six libraries, Cornhill, Cults, Ferryhill, Kaimhill, Northfield and Woodside. The Council also decided to reduce funding to Sport Aberdeen, which led to them determining to close facilities, including Bucksburn Swimming Pool.
- 3.2 As part of that budget process, a range of budget saving options were presented to assist with the statutory duty of setting a balanced budget. The process adopted during 2023 followed the same processes that have been in place for several years, which included the production of a Budget Pack detailing the options, further information and Integrated Impact Assessments (IIAs) where required.
- 3.3 The IIAs which supported the 2023/24 budget setting process adopted the same format and process that has been in place for several years, but they could have held more information and narrative. There had been many verbal conversations during the budget setting process, and it would have been beneficial for any such additional information to have been documented in the IIAs in order for the members to be able to give due regard to the equality implications of the budget options.
- 3.4 Having recognised opportunities for improvement, work has been undertaken, including additional training for officers with a focus on producing quality and informative IIAs. It has also been recognised that whilst engagement and consultation is not a legal requirement, evidence should be gathered and documented in an IIA which may include the results of bespoke consultations. The Budget Protocol agreed at Council on 14th June 2023 includes

consultations and will strengthen our commitment to further engagement regarding impacts of potential budget options.

- 3.5 Following the budget decision, the libraries and the pool were closed and decommissioning of the facilities commenced.
- 3.6 This report focuses on the Library and Sport Aberdeen options only and the impact that these options may have on the users of these facilities and services, specifically on those that may identify as having protected characteristics.

Judicial Reviews

- 3.7 Following the budget decision, throughout May 2023, the Council received four petitions for Judicial Reviews to be heard at the Court of Session. These Judicial Reviews were as follows:
1. Petition for Judicial Review of the decision by ACC to close Woodside Library and the decision to reduce funding to Sport Aberdeen which led to them determining to close Bucksburn Swimming Pool.
 2. Petition for Judicial Review of the decision by ACC to close Woodside Library.
 3. Petition for Judicial Review of the decision by ACC to reduce funding to Sport Aberdeen which led to them determining to close Bucksburn Pool.
 4. Petition for Judicial Review of the decision by ACC to close Cornhill Library.
- 3.8 All four were on similar or identical grounds. The basis of the claims were that the Council had failed in exercising its Public Sector Equality Duty under the Equality Act 2010, and that the Integrated Impact Assessments that had been prepared were not adequate. It was alleged that ACC and Sport Aberdeen had failed in relation to the statutory requirement to pay due regard to the needs of the Public Sector Equality Duty and legal requirements regarding IIAs. Specifically, there was concern that there had not been meaningful consultation and engagement with communities and users with protected characteristics in order to properly inform the IIAs.
- 3.9 When the Petitions first came in, the Council gave the petitioners the following undertaking:
- On behalf of and as instructed by Aberdeen City Council, we hereby undertake that Aberdeen City Council will not dispose, demolish or transfer ownership of Bucksburn Swimming Pool, Woodside Library, Ferryhill Library, Cults Library, Cornhill Library, Kaimhill Library or Northfield Library prior to the determination of the petitioners' judicial reviews (otherwise than as required by law) without first giving the petitioners at least 14 days' notice of any such disposal, demolition or transfer of ownership.*
- 3.10 The libraries had been largely decommissioned prior to the Petitions being received. After receiving the Petitions, the Council halted any further

decommissioning. The buildings have not been disposed of, books and materials remain in storage, and any further ACC Voluntary Severance and Early Retirement requests have been put on hold. In terms of the swimming pool, the facility had been partially decommissioned by Sport Aberdeen before being returned to the council, prior to Petitions being received. The Pool remains mothballed following the removal of any loose furniture and equipment.

- 3.11 Following a review of the four cases, negotiations took place with the four petitioners to agree a mutually agreeable and pragmatic solution to the petitions without the need for further court proceedings.
- 3.12 Agreement was reached that the Judicial Reviews would be sisted and without admission of any liability, ACC supported by Sport Aberdeen would carry out specific consultation on the two budget options, prepare updated IIAs and the outcome of the budget decision would be re-considered in December 2023, taking account of any impacts identified in the IIAs. The four Judicial Reviews against ACC are due to call again at the Court of Session in January 2024.

4. LIBRARIES

Current Library Provision

- 4.1 Aberdeen City Council's Library and Information Service continues to be an essential service for people who live, work, study in Aberdeen. Customers can access; information, reading development for adults, children and young people, health and wellbeing, business and employability and local history support and resources. These are available; physically through 10 Community Libraries, a self-service library at Old Aberdeen and the Central Library's 4 departments, digitally 24/7 through the Library catalogue, webpages and databases or at home through the Home Service.
- 4.2 Children and young people continue to benefit from term-time library access at school. All secondary school pupils have access to school libraries, staffed by Library Resource Centre Co-ordinators (LRCCs) who are qualified librarians. There are library spaces in every primary class and Early Learning and Childcare setting which contributes to raising attainment through supporting literacy and numeracy for all learners.
- 4.3 Despite library closures the city's libraries have experienced an increase of 6,419 (15%) in the number of in person library visits from April -September 2023 based on the same period in 2022, with 848 more active library members accessing libraries to borrow items within this period. While the mainstay of libraries has and continues to be books and reading, libraries are far more than books alone, they are spaces for learning and connection for people, places and partnership. Libraries have always been and continue to be Warm Spaces and are part of the wider network of spaces across communities in the city. They are the physical interface to a digital world when there is a need for support and access to online application forms. Libraries

are available for all life stages from birth and beyond with services that adapt to our changing ages and stages.

Library Consultation

- 4.4 The Consultation on Cornhill, Cults, Ferryhill, Kaimhill, Northfield and Woodside Libraries was launched on 11 September 2023 and closed on 6 November 2023. A total of 710 responses were received, from which 664 people who have used one of the closed libraries in the last 5 years shared their experiences and personal impacts due to library closures. To complement the online and paper survey, 18 focus groups were offered to provide a further opportunity to gather information on the impact of library closures, 38 people attended focus groups.
- 4.5 It is recognised that the closure of the libraries is highly emotive for many of the participants. This has been evident in both the survey and focus groups responses and is reflected in Appendix A where examples of the impacts shared by library users can be found.

Aberdeen's Future Library and Information Consultation

- 4.6 The period of consultation for Aberdeen's Future Library and Information Service overlapped with the Consultation on Cornhill, Cults, Ferryhill, Kaimhill, Northfield and Woodside Libraries. Having carried out initial analysis of the Future Library and Information Service consultation similar themes have been noted from both consultations as:
- the importance and value of libraries for all ages
 - addressing barriers to access
 - promotion and demonstration of current physical and online library services
 - children and young people's access to reading and learning activities.

These comments, impacts and ideas will provide further valuable insight as we shape our future library provision.

Results from the consultations

- 4.7 Officers have used the evidence from the consultations to inform the impact on individuals and groups with protected characteristics and six comprehensive IIAs have been prepared which are attached at Appendix B. Although the additional information and engagement has not substantively changed the outcome of the initial Stage One IIA, it has allowed the comprehensive production of an IIA for each library and has also provided the service with invaluable feedback that will be included and help shape the Future Library Service Review.
- 4.8 In response to the closure of the six libraries, similar impact themes have been identified from the responses of library users. The main impact themes

are; getting to libraries, importance and value of physical library services, in library experience and digital inclusion. Using the information provided through the consultation and other data (detailed in the IIAs), the impact on library users following the closure of these six libraries has been assessed in relation to Human Rights, Child Rights, Protected Characteristics and Socio-Economic impact. Impacts on Human Rights and Child Rights have been assessed as low, recognising that access to information and opportunities that enable freedom of thought and expression and additionally for children access to information in the media, respect for the rights of the child and the right to education, which can be mitigated by other city provision.

- 4.9 The impacts on library users with the protected characteristics of age, disability, sex were assessed initially as medium, reducing to low following the application of mitigations. Impacts on library users with the protected characteristics of pregnancy and maternity and race were considered low and again mitigations have been applied to lessen the level of impact. These assessments reflect barriers to access due to travel costs, distance, time and other logistics that detrimentally affect these groups impacting on their access or frequency of access to libraries for services including but not limited to visiting for book borrowing, digital access, children's activities, warm spaces and social interaction. It is acknowledged that there may be individual instances where the personal impact will be high, however based on the proportionality of library usage and the data, the number of individuals experiencing a higher impact is low, therefore impact levels recorded as medium or lower impact. Based on the information gathered, the impact on the remaining protected characteristics (sexual orientation, gender reassignment, religion and belief, marriage and civil partnership) has been assessed as neutral.
- 4.10 Having considered the levels of impact, understanding personal experiences and local context, there are a number of mitigations in place as well as identified intentions to further improve access to and experience of libraries, learning and community facilities. There continues to be 10 community libraries, a self-serve library at Old Aberdeen and the 4 departments within the Central Library that are available for people to access regardless of where in the city they live. 81% of respondents shared that they have accessed other city libraries, beyond where libraries have closed. Our library service has city wide librarian expertise across the areas of: reader development for all ages, early years, children and young people, health and wellbeing, business and employability, local heritage, digital inclusion as well as locality librarians who develop initiatives across our communities. Further detail of the impacts and mitigations can be found in Appendix B.
- 4.11 Having assessed the impact of Option 1, due regard to the three needs of the Public Sector Equality Duty has to be considered. The first need is to give due regard to the impact of agreeing Option 1 on those with protected characteristics in eliminating discrimination, harassment and victimisation. There is no evidence to suggest that implementing Option 1 will lead to harassment or victimisation. Turning to the impact on discrimination, it is noted that there may be an impact on certain protected characteristics particularly those with inter-sectional protected characteristics i.e. a

combination of more than one protected characteristic which can lead to or perpetuate distinct forms of discrimination or disadvantage, for example disability and sex. There is no evidence of direct discrimination on grounds of a protected characteristic if this Option is chosen. It is also not clear that indirect discrimination would result in relation to certain protected characteristics. However, even if those with protected characteristics were disproportionately impacted by the policy, this Option could be justified as a proportionate means of achieving a legitimate aim. The Council has a legal obligation to balance its budget and this Option is a reasonably necessary means of achieving that aim in comparison with Option 2, when taking into account the costs of recommissioning, running and maintaining the facilities as well as capital costs. This Option is proportionate when balanced against the Council's legitimate aim on the basis that any potential impact on those with protected characteristics is reduced by the various mitigations set out in the IIAs.

- 4.12 The second need is to give due regard to the impact of agreeing Option 1 on the advancement of equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not. It is acknowledged that the closure of the six libraries may have an impact on equality of opportunity for those with certain protected characteristics, namely Age, Disability, Sex, Pregnancy and Maternity, and Children and Young People. However, mitigations have been identified, as listed in the six individual Integrated Impact Assessments, to minimise any such potential impacts.
- 4.13 The third need is to give due regard to the impact of agreeing Option 1 on fostering good relations with those who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not. There is no evidence to suggest that the closure of the six libraries would have any impact on the fostering of good relations between those groups.
- 4.14 Having assessed the impact of Option 2, due regard to the three needs of the Public Sector Equality Duty also needs to be considered. Option 2 simply reverses any impacts identified by Option 1. As such, the risk of discrimination or the impact on equality of opportunity in relation to those with certain protected characteristics would be reduced. However, budget savings would require to be found in other areas, which would be likely to lead to other cuts in services which would have implications for those with protected characteristics. The amount of savings to be found in other areas would also be greater as extra resources to fund the recommissioning of the library facilities would need to be identified.

Relevant Information for consideration

- 4.15 Below are summaries of other information about each library that is relevant to the decisions.

Library	Cornhill Library 74 survey responses 3 focus groups attendees
Opening Hours 22/23	10 am – 1 pm & 2 pm – 5 pm (Mon, Wed, Thur) 10 am – 1 pm (Sat) total 21 hrs
Visits 22/23	7294

Distance to nearest Library	0.9 miles to Mastrick 2.1 miles to Central
Infrastructure Summary including accessibility	Condition Grade: B, Satisfactory - performing adequately but showing minor deterioration (2019) Suitability Grade: C, Poor - showing major problems and/or not operating adequately (2023) Accessibility Grade: B, Satisfactory - performing adequately but showing minor deterioration (2019)

Library	Cults Library 178 survey responses 12 focus groups attendees
Opening Hours 22/23	10 am – 1 pm & 2 pm – 5 pm (Mon, Tues) total 12 hrs
Visits 22/23	7880
Distance to nearest Library	2 miles to Airyhall 3.8 miles to Culter and Central
Infrastructure Summary including accessibility	Condition Grade: B, Satisfactory - performing adequately but showing minor deterioration (2019) Suitability Grade: B Satisfactory - performing adequately but showing minor deterioration (2022) Accessibility Grade: C, Poor - showing major problems and/or not operating adequately (2019)

Library	Ferryhill Library 190 survey responses 8 focus groups attendees
Opening Hours 22/23	10 am – 5pm (Tues, Wed, Thurs, Fri) total 28 hrs
Visits 22/23	20005
Distance to nearest Library	1.1 miles to Central 1.5 miles to Kincorth 1.6 Miles to Torry (Greyhope School and Community Hub)
Infrastructure Summary including accessibility	Condition Grade: B, Satisfactory - performing adequately but showing minor deterioration (2018) Suitability Grade: B Satisfactory - performing adequately but showing minor deterioration (2022) Accessibility Grade: B Satisfactory - performing adequately but showing minor deterioration (2018)

Library	Kaimhill Library 63 survey responses 0 focus groups attendees
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Opening Hours 22/23	10 am – 1 pm & 2 pm – 5 pm (Tues, Wed) total 12 hrs
Visits 22/23	3099
Distance to nearest Library	1.4 miles to Airyhall 1.5 miles to Kincorth 2.1 miles to Central
Infrastructure Summary including accessibility	Condition Grade: A: Good - performing well and operating efficiently (2023) Suitability Grade: A: Good - performing well and operating efficiently (2017) Accessibility Grade: A: Good - performing well and operating efficiently (2018)

Library	Northfield Library 66 survey responses 4 focus groups attendees
Opening Hours 22/23	10 am – 1 pm & 2 pm – 5 pm (Thurs, Fri) total 12 hrs
Visits 22/23	4305
Distance to nearest Library	0.8 miles to Mastrick 1.8 miles to Bucksburn 3.4 miles to Central
Infrastructure Summary including accessibility	Condition Grade: B, Satisfactory - performing adequately but showing minor deterioration (2019) Suitability Grade: C, Poor - showing major problems and/or not operating adequately (2017) Accessibility Grade: C, Poor - showing major problems and/or not operating adequately (2019)

Library	Woodside Library 132 survey responses 11 focus groups attendees
Opening Hours 22/23	10 am – 1 pm & 2 pm – 5 pm (Mon, Thurs) 1 pm – 7 pm (Wed) total 18 hrs
Visits 22/23	6310
Distance to nearest Library	0.7 miles to Tillydrone 2.1 miles to Central
Infrastructure Summary including accessibility	Condition Grade: B, Satisfactory - performing adequately but showing minor deterioration (2023) Suitability Grade: C, Poor - showing major problems and/or not operating adequately (2017) Accessibility Grade: C, Poor - showing major problems and/or not operating adequately (2023)

Recommissioning process libraries

- 4.16 The recommissioning process for libraries will take approximately 6 months and will include: recruitment of library staff, the need to address any building works and health and safety requirements, reinstatement of digital infrastructure, reallocation of fixtures, fittings and library stock, ordering equipment and furniture as required, transportation of library items, restocking libraries ready for opening. Some items will need to be purchased due to instances of furniture and fittings from closed libraries being used to upgrade other library sites.

Additional considerations

- 4.17 Legal Officers have reviewed various historic deeds, minutes and ancillary Council records in relation to conditions on title relating to purported use of Ferryhill and Woodside Libraries. Following consideration, Officers are satisfied that any such purported use restrictions can be interpreted as being no longer valid or enforceable for the purposes of this report.

5 BUCKSBURN SWIMMING POOL

Current swimming pool provision

- 5.1 Aberdeen City has five public swimming pools operated by Sport Aberdeen, all with accessible facilities. Aberdeen Sports Village which the Council jointly funds with Aberdeen University is also accessible. Since the closure of Bucksburn swimming Pool, the aquatics programme has been relocated to other Sport Aberdeen venues.

Bucksburn Pool Consultation

- 5.2 An online consultation was launched on 19 September 2023 and closed on 6 November 2023. A total of 987 responses were received with 29 indicating they had not used the pool in the last 5 years. To complement the online survey, 3 focus groups and a meeting with the Save Bucksburn Pool Campaign Group were held to allow a greater focus on any common themes coming through the online consultation.
- 5.3 It is recognised that the closure of the swimming pool was highly emotive for many of the participants. This was evident in both the survey and focus groups responses and is reflected in Appendix C where examples of the impacts shared by swimming pool users can be found.

Results from the consultation

- 5.4 Officers have used the evidence from the consultations to inform the impact on individuals and groups with protected characteristics and a comprehensive IIA has been prepared and is attached at Appendix D.
- 5.5 In response to the closure of the pool, 450 respondents said they used the pool on a weekly basis, 141 fortnightly and 126 on a monthly basis. 365

respondents said they were using other pools and 592 said they were not. Of that 592, there were 146 that indicated they were accessing alternatives in subsequent questions. A number of impact themes were identified from the analysis including travel issues; time and distance (476), access (290) and costs (87). The scheduling/ opening times of other facilities was highlighted (222) with non-school swimming lessons (108) also noted. 168 respondents highlighted issues with alternative provision with 108 highlighting issues with loss of gradual stair entry as a barrier.

- 5.6 Using the information provided through the consultation and other data (detailed in the IIAs), the impact on users following closure has been assessed in relation to Human Rights, Child Rights, Protected Characteristics and Socio-Economic impact. Impacts on Human Rights and Child Rights have been assessed as low as pool provision is available which can be mitigated by other city provision.
- 5.7 The impacts on pool users with the protected characteristics of age, disability and children and young people was identified as medium with lower impact on pregnancy and maternity. These assessments reflect barriers to access with alternative facilities which included travel costs, distance, time and other barriers with alternative facilities which included design, access availability, condition of alternative facilities, programme and scheduling, that detrimentally affect these groups impacting on their access or frequency of access to a swimming pool.
- 5.8 Focus groups emphasised the loss of independence children gained from being able to use a local pool without their parents, social connections with young and older people and potential impacts for children with ASN needs without alternative facilities being available. Similarly loss of swimming lessons and P4 swimming was also noted as concerns.
- 5.9 It is acknowledged that there may be individual instances where the personal impact will be high, particularly around some use by people with specific disabilities the impacts to those swimming pool users the number of individuals experiencing a higher impact is low, therefore impact levels recorded as medium or low impact. Based on the information gathered, the impact on the remaining protected characteristics (sexual orientation, gender reassignment, religion and belief, marriage and civil partnership) has been assessed as neutral.
- 5.10 Having considered the levels of impact, understanding personal experiences and local context, there are a number of mitigations in place. Swimming lessons have been rescheduled to other facilities. A P4 swimming programme is also now in place. ASN provision has been re-aligned to Northfield pool. It should be noted that free travel is available for parts of the community to alternative provision but this is not straightforward from say Bucksburn to Northfield. Revised aquatic programmes are in place across other venues including swimming clubs being allocated hours in other venues. All Sport Aberdeen pools have varying degrees of accessibility. Gradual entry stairs have been highlighted as an issue for users and are now being made available at Northfield. Further details are contained within the IIA.

- 5.11 Having assessed the impact of Option 1, due regard to the three needs of the Public Sector Equality Duty has to be considered. The first need is to give due regard to the impact of agreeing Option 1 on those with protected characteristics in eliminating discrimination, harassment and victimisation. There is no evidence to suggest that implementing Option 1 will lead to harassment or victimisation. Turning to the impact on discrimination, it is noted that there may be an impact on certain protected characteristics particularly those with inter-sectional protected characteristics. There is no evidence of direct discrimination on grounds of a protected characteristic if this Option is chosen. It is also not clear that indirect discrimination would result in relation to certain protected characteristics. However, even if those with protected characteristics were disproportionately impacted by the policy, this Option could be justified as a proportionate means of achieving a legitimate aim. The Council has a legal obligation to balance its budget and this Option is a reasonably necessary means of achieving that aim in comparison with Option 2, when taking into account the costs of recommissioning, running and maintaining the swimming pool as well as capital costs. This Option is proportionate when balanced against the Council's legitimate aim on the basis that any potential impact on those with protected characteristics is reduced by the various mitigations set out in the IIAs.
- 5.12 The second need is to give due regard to the impact of agreeing Option 1 on the advancement equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not. It is acknowledged that the closure of the pool may have an impact on equality of opportunity for those with certain protected characteristics, namely Age, Disability, Children and Young People, Pregnancy and Maternity, Race and Sex. However, mitigations have been identified, as listed in the Integrated Impact Assessments, to minimise any such potential impacts.
- 5.13 The third need is to give due regard to the impact of agreeing Option 1 on fostering good relations with those who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not. There is no evidence to suggest that the closure of the pool would have any impact on the fostering of good relations between those groups.
- 5.14 Having assessed the impact of Option 2, due regard to the three needs of the Public Sector Equality Duty also needs to be considered. Option 2 simply reverses any impacts identified by Option 1. As such, the risk of discrimination or the impact on equality of opportunity in relation to those with certain protected characteristics would be reduced. However, budget savings would require to be found in other areas, which would be likely to lead to other cuts in services which would have implications for those with protected characteristics. The amount of savings to be found in other areas would also be greater as extra resources to fund the recommissioning of the swimming pool would need to be identified.

Pool	Bucksburn Swimming Pool
Opening Hours	Monday - 6am-9:15pm Tuesday - 6am-9:00pm Wednesday - 6am-8:15pm Thursday - 9:30am-9:15pm Friday - 9:30am-9pm Saturday - 7am-4:00pm Sunday - 9am-6:30pm
Visits 2022/23	69,089
Distance to nearest Pool	2.8 Miles – Get Active @ Northfield 2.9 Miles – Dyce Academy Pool (lessons / club only) 4.2 Miles – Aberdeen Sports Village 4.3 Miles – Bridge of Don Swimming Pool 6.7 Miles – Tullos Swimming Pool 6.9 Miles – Get Active @ Cults 8.5 Miles – Get Active @ Lochside
Infrastructure Summary including accessibility	Suitability Grade – A: performing well and operating efficiently. The buildings support the delivery of the service and are considered suitable for use now and in the future. Condition Grade – B: Satisfactory. Performing adequately but showing minor deterioration. Accessibility Grade – B: Accessible with only minor works required.

Recommissioning process Bucksburn Pool

- 5.15 Any recommissioning process could take up to 9 months. A complete review of all Mechanical & Electrical systems will be required. There is a known requirement to replace the ventilation plant and the automatic controls, along with the associated control panels. The filter media may need replaced which is common during extended periods of inactivity. It may also be prudent to replace the obsolete fire alarm. Re-installation of CO2 for pool chemical dosing would be required (it was removed as it belongs to the supplier). Various statutory testing and servicing would be required. New furniture, pool equipment and signage would have to be procured. A re-organisation of Sport Aberdeen’s operational structure at venue level would need to be implemented. Staff recruitment would be required if Dyce Academy Pool was to remain in use for lessons and clubs.
- 5.16 Sport Aberdeen would need to review its existing operational structure and recruit and train appropriate staff as the organisation downsized following the closure. This will be influenced by the decision of the council on the future operation of Dyce Academy swimming pool and if it is to remain operational with its existing programme for lessons and clubs.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There will be costs associated with the recommissioning of the libraries and/or Bucksburn Swimming Pool. Indicative costs are provided in the table below, that will be confirmed during any potential recommissioning stage.

Facility/Service	Estimated Recommissioning Cost	Annual running cost (excluding ongoing building maintenance)
Cornhill Library	£20k	£42K
Cults Library	£20K	£105K
Ferryhill Library	£25K	£96K
Kaimhill Library	£13K	£23K
Northfield Library	£25K	£46K
Woodside Library	£25K	£34K
Library totals	£128K	£346K
Bucksburn Swimming Pool	£750,00 to £1,000,000	£160k*

*Sport Aberdeen forecasted operating deficit (estimated).

6.2 Several of the buildings had previously been identified as having capital works required within the Condition and Suitability budget. Any decision to reopen any of the buildings will also require the reinstatement of projects previously included in the Condition & Suitability (C&S) Programme. This would be accommodated through a wider reprioritisation of other approved building improvements. Only the works at Bucksburn Pool would require to be completed as part of the recommissioning process. The other works would be scheduled to be completed within 3 years. The previous allocations were:

- Cults Library - £70k. Roof replacement.
- Ferryhill Library - £55k. Windows and blinds replacement.
- Northfield Library - £195k. Pitched roof replacement.
- Bucksburn Pool - £450k. Replacement of the existing ventilation plant and automatic controls.

These costs are in addition to the re-commissioning costs highlighted with the exception of the Pool where the £450k is included. Due to construction cost inflation these figures will have to be reviewed and updated as they will have risen since the original estimates. Any further work identified from detailed survey and assessment of Bucksburn swimming pool could also be funded by the C&S Programme subject to prioritisation of works within the programme.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 Under section 163(2) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, the Council has a duty to secure the provision of adequate library facilities for all persons resident in the Council area.

7.2 Under section 14 of the Local Government and Planning (Scotland) Act 1982, the Council has a duty to “ensure that there is adequate provision of facilities for the inhabitants of their area for recreational, sporting, cultural and social activities”. The Council also has a duty under section 1(3) of the Education (Scotland) Act 1980 to secure for pupils in attendance at schools in their area “the provision of adequate facilities for social, cultural and recreative activities and for physical education and training”. These duties require adequate provision and do not stipulate precisely what facilities must be provided.

7.3 Aberdeen City Council has to comply with the [section 149](#) of the Equality Act 2010 which requires that:

“A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to—

- (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
- (b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
- (c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.”

7.4 Aberdeen City Council has to comply with [Regulation 5](#) of The Equality Act 2010 (Specific Duties) (Scotland) Regulations 2012 which requires that

(1) A listed authority must, where and to the extent necessary to fulfil the equality duty, assess the impact of applying a proposed new or revised policy or practice against the needs mentioned in section 149(1) of the Act.

(2) In making the assessment, a listed authority must consider relevant evidence relating to persons who share a relevant protected characteristic (including any received from those persons).

(3) A listed authority must, in developing a policy or practice, take account of the results of any assessment made by it under paragraph (1) in respect of that policy or practice.

(4) A listed authority must publish, within a reasonable period, the results of any assessment made by it under paragraph (1) in respect of a policy or practice that it decides to apply.

(5) A listed authority must make such arrangements as it considers appropriate to review and, where necessary, revise any policy or practice that it applies in the exercise of its functions to ensure that, in exercising those functions, it complies with the equality duty.

(6) For the purposes of this regulation, any consideration by a listed authority as to whether or not it is necessary to assess the impact of applying a proposed new or revised policy or practice under paragraph (1) is not to be treated as an assessment of its impact.

7.5 While the Regulations specifically reference “policy or practice” the Equalities and Human Rights Commission advise that

“the term ‘policy’ as shorthand for any activity of your organisation. Therefore ‘policy’ should be understood broadly to embrace the full range of your policies, provisions, criteria, functions, practices and activities including the delivery of services – essentially everything you do.”

7.6 All bodies exercising functions of a public nature are susceptible to potential Judicial Review challenges. Judicial review is a type of court proceeding in which a judge reviews the lawfulness of a decision or action made by a public body. A Judicial Review is a challenge to the way in which a decision has been made. It is not a challenge about the rights and wrongs of the conclusion reached. The role of the court is not to re-make the decision being challenged, or to inquire into the merits of that decision, but to conduct a review of the process by which the decision was reached to assess whether that decision was flawed and should be re-made.

This may mean that the public body will be able to make the same decision again, so long as it does so in a lawful way. Judicial review can be sought on the grounds that a decision is:

- illegal - arises when a decision-maker breaches a legal requirement, misdirects itself in law, exercises a power wrongly, or purports to exercise a power that it does not have, which is known as acting 'ultra vires';
- irrational - a decision may be challenged as unreasonable if it "is so unreasonable that no reasonable authority could ever have come to it";
- procedurally improper – a failure to observe statutory procedures or natural justice; or
- in breach of legitimate expectation – when a public body has failed to act in line with an expectation that it has created by its own statements or acts.

Only interested parties with sufficient interest in relation to the matter can bring a Judicial Review against a decision

8. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 If any of the buildings were to be reopened then this would result in an increase in energy use and a subsequent increase in carbon emissions. There would be some level of city wide offset by users no longer taking vehicular transport to alternative venues when in the past they may have walked. As with other assets, there would be a requirement to invest in the buildings to improve their environmental performance so that they positively contribute to

Net Zero targets. Climate change mitigation improvements may also be required

9. RISK

Category	Risks	Primary Controls/Control Actions to achieve Target Risk Level	*Target Risk Level (L, M or H) *taking into account controls/control actions	*Does Target Risk Level Match Appetite Set?
Compliance	Equalities and Human Rights Commission can take enforcement action against the Council.	Robust IIAs have now been completed and Officers have been working on a comprehensive improvement plan to improve internal compliance.	L	Yes
Operational	Recommissioning work will impact on operations and other improvement works to be undertaken by services.		L	Yes
Financial	Risk that Judicial Review will continue and incur additional costs.	Comprehensive consultation has taken place which has informed robust IIAs.	L	Yes
Reputational	There is a risk that the Council are unsuccessful in settling the Judicial Review and the Petitioners continue proceedings.	ACC have now consulted and engaged with the community and have produced comprehensive IIAs in order to support the final decisions.	M	Yes
Environment / Climate	Increased carbon emissions through energy use.	Invest in environmental and climate change mitigation improvements. Continue to encourage good practice energy use.	M	Yes

10. OUTCOMES

<u>COUNCIL DELIVERY PLAN 2023-2024</u>	
Impact of Report	
<p>Aberdeen City Council Policy Statement</p> <p><u>Working in Partnership for Aberdeen</u></p>	<p>In relation to the options for libraries, the paper confirms that ACC will continue to operate a comprehensive Library and Information Service across the City and within schools through physical and digital provision. This provision supports delivery of the following aspects of the policy statement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain a strong network of libraries across Aberdeen which provide services relevant to the 21st century. <p>In relation to the options for the reduction in Sport Aberdeen funding, this provision may have a negative impact on delivery of the following aspects of the policy statement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Back Sport Aberdeen in their efforts to invest in and improve sporting facilities.
<u>Aberdeen City Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2016-26</u>	
<p>Prosperous Economy Stretch Outcomes</p>	<p>In relation to the options for libraries, the paper confirms that ACC will continue to operate a comprehensive Library and Information Service across the City and within schools through physical and digital provision. This provision supports delivery of the following improvement aims within the Local Outcome Improvement Plan.</p> <p>Stretch Outcome 3: 500 Aberdeen City residents upskilled/ reskilled to enable them to move into, within and between economic opportunities as they arise by 2026. In particular it contributes to improvement aims to increase the number of people that feel comfortable using digital tools; and increase the number of people with Aberdeen City gaining qualifications in CT and Digital Skills.</p> <p>In relation to the options for the reduction in Sport Aberdeen funding, there is no significant impact.</p>

<p>Prosperous People Stretch Outcomes</p>	<p>In relation to the options for libraries, the paper confirms that ACC will continue to operate a comprehensive Library and Information Service across the City and within schools through physical and digital provision. This provision supports delivery of the following improvement aims within the Local Outcome Improvement Plan.</p> <p>Stretch Outcome 7: 95% of all our children, including those living in our priority neighbourhoods (Quintiles 1 & 2), will sustain a positive destination upon leaving school by 2026. In particular, access to library and information services contributes to the learning offer and improvement aims to increase the percentage of learners entering a positive and sustained destination; and increase the percentage of young people completing courses aligned to support the digital and tech sector.</p> <p>Stretch Outcome 9: 100% of our children with Additional Support Needs/ Disabilities will experience a positive destination by 2026. In particular, access to library and information services contributes to the learning offer and improvement aims to increase the percentage of young people with additional support needs/ disability entering a positive destination; and percentage of families with children with an additional support need or disability having access to peer and community support that meet their needs.</p> <p>Stretch Outcome 11: Healthy life expectancy (time lived in good health) is five years longer by 2026. In particular, access to library and information services contributes to the learning offer and improvement aims to support people to promote wellbeing and good health choices, encourage people to adopt healthier and more positive lifestyle choices.</p> <p>In relation to the options for the reduction in Sport Aberdeen funding, the options in the paper may have a negative impact on Stretch Outcome 11: Healthy life expectancy (time lived in good health) is five years longer by 2026. In particular, Sport Aberdeen is contributing to improvement aims to support people to promote wellbeing and good health choices; encourage people to adopt healthier and more positive lifestyle choices; and refer people with COPD or other respiratory conditions into specific PR physical activity and other support programmes delivered in community settings.</p>
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	<p>However, changes being tested as part of these improvement projects do not relate specifically to swimming pools.</p>
<p>Prosperous Place Stretch Outcomes</p>	<p>In relation to the options for libraries, the paper confirms that ACC will continue to operate a comprehensive Library and Information Service across the City and within schools through physical and digital provision. This provision supports delivery of the following improvement aims within the Local Outcome Improvement Plan.</p> <p>Stretch Outcome 15: Addressing the nature crisis by protecting/ managing 26% of Aberdeen’s area for nature by 2026. In particular, access to library and information services contributes to the learning offer and improvement aims to encourage and increase community food growing in schools, communities and workplaces.</p> <p>The library options may have a negative impact on Stretch Outcome 14: Increase Sustainable Travel, people walking and cycling as main mode of travel by 2026. The paper highlights the feedback from the consultation that it would be harder to access libraries by walking and cycling if they are not located within the community and may require travel by car. However, public transport and online library provision could be an alternative option for people.</p> <p>In relation to the options for the reduction in Sport Aberdeen funding, there is no significant impact.</p>
<p>Regional and City Strategies</p>	<p>Impact on the Children’s Services Plan is as described above in relation to Stretch Outcomes 7 and 9.</p>

11. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Assessment	Outcome
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Integrated Impact Assessment	Stage 1 and 2 Assessments have been completed.
Data Protection Impact Assessment	Not required
Other	Not required

12. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 12.1 [Public Sector Equality Duty: specific duties in Scotland | EHRC \(equalityhumanrights.com\)](https://equalityhumanrights.com)
- 12.2 [Using intersectionality to understand structural inequality in Scotland.](#)

13. APPENDICES

- 13.1 Appendix A: Consultation on Cornhill, Cults, Ferryhill, Kaimhill, Northfield and Woodside Libraries
- 13.2 Appendix B: Integrated Impact Assessments for Cornhill, Cults, Ferryhill, Kaimhill, Northfield and Woodside Libraries
- 13.3 Appendix C: Consultation on Bucksburn Swimming Pool
- 13.4 Appendix D: Integrated Impact Assessment for Bucksburn Swimming Pool

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Appendix A: Consultation on Cornhill, Cults, Ferryhill, Kaimhill, Northfield and Woodside Libraries

This consultation invited library users, who had used one of the 6 closed libraries in the last 5 years to share their library usage and their experience and the personal impact of the library closures.

To see library usage statistics from the last 5 years please follow this link: [Aberdeen City Libraries Statistics | Aberdeen City Council](#)

Representation of responses

City population 227,430 ([National Records of Scotland](#))

Number of active in person library members: 14,465 (average number of library members who have borrowed at least one item per year covering 2018/19 to 2022/23) 6.4% of city population

Number of respondents to 6 library survey total: 710*

<p>**Visits – all people coming into a library building; library members, school visits, picking up green bags, printing, reading the newspaper, not everyone will be a library member</p> <p>***Active Library members - a library member who have used their membership; take out a book, PC use.</p>				
library	% of all library visits**	Approx. number of active library members***	Respondents to survey	Attendees focus groups
Cornhill	1.9%	275	74	3
Cults	2.8%	405	178	12
Ferryhill	4.4%	636	190	8
Kaimhill	1.6%	231	63	0
Northfield	1.2%	174	66	4
Woodside	2.5%	362	132	11

*2 responses deemed derogatory, demeaning and or disparaging, therefore comments were not considered. Responses in the survey relating to each library were split for analysis based on Q12: *Please select your local library, or library you visited most often, from the list. Options: Cornhill/Cults/Ferryhill/Kaimhill/Northfield/Woodside*

Follow link for [Survey questions](#)

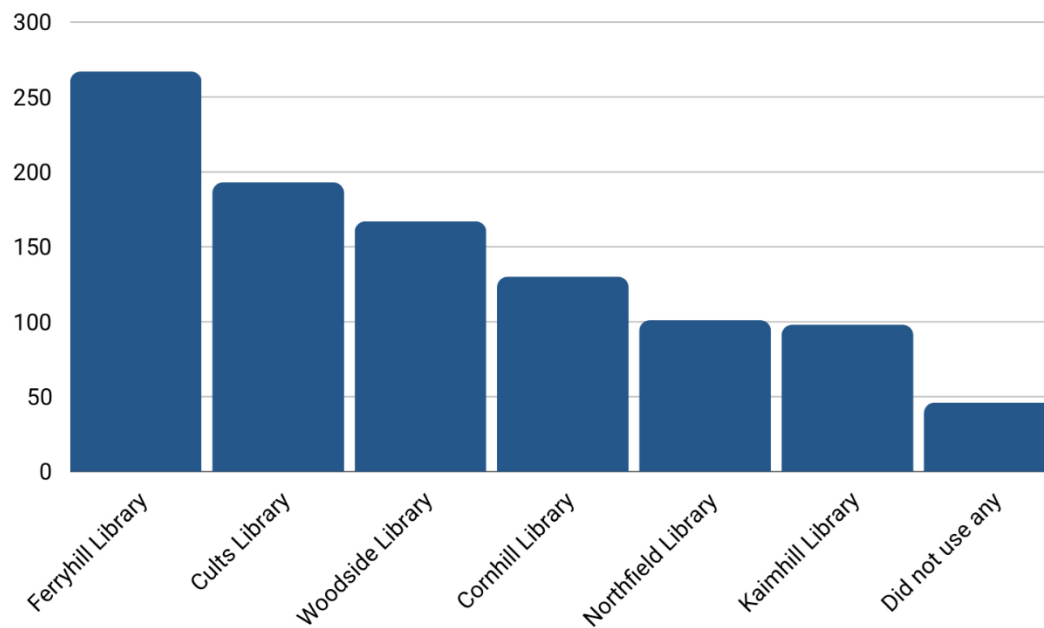
[Responses to all survey questions](#)

The responses to questions 1-7 and 20-22 include information from all 710 respondents

Questions 8, 11-19 have been analysed and presented for each library

The equalities questions 23-33 are presented for each library.

Q1: Did you use any of the following Aberdeen City Libraries within the last five years?



Library use in the last 5 years

Figure 1: Library use in the last 5 years

Ferryhill	267
Cults	193
Woodside	167
Cornhill	130
Northfield	101
Kaimhill	98
Did not use	46

Of the 710 respondents to the survey 664 people used at least one of the 6 closed libraries in the last 5 years.

Q2 . What is your full name? (Optional)

Responses removed before analysis

Q3. . Do you live, work, study or care for someone in Aberdeen City?


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Figure 2: Live, work, study or care for someone in Aberdeen

No	7
Visit from outside the city	15
Care for someone who live, works or studies in the city	18
Study	52
Work	377
Live	657

Q4 . How often did you use one of the closed libraries?

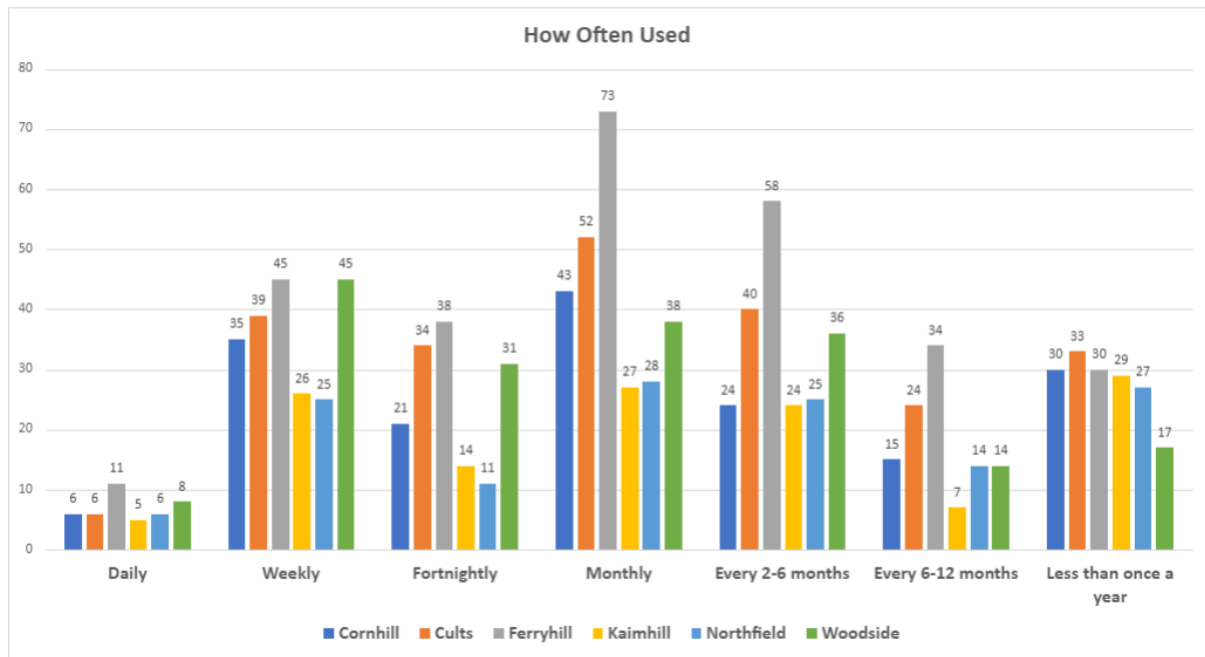


Figure 3: Previous use of closed libraries

	daily	weekly	fortnightly	monthly	2-6 mths	6-12 mths	<once a year
Cornhill	6	35	21	43	24	15	30
Cults	6	39	34	52	40	24	33
Ferryhill	11	45	38	73	58	34	33
Kaimhill	5	26	14	27	24	7	29
Northfield	6	25	11	28	25	14	27
Woodside	8	45	31	38	36	14	17

For the period of 22/23 the total number of visits to these 6 libraries was 48,893. The total number of visits indicated by the responses to the survey accounts for approx. 18,809 visits and suggests that those represented by the survey make up approximately 38% of the library visits to these 6 libraries.

Q5. Have you started using the Home Library Service following the closure of a library?

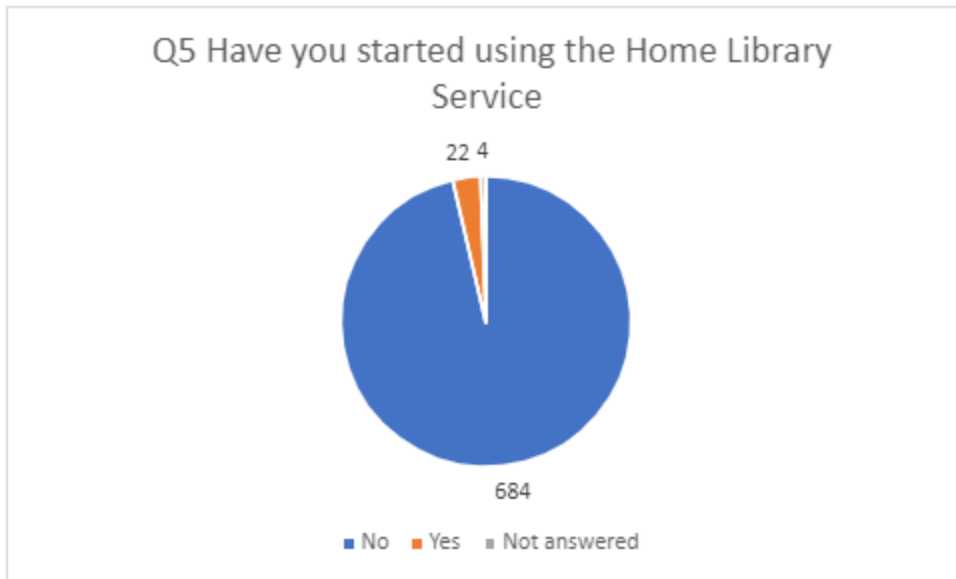


Figure 4: Use of Home Library Service

Yes, started using the Home Library Service	22
No, not started using the Home Library Service	684
Not answered	4

The number of people who previously used one of the 6 libraries and have since moved to use the Home Library Service has been recorded by library staff as 15. From the survey comments, some people mistook the Home Service for an online library service, and this may account for the inflated numbers. There is work to do in promoting access to the Home Library service and who it is for.

Q6. Do you access Aberdeen City Libraries digital services?

Do you access Aberdeen City Libraries digital services?

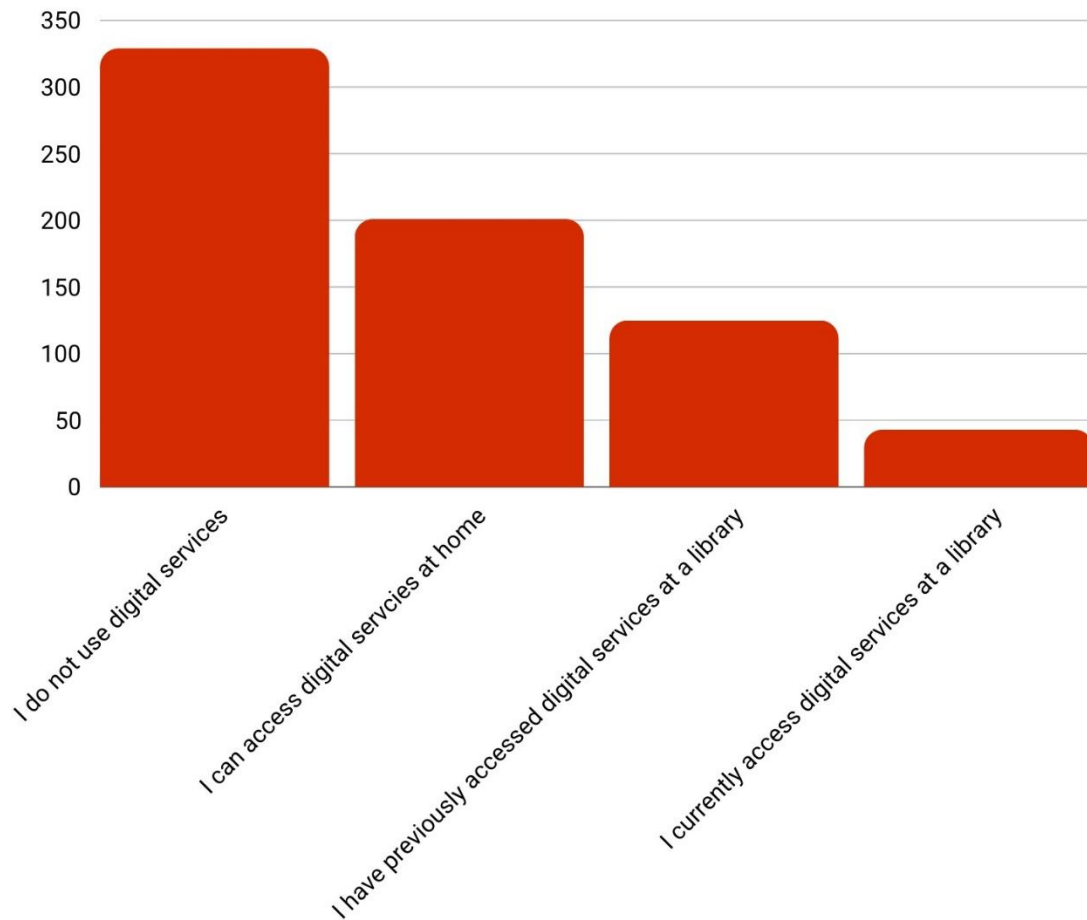


Figure 5: Access to Aberdeen City Libraries Digital Service

I do not use digital services	329
I can access digital services at home	201
I have previously accessed digital services at a library	125
I currently access digital services at a library	43

46% of survey respondents do not use digital library services, 28% can access digital library services at home, 17% of respondents have previously accessed detail services at a library, with 6% currently accessing library services at a library. Therefore 34% of respondents are accessing the digital library offer.

Q7. How often do you access Aberdeen City Libraries' digital services?

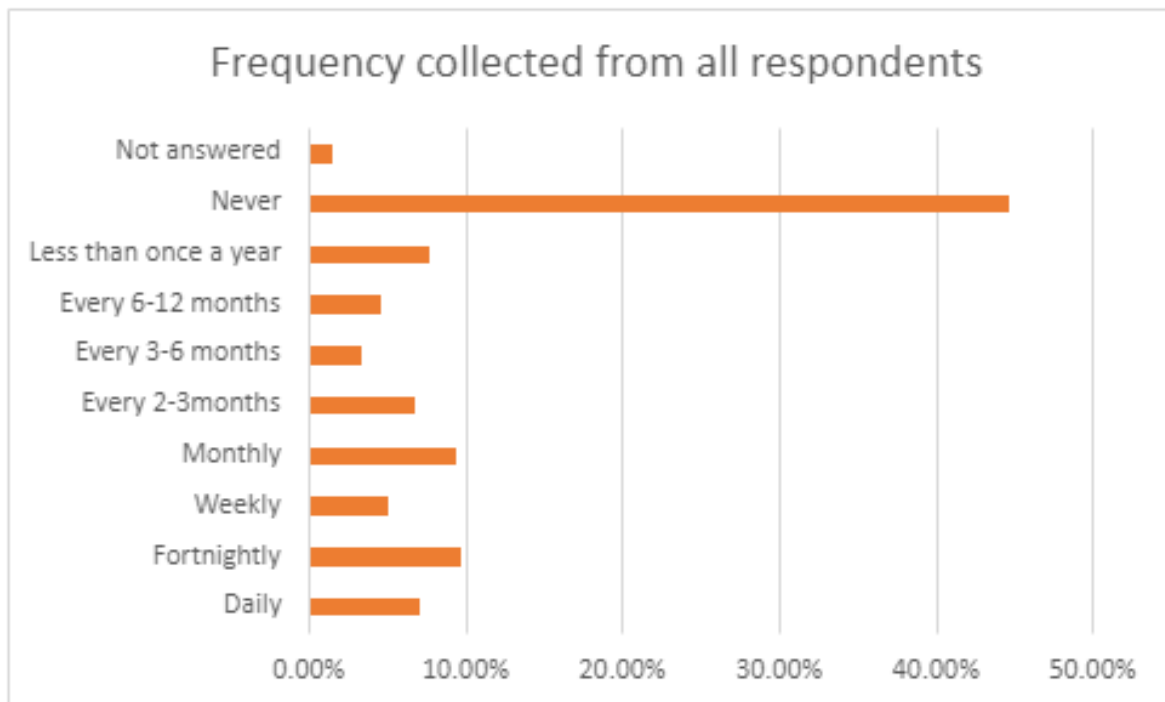


Figure 6: Frequency of access to Aberdeen City Libraries' Digital Services

Daily	50	7.04%
Fortnightly	69	9.72%
Weekly	36	5.07%
Monthly	67	9.44%
Every 2-3months	48	6.76%
Every 3-6 months	24	3.38%
Every 6-12 months	33	4.65%
Less than once a year	55	7.75%
Never	317	44.65%
Not answered	11	1.55%

Of those survey respondents who access the online library offer, the majority use this service with a frequency of daily, fortnightly and monthly.

Questions 8, 11-19 have been analysed and presented for each library. Please see that information below.

Question 9. Which of these services, resources and activities do you use or have used/attended?

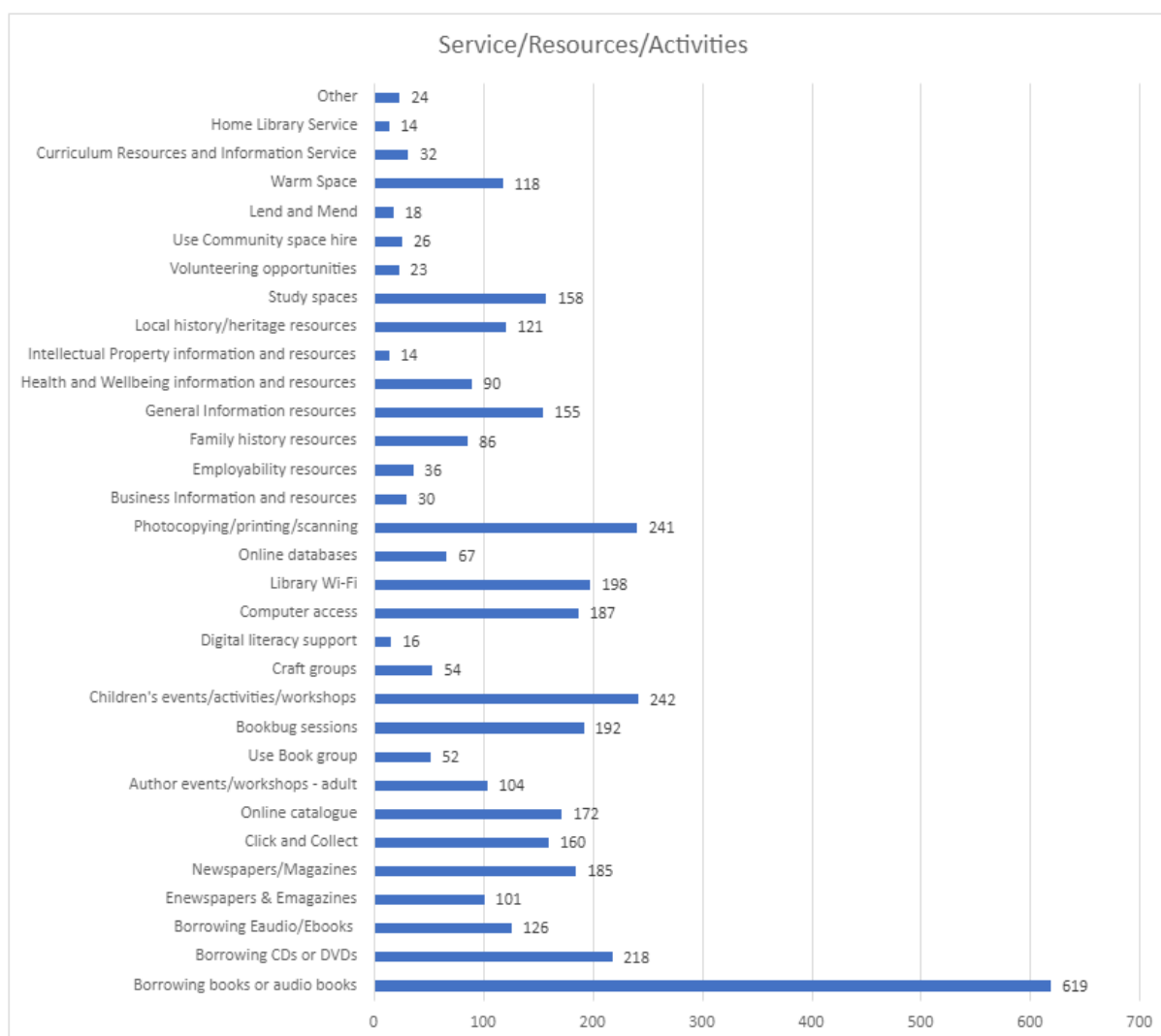


Figure 7: Services, resources and activities used and accessed

Borrowing books or audio books	619
Borrowing CDs or DVDs	218
Borrowing Eaudio/Ebooks	126
Enewspapers & Emagazines	101
Newspapers/Magazines	185
Click and Collect	160
Online catalogue	172
Author events/workshops - adult	104
Use Book group	52

Bookbug sessions	192
Children's events/activities/workshops	242
Craft groups	54
Digital literacy support	16
Computer access	187
Library Wi-Fi	198
Online databases	67
Photocopying/printing/scanning	241
Business Information and resources	30
Employability resources	36
Family history resources	86
General Information resources	155
Health and Wellbeing information and resources	90
Intellectual Property information and resources	14
Local history/heritage resources	121
Study spaces	158
Volunteering opportunities	23
Use Community space hire	26
Lend and Mend	18
Warm Space	118
Curriculum Resources and Information Service	32
Home Library Service	14
Other	24

The top 5 Library services and resources accessed by survey respondents are:

1. Borrowing books including audio books
2. Children's events activities and workshops
3. Photocopying, printing, scanning
4. Borrowing CD and DVDs
5. Library WIFI

Q10. Do you or did you collect any of the following from any Aberdeen City Library?

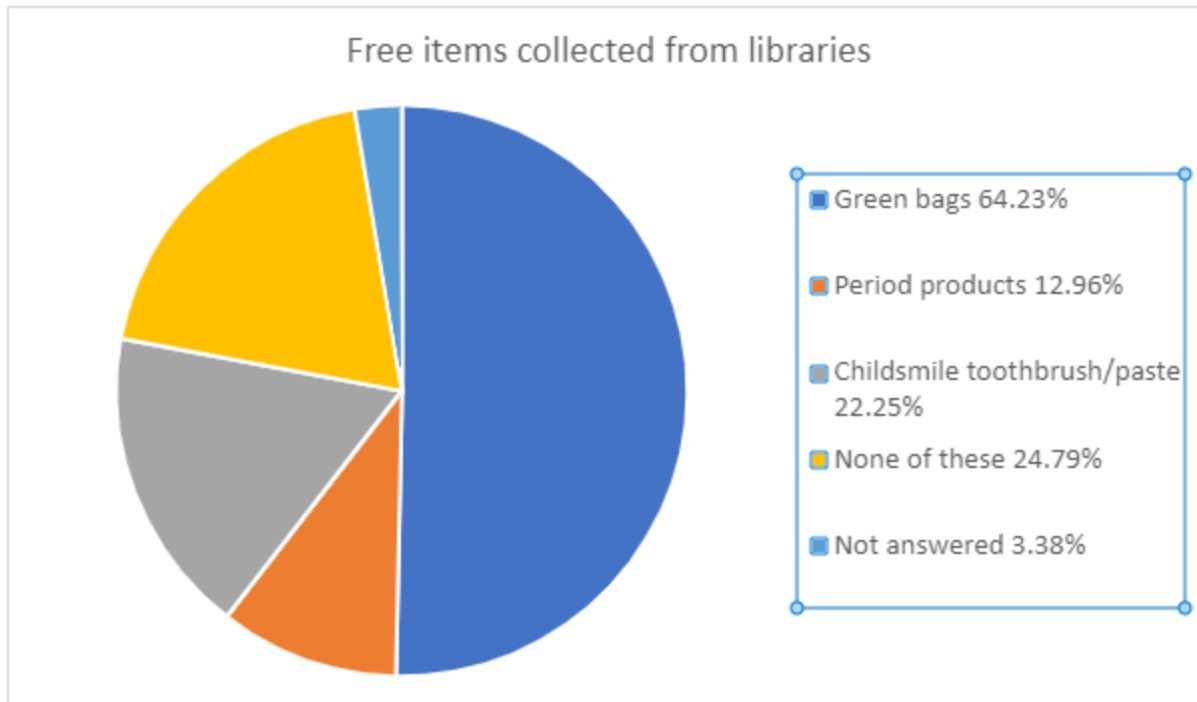


Figure 8: Free items collected from libraries

Green bags	64.23%
Period products	12.96%
Childsmile toothbrush/paste	22.25%
None of these	24.79%
Not answered	3.38%

Q20. Where do you live?

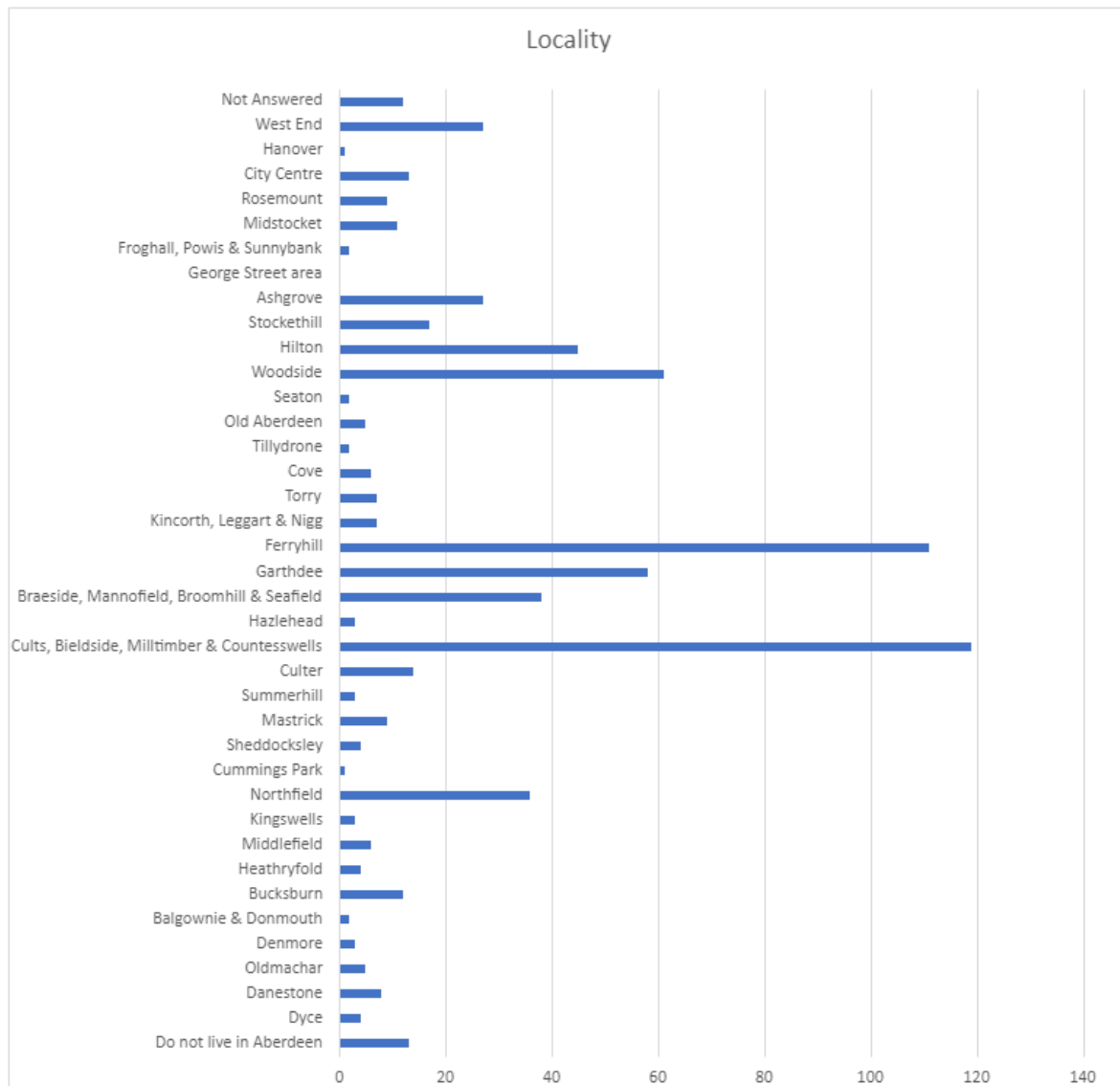


Figure 9: Locality - where do you live?

Option	Total	Percent
Do not live in Aberdeen	13	1.83%
Dyce	4	0.56%
Danestone	8	1.13%
Oldmachar	5	0.70%
Denmore	3	0.42%
Balgownie & Donmouth	2	0.28%
Bucksburn	12	1.69%
Heathryfold	4	0.56%
Middlefield	6	0.85%
Kingswells	3	0.42%
Northfield	36	5.07%
Cummings Park	1	0.14%

Sheddocksley	4	0.56%
Mastrick	9	1.27%
Summerhill	3	0.42%
Culter	14	1.97%
Cults, Bielside, Milltimber & Countesswells	119	16.76%
Hazlehead	3	0.42%
Braeside, Mannofield, Broomhill & Seafield	38	5.35%
Garthdee	58	8.17%
Ferryhill	111	15.63%
Kincorth, Leggart & Nigg	7	0.99%
Torry	7	0.99%
Cove	6	0.85%
Tillydrone	2	0.28%
Old Aberdeen	5	0.70%
Seaton	2	0.28%
Woodside	61	8.59%
Hilton	45	6.34%
Stockethill	17	2.39%
Ashgrove	27	3.80%
George Street area	0	0.00%
Froghall, Powis & Sunnybank	2	0.28%
Midsocket	11	1.55%
Rosemount	9	1.27%
City Centre	13	1.83%
Hanover	1	0.14%
West End	27	3.80%
Not Answered	12	1.69%

The information from respondents to Q20 correlates with that in Q3. Do you live, work, study or care for someone in Aberdeen City? Respondents may live in one area and may also use libraries nearby where they work, study or where they have caring responsibilities.

Q21 and 22 invited respondents to opt in to receive information on the next steps of the consultation process on the six closed libraries and how to be involved.

474 (67%) of respondents opted into this

Equalities questions Q23-33

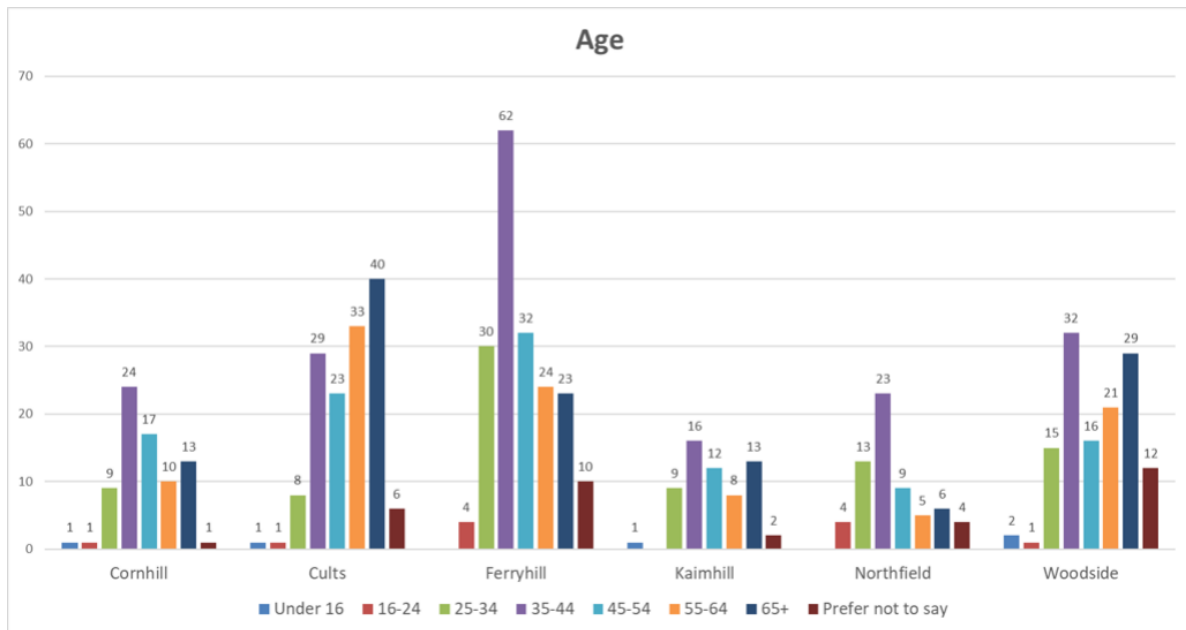


Figure 10: Respondents by Age

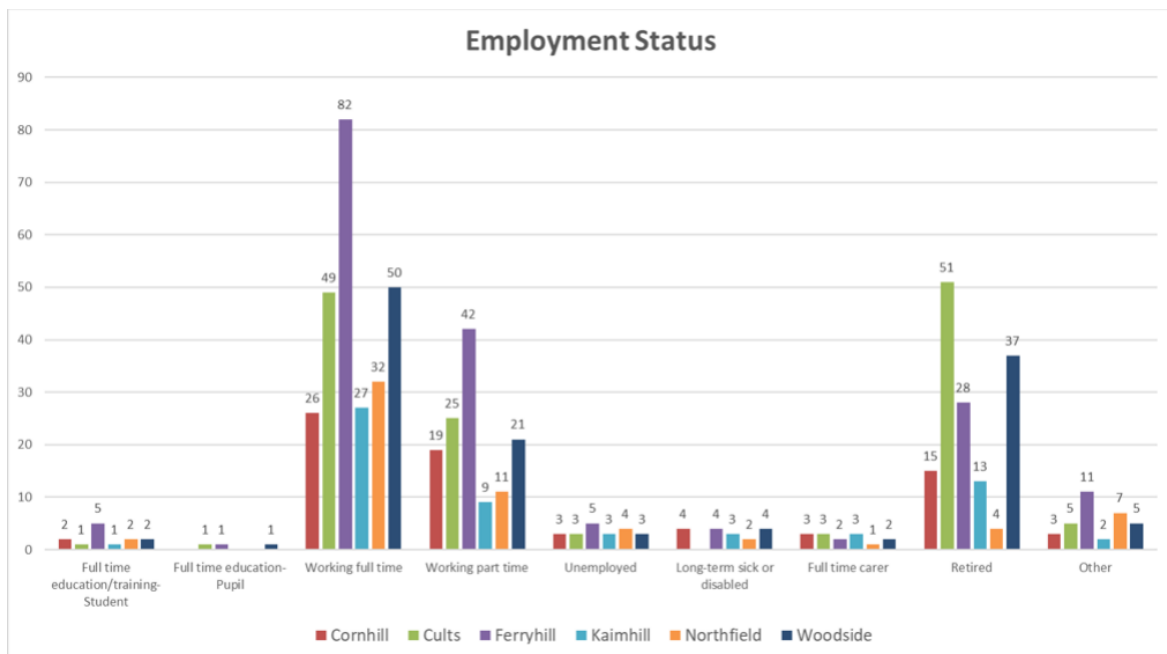
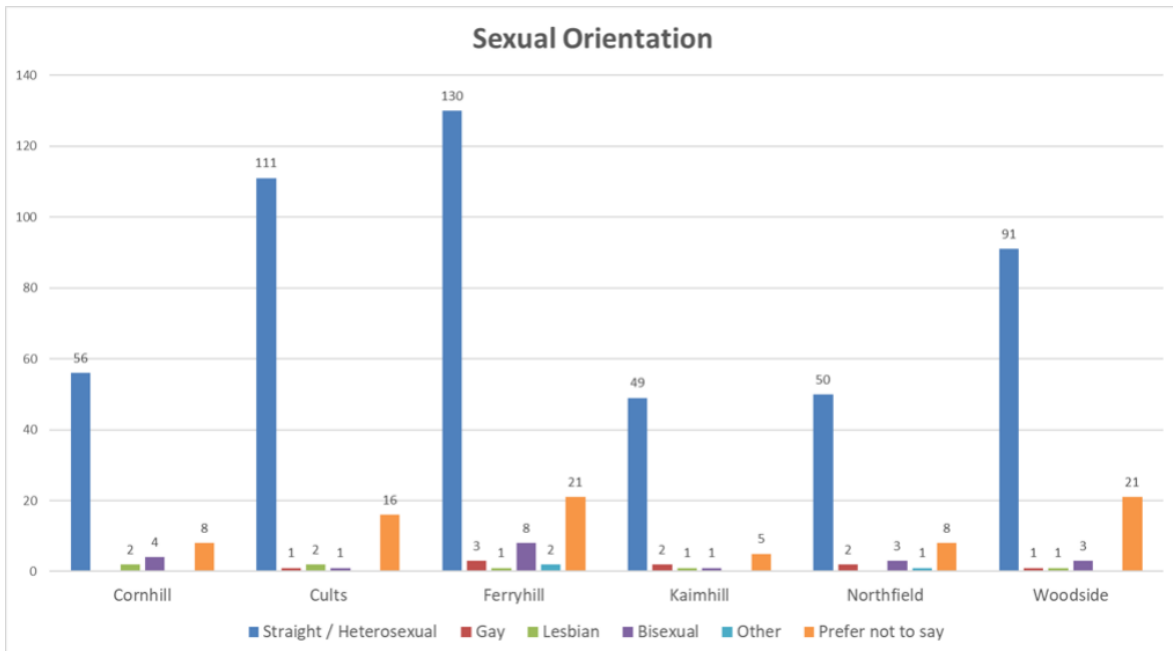
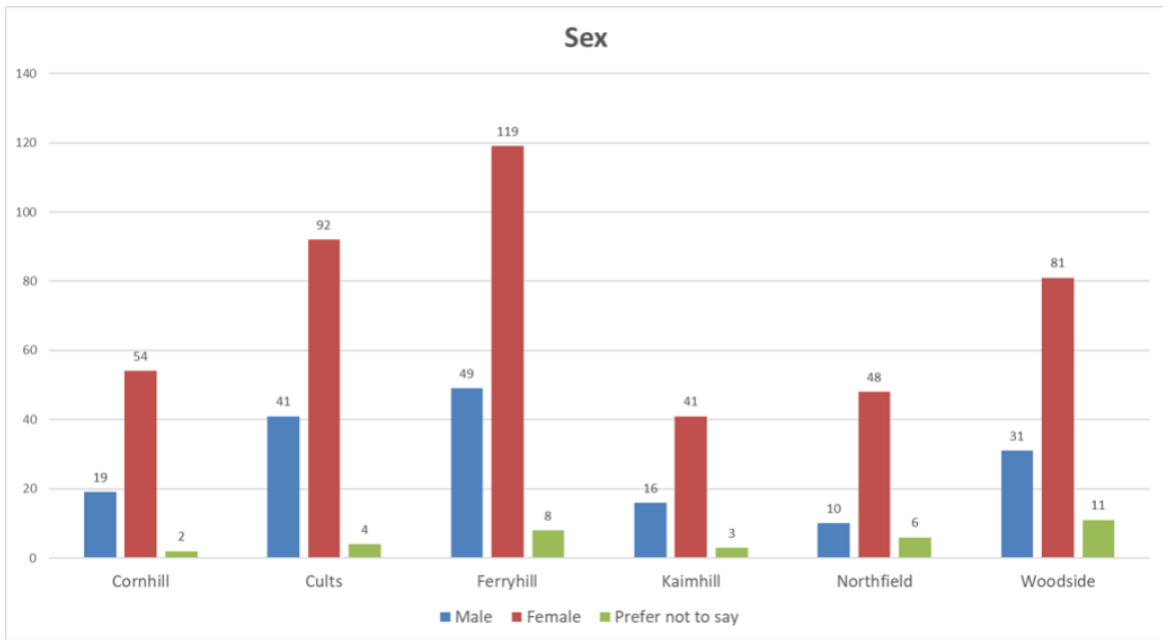
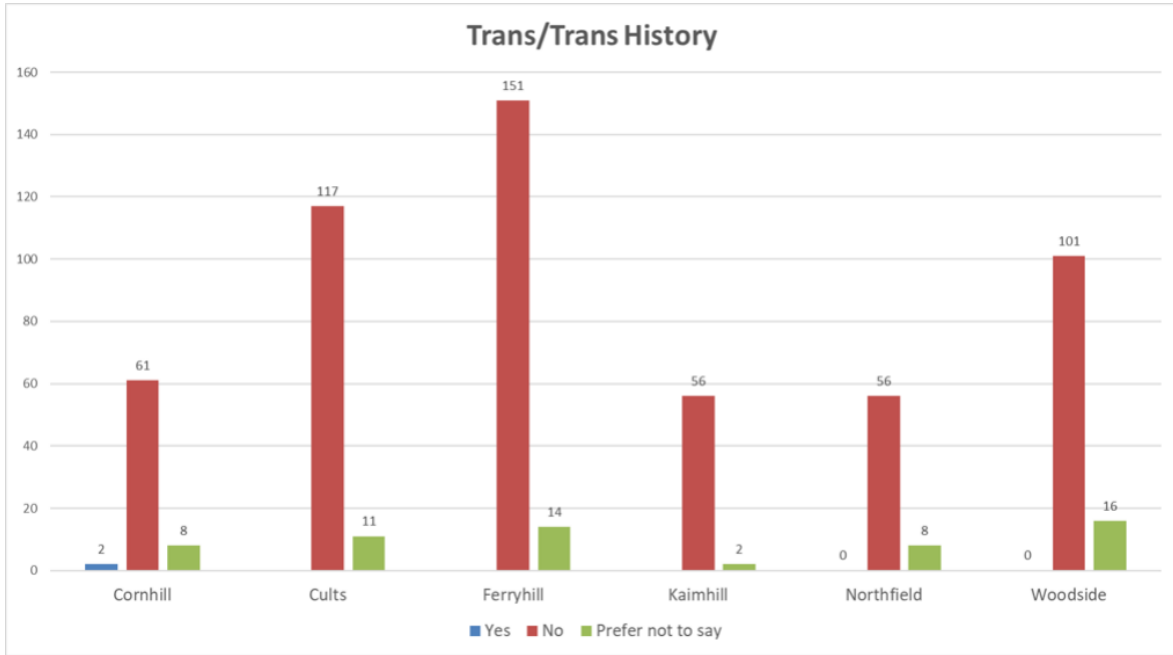
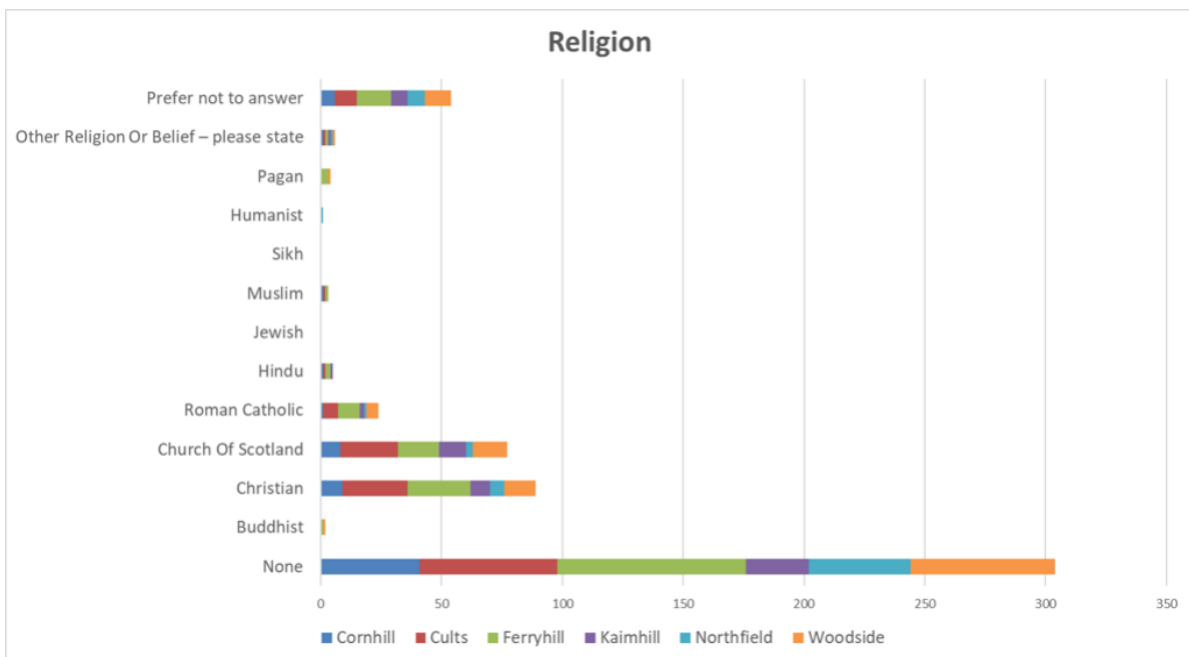
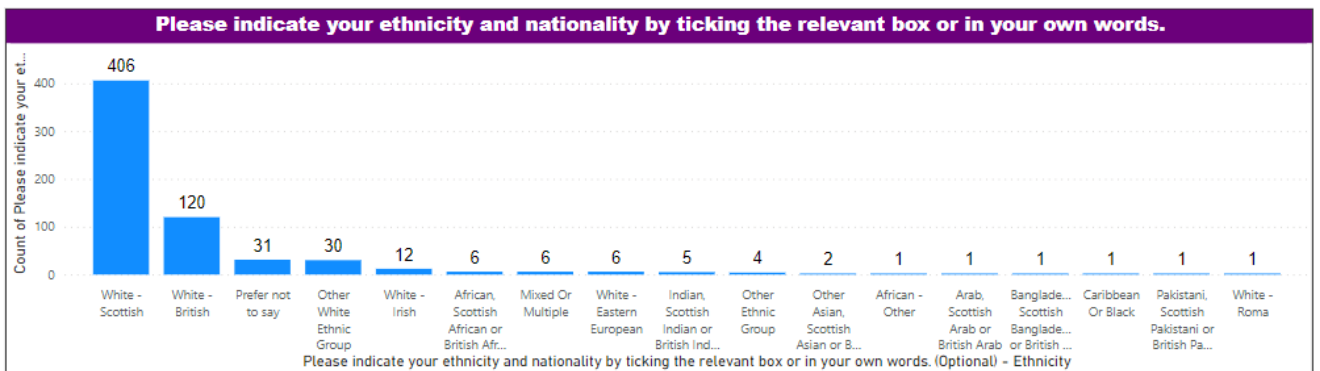


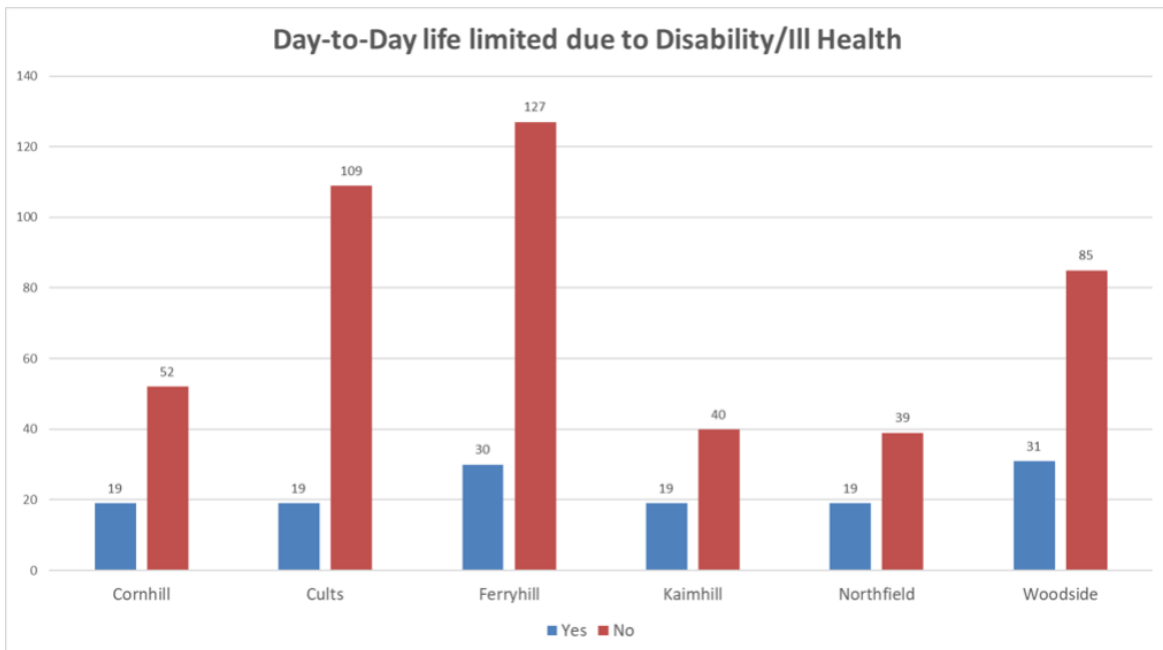
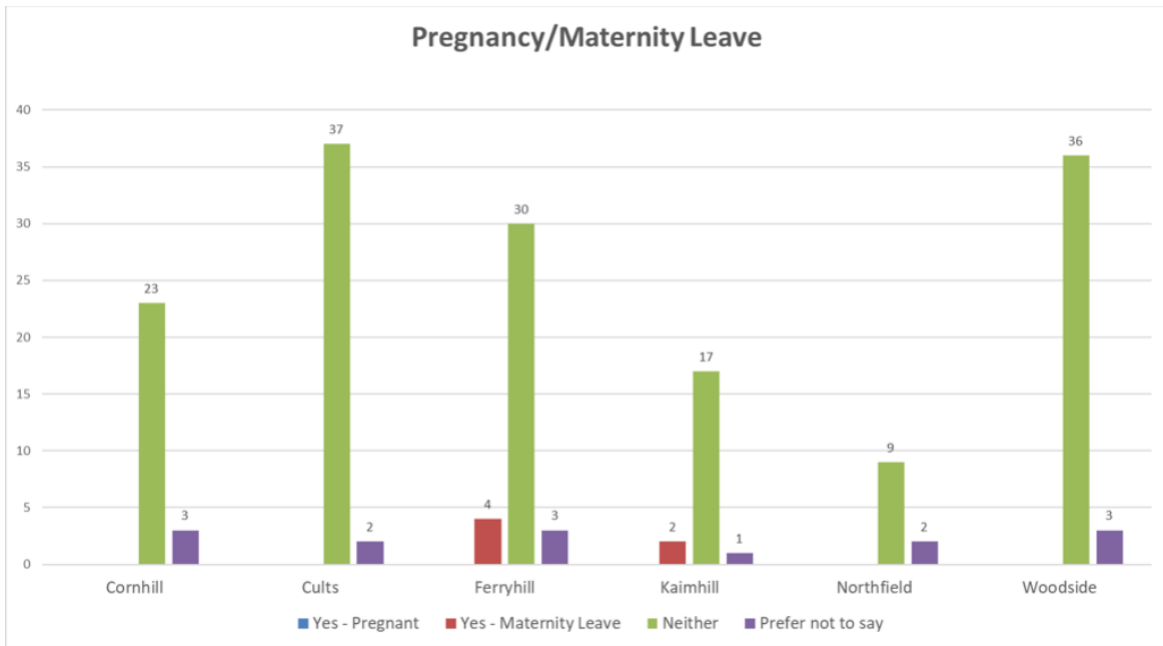
Figure 11: Respondents by Employment Status

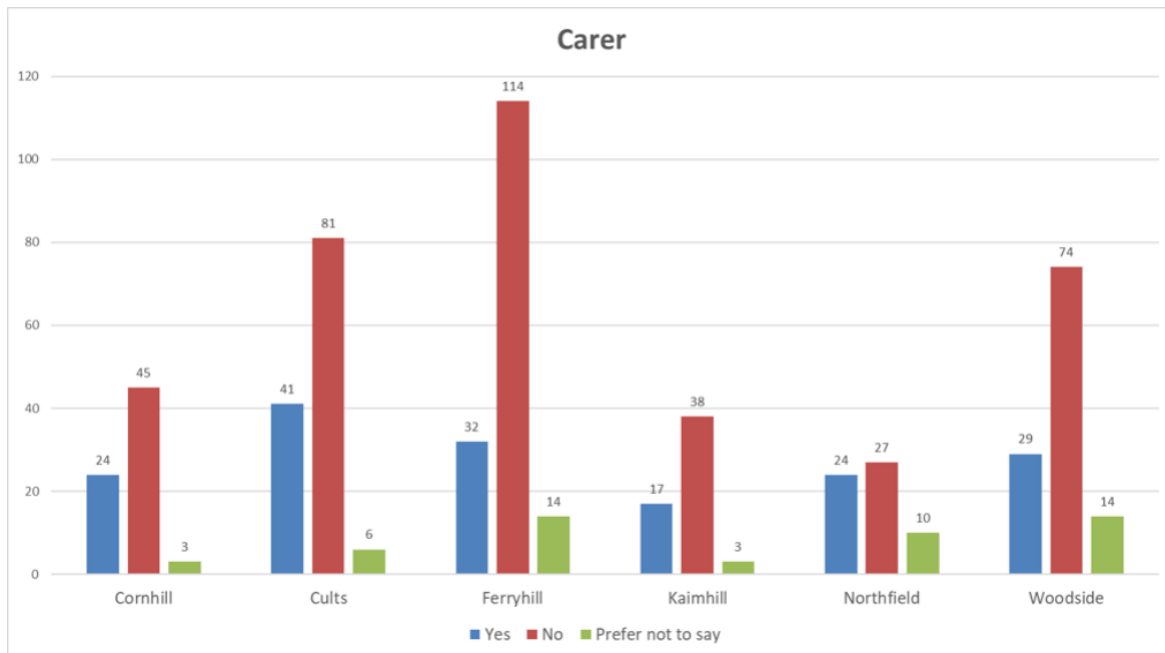
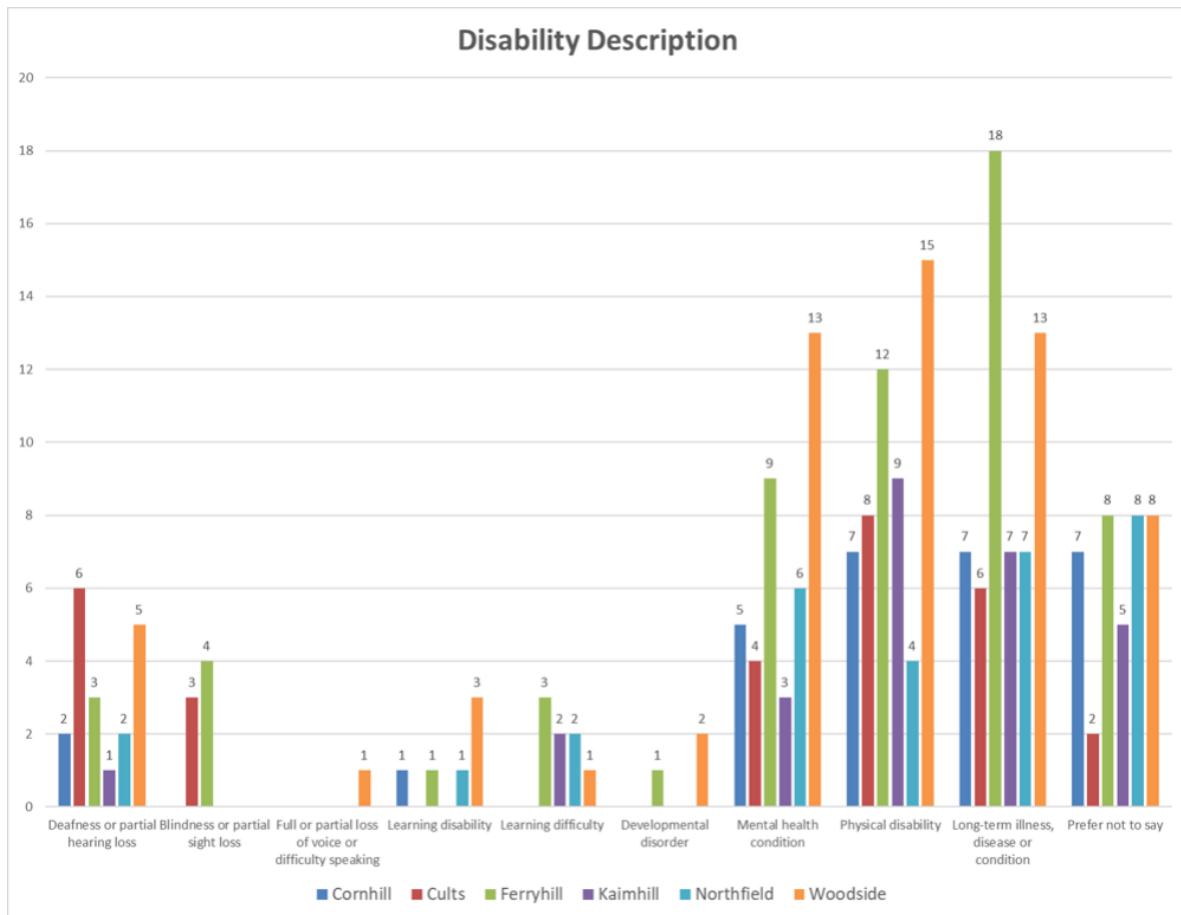




Ethnicity and nationality across all respondents:







The following themes have been identified from the consultation survey and focus groups.

Wider themes	Breakdown of theme where impacts have been recorded
Value of libraries	Child and young people's independence Children's activities Social Connection

	<p>Access to physical libraries and universal services</p> <p>Communities not feeling valued</p> <p>Nostalgia</p> <p>Promotion of library services</p>
Getting to libraries	<p>Travel; cost, time, distance and access</p> <p>Physical access</p> <p>Opening hours</p> <p>Frequency of visits</p> <p>Group visits from schools, EY and community groups</p>
In library experience	<p>Safe spaces for children</p> <p>Safe spaces for adults</p>
Digital inclusion	<p>Digital support</p> <p>Digital access</p>

Cornhill Library

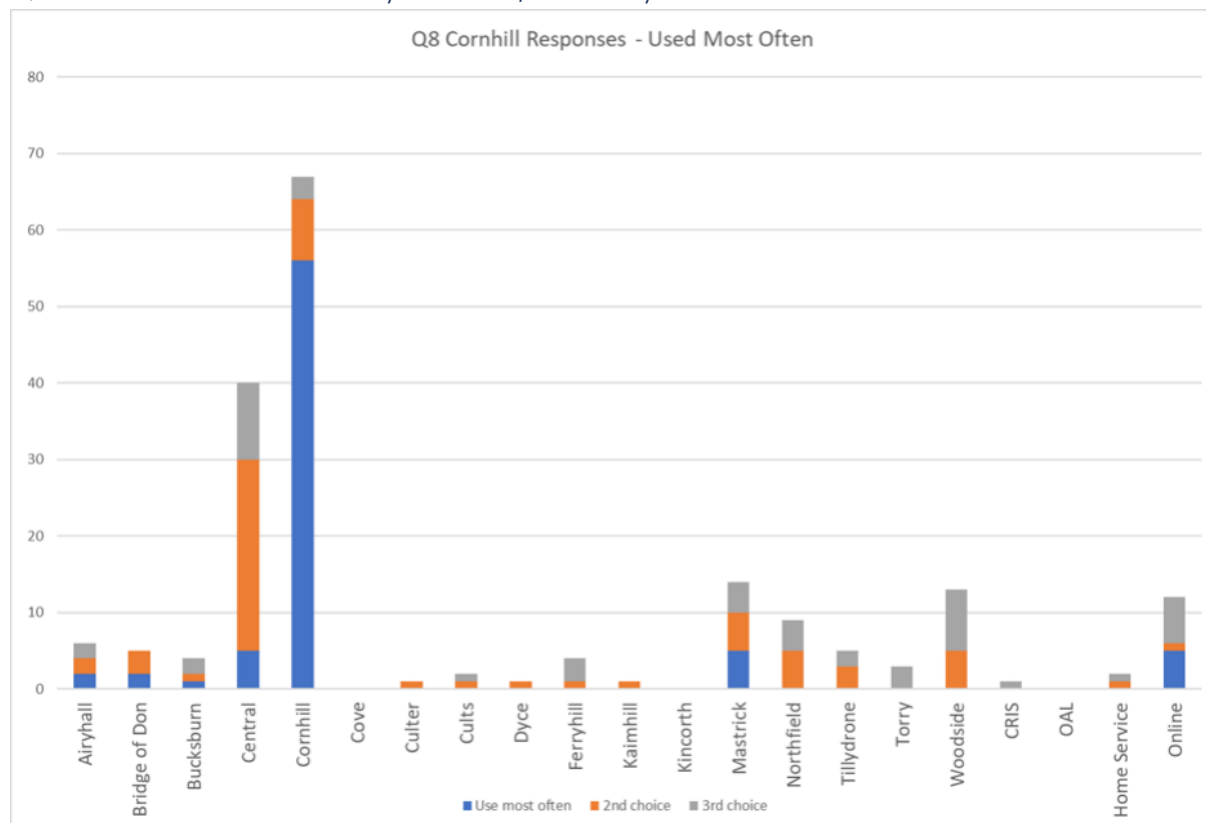
Data from the survey and focus groups relating to Cornhill Library is from individuals who shared in the survey that they accessed Cornhill most often from the list of 6 libraries in Question 12, and/or chose to attend a Cornhill focus group.

No of responses to survey :74

No of attendee at focus groups: 3

No of library visits 22/23: 7294

Q8 Please tell us which library locations/services you access or have accessed most often?



Individuals who accessed Cornhill most often from the list of 6 libraries also accessed other libraries with:

26% (19 people) able to access their first choice of library

67% (50 people) able to access their second choice of library

62% (46 people) able to access their third choice of library

Numbers adjusted so not to include where libraries have closed. While at least 50 out of 74 (68%) respondents were able to access other libraries there were 8 impacts reported where individuals ability to access library services have been negatively impacted due to the frequency that they can visit. 5 people who shared that their day-to-day activities are limited because of a health problem or disability have not accessed another library or home service since Cornhill Library closed.

Q11 What library services are the most important for you to access?

Cornhill - Survey respondents Important Library Services

Service	Number of responses
Books	32
Attend In Person	13
Computer Access	9
Green bags, period products, Childsmile	8
Staff	6
Bookbug	6
Children's Activities	6
Warm Space	5
Newspapers	4
Study Space	4
Other: Miscellaneous	4
Community	3

Impact Question 13-19

Q13 Aberdeen City has 10 community libraries: Airyhall, Bridge of Don, Bucksburn, Cove, Culter, Dyce, Kincorth, Mastrick, Tillydrone and Torry and the Central Library, home to the Lending Library, the Media Centre, the Information Centre and the Central Children's Library. **If you are not able to access alternative library provision, we would like to understand more as to the reasons and factors why.**

14. Alternative library sites can be accessed from distances between 0.8 to 2 miles. Nearby libraries are available on bus routes, with all communities being one bus route away from the Central Library. **Does the distance and/or travel options to alternate library locations impact your ability to access library services? If so, please explain.**

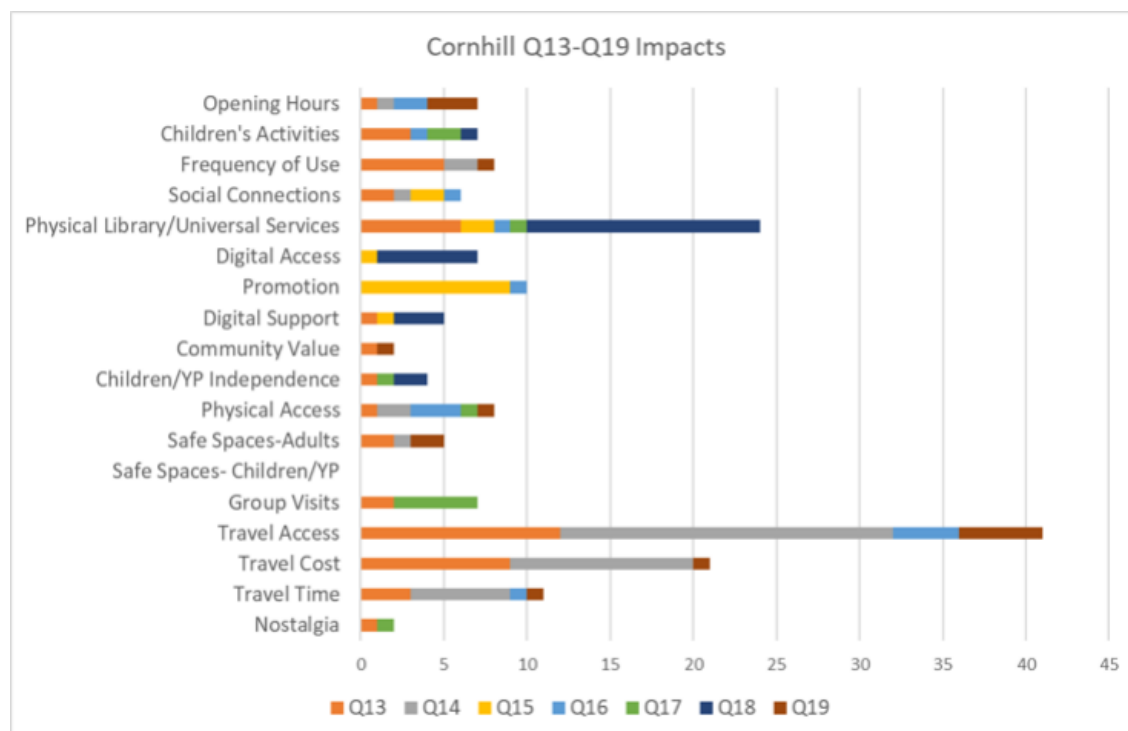
15. The home library service can be accessed by people of all ages who live in Aberdeen and are unable to visit their local library due to disability, illness or because they are caring for someone. **Would the home library service meet your needs as a means of alternative access to library services? If not, please explain why.**

16. Library staff continue to offer and provide support to book groups. **If you are a member of a book group, if your ability to operate or take part has been impacted, please share your experiences.**

17. Library staff continue to offer and provide support to nurseries, schools, care homes and other community settings through nearby library provision. **If you have a connection to one of these settings, what has your experience been in continuing to access library services?**

18. Aberdeen Library and Information services have experienced growing demand for online services and provide a wealth of resources available for free through library membership. **Can you access the library services you need to digitally? If not, please detail your experience.**

19. If there are any other factors or barriers that impacted your ability to access library services, please detail them below:



Responses to the survey

The closure of Cornhill Library has had a negative impact on library users who responded to the survey. The main reasons shared for this impact are the loss of community and social benefits of libraries, the distance and cost of travelling to alternative libraries, and the lack of online services for some people. The most affected groups of people are those who are disabled, elderly, low-income, carers, children, and students, who rely on the library for books, research, internet, printing, activities, and companionship.

- One respondent mentioned that they would have to pay for public transport to get to a library, which they cannot afford.
- Another respondent mentioned that their husband is disabled and cannot walk long distances, making it difficult to travel to another library.
- Another respondent mentioned that they required printing and help with the computer, which they could access at the library.
- Another respondent mentioned that they can no longer attend their book group because they can't get to the central library.
- One respondent mentioned that a library is the centre of the community- with school children visiting a library it builds a lifetime appreciation for books and respect for community services. It is a place of warmth and friendship as well as giving people access to internet and printing services.
- One resident mentioned that they are 74 years old and not very good with computers. They were always happy to look through books for information.

Cornhill Focus Group

Focus group discussion took place with 3 library users in Cornhill, where they were asked to share their experience of the impact of the closure of Cornhill. The attendees mention various factors that affect their ability to access library services. Focus Group attendees were asked the same questions as appear in the survey, these are Q13-Q19. These are the main ideas shared:

- **Library users' experiences of accessing different libraries:** focus group attendees shared that they have faced various challenges or preferences in accessing different libraries in Aberdeen, such as distance, bus routes, parking, accessibility, opening hours, and atmosphere.
- **Impact of library closures on library users:** focus group attendees reflected on the impact of library closures on library users, such as reduced social contact, loss of community space, lack of access to library resources and services, and difficulty in finding alternative libraries.
- **Library users' opinions on online and home library services:** focus group attendees shared opinions on online and home library services, such as Borrowbox, Press Reader, and Find My Past. Some users find these services useful, but others prefer paper books, or find the online services limited or not suitable for their needs.
- **Library users' suggestions for improving library services:** focus group attendees provided some suggestions for improving library services, such as increasing the opening hours, improving the social media presence, developing local volunteers, and setting up writing or critique groups.

Information relating to Cornhill Library from the Children and Young person's survey as part of the Aberdeen Future Library Service Consultation:

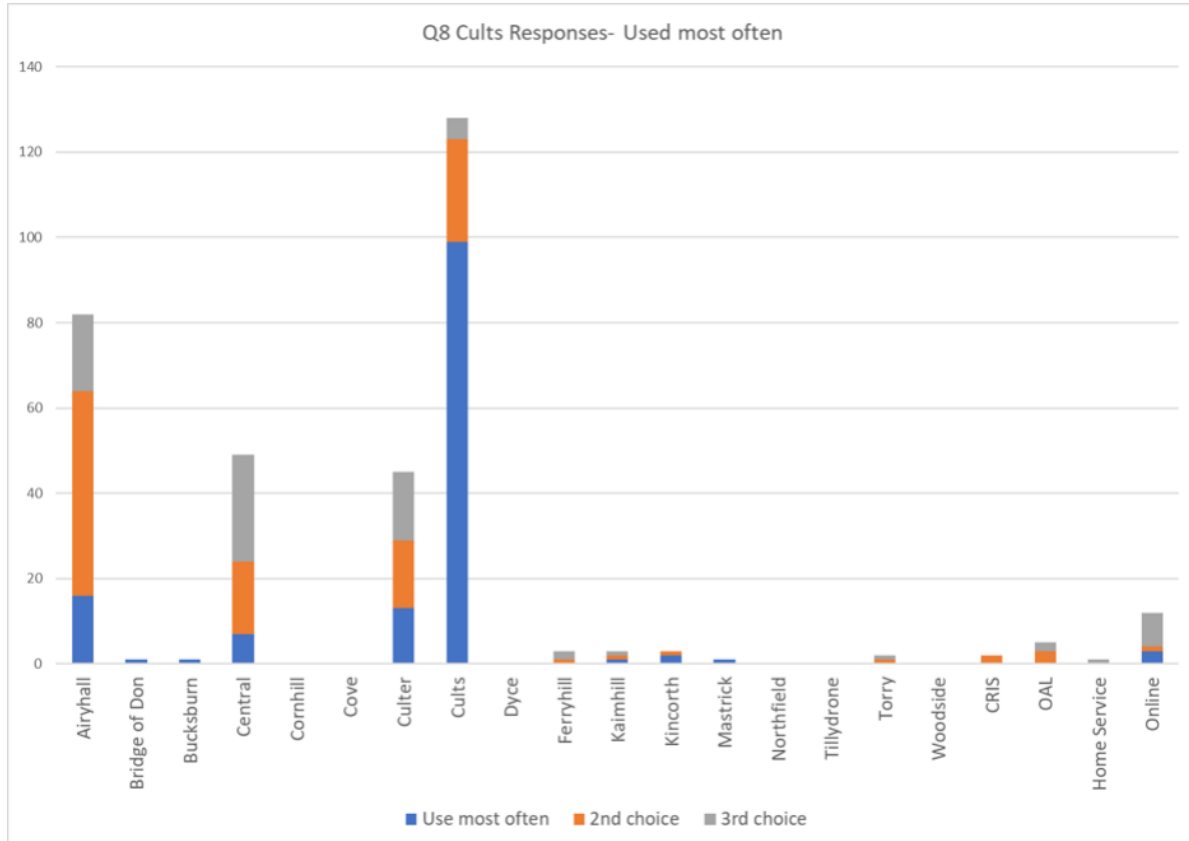
The feedback highlights the closure of the Cornhill library and its impact on the community, an area of deprivation and limited resources for buying books, and suggestions for reopening the library or providing alternative means of access to library resources, such as dropping off and collecting items from school.

Cults Library

No of responses to survey :178

No of attendee at focus groups: 12

Q8 Please tell us which library locations/services you access or have accessed most often?



Individuals who accessed Cults most often from the list of 6 libraries also accessed other libraries with:

31% (46 people) able to access their first choice of library

77% (113 people) able to access their second choice of library

90% (133 people) able to access their third choice of library

Numbers adjust so not to include where libraries have closed. While at least 133 out of 148 (90%) respondents were able to access other libraries there were 12 impacts reported where individuals ability to access library services have been negatively impacted due to the frequency that they can visit.

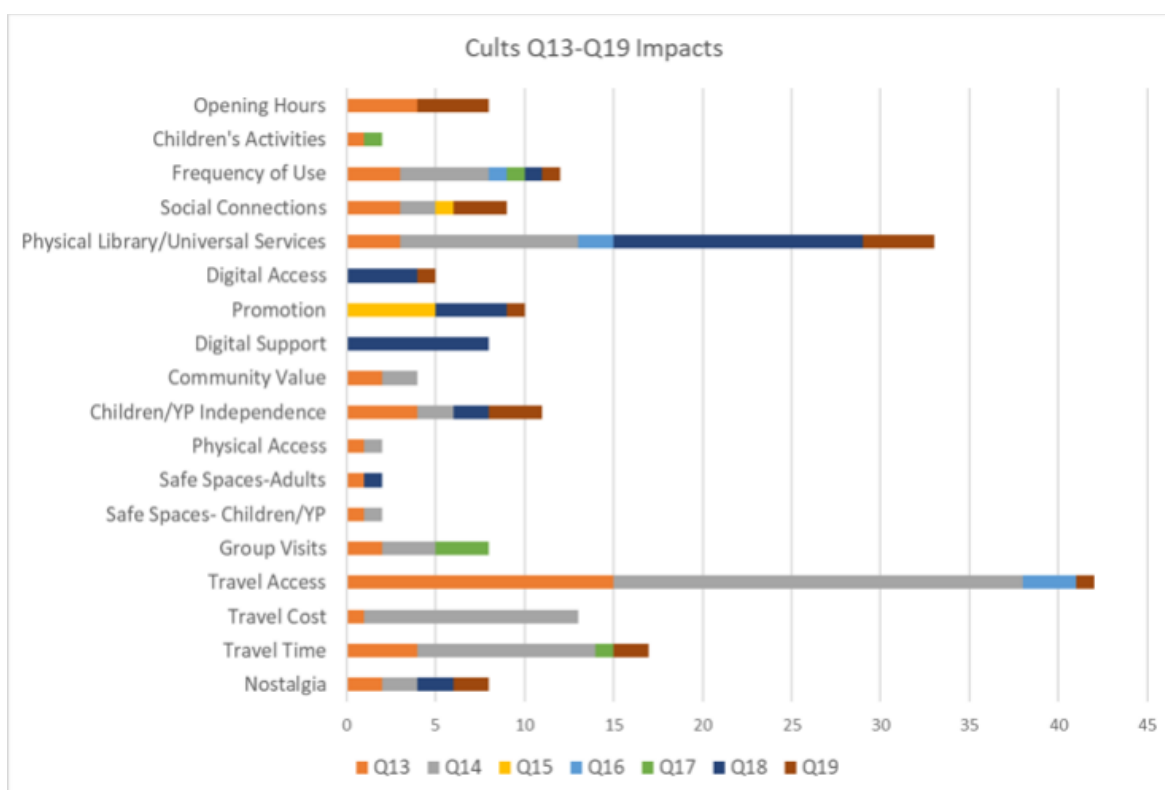
Q11 What library services are the most important for you to access?

Cults- Survey respondents Important Library Services

Service	Number of responses
Books	96
Attend In Person	33
Community	15
Digital Services	11

Children's Activities	10
Staff	8
Green bags, period products, Childsmile	7
Newspapers	7
Bookbug	4
Study Space	4
Computer Access	3
Photocopying & Printing	3
Warm Space	2
Other: Miscellaneous	0

Impact Question 13-19 (as detail in Cornhill info)



A summary of responses to the survey

Library users shared that they are negatively impacted by library closures in several ways. The closure of community libraries in Aberdeen has resulted in reduced availability, convenience, and quality of library services, as well as the loss of a community hub and social space. Some people have been able to access alternative library provision, but they face challenges such as parking, distance, cost, time, and environmental impact. Many people have not been able to access library services due to barriers such as lack of transport, mobility issues, disability, illness, caring responsibilities, low income, and poor broadband connection.

- Some respondents have to drive to alternative libraries, which is not environmentally friendly and can be difficult due to parking issues.

- Some respondents have to combine library visits with other journeys, which limits the days and times they can use the service.
- Some respondents have travelled to alternative libraries with children, which can be difficult and inconvenient.
- Some respondents shared that Libraries provide a safe and welcoming space for children and young people to study, read, and relax. With the closure of libraries, children and young people may have lost access to these valuable resources and opportunities.

Cults Focus Group:

Focus group discussion took place with 12 library users in Cults, where they were asked to share their experience of the impact of the closure of Cults. The attendees mention various factors that affect their ability to access library services. Focus Group attendees were asked the same questions as appear in the survey, these are Q13-Q19. These are the main ideas shared:

1. **Accessibility and Convenience:** The closure of Cults Library has negatively impacted the accessibility and convenience of library services for its users, especially children, elderly, and people with mobility issues. Attendees mention difficulties in accessing alternative libraries due to distance, transportation, parking, and opening hours.
2. **Community:** The closure of Cults Library has resulted in the loss of a community space and hub, negatively impacting the mental health and wellbeing of its users. Attendees express their sense of isolation and disconnection from the community.
3. **Alternative Services:** Attendees express their views on the alternative services offered by the council, such as the home service, the digital resources, and the book groups, and highlight the limitations and challenges of using them. Some attendees were unaware of the existence of these services, while others found them to be inadequate substitutes for a physical library.

Information relating to Cults Library from the Children and Young person's survey as part of the Aberdeen Future Library Service

Consultation:

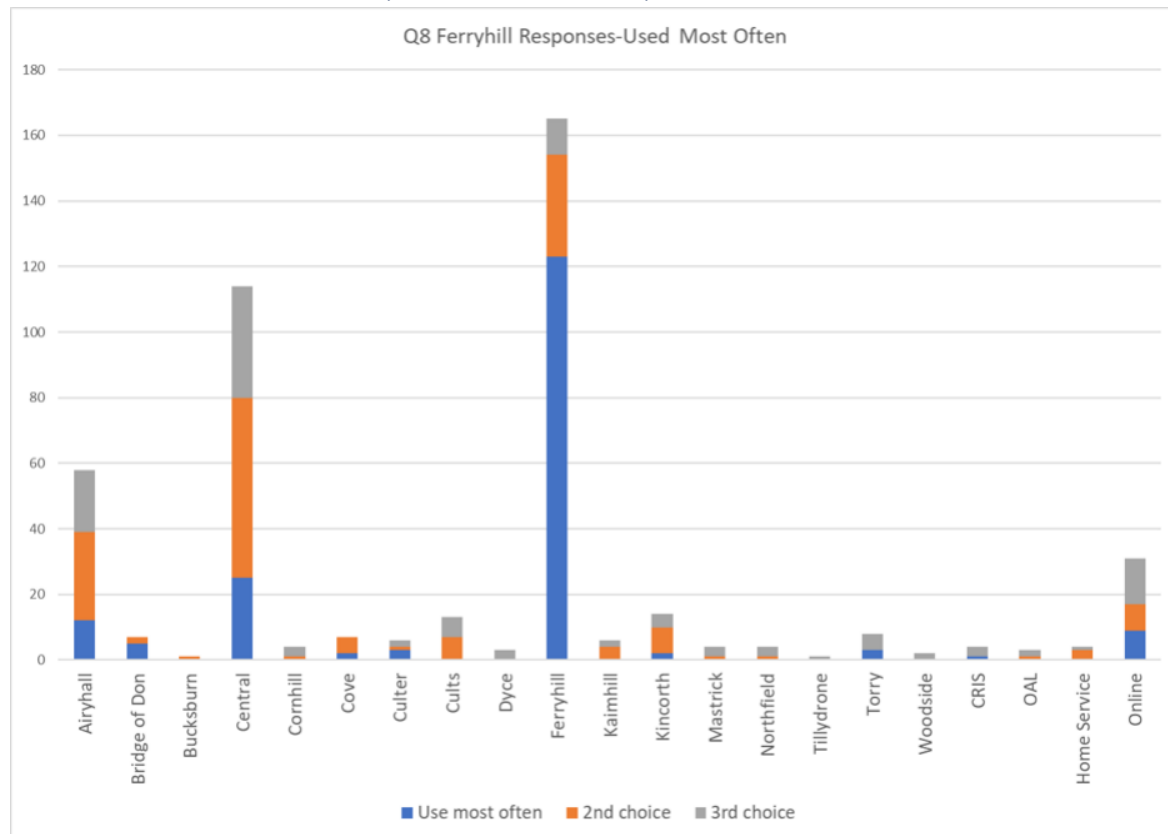
- **Closure or distance of the Cults library:** Most of the respondents said that they did not use libraries because the Cults library was closed or too far away from their homes or schools.
- **Suggestions for improving library services:** Some of the respondents suggested that the library services could be improved by reopening the Cults library, extending the opening hours, providing more computers and devices, creating a club for children, and having a wider range of books.
- **Frequency of library visits:** Only one respondent said that they tried to go to the library monthly, while the rest implied that they rarely or never visited the library due to the distance or closure of the Cults library.

Ferryhill Library

No of responses to survey :190

No of attendee at focus groups: 8

Q8 Please tell us which library locations/services you access or have accessed most often?



Individuals who accessed Ferryhill most often from the list of 6 libraries also accessed other libraries with:

38% (72 people) able to access their first choice of library

72% (137 people) able to access their second choice of library

77% (148 people) able to access their third choice of library

Numbers adjust so not to include where libraries have closed. While at least 148 out of 190 (77%) respondents were able to access other libraries there were 20 impacts reported where individuals ability to access library services have been negatively impacted due to the frequency that they can visit.

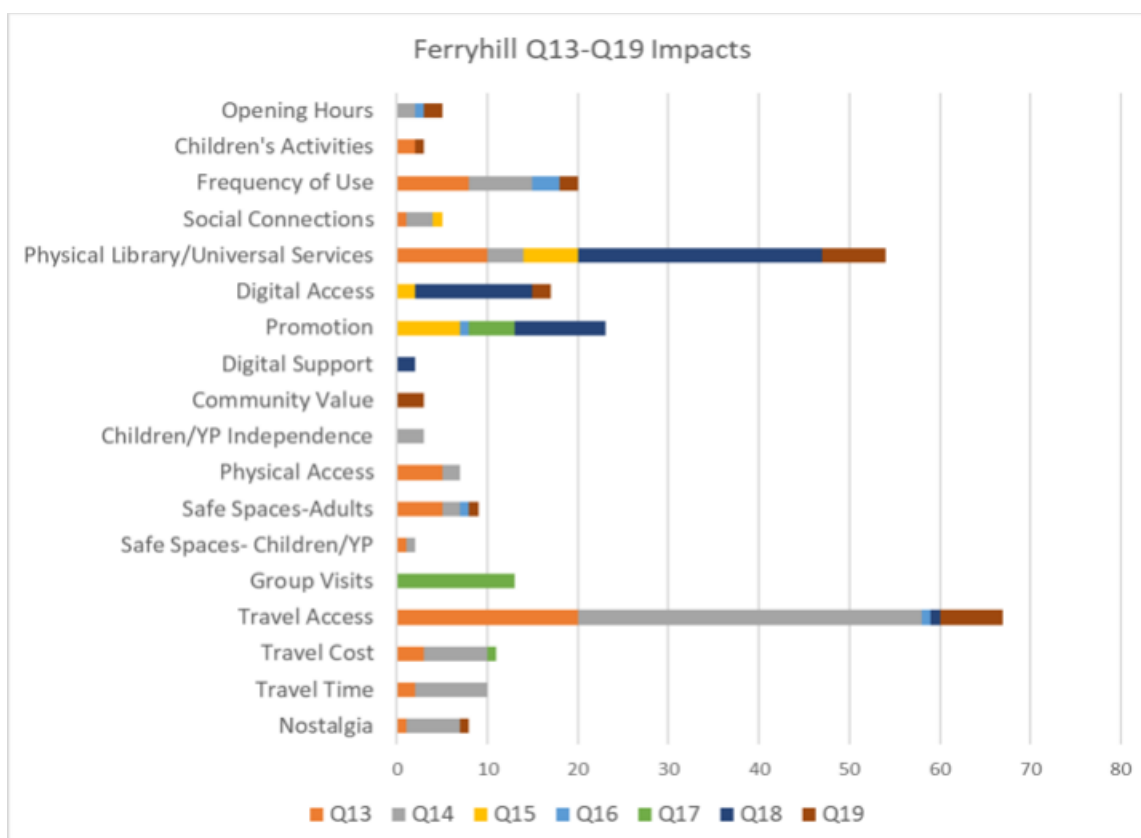
Q11 What library services are the most important for you to access?

Ferryhill- Survey respondents Important Library Services

Service	Number of responses
Books	27
Attend In Person	10
Computer Access	6
Green bags, period products, Childsmile	6

Community	5
Children's Activities	5
Bookbug	3
Warm Space	3
Digital Services	3
Newspapers	2
Photocopying & Printing	1
Staff	1
Study Spaces	1
Other: Miscellaneous Digital Services	1

Impact Question 13-19 (as detail in Cornhill info)



Summary of responses to the survey

Closing libraries in Aberdeen has negatively impacted people's access to library services. The main reasons shared were reduced access, distance, transport, cost, time, convenience, safety, and disability. Respondents for Ferryhill also express their concern about the impact of the library closures on children's literacy, education, and enjoyment of reading, as well as on the social and cultural aspects of the communities.

- Some respondents shared that the time it takes to travel to the library has increased, making it less convenient for people to visit.
- Other respondent shared that closure of libraries has made it difficult for people with disabilities to access library services.

- One respondent with a chronic long-term disability, was unable to take the bus to the Central library or Airyhall as it would impact their fatigue. They now rely on getting a lift, which has meant a big reduction in visits.
- Another respondent shared that their children frequently ask why they can no longer go to the library and often tell their parents how much they miss going.
- One respondent's mother could walk to Ferryhill library by herself, but can't take the bus into town without assistance.
- One respondent's 88-year-old mother now doesn't have access to any form of library provision.

Ferryhill Focus Group

Focus group discussion took place with 8 library users in Ferryhill, where they were asked to share their experience of the impact of the closure of Ferryhill Library. The attendees mention various factors that affect their ability to access library services. Focus Group attendees were asked the same questions as appear in the survey, these are Q13-Q19. These are the main ideas shared:

- Difficulties of accessing the Central Library due to cost, distance, time, and mobility issues.
- Loss of the community and social aspects of the local libraries.
- Reduced opportunities for children and families to develop a love of reading and learning.
- Limitations of the online and home services as alternatives to the physical libraries.

Information relating to Ferryhill Library from the Children and Young person's survey as part of the Aberdeen Future Library Service Consultation:

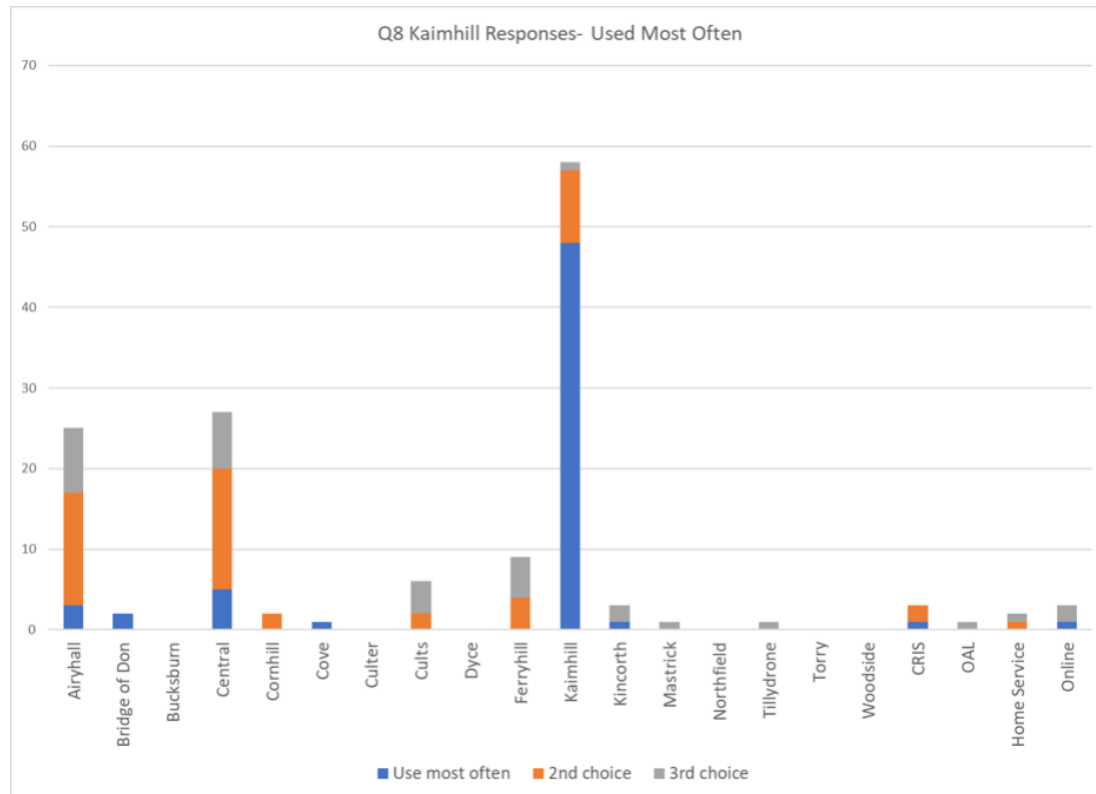
- Distance to the nearest library: Many respondents said that they have not been to a public library or it has been over a year since their last visit because the nearest library is too far away.
- Closure of the Ferryhill library: Many respondents used to go to the Ferryhill library, which was closed down. They suggested that reopening the Ferryhill library would encourage them to use libraries more often.
- Suggestions for encouraging library use: Respondents suggested maintaining the excellent range of services offered, having more bookbug sessions, having more events for class groups, and having a library bus service to visit local settings would encourage them to use libraries more often.

Kaimhill

No of responses to survey: 63

No of attendee at focus groups: 0

Q8 Please tell us which library locations/services you access or have accessed most often?



Individuals who accessed Kaimhill most often from the list of 6 libraries also accessed other libraries with:

26% (16 people) able to access their first choice of library

65% (41 people) able to access their second choice of library

70% (44 people) able to access their third choice of library

Numbers adjust so not to include where libraries have closed. While at least 44 out of 63 (70%) respondents were able to access other libraries there was 1 impact reported where an individual's ability to access library services have been negatively impacted due to the frequency that they can visit.

Q11 What library services are the most important for you to access?

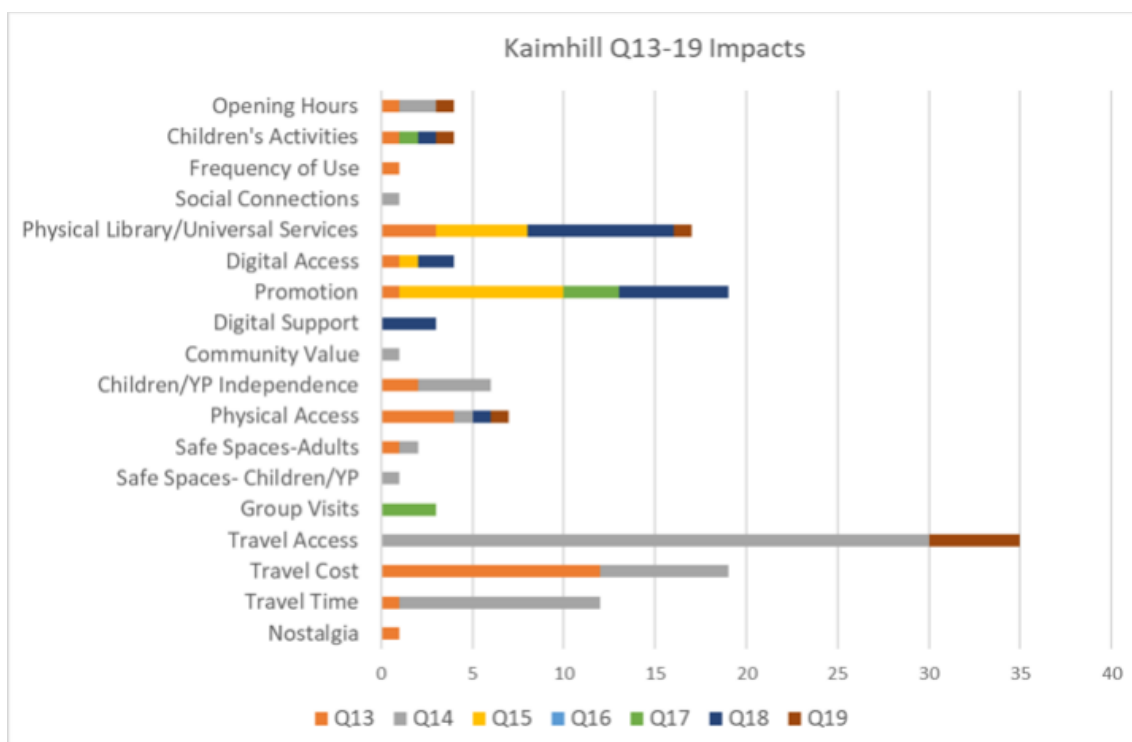
Kaimhill Survey respondents Important Library Services

Service	Number of responses
Books	40
Computer Access	5
Children's Activities	5
Staff	4
Digital Services	4
Bookbug	3
Attend In Person	2
Study Space	2

Photocopying & Printing	2
Community	1
Newspapers	1
Green bags, period products, Childsmile	0
Warm Space	0
Other: Miscellaneous	0

Impact Question 13-19 (as questions details in Cornhill info)

Kaimhill Focus Group: There was no sign up for in person focus groups, there was one sign up for the on-line session however there was no attendance.



Summary of responses to the survey

The closure of libraries has had several negative impacts on the community of Kaimhill. Many people reported that the closure of Kaimhill Library and other libraries in Aberdeen has affected their access to books, computers, digital services, activities, and social interaction.

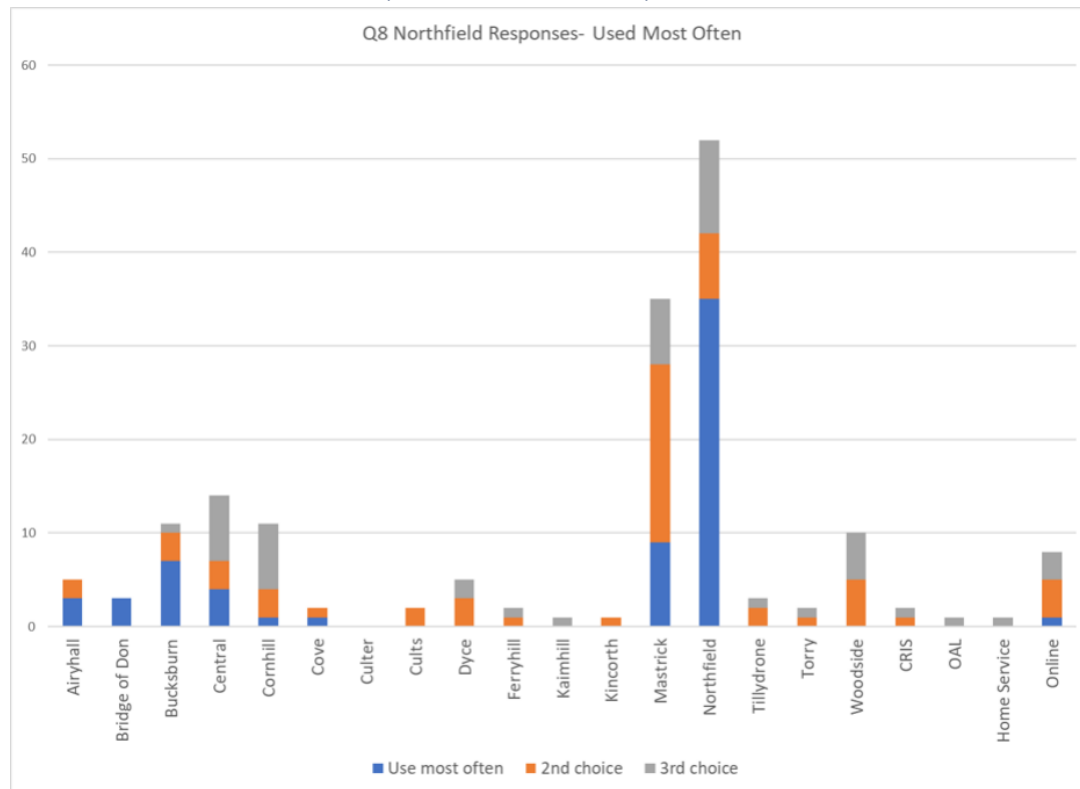
- Some respondents reported that elderly people and children should not have to travel out of their own community to access library services.
- Some respondents reported that the cost and inconvenience of travelling to other library locations was a barrier to accessing library services.
- Some respondents with disabilities reported that it was difficult for them to travel to other library locations due to their disability.
- Some older people reported that they had difficulty carrying books to and from more distant libraries.
- One person reported that they now go to the Central Library, but it takes 45 minutes by bus rather than the 5-minute walk they had to Kaimhill Library.

Northfield

No of responses to survey: 66

No of attendee at focus groups: 4

Q8 Please tell us which library locations/services you access or have accessed most often?



Individuals who accessed Northfield most often from the list of 6 libraries also accessed other libraries with:

44% (29 people) able to access their first choice of library

69% (46 people) able to access their second choice of library

51% (34 people) able to access their third choice of library

Numbers adjust so not to include where libraries have closed. While at least 46 out of 66 respondents were able to access other libraries there were 4 impacts reported where individuals ability to access library services have been negatively impacted due to the frequency that they can visit.

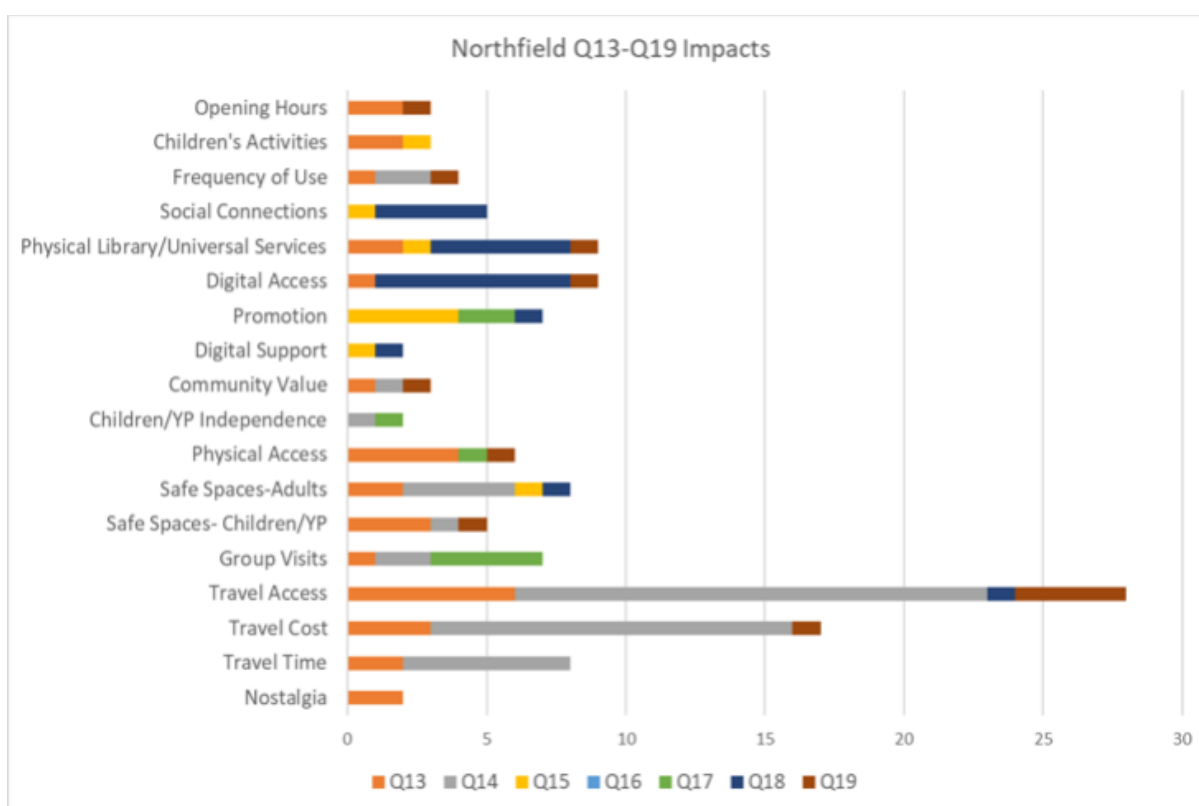
Q11 What library services are the most important for you to access?

Northfield Survey respondents Important Library Services

Service	Number of responses
Books	30
Attend In Person	14
Computer Access	11
Digital Services	6

Staff	5
Photocopying & Printing	5
Community	4
Newspapers	3
Children's Activites	2
Bookbug	1
Green bags, period products, Childsmile	1
Study Space	1
Warm Space	1
Other: Miscellaneous	0

Impact Question 13-19 (as questions details in Cornhill info)



Summary of responses to the survey

Many respondents for Northfield expressed frustration, disappointment, and anger at the loss of their local library, which they considered a vital service for their mental health, education, and social interaction. A common theme in the comments was the difficulty of traveling to other libraries, especially for those with disabilities, low income, or young children. Some people mentioned the cost, time, and unreliability of public transport, while others said they felt unsafe or uncomfortable in unfamiliar settings. Some people said they could not access the online services offered by the library, either because they did not have the internet, a suitable device, or the skills to use them. Others said they preferred physical books and the experience of browsing the shelves. Many comments highlighted the importance of libraries for children and young people, who used them for reading, learning, and socializing. Some parents and teachers said the closures had reduced the opportunities for children to develop their literacy and imagination, and some young people said they missed the safe and quiet space to study.

- Some respondents mentioned the cost, time, and unreliability of public transport, while others said they felt unsafe or uncomfortable in unfamiliar settings.
- Another response; Yes, the distance makes it less appealing as a study space or resource (as a young person). If you were an older person, someone with a disability it would also make it much less appealing.
- A teenager with Autism constraints who home schools was negatively impacted by the absence of the Northfield Library.
- A respondent with a neurodivergent condition found going to other libraries challenging.

Northfield Focus Group:

Focus group discussion took place with 4 library users in Northfield, where they were asked to share their experience of the impact of the closure of Northfield Library. The attendees mention various factors that affect their ability to access library services. Focus Group attendees were asked the same questions as appear in the survey, these are Q13-Q19. These are the main ideas shared:

- Inconvenience of travelling to alternative locations
- Cost of transport and parking
- Loss of the physical and social aspects of browsing books
- Impact on children and schools
- Lack of awareness and accessibility of online service

Information relating to Northfield Library from the Children and Young person's survey as part of the Aberdeen Future Library Service Consultation:

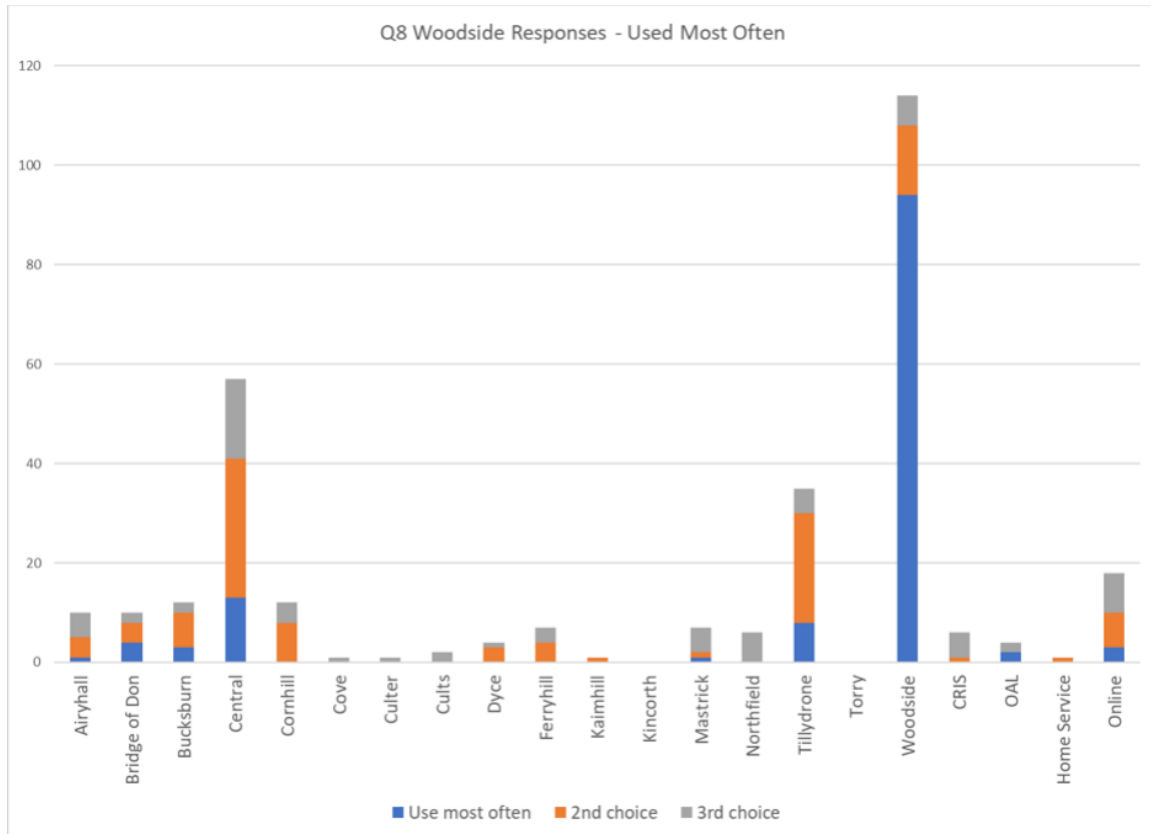
- **Reasons for not using public libraries:** Some children and young people in Northfield do not use public libraries because they are too far away, have inconvenient opening times, or lack the resources they need or want.
- **Suggestions for increasing library usage:** Some possible ways to encourage more library visits are to have more selection of stories, different events, invites to the library, and a closer or reopened library in the area.
- **Challenges for school library visits:** The closure of two nearby libraries (Cornhill and Northfield) has affected the ability of Northfield Academy to arrange class visits to the library, as the only other local library (Mastrick) is not easily accessible within the school timetable.

Woodside

No of responses to survey: 132

No of attendee at focus groups: 11

Q8 Please tell us which library locations/services you access or have accessed most often?



Individuals who accessed Woodside most often from the list of 6 libraries also accessed other libraries with:

27% (35 people) able to access their first choice of library

74% (97 people) able to access their second choice of library

72% (94 people) able to access their third choice of library

Numbers adjust so not to include where libraries have closed. While at least 97 out of 131 respondents were able to access other libraries there were 3 impacts reported where individual's ability to access library services have been negatively impacted due to the frequency that they can visit.

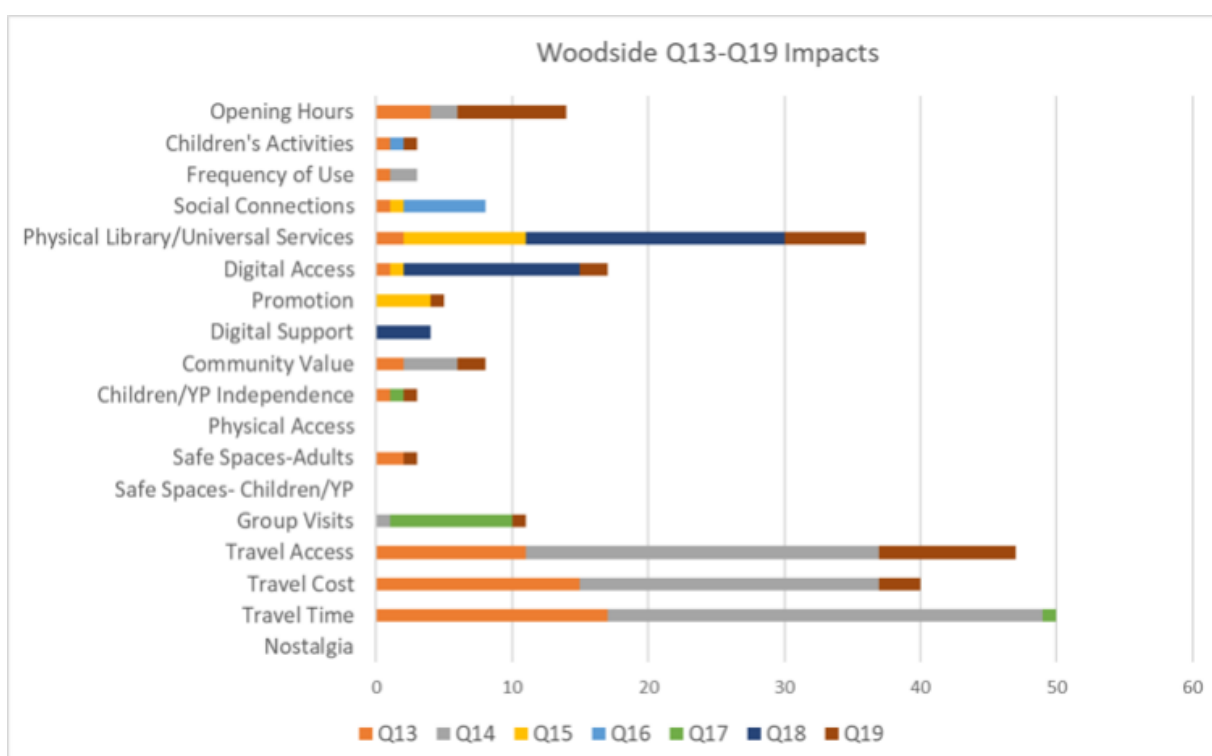
Q11 What library services are the most important for you to access?

Woodside Survey respondents Important Library Services

Service	Number of responses
Books	69
Attend In Person	38

Computer Access	13
Photocopying & Printing	13
Bookbug	10
Staff	9
Warm Space	9
Children's Activities	8
Community	6
Digital Services	6
Green bags, period products, Childsmile	6
Study Space	6
Newspapers	5
Other: Miscellaneous	0

Impact Question 13-19 (as questions details in Cornhill info)



Summary of responses to the survey

Library closures have had a negative impact on library users in Woodside. The comments from people who responded to a survey about the closure of Woodside library express various negative impacts, such as increased travel costs and time, reduced access to books and digital services, loss of social contact and community space, and diminished opportunities for children and young people.

- Some respondents reported that the bus fare to the nearest alternative library was prohibitive, making it difficult for them to access library services.
- Many respondents found it difficult or impossible to access other libraries due to factors such as distance, bus fares, and opening hours.

- Some respondents shared that libraries serve as a community space where children and young people can socialize and engage in community activities. The closure of libraries has resulted in the loss of social contact and community space for children and young people.
- Some respondents shared that libraries provide support for vulnerable individuals, such as the elderly, disabled, or those with mobility issues, by providing a safe and accessible space. The closure of libraries has resulted in the loss of this support.
- One person uses Tillydrone Library and finds the staff very well trained and helpful if they get stuck.
- Another person tries to get to Central Library, but finds it not convenient and misses the closeness of Woodside Library.

Woodside Focus group

Focus group discussion took place with 11 library users in Woodside, where they were asked to share their experience of the impact of the closure of Woodside Library. The attendees mention various factors that affect their ability to access library services. Focus Group attendees were asked the same questions as appear in the survey, these are Q13-Q19. These are the main ideas shared:

- **Woodside Library closure and its impact on library users:** The closure of Woodside Library due to budget cuts affected users' access to library services and resources.
- **Accessibility and practicality issues of alternative libraries:** Focus group attendees expressed that the alternative libraries were not accessible or practical for them due to factors such as distance, transport, parking, traffic, and opening hours.
- **Loss of convenience and community of Woodside Library:** Focus group attendees lamented the loss of convenience and community that Woodside Library provided, as it was a warm, welcoming, and culturally significant place that offered various programs and activities for children and adults.
- **Challenges for teachers and parents to support children's literacy and education:** Users highlighted the challenges that teachers and parents faced in supporting children's literacy and education without Woodside Library.
- **Limitations and drawbacks of online services and e-books:** Focus group attendees commented on the limitations and drawbacks of online services and e-books.
- **Criticism of the council and the decision to close Woodside Library:** Focus group attendees criticized the council and the decision to close Woodside Library, as they felt it was unfair, unjustified, and insensitive to the needs and voices of the community.

Information relating to Woodside Library from the Children and Young person's survey as part of the Aberdeen Future Library Service Consultation:

- Teachers having to go to CRIS to pick up resources instead of having them delivered to their schools or the nearest library.
- Libraries being closed or too far away for some children and young people.
- The desire for Bookbug and other activities to be developed and for libraries to be kept open.

Wider engagement as part of the consultation:

Disability and Equality Partnership – The library consultations were on the agenda of the 24/10/23 meeting. A presentation on the consultations was given and there was an opportunity for the group to ask questions and give input. A summary of themes shared by the group included:

- Older people experiencing isolation and how libraries provide community connection
- Some older people are not as confident accessing digital library services
- Libraries are more than book!
- Libraries are spaces where is not expectation to spend money and are valuable warm spaces that are welcoming
- Questions about Community Council and Community group arrangements for printing where libraries have closed
- The importance of children's access to books and family's ability to access libraries together

The group were encouraged to take part in the library consultation surveys and focus group with information of how to take part in both the Library and Pool shared.

Locality Outcome Improvement Plan – refresh engagement sessions: As part of these public session and in recognition of the number of live consultation that Aberdeen City Council were engaging on information was provided on this and the Future Library service consultation. People were encouraged to complete the survey online or use the paper copies provided. There were 2 surveys submitted from the Woodside session with the results considered as part of the wider consultation.

Further Library engagement:

In communities where libraries have closed: To ensure communities where libraries had closed had an opportunity to take part in both the Future Libraries consultation and the consultation on the 6 libraries, library staff delivered in community engagement sessions. The intention was to catch and update people who may not be currently connected to the library service through social media or through on-line or physical library services. During these sessions staff visited 72 community contact points; community centres, shops, dental practices, pharmacies, hairdressers, sports centres etc, distributed 500 QR codes and approximately 120 posters.

Weekly vaccination centre engagement: Throughout the period of consultation library staff visited the vaccination centre within the Bon Accord Centre weekly to speak to people about the Future Library Survey Consultation and the Consultation on the 6 libraries. The waiting time before and after proved a useful time to engage with people and at each session staff spoke with approximately 100 people each week, providing links to the surveys and further information about the library service.

APPENDIX B – Libraries Integrated Impact Assessments – Cornhill, Cults, Ferryhill, Kaimhill, Northfield, and Woodside Libraries

Integrated Impact Assessment Pre-screening

Stage 1



The Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) supersedes the previous Equality and Human Rights Impact Assessment (EHRIA) form.

The pre-screening (Stage 1) will determine if your proposal requires a full impact assessment (Stage 2). Stage 2 will look at details of your proposals, the impact and any mitigations in place.

Note: This form should be completed using the guidance contained in the document: 'Guide to Completing an Integrated Impact Assessment'. Please read the guidance before completing this form.

This assessment and accompanying guidance use the term 'policy' for any activity within Aberdeen City Council. Therefore 'policy' should be understood broadly to embrace the full range of your policies, provisions, criteria, functions, practices and activities including the delivery of services – essentially everything you do.

Purpose:

Aberdeen City Council wants Aberdeen to be a place where all people can prosper. We want everyone in Aberdeen to have fair opportunities regardless of their background and circumstances. The aim of this assessment is to allow you to critically assess:

- the impact of the policy / proposal on different communities.
- whether Aberdeen City Council is meeting its legal requirements in terms of [Public Sector Equality Duty](#), [Equality Outcomes](#) and [Human Rights](#);
- whether [Children's Rights](#) have been impacted;
- whether [Socio-economic disadvantage](#) is reduced;
- whether any measures need to be put in place to ensure any negative impacts are eliminated or minimised which will be covered in Stage 2.

<p>Title* Name your business case, policy, strategy or proposal (including budget proposals)</p>	<p>Review of city-wide provision of Libraries – Closure of Cornhill Library</p>
<p>Report no or Budget proposal number:</p>	<p>CUS/23/386</p>
<p>Committee name and date :</p>	<p>Council 13 December 2023</p>
<p>Is this a new or existing policy/ proposal?</p>	<p>Existing</p>
<p>Brief description of policy / proposal (including intended outcomes and purposes)</p>	<p>This is an update to the IIAs published 5/12/22 and 24/03/23 19b_Review of city-wide provision of Libraries_05-12-22.pdf (aberdeencity.gov.uk) 19b_v2_Review of city-wide provision of libraries_24-03-23.pdf (aberdeencity.gov.uk)</p> <p>The IIA produced prior to the budget meeting included the closure of 4 libraries; Cornhill, Cults, Ferryhill and Northfield. Subsequently at the Full Council Budget Meeting, the approved budget included the closure of 6 libraries. As a result of this decision the Library IIA was updated to reflect the closure of an additional two libraries; Kaimhill and Woodside.</p> <p>Following the decision at the Council Budget meeting on 1 March 2023 the Council received four petitions for Judicial Reviews from individuals. The basis of the claims was that the Council had failed in exercising its duties under the Equality Act 2010, and that the Integrated Impact Assessments that had been prepared were not sufficient enough. Following a review of the four cases, negotiations took place with the four petitioners, through dialogue with all parties, it was agreed that ACC would carry out specific consultation on the library budget option. It was also agreed that the Judicial Reviews would be sisted, and the outcome of the budget decision would be reconsidered, taking into account the further consultation.</p> <p>The Consultation on Cornhill, Cults, Ferryhill, Kaimhill, Northfield and Woodside Libraries took place from 11 September to 6 November 2023. The consultation included an online and printed survey and in person and online focus groups, at times to be inclusive to working hours, school holidays offering accessible options. Where people required support, options were available at</p>

libraries and Marischal College Customer Service Centre.

Having carried out an initial analysis of Aberdeen's Future Library and Information service consultation similar themes have been noted from both consultations as:

- Travel
- Importance and use of physical library services
- Promotion and awareness of services
- Digital Inclusion
- Physical Access
- Reduced frequency of use
- Opening hours
- Childrens activities
- Group visits
- Social connections
- Safe Spaces for Adults
- Childrens and Young people's independence
- Community Value
- Nostalgia

This Integrated Impact Assessment considers the potential impact of Option 1 and Option 2 as detailed below:

Option 1 – Support the original budget decision to close the 6 libraries, including Cornhill Library.

This requires an understanding and assessment of the impact the closure of Cornhill Library on those library users especially those with particular protected characteristics who may be detrimentally affected, and identification of mitigating actions to minimise potential impact.

Option 2 – Overturn the original budget decision to close the 6 libraries and to recommission all 6, including Cornhill Library and to instruct Chief Officer – Early Intervention and Community Empowerment to commence planning for the recommissioning of facilities, referring ongoing funding implications to the 2024/25 budget.

The recommissioning of all the 6 closed libraries including Cornhill Library will require consideration of the longer-term budgetary implications of reinstating Cornhill Library on the wider Library and Information Service and /or other council services. This will be considered within Aberdeen's Future Library and Information Services report due to be taken to the Communities, Housing and

	<p>Public Protection Committee in January 2024. An IIA will accompany future library reports.</p> <p>Based on the data collected through the library service, Cornhill Library over the last 5 years have had an average of 8920 visits* each year. Across the city there have been on average 14465 active library members each year** from 2018/19 to 2022/23. Cornhill visits account for 1.9% of the overall library visits in the city Based on these figures there are approximately 275 active members accessing Cornhill Library each year.</p> <p>Cornhill Library is on the border of the Stockethill neighbourhood. This neighbourhood is in the 10-20% band of the most deprived areas based on the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2020.</p> <p>Consultation respondents: 74 People identified Cornhill as the library they most frequently used out of the 6 closed libraries. 3 people attended focus groups</p> <p>*Visits – all people coming into a library building; library members, school visits, picking up green bags, printing, reading the newspaper, not everyone will be a library member **Active Library members - a library member who have used their membership; take out a book, PC use.</p>
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Do you consider this proposal to have any impact on the:			
a. Human Rights of people?	YES- Option 1 Article 9 Freedom of thought, conscience and religion Article 10 Freedom of expression. Libraries provide access to a wide range of resources, which support individuals being able to exercise the above articles	No - Option 2	Unsure
	YES - Option 1, Article 2 Non discrimination	No - Option 2	Unsure

<p>b. Rights of Children and Young people?</p>	<p>Article 3 Best interest of the child Article 5 Parental guidance and child's evolving capacities Article 12 Respect for the views of the child Article 13 Freedom Article 14 Freedom of thought, belief and religion Article 17 Access to information from the media of expression Article 28 Right to education</p>																								
<p>What is your assessment of the impact on groups with:</p> <p>a. Protected characteristics b. Children and young people c. Other</p> <p>As part of your assessment here, consider the impact of your policy on people and how they will be able to access goods, services and information with no barriers.</p>	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>H</td> <td>High negative impact</td> </tr> <tr> <td>M</td> <td>Medium negative impact</td> </tr> <tr> <td>L</td> <td>Low negative impact</td> </tr> <tr> <td>N</td> <td>No impact</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>Positive impact</td> </tr> <tr> <td>U</td> <td>Unsure</td> </tr> </table>	H	High negative impact	M	Medium negative impact	L	Low negative impact	N	No impact	P	Positive impact	U	Unsure	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>H</td> </tr> </table>	H	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>M</td> </tr> </table>	M	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>L</td> </tr> </table>	L	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>N</td> </tr> </table>	N	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>P</td> </tr> </table>	P	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>U</td> </tr> </table>	U
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<p>Socio-Economic Inequalities</p> <p>Not every person / family has access to regular income or savings. Will your proposal have an</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Cornhill Library is on the border of the Stockethill neighbourhood. This neighbourhood is in</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>Unsure</p>																						

<p>adverse or high impact on them?</p>	<p>the 10-20% band of the most deprived areas based on the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2020. Option 1 may have an adverse impact on individuals and families. Option 2 will consider longer-term impacts as part of IIA for the future library report.</p>		
<p>What considerations did you have when making the above selections?</p>			
<p>Internal or existing data Please detail your sources</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing library data (as referenced in Appendix A) • Quantitative and qualitative data captured from library users as part of the Consultation on Cornhill, Cults, Ferryhill, Kaimhill, Northfield and Woodside Libraries • Limited qualitative data captured as part of Aberdeen's Future Library and Information Service Consultation which included a specific Child and Young person's version. • Qualitative data from in person community engagement and promotion of the consultation; engagement walk abouts in communities where libraries have closed, including outside local supermarket and the sounding areas of Cornhill, weekly vaccination centre visits, Locality Outcome Improvement Plan events, meeting with the Disability and Equality Partnership. • Qualitative data captured from focus groups, 2 held at Cairncry Community Centre and 1 online. 		
<p>Consultations with officers or partner organisations Please list your sources</p>	<p>Aberdeen City Council teams:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Library and Information Services • Equalities Team • Corporate Landlord • Community Planning Aberdeen • Education <p>Campaign Group:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Save Aberdeen Libraries 		

	<p>All library staff have been encouraged to share information to promote engagement with both library consultations, this includes staff across local studies, health and wellbeing, business and employability, children and young people, reader development, localities, central and community libraries.</p>		
<p>Other: Please list your sources</p>	<p>In promoting the consultation, information was shared with the following partners organisations and local contacts with an ask to share across their networks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fairer Aberdeen Fund mailing list (funded partners, board and others) • Community Planning Aberdeen (shared with Community Planning partners and through outcome improvement groups) • Culture Aberdeen members • Aberdeen City Library members who have indicated that they wish to be contacted about other library matters • Individuals who responded to the online or paper surveys indicating that they wanted to be updated on the consultation. • Library/CLD service mailing lists for Warm Spaces • Library/CLD mailing list from Grampian Regional Equality Council contacts list • Equalities team ACC 		
<p>Does this proposal contribute to the Public Sector Equality Duty to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations?</p>	<p>Option 1: There is a potential for indirect discrimination on certain protected characteristics including those with intersectional protected characteristics and those in socio-economic disadvantage. It is also acknowledged that the closure of Cornhill Library could reduce opportunities, and there may be, consequential impact on good relations within Cornhill</p>		<p>Unsure</p>

	<p>communities, however mitigations have been identified to reduce impact. (see mitigations in stage 2)</p> <p>Option 2 - Reopening Cornhill Library negates possible indirect discrimination, advances equality of opportunity and generally fosters good relations, through the reinstatement of Cornhill Library and access to services, resources and activities.</p>		
<p>Does this proposal contribute to the Council's Equality Outcomes 2021-25?</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Option 2 -to reinstate provision: EO1 People with protected characteristics can access information good and services without barriers</p> <p>EO2. Diverse communities in Aberdeen who used Cornhill Library will have access to safe spaces and services that enhance their feeling of safety and belonging.</p>	<p>No</p> <p>Option 1- EO1. However, provision of alternative services mitigates barriers created due to the closure of the library and have been identified for stage 2</p> <p>EO2. However alternative safe spaces have been identified in stage 2</p>	<p>Unsure</p>
<p>Please note for any high negative or medium negative impacts identified (red or amber), a full Integrated Impact Assessment will be required (stage 2).</p>			
<p>Please provide a brief high-level summary that your policy will bring about: Use this space to highlight what your proposal intends to achieve:</p>			

Option 1: Supporting the original budget decision to close the 6 libraries.

Based on the information provided from this consultation and other referenced data, the impacts of this option on library users of Cornhill Library have been assessed as low for the protected characteristics of race and pregnancy and maternity and medium for the protected characteristics of age, disability and sex.

This taken into consideration, there will be individual instances where the personal impact will be high, and proportionality based on Cornhill Library usage and the data and impacts from Cornhill Library users the number of individuals experiencing a higher impact will be low, therefore recorded as medium or low impact.

Further data and examples used to inform this IIA can be found in Appendix A: Consultation 6 Libraries Report:

Option 2 – Overturn the original budget decision to close the 6 libraries and to recommission all 6, including Cornhill Library and to instruct Chief Officer – Early Intervention and Community Empowerment to commence planning for the recommissioning of facilities, referring ongoing funding implications to the 2024/25 budget.

This option may mitigate for the majority of the impacts provided by library users of Cornhill Library who shared their experiences during the consultation. From the comments collected during the consultation, opening hours and the promotion of library services have been identified as areas for improvement, and these will be progressed as part of Aberdeen’s Future Library and Information Services Plan, therefore stage 2 will only consider option 1.

Will a full assessment be required?	Yes		
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Assessment completed by: Name and job title	Margaret Stewart, Service Manager, Libraries and Community Learning
Date:	27/11/23
Signed and approved by Chief Officer (Name and signature)	Jacqui McKenzie
Date:	05/12/23

If you have any queries or require this form in an alternative format, please contact equality_and_diversity@aberdeencity.gov.uk

A fully completed and signed form should be mailed as a PDF to the above email address for publishing your assessment.



Integrated Impact Assessment Stage 2

This stage should be completed following Stage 1 of the Integrated Impact Assessment where required.

In this stage, focus is on assessments that have a high or medium negative impact and the proposed mitigations. Please tick which areas it might affect and provide a summary of your mitigating actions for the negative impacts identified. You do not need to give a mitigation for each article.

Human Rights

Does the proposal have an impact on [Human Rights](#)? Identify the relevant Article and record the relevant impact and describe as a summary the mitigating steps proposed.

	High / Medium Negative impact	Mitigations Please state/summarise your mitigating actions for the negative impact(s) identified in stage 1
Article 6 Right to a fair and public hearing	n/a	
Article 7 No punishment without law	n/a	
Article 8 Right to respect for private and family life, home and correspondence	n/a	
Article 9 Freedom of thought, conscience and religion	Low impact	
Article 10 Freedom of expression	Low impact	
Article 11 Freedom of assembly and association	n/a	

Article 12 Right to marry and to found a family	n/a	
Article 14 Right not to be subject to discrimination	n/a	
Article 1 of Protocol 1 Protection of property	n/a	
Article 2 of Protocol 1 Right to education	n/a	
Article 3 of Protocol 1 Right to free elections	n/a	

Children and Young People’s Rights

The United Nations Convention has 54 articles that cover all aspects of a child’s life and set out the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights that all children everywhere are entitled to. It also explains how adults and governments must work together to make sure all children can enjoy all their rights.

Children’s rights apply to every child/young person under the age of 18 and to adults still eligible to receive a “children’s service” (e.g. care leavers aged 18 – 25 years old).

Identify all Articles of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child ([UNCRC](#)) and [Optional Protocols](#) which are relevant to your proposal and record the relevant impact and describe the mitigating steps.

Please tick which areas it might affect and provide a summary of your mitigating actions. You do not need to give a mitigating step for each article.

	High / Medium Negative impact	Mitigations Please state/summarise your mitigating actions for the negative impact(s) identified in stage 1
Article 1 definition of the child		School library provision is available across the majority of primary schools and all secondary schools. There are 10 community libraries, a self-serve library at Old Aberdeen and the 4 departments within the Central Library that are available for people to access regardless of where in the city they live.
Article 2 non-discrimination	<u>Low impact</u>	
Article 3 best interests of the child	<u>Low impact</u>	
Article 4		

<u>implementation of the convention</u>		<p>Mastrick Library is 0.9 miles away from Cornhill Library and is on the no 3 bus route which passes Cornhill.</p> <p>67% of Survey respondents who mainly accessed Cornhill Library also accessed one or more of the 11 existing city libraries.</p>
Article 5 <u>parental guidance and a child's evolving capacities</u>	<u>Low impact</u>	
Article 6 <u>life, survival and development</u>		
Article 7 <u>birth registration, name, nationality, care</u>		
Article 8 <u>protection and preservation of identity</u>		
Article 9 <u>separation from parents</u>		
Article 10 <u>family reunification</u>		
Article 11 <u>abduction and non-return of children</u>		
Article 12 <u>respect for the views of the child</u>	<u>Low impact</u>	
Article 13 <u>freedom of expression</u>	<u>Low impact</u>	
Article 14 <u>freedom of thought, belief and religion</u>	<u>Low impact</u>	
Article 15 <u>freedom of association</u>		
Article 16 <u>right to privacy</u>		
Article 17	<u>Low impact</u>	

<u>access to information from the media</u>		
Article 18 <u>parental responsibilities and state assistance</u>		
Article 19 <u>protection from violence, abuse and neglect</u>		
Article 20 <u>children unable to live with their family</u>		
Article 21 <u>adoption</u>		
Article 22 <u>refugee children</u>		
Article 23 <u>children with a disability</u>		
Article 24 <u>health and health services</u>		
Article 25 <u>review of treatment in care</u>		
Article 26 <u>social security</u>		
Article 27 <u>adequate standard of living</u>		
Article 28 <u>right to education</u>	<u>Low impact</u>	
Article 29 <u>goals of education</u>		
Article 30 <u>children from minority or indigenous groups</u>		

Article 31 <u>leisure, play and culture</u>			
Article 32 <u>child labour</u>			
Article 33 <u>drug abuse</u>			
Article 34 <u>sexual exploitation</u>			
Article 35 <u>abduction, sale and trafficking</u>			
Article 36 <u>other forms of exploitation</u>			
Article 37 <u>inhumane treatment and detention</u>			
Article 38 <u>war and armed conflicts</u>			
Article 39 <u>recovery from trauma and reintegration</u>			
Article 40 <u>juvenile justice</u>			
Article 41 <u>respect for higher national standards</u>			
Article 42 <u>knowledge of rights</u>			
Optional <u>Protocol on a Communications Procedure</u>			

Protected Characteristics

Aberdeen City Council wants to ensure everyone is treated fairly. Identify the [protected characteristics](#) that your policy/ proposal affects and record the relevant impact and describe the mitigating steps.

	<u>High / Medium Negative impact</u>	<u>Mitigations</u> Please state/summarise your mitigating actions for the negative impact(s) identified in stage 1
<p><u>Age</u></p> <p><u>Impacts on children and young people</u></p> <p><u>Older people</u></p>	<p>Age</p> <p>Medium impact</p> <p>Under 16 yrs. =1 16-24 yrs. =1 25-34 yrs.=9 35-44 yrs.= 24 45-54 yrs.= 17 55-64 yrs.= 10 65+ yrs.= 13 prefer not to say = 1</p> <p>Travel time, cost and access: reliance on public transport: impacts children and young people, families and older people, carers. For children and young people this has a consequential impact in their ability to access the library on the way home from school.</p> <p>Limitations on ability and mobility: may have impacts on young children and older age groups due to fragility, mobility and other limiting factors and situations. for example; ability to walk longer distance and carry books and other resources.</p> <p>Reduced frequency of library visits: may have an impact on children and young people who cannot access libraries</p>	<p>Current library provision: There are 10 community libraries, a self-serve library at Old Aberdeen and the 4 departments within the Central Library that are available for people to access regardless of where in the city they live. School library provision is available across the majority of primary schools and all secondary schools. Mastrick Library is 0.9 miles away from Cornhill Library and is on the no 3 bus route which passes Cornhill Library. 81% of survey respondents who mainly accessed Cornhill Library also accessed one or more of the 11 existing city libraries.</p> <p>Travel and access: Free bus travel is available for 0-21 year olds, with 5-21 years able to apply via the Under 22's Bus Pass and the Older Person Bus Pass or a Disabled Person Bus Pass. Mastrick Library is 0.9 miles away from Cornhill Library and is on the no 3 bus route which passes Cornhill.</p> <p>Accessible parking is available nearby all libraries. Intention-Promotion of safe active travel and bus routes to libraries Intention - Managing expectations of the citywide library offer, it is not always</p>

	<p>independently and older adults who require carers to support them to access the library, or due to family logistics</p> <p>Support for group visits: may have an impact on young children who cannot access libraries independently and visit as a group and older adults from e.g care settings who require carers to support them to access the library.</p> <p>Social Connection: may impact early years children and their families who accessed for example Bookbug (6 out of 74 said it was an important service), and for older adults book groups.</p> <p>Digital inclusion; May impact older adults who access PCs, Wifi and digital support.</p>	<p>possible to be within close proximity of a library, help people as required to adjust to different routes to access. Home Library Service available for people of all ages who live in Aberdeen and are unable to visit their local library due to disability, illness or because they are caring for someone. Talking books and audio books available to borrow, Playaways are available for both Children and Adults.</p> <p>Group Visits: Early Years and Children and Young People’s librarians and our Health and Wellbeing and Local History Librarians continue to work with library staff, schools, early years and community settings across the city to enable access to libraries and library services as part of their lifelong learning experience. Examples include attending school events and parents evenings. Supporting practitioners and teachers who work with children via the Curriculum Resources and Information Services (CRIS) .</p>
<p>Disability people with disabilities / long standing conditions</p>	<p>Disability Medium impact For Cornhill 26% (19* out of 74) of respondents indicated that they have a disability/ long standing condition</p> <p>Library attendance: of the 19 out of 74 6 attended weekly 4 attended fortnightly 6 attended monthly 3 attend every 2-6 months 14 of the 19* have accessed other libraries</p>	<p>Library staff continue to be successful in securing external funding to enable access to libraries and will continue to work with learning and community partners on this. Library staff continue to support/advice on school libraries, encouraging schools to bid into the Scottish Library and Information Fund (SLIF)</p> <p>Children and young person’s independence: Aberdeen City Libraries have age-appropriate guidance in</p>

	<p>Travel time, cost and access: reliance on public transport impacts people with disabilities and their carers. For example the increased time required to get to alternative provision and to fit in with carers time</p> <p>Limitations on ability and mobility: may have impacts on people with both physical and unseen disabilities. For example; ability to travel longer distance and carry books and other resources. Neurodiverse people may experience increased barriers in planning travel and accessing new and unfamiliar procedures and locations.</p> <p>Reduced frequency of library visits: may have impacts on people with both physical and unseen disabilities. who cannot access libraries independently and require carers to support them to access the library or other situational factors</p> <p>Digital inclusion; may impact people with both physical and unseen disabilities who currently access library provision and may need support</p> <p>Social Connection: may impact people with both physical and unseen disabilities who accessed for example Cornhill book group or warm spaces (3/19 said warm spaces are important)</p>	<p>place regarding accessing libraries independently, helping parents feel confident about how their child/ren use the library</p> <p>Idea – promotion to school parent council about buddying on library visits, encouraging older children to travel together</p> <p>Idea - establish a community initiative of ‘walking library buses’ to visit nearby libraries.</p> <p>Social Connection: Continued library support to book groups The Aberdeen Warm Space directory currently has 48 WarmSpace venues including Cairncry Community Centre</p> <p>Digital Inclusion: On-line digital services will be helpful for some people with disabilities Aberdeen City Libraries has a digital inclusion librarian and a digital inclusion working group who develop and action digital support and learning.</p> <p>ACC Community Learning and Development, deliver digital adult learning classes</p> <p>Other partners in the city are funded to deliver digital support including: Silver City Surfers and SHMU</p> <p>Library staff continue to apply for and secure external funding to enable access and engagement to libraries and learning and will continue to work with learning and community partners on this.</p>
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	<p>Reduced safe spaces for adults: may impact people with both physical and unseen disabilities for example; people with certain mental health condition may experience increased barriers in accessing new and unfamiliar locations.</p>	<p>Intention – provide basic digital help sessions on library apps and services.</p> <p>Intention – develop a series of guides on library apps.</p> <p>Intention – provision of free Digital Unite guides on our website to provide basic digital support.</p>
<p>Race (including Gypsy / Travellers) people from minority ethnic communities and different racial backgrounds</p>	<p>Race Low impact Data for Cornhill: White Scottish:42 White British:12 Prefer not to say:4 Other white ethnic group:3 White Irish:3 African, Scottish African or British African:2 Bangladeshi, Scottish Bangladeshi or British Bangladeshi:1 Indian, Scottish Indian or British Indian:1 Mixed or multiple:1</p> <p>Digital inclusion: may impact people from minority ethnic communities and different racial background who currently access who access PCs, Wifi and digital support.</p>	<p>Intention - Promoting where free Wifi and access to devices is available in and near the Cornhill/Stockethill community.</p> <p>Intention – further promoting how to access the extensive online library offer.</p> <p>Importance and use of physical library services: Continued positive promotion of reading, literacy and numeracy for all through different library initiatives; Every Child A Library Member, Bookbug, Scottish Book Trust book gifting, the Summer Reading Challenge and other local and national reading initiatives , Book group, ESOL classes delivered by GREC and ACC CLD team, author talks and involvement with literacy festivals; Granite Noir with Aberdeen Performing Arts and WayWORD with the University of Aberdeen to mention a few.</p>
<p>Religion or belief people with different religion and belief to include those with no beliefs</p>	<p>At this stage there are no known additional impacts on this protected group, other than impacts identified for all library users.</p>	<p>Space Spaces for Adults:</p>
<p>Sex - Gender identity men or women, boys and girls</p>	<p>Sex Medium Impact 54 out of 74 (71%) respondents for Cornhill are female.</p>	<p>All library sites are safe spaces for all.</p> <p>Library staff receive training to support people with additional</p>

	<p>16 out of 23 (70%) carers are female.</p> <p>Travel time, cost and access: reliance on public transport or alternative transport to visit libraries: may impact disproportionately on female care givers in families and as carers relating to the logistics and cost visiting alternative library sites.</p> <p>Limitations on ability and mobility: may have impacts female carers of young children for example; ability to walk longer distance with young children and carry books and other resources.</p> <p>Reduced frequency of library visits: may have an impact on female carer of older adults who require carers to support them to access the library, or due to family logistics</p> <p>Social Connection: may impact women disproportionately where they are the main caregiver for their family who accessed for example Bookbug (6 out of 74 said it was an important service)</p>	<p>support needs and apply these into the library environments as well as to their interactions.</p> <p>Intention – further considerations to make spaces more ASN friendly, library staff are about to embark on British sign language (BSL) training.</p> <p>Familiarisation tours are offered with storyboards for use prior to visits.</p> <p>Intention – create welcoming video tours of libraries so library users know what to expect when they visit and can anticipate what services and spaces they can use.</p> <p>Intention – promote when there are quieter times to access the library.</p> <p>Intention – promote the work we do in libraries to improve access for all, so families are aware of what they can expect.</p> <p>Aberdeen City Libraries continue to work with partners such as Narcotics Anonymous (NA), Shelter, The Foyer and Realistic Medicine Team at NHS to continually improve the library experience for all.</p> <p>Aberdeen City Libraries offers dementia friendly events.</p>
<p>Pregnancy and maternity women who are pregnant and / or on maternity leave</p>	<p>Pregnancy and maternity There were no women who indicated they were pregnant or on maternity leave from Cornhill respondents.</p>	<p>Opening Hours: Library opening hours are to be reviewed as part of the Aberdeen’s Future Library and Information Services plan.</p>

	Safe space for adults: may impact women who are pregnant or on maternity leave for example all libraries are breast feeding friendly places.	Intention – awareness raising of library access with Fairer Aberdeen funded programmes and other Community Learning and Development partners.
Sexual orientation lesbian, gay, bisexual, heterosexual / straight	At this stage there are no know additional impacts on this protected group, other than impacts identified for all library users.	Reduced frequency of library visits: Intention – Further promotion of library services and events, so library users can make the most of their in-person visits.
Gender reassignment anybody whose gender identity / expression is different to the sex assigned to them at birth	At this stage there are no know additional impacts on this protected group, other than impacts identified for all library users.	
Marriage and civil partnership people who are married or in a civil partnership	At this stage there are no know additional impacts on this protected group, other than impacts identified for all library users.	

Socio-Economic Inequalities

Not every person / family has access to regular income or savings. You should therefore consider the impact of your proposal on people who might be unemployed, single parents, people with lower education or literacy, looked after children, those with protected characteristics are just some examples.

Identify the group that your policy/ proposal affects and record the relevant impact and describe the mitigating steps.

	High / Medium Negative impact	Mitigations
		Please state/summarise your mitigating actions for the negative impact(s) identified in stage 1
Low income / income poverty – those who cannot afford regular bills, food, clothing payments.	Medium impact Cornhill Library is on the border of the Stockethill neighbourhood. This neighbourhood is in the 10-20% band of the most deprived areas based on the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2020.	Free period products can be collected at the 10 Community Libraries and at Central Library and locally at Cairncry Community Centre as well as other venues on PickUpMyPeriod App. Intention – promotion of community resources where free products can be collected. Intention - promotion of anti-poverty initiatives in communities.

		<p>Intention – awareness raising of library access with Fairer Aberdeen funded programmes and other Community Learning and Development partners.</p> <p>Intention - Promoting where free Wifi and access to devices is available in and near the Cornhill/Stockethill community.</p> <p>Free bus travel is available for u22 via the Under 22's Bus Pass and the Older person Bus Pass or a Disabled Person Bus Pass.</p>
<p>Low and/or no wealth – those who can meet basic living costs but have no savings for unexpected spend or provision for the future</p>		
<p>Material deprivation – those who cannot access basic goods and services, unable to repair/replace broken electrical goods, heat their homes or access to leisure or hobbies</p>		
<p>Area deprivation – consider where people live and where they work (accessibility and cost of transport)</p>		
<p>Socio-economic background – social class, parents' education,</p>		

employment, income.		
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Consultation and monitoring

Have you undertaken any of form of consultation with any of the affected groups?	Yes	No
Describe the consultation processes/methods undertaken and the number of participants/respondents	<p>Consultation on Cornhill, Cults, Ferryhill, Kaimhill, Northfield and Woodside Libraries took place between 11 September 2023 and 6 November 2023, this included an online and printed survey and in person and online focus groups, at times to be inclusive to working hours, school holidays offering accessible options.</p> <p>Data informing this IIA is from Library users who identified as using Cornhill Library most frequently from the 6 libraries in the survey or who attended the Cornhill specific focus groups.</p> <p>Respondents to the survey = 74 Attendee at Focus groups = 3</p>	
Summarise the changes or improvements that have been made to the policy because of the consultation.	<p>The consultation has provided valuable insight into the importance of access to library services and resources for library users who have previously used Cornhill Library.</p> <p>Impacts that affect people with certain protected characteristics have been considered and mitigations identified to lessen the impact on the majority of library users with protected characteristics relating to age, disability, sex, race and pregnancy and maternity. There are also mitigating actions for Aberdeen Library Service and other Community Planning partners to apply. Many of these mitigations will be incorporated into the Future Library and Information services Plan which is in development.</p>	

Set out what suggested changes or improvements that have not been made and why	Many of the mitigations already exist with some requiring promotion, there are also further actions that can be taken to lessen the impact of Option 1.
What impact(s) has the consultation had upon your proposal?	The consultation has helped to better understand the impacts on library users and those with certain protected characteristics and through that understanding consider local and city-wide mitigations to lessen the impact of Option 1. and consider the longer-term implications of Option 2.
How will this policy be monitored	The mitigations provided are vital to lessening the impact of Option 1, The Future Library and Information Services plan provides opportunity and accountability for the mitigating actions presented.
Use this section to justify why your proposal should go ahead despite the negative impacts identified.	The mitigations and the further mitigating actions provide access and opportunity for the majority of consultation respondents who have previously used Cornhill Library to continue to access library provision. There may still a negative impact for some library users and given the level of mitigations provided this impact is now considered to be low.

Authorisation and sign off: for Stage 2:

Title of Policy / proposal:	Review of city-wide provision of Libraries – Closure of Cornhill Library	
Directorate and Cluster:	Customer, Early Intervention and Community Empowerment	
Policy and assessment author (s)	Name: Margaret Stewart Job title: Service Manager, Libraries and Community Learning Date: 05/12/23	Name: Job title: Date:
Authorised and approved by Director or Chief Officer	Name: Jacqui McKenzie Job title: Chief Officer, Early Intervention and Community Empowerment Date: 05/12/23	Name: Job title: Date:

Following completion and approval, please email your completed assessment to:
equality_and_diversity@aberdeencity.gov.uk

Integrated Impact Assessment Pre-screening

Stage 1



The Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) supersedes the previous Equality and Human Rights Impact Assessment (EHRIA) form.

The pre-screening (Stage 1) will determine if your proposal requires a full impact assessment (Stage 2). Stage 2 will look at details of your proposals, the impact and any mitigations in place.

Note: This form should be completed using the guidance contained in the document: 'Guide to Completing an Integrated Impact Assessment'. Please read the guidance before completing this form.

This assessment and accompanying guidance use the term 'policy' for any activity within Aberdeen City Council. Therefore 'policy' should be understood broadly to embrace the full range of your policies, provisions, criteria, functions, practices and activities including the delivery of services – essentially everything you do.

Purpose:

Aberdeen City Council wants Aberdeen to be a place where all people can prosper. We want everyone in Aberdeen to have fair opportunities regardless of their background and circumstances. The aim of this assessment is to allow you to critically assess:

- the impact of the policy / proposal on different communities.
- whether Aberdeen City Council is meeting its legal requirements in terms of [Public Sector Equality Duty](#), [Equality Outcomes](#) and [Human Rights](#);
- whether [Children's Rights](#) have been impacted;
- whether [Socio-economic disadvantage](#) is reduced;
- whether any measures need to be put in place to ensure any negative impacts are eliminated or minimised which will be covered in Stage 2.

<p>Title* Name your business case, policy, strategy or proposal (including budget proposals)</p>	<p>Review of city-wide provision of Libraries – Closure of Cults Library</p>
<p>Report no or Budget proposal number:</p>	<p>CUS/23/386</p>
<p>Committee name and date:</p>	<p>Council 13 December 2023</p>
<p>Is this a new or existing policy/ proposal?</p>	<p>Existing</p>
<p>Brief description of policy / proposal (including intended outcomes and purposes)</p>	<p>This is an update to the IIAs published 5/12/22 and 24/03/23 19b_Review of city-wide provision of Libraries_05-12-22.pdf (aberdeencity.gov.uk) 19b_v2_Review of city-wide provision of libraries_24-03-23.pdf (aberdeencity.gov.uk)</p> <p>The IIA produced prior to the budget meeting included the closure of 4 libraries; Cornhill, Cults, Ferryhill and Northfield. Subsequently at the Full Council Budget Meeting, the approved budget included the closure of 6 libraries. As a result of this decision the Library IIA was updated to reflect the closure of an additional two libraries; Kaimhill and Woodside.</p> <p>Following the decision at the Council Budget meeting on 1 March 2023 the Council received four petitions for Judicial Reviews from individuals. The basis of the claims was that the Council had failed in exercising its duties under the Equality Act 2010, and that the Integrated Impact Assessments that had been prepared were not sufficient enough. Following a review of the four cases, negotiations took place with the four petitioners, through dialogue with all parties, it was agreed that ACC would carry out specific consultation on the library budget option. It was also agreed that the Judicial Reviews would be sisted, and the outcome of the budget decision would be reconsidered, taking into account the further consultation.</p> <p>The Consultation on Cornhill, Cults, Ferryhill, Kaimhill, Northfield and Woodside Libraries took place from 11 September to 6 November 2023. The consultation included an online and printed survey and in person and online focus groups, at times to be inclusive to working hours, school holidays offering accessible options. Where people required support, options were available at</p>

libraries and Marischal College Customer Service Centre. Having carried out an initial analysis of the Aberdeen's Future Library and Information service consultation similar themes have been noted from both consultations as:

- Travel
- Importance and use of physical library services
- Promotion and awareness of services
- Digital Inclusion
- Physical Access
- Reduced frequency of use
- Opening hours
- Childrens activities
- Group visits
- Social connections
- Safe Spaces for Adults
- Safe Spaces for Children and Young People
- Childrens and Young people's independence
- Community Value
- Nostalgia

This Integrated Impact Assessment considers the potential impact of Option 1 and Option 2 as detailed below:

Option 1 – Support the original budget decision to close the 6 libraries, including Cults Library.

This requires an understanding and assessment of the impact the closure of Cults Library on those library users especially those with particular protected characteristics who may be detrimentally affected, and identification of mitigating actions to minimise potential impact.

Option 2 – Overturn the original budget decision to close the 6 libraries and to recommission all 6, including Cults Library and to instruct Chief Officer – Early Intervention and Community Empowerment to commence planning for the recommissioning of facilities, referring ongoing funding implications to the 2024/25 budget.

The recommissioning of all 6 closed libraries including Cults Library will require consideration of the longer-term budgetary implications of reinstating Cults Library on the wider Library and Information Service and /or other council services. This will be considered within Aberdeen's Future Library and Information Services report due to be taken to the Communities, Housing and

	<p>Public Protection Committee in January 2024. An IIA will accompany future library reports.</p> <p>Based on the data collected through the library service, Cults Library over the last 5 years have had an average of 13,602 visits* each year. Across the city there have been on average 14465 active library members each year** from 2018/19 to 2022/23.</p> <p>Cults visits account for 2.8% of the overall library visits in the city</p> <p>Based on these figures there are approximately 405 active members accessing Cults Library each year.</p> <p>Cults Library is within the Cults, Bielside and Miltimber neighbourhood. This neighbourhood in the 15-10% band of the least deprived areas based on the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2020.</p> <p>Consultation respondents: 178 People identified Cults as the library they most frequently used out of the 6 closed libraries. 12 people attended focus groups</p> <p>*Visits – all people coming into a library building; library members, school visits, picking up green bags, printing, reading the newspaper, not everyone will be a library member **Active Library members - a library member who have used their membership; take out a book, PC use.</p>
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Do you consider this proposal to have any impact on the:

	YES- Option 1	No - Option 2	Unsure
<p>a. Human Rights of people?</p> <p>b. Rights of Children and Young people?</p>	<p>Article 9 Freedom of thought, conscience and religion</p> <p>Article 10 Freedom of expression. Libraries provide access a wide range of resources, which support individuals being able to exercise the above articles</p>		

	YES - Option 1, Article 2 Non discrimination Article 3 Best interest of the child Article 5 Parental guidance and child's evolving capacities Article 12 Respect for the views of the child Article 13 Freedom Article 14 Freedom of thought, belief and religion Article 17 Access to information from the media of expression Article 28 Right to education	No - Option 2	Unsure					
What is your assessment of the impact on groups with: a. Protected characteristics b. Children and young people c. Other As part of your assessment here, consider the impact of your policy on people and how they will be able to access goods, services and information with no barriers.	H	High negative impact	H	M	L	N	P	U
	M	Medium negative impact						
	L	Low negative impact						
	N	No impact						
	P	Positive impact						
	U	Unsure						
	Age			x				
	Disability			x				
	Gender Reassignment					x		
	Marriage and Civil partnership					x		
	Pregnancy and Maternity				x			
	Race				x			
	Religion or Belief					x		
Sex			x					
Sexual Orientation					x			
Children and young people			x					
Other								
Socio-Economic Inequalities	Yes	No	Unsure					
	While Cults Library is within the Cults,							

<p>Not every person / family has access to regular income or savings. Will your proposal have an adverse or high impact on them?</p>	<p>Bielside and Milltimber neighbourhood. This neighbourhood is in the 15-10% band of the least deprived areas based on the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2020, there may be some individual and families who experience socio-economic disadvantage.</p> <p>Option 1 may have an adverse impact on individuals and families. Options 2 will consider longer-term impacts as part of IIA for the future library report.</p>		
<p>What considerations did you have when making the above selections?</p>			
<p>Internal or existing data Please detail your sources</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing library data (as referenced in Appendix A) • Quantitative and qualitative data captured from library users as part of the Consultation on Cornhill, Cults, Ferryhill, Kaimhill, Northfield and Woodside Libraries • Limited qualitative data captured as part of Aberdeen's Future Library and Information Service Consultation which included a specific Child and Young person's version. • Qualitative data from in person community engagement and promotion of the consultation; engagement walk abouts in communities where libraries have closed, including outside local supermarket and the sounding areas of Cults, weekly vaccination centre visits, Locality Outcome Improvement Plan events, meeting with the Disability and Equality Partnership. • Qualitative data captured from focus groups, 2 held at Cults Kirk Centre and 1 online. 		

<p>Consultations with officers or partner organisations</p> <p>Please list your sources</p>	<p>Aberdeen City Council teams:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Library and Information Services • Equalities Team • Corporate Landlord • Community Planning Aberdeen • Education <p>Campaign Group:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Save Aberdeen Libraries <p>All library staff have been encouraged to share information to promote engagement with both library consultations, this includes staff across local studies, health and wellbeing, business and employability, children and young people, reader development, localities, central and community libraries.</p>		
<p>Other:</p> <p>Please list your sources</p>	<p>In promoting the consultation information was shared with the following partners organisations and local contacts with an ask to share across their networks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fairer Aberdeen Fund mailing list (funded partners, board and others) • Community Planning Aberdeen (shared with Community Planning partners and through outcome improvement groups) • Culture Aberdeen members • Aberdeen City Library members who have indicated that they wish to be contacted about other library matters • Individuals who responded to the online or paper surveys indicating that they wanted to be updated on the consultation. • Library/CLD service mailing lists for Warm Spaces • Library/CLD mailing list from Grampian Regional Equality Council contacts list • Equalities team ACC 		
<p>Does this proposal contribute to the Public Sector Equality Duty to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations?</p>	<p>Option 1 - There is a potential for indirect discrimination on certain protected characteristics including those with intersectional protected characteristics and</p>		<p>Unsure</p>

	<p>those in socio-economic disadvantage. It is also acknowledged that the closure of Cults Library could reduce opportunities, and there may be, consequential impact on good relations within Cults communities, however mitigations have been identified to reduce impact. (see mitigations in stage 2)</p> <p>Option 2 - reopening Cults Library negates possible indirect discrimination, advances equality of opportunity and generally fosters good relations, through the reinstatement of Cults Library and access to services, resources and activities.</p>		
<p>Does this proposal contribute to the Council's Equality Outcomes 2021-25?</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Option2 -to reinstate provision: EO1 People with protected characteristics can access information good and services without barriers</p> <p>EO2. Diverse communities in Aberdeen who used Cults Library will have access to safe spaces and services that enhance their feeling of safety and belonging.</p>	<p>No</p> <p>Option 1- EO1. however, provision of alternative services mitigates barriers created due to the closure of the library and have been identified for stage 2</p> <p>EO2. However</p>	<p>Unsure</p>

		alternative safe spaces have been identified in stage 2	
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Please note for any high negative or medium negative impacts identified (red or amber), a full Integrated Impact Assessment will be required (stage 2).

Please provide a brief high-level summary that your policy will bring about:
Use this space to highlight what your proposal intends to achieve:

Option 1: Supporting the original budget decision to close the 6 libraries.

Based on the information provided from this consultation and other referenced data, the impacts of option 1 on library users of Cults Library has been assessed as low for the protected characteristics of race and pregnancy and maternity and medium for the protected characteristics of age, disability and sex.

This taken into consideration, there will be individual instances where the personal impact will be high, and proportionality based on Cults Library usage and the data and impacts from Cults Library users the number of individuals experiencing a higher impact will be low, therefore recorded as medium or low impact.

Further data and examples used to inform this IIA can be found in Appendix A: Consultation 6 Libraries Report:

Option 2: Overturning the original budget decision to close the 6 libraries and to recommission all 6 and to instruct Chief Officer – Early Intervention and Community Empowerment to commence planning for the recommissioning of facilities, referring ongoing funding implications to the 2024/25 budget.

This option may mitigate for the majority of the impacts provided by library users of Cults Library who shared their experiences during the consultation. From the comments collected during the consultation, opening hours and the promotion of library services has been identified as an area for improvement, and these will be progressed as part of Aberdeen’s Future Library and Information Services Plan, therefore stage 2 will only consider option 1.

Will a full assessment be required?	Yes		
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Assessment completed by: Name and job title	Margaret Stewart, Service Manager, Libraries and Community Learning
Date:	01/12/23
Signed and approved by Chief Officer (Name and signature)	Jacqui McKenzie

Date:

05/12/23

If you have any queries or require this form in an alternative format, please contact equality_and_diversity@aberdeencity.gov.uk

A fully completed and signed form should be mailed as a PDF to the above email address for publishing your assessment.



Integrated Impact Assessment Stage 2

This stage should be completed following Stage 1 of the Integrated Impact Assessment where required.

In this stage, focus is on assessments that have a high or medium negative impact and the proposed mitigations. Please tick which areas it might affect and provide a summary of your mitigating actions for the negative impacts identified. You do not need to give a mitigation for each article.

Human Rights

Does the proposal have an impact on [Human Rights](#)? Identify the relevant Article and record the relevant impact and describe as a summary the mitigating steps proposed.

	High / Medium Negative impact	Mitigations Please state/summarise your mitigating actions for the negative impact(s) identified in stage 1
Article 6 Right to a fair and public hearing	n/a	
Article 7 No punishment without law	n/a	
Article 8 Right to respect for private and family life, home and correspondence	n/a	
Article 9	Low impact	

Freedom of thought, conscience and religion		
Article 10 Freedom of expression	Low impact	
Article 11 Freedom of assembly and association	n/a	
Article 12 Right to marry and to found a family	n/a	
Article 14 Right not to be subject to discrimination	n/a	
Article 1 of Protocol 1 Protection of property	n/a	
Article 2 of Protocol 1 Right to education	n/a	
Article 3 of Protocol 1 Right to free elections	n/a	

Children and Young People’s Rights

The United Nations Convention has 54 articles that cover all aspects of a child’s life and set out the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights that all children everywhere are entitled to. It also explains how adults and governments must work together to make sure all children can enjoy all their rights.

Children’s rights apply to every child/young person under the age of 18 and to adults still eligible to receive a “children’s service” (e.g. care leavers aged 18 – 25 years old).

Identify all Articles of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child ([UNCRC](#)) and [Optional Protocols](#) which are relevant to your proposal and record the relevant impact and describe the mitigating steps.

Please tick which areas it might affect and provide a summary of your mitigating actions. You do not need to give a mitigating step for each article.

	High / Medium Negative impact	Mitigations Please state/summarise your mitigating actions for the negative impact(s) identified in stage 1
Article 1 <u>definition of the child</u>		

Article 2 <u>non-discrimination</u>	<u>Low impact</u>	<p>School library provision is available across the majority of primary schools and all secondary schools</p> <p>There are 10 community libraries, a self-serve library at Old Aberdeen and the 4 departments within the Central Library that are available for people to access regardless of where in the city they live.</p> <p>Airyhall Library is 2 miles away from Cults Library with Culter and Central Library being 3.8 miles away and, on the no 19, 201, 202 & 203 bus route which passes Cults Library</p> <p>90% of Survey respondents who mainly accessed Cults Library also accessed one or more of the 11 existing city libraries.</p>
Article 3 <u>best interests of the child</u>	<u>Low impact</u>	
Article 4 <u>implementation of the convention</u>		
Article 5 <u>parental guidance and a child's evolving capacities</u>	<u>Low impact</u>	
Article 6 <u>life, survival and development</u>		
Article 7 <u>birth registration, name, nationality, care</u>		
Article 8 <u>protection and preservation of identity</u>		
Article 9 <u>separation from parents</u>		
Article 10 <u>family reunification</u>		
Article 11 <u>abduction and non-return of children</u>		
Article 12 <u>respect for the views of the child</u>	<u>Low impact</u>	
Article 13 <u>freedom of expression</u>	<u>Low impact</u>	
Article 14 <u>freedom of thought, belief and religion</u>	<u>Low impact</u>	

Article 15 <u>freedom of association</u>		
Article 16 <u>right to privacy</u>		
Article 17 <u>access to information from the media</u>	<u>Low impact</u>	
Article 18 <u>parental responsibilities and state assistance</u>		
Article 19 <u>protection from violence, abuse and neglect</u>		
Article 20 <u>children unable to live with their family</u>		
Article 21 <u>adoption</u>		
Article 22 <u>refugee children</u>		
Article 23 <u>children with a disability</u>		
Article 24 <u>health and health services</u>		
Article 25 <u>review of treatment in care</u>		
Article 26 <u>social security</u>		
Article 27 <u>adequate standard of living</u>		
Article 28 <u>right to education</u>	<u>Low impact</u>	

Article 29 <u>goals of education</u>			
Article 30 <u>children from minority or indigenous groups</u>			
Article 31 <u>leisure, play and culture</u>			
Article 32 <u>child labour</u>			
Article 33 <u>drug abuse</u>			
Article 34 <u>sexual exploitation</u>			
Article 35 <u>abduction, sale and trafficking</u>			
Article 36 <u>other forms of exploitation</u>			
Article 37 <u>inhumane treatment and detention</u>			
Article 38 <u>war and armed conflicts</u>			
Article 39 <u>recovery from trauma and reintegration</u>			
Article 40 <u>juvenile justice</u>			
Article 41 <u>respect for higher national standards</u>			
Article 42 <u>knowledge of rights</u>			
Optional			

Protocol on a Communications Procedure			
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Protected Characteristics

Aberdeen City Council wants to ensure everyone is treated fairly. Identify the [protected characteristics](#) that your policy/ proposal affects and record the relevant impact and describe the mitigating steps.

	<u>High / Medium Negative impact</u>	<u>Mitigations</u> Please state/summarise your mitigating actions for the negative impact(s) identified in stage 1
<u>Age</u> <u>Impacts on children and young people</u> <u>Older people</u>	Age Medium impact Under 16 yrs. =1 16-24 yrs. =1 25-34 yrs.=8 35-44 yrs.= 29 45-54 yrs.= 23 55-64 yrs.= 33 65+ yrs.= 40 prefer not to say = 6 Travel time, cost and access: reliance on public transport: impacts children and young people, families and older people, carers. For children and young people this has a consequential impact in their ability to access the library on the way home from school. Limitations on ability and mobility: may have impacts on young children and older age groups due to fragility, mobility and other limiting factors and situations. for example; ability to walk longer distance and carry books and other resources.	Current library provision: There are 10 community libraries, a self-serve library at Old Aberdeen and the 4 departments within the Central Library that are available for people to access regardless of where in the city they live. School library provision is available across the majority of primary schools and all secondary schools Airyhall Library is 2 miles away from Cults Library with Culter and Central Library being 3.8 miles away and, on the no 19, 201, 202 & 203 bus route which passes Cults Library 90% of Survey respondents who mainly accessed Cults Library also accessed one or more of the 11 existing city libraries. Travel and access: Free bus travel is available for 0–21-year-olds, with 5-21 years able to apply via the Under 22's Bus Pass and the Older Person Bus Pass or a Disabled Person Bus Pass. Airyhall Library is 2 miles away from Cults Library with Culter and Central Library being 3.8

	<p>Reduced frequency of library visits: may have an impact on children and young people who cannot access libraries independently and older adults who require carers to support them to access the library, or due to family logistics</p> <p>Support for group visits: may have an impact on young children who cannot access libraries independently and visit as a group and older adults from e.g care settings who require carers to support them to access the library.</p> <p>Social Connection: may impact early years children and their families who accessed for example Bookbug (6 out of 74 said it was an important service), and for older adults book groups.</p> <p>Digital inclusion; May impact older adults who access PCs, Wifi and digital support.</p>	<p>miles away and, on the no 19, 201, 202 & 203 bus route which passes Cults Library</p> <p>Accessible parking is available nearby all libraries</p> <p>Intention-Promotion of safe active travel and bus routes to libraries</p> <p>Intention - Managing expectations of the citywide library offer, it is not always possible to be within close proximity of a library, help people as required to adjust to different routes to access.</p> <p>Home Library Service available for people of all ages who live in Aberdeen and are unable to visit their local library due to disability, illness or because they are caring for someone.</p> <p>Talking books and audio books available to borrow, Playaways are available for both Children and Adults</p> <p>Group Visits: Early Years and Children and Young People's librarians and our Health and Wellbeing and Local History Librarians continue to work with library staff, schools, early years and community settings across the city to enable access to libraries and library services as</p>
<p>Disability people with disabilities / long standing conditions</p>	<p>Disability Medium impact For Cults 10% (19* out of 178) of respondents indicated that they have a disability/ long standing condition</p> <p>Library attendance: of the 19 out of 178 1 attended daily 8 attended weekly 4 attended monthly 2 attend every 2-6 months</p>	<p>part of their lifelong learning experience. Examples include attending school events and parents evenings. Supporting practitioners and teachers who work with children via the Curriculum Resources and Information Services (CRIS) . Library staff continue to be successful in securing external funding to enable access to libraries and will continue to work with learning and</p>

	<p>2 attended every 6-12 months 11 of the 19* have accessed other libraries</p> <p>Travel time, cost and access: reliance on public transport: impacts people with disabilities and their carers. For example the increased time required to get to alternative provision and to fit in with carers time</p> <p>Limitations on ability and mobility: may have impacts on people with both physical and unseen disabilities. For example; ability to travel longer distance and carry books and other resources. Neurodiverse people may experience increased barriers in planning travel and accessing new and unfamiliar procedures and locations.</p> <p>Reduced frequency of library visits: may have impacts on people with both physical and unseen disabilities. who cannot access libraries independently and require carers to support them to access the library or other situational factors</p> <p>Digital inclusion; may impact people with both physical and unseen disabilities who currently access library provision and may need support</p> <p>Social Connection: may impact people with both physical and unseen disabilities who accessed</p>	<p>community partners on this. Library staff continue to support/advice on school libraries, encouraging schools to bid into the Scottish Library and Information Fund (SLIF)</p> <p>Children and young person's independence: Aberdeen City Libraries have age-appropriate guidance in place regarding accessing libraries independently, helping parents feel confident about how their child/ren use the library</p> <p>Idea – promotion to school parent council about buddying on library visits, encouraging older children to travel together</p> <p>Idea - establish a community initiative of 'walking library buses' to visit nearby libraries.</p> <p>Social Connection: Continued library support to book groups The Aberdeen Warm Space directory currently has 48 WarmSpace venues including Hillside Community Church and Deeside Warm Hub.</p> <p>Digital Inclusion: On-line digital services will be helpful for some people with disabilities Aberdeen City Libraries has a digital inclusion librarian and a digital inclusion working group who develop and action digital support and learning.</p> <p>ACC Community Learning and Development, deliver digital adult learning classes</p>
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	<p>for example Cults Library users (4/19 said seeing and meeting people and 1/19 said warm spaces are important)</p> <p>Reduced safe spaces for adults: may impact people with both physical and unseen disabilities for example; people with certain mental health condition may experience increased barriers in accessing new and unfamiliar locations.</p> <p>Reduced safe spaces for children and young people: may impact children and young people with both physical and unseen disabilities for example children and young people with certain mental health condition may experience increased barriers in accessing new and unfamiliar locations.</p>	<p>Other partners in the city are funded to deliver digital support including Silver City Surfers and SHMU</p> <p>Library staff continue to apply for and secure external funding to enable access and engagement to libraries and learning and will continue to work with learning and community partners on this.</p> <p>Intention – provide basic digital help sessions on library apps and services</p> <p>Intention – develop a series of guides on library apps</p> <p>Intention – provision of free Digital Unite guides on our website to provide basic digital support</p> <p>Intention - Promoting where free Wifi and access to devices is available in and near the Cults community</p>
<p>Race (including Gypsy / Travellers) people from minority ethnic communities and different racial backgrounds</p>	<p>Race Low impact Data for Cults: White Scottish:70 White British:41 Prefer not to say:5 Other white ethnic group:4 African, Scottish African or British African:3 White-Eastern European:2 Pakistani, Scottish Pakistani or British Pakistani:1 Indian, Scottish Indian or British Indian:1 Mixed or multiple:1 Other Asian, Scottish Asian or British Asian = 1 Arab, Scottish Arab or British Arab = 1</p>	<p>Intention – further promoting how to access the extensive online library offer</p> <p>Importance and use of physical library services: Continued positive promotion of reading, literacy and numeracy for all through different library initiatives; Every Child A Library Member, Bookbug, Scottish Book Trust book gifting, the Summer Reading Challenge and other local and national reading initiatives , Book group, ESOL classes delivered by GREC and ACC CLD team, author talks and involvement with literacy festivals; Granite Noir</p>

	<p>Digital inclusion: may impact people from minority ethnic communities and different racial background who currently access who access PCs, Wifi and digital support.</p>	<p>with Aberdeen Performing Arts and WayWORD with the University of Aberdeen to mention a few.</p> <p>Space Spaces for Adults:</p> <p>All library sites are safe spaces for all</p> <p>Library staff receive training to support people with additional support needs and apply these into the library environments as well as to their interactions</p>
<p>Religion or belief people with different religion and belief to include those with no beliefs</p>	<p>At this stage there are no know additional impacts on this protected group, other than impacts identified for all library users</p>	<p>Intention – further</p>
<p>Sex - Gender identity men or women, boys and girls</p>	<p>Sex Medium Impact</p> <p>92 out of 178 (62%) respondents for Cults are female</p> <p>32 out of 40 (80%) carers are female</p> <p>Travel time, cost and access: reliance on public transport or alternative transport to visit libraries: may impact disproportionately on female care givers in families and as carers relating to the logistics and cost visiting alternative library sites.</p> <p>Limitations on ability and mobility: may have impacts female carers of young children for example; ability to walk longer distance with young children and carry books and other resources.</p> <p>Reduced frequency of library visits: may have an impact on female carer of</p>	<p>considerations to make spaces more ASN friendly, library staff are about to embark on British sign language (BSL) training</p> <p>Familiarisation tours are offered with storyboards for use prior to visits.</p> <p>Intention – create welcoming video tours of libraries so library users know what to expect when they visit and can anticipate what services and spaces they can use.</p> <p>Intention – promote when there are quieter times to access the library</p> <p>Intention – promote the work we do in libraries to improve access for all, so families are aware of what they can expect.</p> <p>Aberdeen City Libraries continue to work with partners such as Narcotics Anonymous (NA), Shelter, The Foyer and Realistic Medicine Team at NHS to continually improve the library experience for all.</p>

	<p>older adults who require carers to support them to access the library, or due to family logistics</p> <p>Social Connection: may impact women disproportionately where they are the main caregiver for their family who accessed for example Bookbug (4 out of 178 said it was an important service)</p>	<p>Aberdeen City Libraries offers dementia friendly events</p> <p>Safe Spaces for Children and Young people:</p> <p>All library sites are safe spaces for children and young people</p> <p>Library staff receive training to support children and young people with additional support needs (ASN) and apply these into the library environments as well as to their interactions with Children and Young People</p>
<p>Pregnancy and maternity women who are pregnant and / or on maternity leave</p>	<p>Pregnancy and maternity</p> <p>There were no women who indicated they were pregnant or on maternity leave from Cults respondents</p> <p>Safe space for adults: may impact women who are pregnant or on maternity leave for example all libraries are breast feeding friendly places</p>	<p>Intention – further consideration to make spaces more Additional Support Needs friendly, library staff are trained in Makaton and are about to embark on British sign language (BSL) training</p> <p>Familiarisation tours are offered with storyboards for use prior to visits.</p> <p>Intention: create further welcoming video tours of libraries so Children, young people and families know what to expect when they visit and can anticipate what services and spaces they can use.</p>
<p>Sexual orientation lesbian, gay, bisexual, heterosexual / straight</p>	<p>At this stage there are no know additional impacts on this protected group, other than impacts identified for all library users</p>	<p>Libraries have BSL videos and plan further work with Aberdeen School for the deaf around this.</p>
<p>Gender reassignment anybody whose gender identity / expression is different to the sex assigned to them at birth</p>	<p>At this stage there are no know additional impacts on this protected group, other than impacts identified for all library users</p>	<p>Intention -promote when there are quieter times to access the library</p>
<p>Marriage and civil partnership people who are married or in a civil partnership</p>	<p>At this stage there are no know additional impacts on this protected group, other than impacts identified for all library users</p>	<p>Intention - promote the work we do in libraries to improve</p>

		<p>access for all, so families are aware of what they can expect.</p> <p>Continue to work with Understanding Autism to continually improve the library experience for all.</p> <p>Opening Hours: Library opening hours are to be reviewed as part of the Aberdeen's Future Library and Information Services plan.</p> <p>Intention – awareness raising of library access with Fairer Aberdeen funded programmes and other Community Learning and Development partners.</p> <p>Reduced frequency of library visits: Intention – Further promotion of library services and events, so library users can make the most of their in-person visits.</p>
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Socio-Economic Inequalities

Not every person / family has access to regular income or savings. You should therefore consider the impact of your proposal on people who might be unemployed, single parents, people with lower education or literacy, looked after children, those with protected characteristics are just some examples.

Identify the group that your policy/ proposal affects and record the relevant impact and describe the mitigating steps.

	High / Medium Negative impact	Mitigations
		Please state/summarise your mitigating actions for the negative impact(s) identified in stage 1
Low income / income poverty – those who	Low Impact	Free period products can be collected at the 10 Community Libraries and at Central Library and locally at Cults

<p>cannot afford regular bills, food, clothing payments.</p>	<p>While Cults Library is within the Cults, Bieldside and Milltimber neighbourhood. This neighbourhood is in the 15-10% band of the least deprived areas based on the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2020, there may be some individual and families who experience socio-economic disadvantage.</p>	<p>Medical Group as well as other venues on PickUpMyPeriod App</p> <p>Intention – promotion of community resources where free products can be collected.</p> <p>Intention - promotion of anti-poverty initiatives in communities</p> <p>Intention – awareness raising of library access with Fairer Aberdeen funded programmes and other Community Learning and Development partners.</p> <p>Intention - Promoting where free Wifi and access to devices is available in and near the Cults community</p> <p>Free bus travel is available for u22 via the Under 22's Bus Pass and the Older person Bus Pass or a Disabled Person Bus Pass</p>
<p>Low and/or no wealth – those who can meet basic living costs but have no savings for unexpected spend or provision for the future</p>		
<p>Material deprivation – those who cannot access basic goods and services, unable to repair/replace broken electrical goods, heat their homes or access to leisure or hobbies</p>		

Area deprivation – consider where people live and where they work (accessibility and cost of transport)		
Socio-economic background – social class, parents' education, employment, income.		

Consultation and monitoring

Have you undertaken any of form of consultation with any of the affected groups?	Yes	No
Describe the consultation processes/methods undertaken and the number of participants/respondents	<p>Consultation on Cornhill, Cults, Ferryhill, Kaimhill, Northfield and Woodside Libraries took place between 11 September 2023 and 6 November 2023, this included an online and printed survey and in person and online focus groups, at times to be inclusive to working hours, school holidays offering accessible options.</p> <p>Data informing this IIA is from Library users who identified as using Cults Library most frequently from the 6 libraries in the survey or who attended the Cults specific focus groups.</p> <p>Respondents to the survey = 178 Attendee at Focus groups = 12</p>	
Summarise the changes or improvements that have been made to the policy because of the consultation.	<p>The consultation has provided valuable insight into the importance of access to library services and resources for library users who have previously used Cults Library.</p> <p>Impacts that affect people with certain protected characteristics have been considered and mitigations identified to lessen the impact on the majority of</p>	

	library users with protected characteristics relating to age, disability, sex, race and pregnancy and maternity. There are also mitigating actions for Aberdeen Library Service and other Community Planning partners to apply. Many of these mitigations will be incorporated into the Future Library and Information services Plan which is in development.
Set out what suggested changes or improvements that have not been made and why	Many of the mitigations already exist with some requiring promotion, there are also further actions that can be taken to lessen the impact of Option 1.
What impact(s) has the consultation had upon your proposal?	The consultation has helped to better understand the impacts on library users and those with certain protected characteristics and through that understanding consider local and city-wide mitigations to lessen the impact of Option 1. and consider the longer-term implications of Option 2.
How will this policy be monitored	The mitigations provided are vital to lessening the impact of Option 1, The Future Library and Information Services plan provides opportunity and accountability for the mitigating actions presented.
Use this section to justify why your proposal should go ahead despite the negative impacts identified.	The mitigations and the further mitigating actions provide access and opportunity for the majority of consultation respondents who have previously used Cults Library to continue to access library provision. There may still a negative impact for some library users and given the level of mitigations provided this impact is now considered to be low.

Authorisation and sign off: for Stage 2:

Title of Policy / proposal:	Review of city-wide provision of Libraries – Closure of Cults Library
Directorate and Cluster:	Customer, Early Intervention and Community Empowerment

Policy and assessment author (s)	Name: Margaret Stewart Job title: Service Manager, Libraries and Community Learning Date: 05/12/23	Name: Job title: Date:
Authorised and approved by Director or Chief Officer	Name: Jacqui McKenzie Job title: Chief Officer, Early Intervention and Community Empowerment Date: 05/12/23	Name: Job title: Date:

Following completion and approval, please email your completed assessment to:
equality_and_diversity@aberdeencity.gov.uk

Integrated Impact Assessment Pre-screening

Stage 1



The Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) supersedes the previous Equality and Human Rights Impact Assessment (EHRIA) form.

The pre-screening (Stage 1) will determine if your proposal requires a full impact assessment (Stage 2). Stage 2 will look at details of your proposals, the impact and any mitigations in place.

Note: This form should be completed using the guidance contained in the document: 'Guide to Completing an Integrated Impact Assessment'. Please read the guidance before completing this form.

This assessment and accompanying guidance use the term 'policy' for any activity within Aberdeen City Council. Therefore 'policy' should be understood broadly to embrace the full range of your policies, provisions, criteria, functions, practices and activities including the delivery of services – essentially everything you do.

Purpose:

Aberdeen City Council wants Aberdeen to be a place where all people can prosper. We want everyone in Aberdeen to have fair opportunities regardless of their background and circumstances. The aim of this assessment is to allow you to critically assess:

- the impact of the policy / proposal on different communities.
- whether Aberdeen City Council is meeting its legal requirements in terms of [Public Sector Equality Duty](#), [Equality Outcomes](#) and [Human Rights](#);
- whether [Children's Rights](#) have been impacted;
- whether [Socio-economic disadvantage](#) is reduced;
- whether any measures need to be put in place to ensure any negative impacts are eliminated or minimised which will be covered in Stage 2.

<p>Title* Name your business case, policy, strategy or proposal (including budget proposals)</p>	<p>Review of city-wide provision of Libraries – Closure of Ferryhill Library</p>
<p>Report no or Budget proposal number:</p>	<p>CUS/23/386</p>
<p>Committee name and date :</p>	<p>Council 13 December 2023</p>
<p>Is this a new or existing policy/ proposal?</p>	<p>Existing</p>
<p>Brief description of policy / proposal (including intended outcomes and purposes)</p>	<p>This is an update to the IIAs published 5/12/22 and 24/03/23 19b_Review of city-wide provision of Libraries_05-12-22.pdf (aberdeencity.gov.uk) 19b_v2_Review of city-wide provision of libraries_24-03-23.pdf (aberdeencity.gov.uk)</p> <p>The IIA produced prior to the budget meeting included the closure of 4 libraries; Cornhill, Cults, Ferryhill and Northfield. Subsequently at the Full Council Budget Meeting, the approved budget included the closure of 6 libraries. As a result of this decision the Library IIA was updated to reflect the closure of an additional two libraries; Kaimhill and Woodside.</p> <p>Following the decision at the Council Budget meeting on 1 March 2023 the Council received four petitions for Judicial Reviews from individuals. The basis of the claims was that the Council had failed in exercising its duties under the Equality Act 2010, and that the Integrated Impact Assessments that had been prepared were not sufficient enough. Following a review of the four cases, negotiations took place with the four petitioners, through dialogue with all parties, it was agreed that ACC would carry out specific consultation on the library budget option. It was also agreed that the Judicial Reviews would be sisted, and the outcome of the budget decision would be reconsidered, taking into account the further consultation.</p> <p>The Consultation on Cornhill, Cults, Ferryhill, Kaimhill, Northfield and Woodside Libraries took place from 11 September to 6 November 2023. The consultation included an online and printed survey and in person and online focus groups, at times to be inclusive to working hours, school holidays offering accessible options. Where people required support, options were available at</p>

libraries and Marischal College Customer Service Centre. Having carried out an initial analysis of the Aberdeen's Future Library and Information service consultation similar themes have been noted from both consultations as:

- Travel
- Importance and use of physical library services
- Promotion and awareness of services
- Digital Inclusion
- Physical Access
- Reduced frequency of use
- Opening hours
- Childrens activities
- Group visits
- Social connections
- Safe Spaces for Adults
- Safe Spaces for Children and Young People
- Childrens and Young people's independence
- Community Value
- Nostalgia

This Integrated Impact Assessment considers the potential impact of Option 1 and Option 2 as detailed below:

Option 1 – Support the original budget decision to close the 6 libraries, including Ferryhill Library.

This requires an understanding and assessment of the impact the closure of Ferryhill Library on those library users especially those with particular protected characteristics who may be detrimentally affected, and identification of mitigating actions to minimise potential impact.

Option 2 – Overturn the original budget decision to close the 6 libraries and to recommission all 6, including Ferryhill Library and to instruct Chief Officer – Early Intervention and Community Empowerment to commence planning for the recommissioning of facilities, referring ongoing funding implications to the 2024/25 budget.

The recommissioning of all 6 closed libraries including Ferryhill Library will require consideration of the longer-term budgetary implications of reinstating Ferryhill Library on the wider Library and Information Service and /or other council services. This will be considered within Aberdeen's Future Library and Information Services

	<p>report due to be taken to the Communities, Housing and Public Protection Committee in January 2024. An IIA will accompany future library reports.</p> <p>Based on the data collected through the library service, Ferryhill Library over the last 5 years have had an average of 21,091 visits* each year. Across the city there have been on average 14465 active library members each year** from 2018/19 to 2022/23. Ferryhill visits account for 4.4% of the overall library visits in the city</p> <p>Based on these figures there are approximately 636 active members accessing Ferryhill Library each year.</p> <p>Ferryhill Library is within the Ferryhill neighbourhood. This neighbourhood in the 10-15% band of the least deprived areas in Scotland based on the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2020.</p> <p>Consultation respondents: 190 People identified Ferryhill as the library they most frequently used out of the 6 closed libraries. 8 people attended focus groups</p> <p>*Visits – all people coming into a library building; library members, school visits, picking up green bags, printing, reading the newspaper, not everyone will be a library member **Active Library members - a library member who have used their membership; take out a book, PC use.</p>		
Do you consider this proposal to have any impact on the:			
<p>a. Human Rights of people?</p> <p>b. Rights of Children and Young people?</p>	<p>YES- Option 1 Article 9 Freedom of thought, conscience and religion Article 10 Freedom of expression. Libraries provide access a wide range of resources, which support individuals being able to exercise the above articles</p>	<p>No - Option 2</p>	<p>Unsure</p>

	YES - Option 1, Article 2 Non discrimination Article 3 Best interest of the child Article 5 Parental guidance and child's evolving capacities Article 12 Respect for the views of the child Article 13 Freedom Article 14 Freedom of thought, belief and religion Article 17 Access to information from the media of expression Article 28 Right to education	No - Option 2	Unsure					
What is your assessment of the impact on groups with: a. Protected characteristics b. Children and young people c. Other As part of your assessment here, consider the impact of your policy on people and how they will be able to access goods, services and information with no barriers.	H	High negative impact	H	M	L	N	P	U
	M	Medium negative impact						
	L	Low negative impact						
	N	No impact						
	P	Positive impact						
	U	Unsure						
	Age			x				
	Disability			x				
	Gender Reassignment					x		
	Marriage and Civil partnership					x		
	Pregnancy and Maternity				x			
	Race				x			
	Religion or Belief					x		
Sex			x					
Sexual Orientation					x			
Children and young people			x					
Other								
Socio-Economic Inequalities	Yes While Ferryhill Library is within the Ferryhill neighbourhood. This	No	Unsure					

<p>Not every person / family has access to regular income or savings. Will your proposal have an adverse or high impact on them?</p>	<p>neighbourhood in the 10-15% band of the least deprived areas in Scotland based on the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2020, there may be some individual and families who experience socio-economic disadvantage.</p> <p>Option 1 may have an adverse impact on individuals and families.</p> <p>Options 2 will consider longer-term impacts as part of IIA for the future library report.</p>		
<p>What considerations did you have when making the above selections?</p>			
<p>Internal or existing data Please detail your sources</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing library data (as referenced in Appendix A) • Quantitative and qualitative data captured from library users as part of the Consultation on Cornhill, Cults, Ferryhill, Kaimhill, Northfield and Woodside Libraries • Limited qualitative data captured as part of Aberdeen’s Future Library and Information Service Consultation which included a specific Child and Young person’s version. • Qualitative data from in person community engagement and promotion of the consultation; engagement walk abouts in communities where libraries have closed, including outside local supermarket and the sounding areas of Ferryhill, weekly vaccination centre visits, Locality Outcome Improvement Plan events, meeting with the Disability and Equality Partnership. • Qualitative data captured from focus groups, 2 held at Ferryhill Community Centre. 		
<p>Consultations with officers or partner organisations Please list your sources</p>	<p>Aberdeen City Council teams:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Library and Information Services • Equalities Team • Corporate Landlord • Community Planning Aberdeen 		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education <p>Campaign Group:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Save Aberdeen Libraries <p>All library staff have been encouraged to share information to promote engagement with both library consultations, this includes staff across local studies, health and wellbeing, business and employability, children and young people, reader development, localities, central and community libraries.</p>	
<p>Other: Please list your sources</p>	<p>In promoting the consultation information was shared with the following partners organisations and local contacts with an ask to share across their networks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fairer Aberdeen Fund mailing list (funded partners, board and others) • Community Planning Aberdeen (shared with Community Planning partners and through outcome improvement groups) • Culture Aberdeen members • Aberdeen City Library members who have indicated that they wish to be contacted about other library matters • Individuals who responded to the online or paper surveys indicating that they wanted to be updated on the consultation. • Library/CLD service mailing lists for Warm Spaces • Library/CLD mailing list from Grampian Regional Equality Council contacts list • Equalities team ACC 	
<p>Does this proposal contribute to the Public Sector Equality Duty to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations?</p>	<p>Option 1 -There is a potential for indirect discrimination on certain protected characteristics including those with intersectional protected characteristics and those in socio-economic disadvantage. It is also acknowledged that the closure of Ferryhill Library could reduce</p>	<p>Unsure</p>

	<p>opportunities, and there may be, consequential impact on good relations within Ferryhill communities, however mitigations have been identified to reduce impact. (see mitigations in stage 2)</p> <p>Option 2 - Reopening Ferryhill Library negates possible indirect discrimination, advances equality of opportunity and generally fosters good relations, through the reinstatement of Ferryhill Library and access to services, resources and activities.</p>		
<p>Does this proposal contribute to the Council's Equality Outcomes 2021-25?</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Option2 -to reinstate provision: EO1 People with protected characteristics can access information goods and services without barriers</p> <p>EO2. Diverse communities in Aberdeen who used Ferryhill Library will have access to safe spaces and services that enhance their feeling of safety and belonging.</p>	<p>No</p> <p>Option 1- EO1. however, provision of alternative services mitigates barriers created due to the closure of the library and have been identified for stage 2</p> <p>EO2. However alternative safe spaces have been identified in stage 2</p>	<p>Unsure</p>

Please note for any high negative or medium negative impacts identified (red or amber), a full Integrated Impact Assessment will be required (stage 2).

Please provide a brief high-level summary that your policy will bring about:
Use this space to highlight what your proposal intends to achieve:

Option 1: Supporting the original budget decision to close the 6 libraries.

Based on the information provided from this consultation and other referenced data, the impacts of this option on library users of Ferryhill Library have been assessed as low for the protected characteristics of race and pregnancy and maternity and medium for the protected characteristics of age, disability and sex.

This taken into consideration, there will be individual instances where the personal impact will be high, and proportionality based on Ferryhill Library usage and the data and impacts from Ferryhill Library users the number of individuals experiencing a higher impact will be low, therefore recorded as medium or low impact.

Further data and examples used to inform this IIA can be found in Appendix A: Consultation 6 Libraries Report:

Option 2: Overturning the original budget decision to close the 6 libraries and to recommission all 6 and to instruct Chief Officer – Early Intervention and Community Empowerment to commence planning for the recommissioning of facilities, referring ongoing funding implications to the 2024/25 budget.

This option may mitigate for the majority of the impacts provided by library users of Ferryhill Library who shared their experiences during the consultation. From the comments collected during the consultation, opening hours and the promotion of library services has been identified as an area for improvement, and these will be progressed as part of Aberdeen’s Future Library and Information Services Plan, therefore stage 2 will only consider option 1.

Will a full assessment be required?	Yes		
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Assessment completed by: Name and job title	Margaret Stewart, Service Manager, Libraries and Community Learning
Date:	01/12 /23
Signed and approved by Chief Officer (Name and signature)	Jacqui McKenzie
Date:	05/12/23

If you have any queries or require this form in an alternative format, please contact equality_and_diversity@aberdeencity.gov.uk

A fully completed and signed form should be mailed as a PDF to the above email address for publishing your assessment.



Integrated Impact Assessment Stage 2

This stage should be completed following Stage 1 of the Integrated Impact Assessment where required.

In this stage, focus is on assessments that have a high or medium negative impact and the proposed mitigations. Please tick which areas it might affect and provide a summary of your mitigating actions for the negative impacts identified. You do not need to give a mitigation for each article.

Human Rights

Does the proposal have an impact on [Human Rights](#)? Identify the relevant Article and record the relevant impact and describe as a summary the mitigating steps proposed.

	High / Medium Negative impact	Mitigations Please state/summarise your mitigating actions for the negative impact(s) identified in stage 1
Article 6 Right to a fair and public hearing	n/a	
Article 7 No punishment without law	n/a	
Article 8 Right to respect for private and family life, home and correspondence	n/a	
Article 9 Freedom of thought, conscience and religion	Low impact	
Article 10 Freedom of expression	Low impact	

Article 11 Freedom of assembly and association	n/a	
Article 12 Right to marry and to found a family	n/a	
Article 14 Right not to be subject to discrimination	n/a	
Article 1 of Protocol 1 Protection of property	n/a	
Article 2 of Protocol 1 Right to education	n/a	
Article 3 of Protocol 1 Right to free elections	n/a	

Children and Young People's Rights

The United Nations Convention has 54 articles that cover all aspects of a child's life and set out the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights that all children everywhere are entitled to. It also explains how adults and governments must work together to make sure all children can enjoy all their rights.

Children's rights apply to every child/young person under the age of 18 and to adults still eligible to receive a "children's service" (e.g. care leavers aged 18 – 25 years old).

Identify all Articles of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child ([UNCRC](#)) and [Optional Protocols](#) which are relevant to your proposal and record the relevant impact and describe the mitigating steps.

Please tick which areas it might affect and provide a summary of your mitigating actions. You do not need to give a mitigating step for each article.

	High / Medium Negative impact	Mitigations
		Please state/summarise your mitigating actions for the negative impact(s) identified in stage 1
Article 1 <u>definition of the child</u>		School library provision is available across the majority of primary schools and all secondary schools There are 10 community libraries, a self-serve library at Old Aberdeen and the 4 departments within the Central Library that are available for people to
Article 2 <u>non-discrimination</u>	<u>Low impact</u>	
Article 3 <u>best interests of the child</u>	<u>Low impact</u>	

		access regardless of where in the city they live.
Article 4 <u>implementation of the convention</u>		Central Library is 1.1 miles away from Ferryhill Library and is on the no 1 and 2 bus routes.
Article 5 <u>parental guidance and a child's evolving capacities</u>	<u>Low impact</u>	Kincorth Library is 1.5 miles away from Ferryhill Library on the no 18 bus route.
Article 6 <u>life, survival and development</u>		77% of Survey respondents who mainly accessed Ferryhill Library also accessed one or more of the 11 existing city libraries.
Article 7 <u>birth registration, name, nationality, care</u>		
Article 8 <u>protection and preservation of identity</u>		
Article 9 <u>separation from parents</u>		
Article 10 <u>family reunification</u>		
Article 11 <u>abduction and non-return of children</u>		
Article 12 <u>respect for the views of the child</u>	<u>Low impact</u>	
Article 13 <u>freedom of expression</u>	<u>Low impact</u>	
Article 14 <u>freedom of thought, belief and religion</u>	<u>Low impact</u>	
Article 15 <u>freedom of association</u>		
Article 16 <u>right to privacy</u>		

Article 17 <u>access to information from the media</u>	<u>Low impact</u>	
Article 18 <u>parental responsibilities and state assistance</u>		
Article 19 <u>protection from violence, abuse and neglect</u>		
Article 20 <u>children unable to live with their family</u>		
Article 21 <u>adoption</u>		
Article 22 <u>refugee children</u>		
Article 23 <u>children with a disability</u>		
Article 24 <u>health and health services</u>		
Article 25 <u>review of treatment in care</u>		
Article 26 <u>social security</u>		
Article 27 <u>adequate standard of living</u>		
Article 28 <u>right to education</u>	<u>Low impact</u>	
Article 29 <u>goals of education</u>		
Article 30		

children from minority or indigenous groups			
Article 31 <u>leisure, play and culture</u>			
Article 32 <u>child labour</u>			
Article 33 <u>drug abuse</u>			
Article 34 <u>sexual exploitation</u>			
Article 35 <u>abduction, sale and trafficking</u>			
Article 36 <u>other forms of exploitation</u>			
Article 37 <u>inhumane treatment and detention</u>			
Article 38 <u>war and armed conflicts</u>			
Article 39 <u>recovery from trauma and reintegration</u>			
Article 40 <u>juvenile justice</u>			
Article 41 <u>respect for higher national standards</u>			
Article 42 <u>knowledge of rights</u>			
Optional <u>Protocol on a Communications Procedure</u>			

Protected Characteristics

Aberdeen City Council wants to ensure everyone is treated fairly. Identify the protected characteristics that your policy/ proposal affects and record the relevant impact and describe the mitigating steps.

	<u>High / Medium Negative impact</u>	<u>Mitigations</u> Please state/summarise your mitigating actions for the negative impact(s) identified in stage 1
<p><u>Age</u></p> <p><u>Impacts on children and young people</u></p> <p><u>Older people</u></p>	<p>Age</p> <p>Medium impact</p> <p>Under 16 yrs. =1 16-24 yrs. =5 25-34 yrs.=38 35-44 yrs.=91 45-54 yrs.=55 55-64 yrs.= 57 65+ yrs.= 63 prefer not to say =16</p> <p>Travel time, cost and access: reliance on public transport: impacts children and young people, families and older people, carers. For children and young people this has a consequential impact in their ability to access the library on the way home from school.</p> <p>Limitations on ability and mobility: may have impacts on young children and older age groups due to fragility, mobility and other limiting factors and situations. for example; ability to walk longer distance and carry books and other resources.</p> <p>Reduced frequency of library visits: may have an impact on children and young people who cannot access libraries</p>	<p>Current library provision: There are 10 community libraries, a self-serve library at Old Aberdeen and the 4 departments within the Central Library that are available for people to access regardless of where in the city they live. School library provision is available across the majority of primary schools and all secondary schools Central Library is 1.1 miles away from Ferryhill Library and is on the no 1 and 2 bus routes. Kincorth Library is 1.5 miles away from Ferryhill Library on the no 18 bus route.</p> <p>77% of survey respondents who mainly accessed Ferryhill Library also accessed one or more of the 11 existing city libraries.</p> <p>Travel and access: Free bus travel is available for 0–21-year-olds, with 5-21 years able to apply via the Under 22’s Bus Pass and the Older Person Bus Pass or a Disabled Person Bus Pass. Central Library is 1.1 miles away from Ferryhill Library and is on the no 1 and 2 bus routes. Kincorth Library is 1.5 miles away from Ferryhill Library on the no 18 bus route.</p>

	<p>independently and older adults who require carers to support them to access the library, or due to family logistics</p> <p>Support for group visits: may have an impact on young children who cannot access libraries independently and visit as a group and older adults from e.g care settings who require carers to support them to access the library.</p> <p>Social Connection: may impact early years children and their families who accessed for example Bookbug (3 out of 190 said it was an important service), and for older adult's book groups.</p> <p>Digital inclusion; May impact older adults who access PCs, Wifi and digital support.</p>	<p>Accessible parking is available nearby all libraries</p> <p>Intention-Promotion of safe active travel and bus routes to libraries</p> <p>Intention - Managing expectations of the citywide library offer, it is not always possible to be within close proximity of a library, help people as required to adjust to different routes to access.</p> <p>Home Library Service available for people of all ages who live in Aberdeen and are unable to visit their local library due to disability, illness or because they are caring for someone.</p> <p>Talking books and audio books available to borrow, Playaways are available for both Children and Adults</p> <p>Group Visits: Early Years and Children and Young People's librarians and our Health and Wellbeing and Local History Librarians continue to work with library staff, schools, early years and community settings across the</p>
<p>Disability people with disabilities / long standing conditions</p>	<p>Disability Medium impact For Ferryhill 16% (30* out of 74) of respondents indicated that they have a disability/ long standing condition</p> <p>Library attendance: of the 30 out of 190 1 attended daily 9 attended weekly 4 attended fortnightly 11 attended monthly</p> <p>2 attend every 2-6 months 1 attends every 6-12 months 23 of the 30* have accessed other libraries</p>	<p>city to enable access to libraries and library services as part of their lifelong learning experience. Examples include attending school events and parents' evenings. Supporting practitioners and teachers who work with children via the Curriculum Resources and Information Services (CRIS). Library staff continue to be successful in securing external funding to enable access to libraries and will continue to work with learning and community partners on this.</p>

	<p>Travel time, cost and access: reliance on public transport: impacts people with disabilities and their carers. For example, the increased time required to get to alternative provision and to fit in with carers time</p> <p>Limitations on ability and mobility: may have impacts on people with both physical and unseen disabilities. For example; ability to travel longer distance and carry books and other resources. Neurodiverse people may experience increased barriers in planning travel and accessing new and unfamiliar procedures and locations.</p> <p>Reduced frequency of library visits: may have impacts on people with both physical and unseen disabilities. who cannot access libraries independently and require carers to support them to access the library or other situational factors</p> <p>Digital inclusion; may impact people with both physical and unseen disabilities who currently access library provision and may need support</p> <p>Social Connection: may impact people with both physical and unseen disabilities who accessed for example Ferryhill Library (8/30*) shared that in person visits are an important service to them)</p>	<p>Library staff continue to support/advice on school libraries, encouraging schools to bid into the Scottish Library and Information Fund (SLIF)</p> <p>Children and young person's independence: Aberdeen City Libraries have age-appropriate guidance in place regarding accessing libraries independently, helping parents feel confident about how their child/ren use the library</p> <p>Idea – promotion to school parent council about buddying on library visits, encouraging older children to travel together</p> <p>Idea - establish a community initiative of 'walking library buses' to visit nearby libraries.</p> <p>Social Connection: Continued library support to book groups The Aberdeen Warm Space directory currently has 48 WarmSpace venues including Ferryhill Parish Church</p> <p>Digital Inclusion: On-line digital services will be helpful for some people with disabilities Aberdeen City Libraries has a digital inclusion librarian and a digital inclusion working group who develop and action digital support and learning.</p> <p>ACC Community Learning and Development, deliver digital adult learning classes</p> <p>Other partners in the city are funded to deliver digital</p>
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	<p>Reduced safe spaces for adults: may impact people with both physical and unseen disabilities for example; people with certain mental health condition may experience increased barriers in accessing new and unfamiliar locations.</p> <p>Reduced safe spaces for children: may impact children and young people with both physical and unseen disabilities for example people with certain mental health condition may experience increased barriers in accessing new and unfamiliar locations.</p>	<p>support including Silver City Surfers and SHMU</p> <p>Library staff continue to apply for and secure external funding to enable access and engagement to libraries and learning and will continue to work with learning and community partners on this.</p> <p>Intention – provide basic digital help sessions on library apps and services</p> <p>Intention – develop a series of guides on library apps</p> <p>Intention – provision of free Digital Unite guides on our website to provide basic digital support</p>
<p>Race (including Gypsy / Travellers) people from minority ethnic communities and different racial backgrounds</p>	<p>Race</p> <p>Low impact</p> <p>Data for Ferryhill: White Scottish:107 White British:26 Other white ethnic group:10 Prefer not to say:8 Indian, Scottish Indian or British Indian:3 White Eastern European:1 White Irish:3 Mixed or multiple:2 Other Asian, Scottish Asian or British Asian: 1 Caribbean or Black:1</p> <p>Digital inclusion: may impact people from minority ethnic communities and different racial background who currently access who access PCs, Wifi and digital support.</p>	<p>Intention - Promoting where free Wifi and access to devices is available in and near the Ferryhill community</p> <p>Intention – further promoting how to access the extensive online library offer</p> <p>Importance and use of physical library services: Continued positive promotion of reading, literacy and numeracy for all through different library initiatives; Every Child A Library Member, Bookbug, Scottish Book Trust book gifting, the Summer Reading Challenge and other local and national reading initiatives , Book group, ESOL classes delivered by GREC and ACC CLD team, author talks and involvement with literacy festivals; Granite Noir</p>

<p>Religion or belief people with different religion and belief to include those with no beliefs</p>	<p>At this stage there are no know additional impacts on this protected group, other than impacts identified for all library users</p>	<p>with Aberdeen Performing Arts and WayWORD with the University of Aberdeen to mention a few.</p> <p>Space Spaces for Adults:</p>
<p>Sex - Gender identity men or women, boys and girls</p>	<p>Sex Medium Impact</p> <p>119 out of 190 (62%) respondents for Ferryhill are female</p> <p>26 out of 32 (81%) carers are female</p> <p>Travel time, cost and access: reliance on public transport or alternative transport to visit libraries: may impact disproportionately on female care givers in families and as carers relating to the logistics and cost visiting alternative library sites.</p> <p>Limitations on ability and mobility: may have impacts female carers of young children for example; ability to walk longer distance with young children and carry books and other resources.</p> <p>Reduced frequency of library visits: may have an impact on female carer of older adults who require carers to support them to access the library, or due to family logistics</p> <p>Social Connection: may impact women disproportionately where they are the main caregiver for their family who accessed for example for</p>	<p>All library sites are safe spaces for all</p> <p>Library staff receive training to support people with additional support needs and apply these into the library environments as well as to their interactions</p> <p>Intention – further considerations to make spaces more ASN friendly, library staff are about to embark on British sign language (BSL) training</p> <p>Familiarisation tours are offered with storyboards for use prior to visits.</p> <p>Intention – create welcoming video tours of libraries so library users know what to expect when they visit and can anticipate what services and spaces they can use.</p> <p>Intention – promote when there are quieter times to access the library</p> <p>Intention – promote the work we do in libraries to improve access for all, so families are aware of what they can expect.</p> <p>Aberdeen City Libraries continue to work with partners such as Narcotics Anonymous (NA), Shelter, The Foyer and Realistic Medicine Team at</p>

	<p>Bookbug or other children's activities. (3 out of 190 sharing Bookbug was an important service for them with 5 out of 190 sharing that other children's activities in libraries were important services for them to access)</p>	<p>NHS to continually improve the library experience for all.</p> <p>Aberdeen City Libraries offers dementia friendly events</p> <p>Safe Spaces for Children and Young people:</p> <p>All library sites are safe spaces for children and young people</p>
<p>Pregnancy and maternity women who are pregnant and / or on maternity leave</p>	<p>Pregnancy and maternity</p> <p>There were 4 women who indicated they were pregnant or on maternity leave from Ferryhill respondents</p> <p>Safe Space for adults: may impact women who are pregnant or on maternity leave for example all libraries are breast feeding friendly places</p>	<p>Library staff receive training to support children and young people with additional support needs (ASN) and apply these into the library environments as well as to their interactions with Children and Young People</p> <p>Intention – further consideration to make spaces more Additional Support Needs friendly, library staff are trained in Makaton and are about to embark on British sign language (BSL) training</p>
<p>Sexual orientation lesbian, gay, bisexual, heterosexual / straight</p>	<p>At this stage there are no know additional impacts on this protected group, other than impacts identified for all library users</p>	<p>Familiarisation tours are offered with storyboards for use prior to visits.</p>
<p>Gender reassignment anybody whose gender identity / expression is different to the sex assigned to them at birth</p>	<p>At this stage there are no know additional impacts on this protected group, other than impacts identified for all library users</p>	<p>Intention: create further welcoming video tours of libraries so Children, young people and families know what to expect when they visit and can anticipate what services and spaces they can use. Libraries have BSL videos and plan further work with Aberdeen School for the deaf around this.</p>
<p>Marriage and civil partnership people who are married or in a civil partnership</p>	<p>At this stage there are no know additional impacts on this protected group, other than impacts identified for all library users</p>	<p>Intention -promote when there are quieter times to access the library</p>

		<p>Intention - promote the work we do in libraries to improve access for all, so families are aware of what they can expect.</p> <p>Continue to work with Understanding Autism to continually improve the library experience for all.</p> <p>Opening Hours: Library opening hours are to be reviewed as part of the Aberdeen's Future Library and Information Services plan.</p> <p>Intention – awareness raising of library access with Fairer Aberdeen funded programmes and other Community Learning and Development partners.</p> <p>Reduced frequency of library visits: Intention – Further promotion of library services and events, so library users can make the most of their in-person visits.</p>
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Socio-Economic Inequalities

Not every person / family has access to regular income or savings. You should therefore consider the impact of your proposal on people who might be unemployed, single parents, people with lower education or literacy, looked after children, those with protected characteristics are just some examples.

Identify the group that your policy/ proposal affects and record the relevant impact and describe the mitigating steps.

	<p>High / Medium Negative impact</p>	<p>Mitigations Please state/summarise your mitigating actions for the negative impact(s) identified in stage 1</p>
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<p>Low income / income poverty – those who cannot afford regular bills, food, clothing payments.</p>	<p>Low impact</p> <p>While Ferryhill Library is within the Ferryhill neighbourhood. This neighbourhood is in the 10-15% band of the least deprived areas in Scotland based on the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2020, there may be some individual and families who experience socio-economic disadvantage.</p>	<p>Free period products can be collected at the 11 Community Libraries and at Central Library and locally at Whinhill Medical Practice as well as other venues on PickUpMyPeriod App</p> <p>Intention – promotion of community resources where free products can be collected.</p> <p>Intention - promotion of anti-poverty initiatives in communities</p> <p>Intention – awareness raising of library access with Fairer Aberdeen funded programmes and other Community Learning and Development partners.</p> <p>Intention - Promoting where free Wifi and access to devices is available in and near the Ferryhill community</p> <p>Free bus travel is available for u22 via the Under 22's Bus Pass and the Older person Bus Pass or a Disabled Person Bus Pass</p>
<p>Low and/or no wealth – those who can meet basic living costs but have no savings for unexpected spend or provision for the future</p>		
<p>Material deprivation – those who cannot access basic goods and services, unable to repair/replace broken electrical goods, heat their homes or access</p>		

to leisure or hobbies		
Area deprivation – consider where people live and where they work (accessibility and cost of transport)		
Socio-economic background – social class, parents' education, employment, income.		

Consultation and monitoring

Have you undertaken any of form of consultation with any of the affected groups?	Yes	No
Describe the consultation processes/methods undertaken and the number of participants/respondents	<p>Consultation on Cornhill, Cults, Ferryhill, Kaimhill, Northfield and Woodside Libraries took place between 11 September 2023 and 6 November 2023, this included an online and printed survey and in person and online focus groups, at times to be inclusive to working hours, school holidays offering accessible options.</p> <p>Data informing this IIA is from Library users who identified as using Ferryhill Library most frequently from the 6 libraries in the survey or who attended the Ferryhill specific focus groups.</p> <p>Respondents to the survey = 190 Attendee at Focus groups = 8</p>	
Summarise the changes or improvements that have been made to the policy because of the consultation.	<p>The consultation has provided valuable insight into the importance of access to library services and resources for library users who have previously used Ferryhill Library.</p>	

	Impacts that affect people with certain protected characteristics have been considered and mitigations identified to lessen the impact on the majority of library users with protected characteristics relating to age, disability, sex, race and pregnancy and maternity. There are also mitigating actions for Aberdeen Library Service and other Community Planning partners to apply. Many of these mitigations will be incorporated into the Future Library and Information services Plan which is in development.
Set out what suggested changes or improvements that have not been made and why	Many of the mitigations already exist with some requiring promotion, there are also further actions that can be taken to lessen the impact of Option 1.
What impact(s) has the consultation had upon your proposal?	The consultation has helped to better understand the impacts on library users and those with certain protected characteristics and through that understanding consider local and city-wide mitigations to lessen the impact of Option 1. and consider the longer-term implications of Option 2.
How will this policy be monitored	The mitigations provided are vital to lessening the impact of Option 1, The Future Library and Information Services plan provides opportunity and accountability for the mitigating actions presented.
Use this section to justify why your proposal should go ahead despite the negative impacts identified.	The mitigations and the further mitigating actions provide access and opportunity for the majority of consultation respondents who have previously used Ferryhill Library to continue to access library provision. There may still a negative impact for some library users and given the level of mitigations provided this impact is now considered to be low.

Authorisation and sign off: for Stage 2:

Title of Policy / proposal:	Review of city-wide provision of Libraries – Closure of Ferryhill Library	
Directorate and Cluster:	Customer, Early Intervention and Community Empowerment	
Policy and assessment author (s)	Name: Margaret Stewart Job title: Service Manager, Libraries and Community Learning Date: 05/12/23	Name: Job title: Date:
Authorised and approved by Director or Chief Officer	Name: Jacqui McKenzie Job title: Chief Officer, Early Intervention and Community Empowerment Date: 05/12/23	Name: Job title: Date:

Following completion and approval, please email your completed assessment to:
equality_and_diversity@aberdeencity.gov.uk

Integrated Impact Assessment Pre-screening

Stage 1



The Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) supersedes the previous Equality and Human Rights Impact Assessment (EHRIA) form.

The pre-screening (Stage 1) will determine if your proposal requires a full impact assessment (Stage 2). Stage 2 will look at details of your proposals, the impact and any mitigations in place.

Note: This form should be completed using the guidance contained in the document: 'Guide to Completing an Integrated Impact Assessment'. Please read the guidance before completing this form.

This assessment and accompanying guidance use the term 'policy' for any activity within Aberdeen City Council. Therefore 'policy' should be understood broadly to embrace the full range of your policies, provisions, criteria, functions, practices and activities including the delivery of services – essentially everything you do.

Purpose:

Aberdeen City Council wants Aberdeen to be a place where all people can prosper. We want everyone in Aberdeen to have fair opportunities regardless of their background and circumstances. The aim of this assessment is to allow you to critically assess:

- the impact of the policy / proposal on different communities.
- whether Aberdeen City Council is meeting its legal requirements in terms of [Public Sector Equality Duty](#), [Equality Outcomes](#) and [Human Rights](#);
- whether [Children's Rights](#) have been impacted;
- whether [Socio-economic disadvantage](#) is reduced;
- whether any measures need to be put in place to ensure any negative impacts are eliminated or minimised which will be covered in Stage 2.

<p>Title* Name your business case, policy, strategy or proposal (including budget proposals)</p>	<p>Review of city-wide provision of Libraries – Closure of Kaimhill Library</p>
<p>Report no or Budget proposal number:</p>	<p>CUS/23/386</p>
<p>Committee name and date :</p>	<p>Council 13 December 2023</p>
<p>Is this a new or existing policy/ proposal?</p>	<p>Existing</p>
<p>Brief description of policy / proposal (including intended outcomes and purposes)</p>	<p>This is an update to the IIAs published 5/12/22 and 24/03/23 19b_Review of city-wide provision of Libraries_05-12-22.pdf (aberdeencity.gov.uk) 19b_v2_Review of city-wide provision of libraries_24-03-23.pdf (aberdeencity.gov.uk)</p> <p>The IIA produced prior to the budget meeting included the closure of 4 libraries; Cornhill, Cults, Ferryhill and Northfield. Subsequently at the Full Council Budget Meeting, the approved budget included the closure of 6 libraries. As a result of this decision the Library IIA was updated to reflect the closure of an additional two libraries; Kaimhill and Woodside.</p> <p>Following the decision at the Council Budget meeting on 1 March 2023 the Council received four petitions for Judicial Reviews from individuals. The basis of the claims was that the Council had failed in exercising its duties under the Equality Act 2010, and that the Integrated Impact Assessments that had been prepared were not sufficient enough. Following a review of the four cases, negotiations took place with the four petitioners, through dialogue with all parties, it was agreed that ACC would carry out specific consultation on the library budget option. It was also agreed that the Judicial Reviews would be sisted, and the outcome of the budget decision would be reconsidered, taking into account the further consultation.</p> <p>The Consultation on Cornhill, Cults, Ferryhill, Kaimhill, Northfield and Woodside Libraries took place from 11 September to 6 November 2023. The consultation included an online and printed survey and in person and online focus groups, at times to be inclusive to working hours, school holidays offering accessible options. Where people required support, options were available at</p>

libraries and Marischal College Customer Service Centre. Having carried out an initial analysis of the Aberdeen's Future Library and Information service consultation similar themes have been noted from both consultations as:

- Travel
- Importance and use of physical library services
- Promotion and awareness of services
- Digital Inclusion
- Physical Access
- Reduced frequency of use
- Opening hours
- Childrens activities
- Group visits
- Social connections
- Safe Spaces for Adults
- Safe Spaces for Children and young people
- Childrens and Young people's independence
- Community Value
- Nostalgia

This Integrated Impact Assessment considers the potential impact of Option 1 and Option 2 as detailed below:

Option 1 – Support the original budget decision to close the 6 libraries, including Kaimhill Library.

This requires an understanding and assessment of the impact the closure of Kaimhill Library on those library users especially those with particular protected characteristics who may be detrimentally affected, and identification of mitigating actions to minimise potential impact.

Option 2 – Overturn the original budget decision to close the 6 libraries and to recommission all 6, including Kaimhill Library and to instruct Chief Officer – Early Intervention and Community Empowerment to commence planning for the recommissioning of facilities, referring ongoing funding implications to the 2024/25 budget.

The recommissioning of all 6 closed libraries including Kaimhill Library will require consideration of the longer-term budgetary implications of reinstating Kaimhill Library on the wider Library and Information Service and /or other council services. This will be considered within Aberdeen's Future Library and Information Services report due to be taken to the Communities, Housing and

	<p>Public Protection Committee in January 2024. An IIA will accompany future library reports.</p> <p>Based on the data collected through the library service, Kaimhill Library over the last 5 years have had an average of 7662 visits* each year. Across the city there have been on average 14465 active library members each year** from 2018/19 to 2022/23. Kaimhill visits account for 1.6% of the overall library visits in the city Based on these figures there are approximately 231 active members accessing Kaimhill Library each year.</p> <p>Kaimhill Library is within the Garthdee neighbourhood. This neighbourhood sits within the 40% most deprived and 40% least deprived areas in Scotland based on the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2020.</p> <p>Consultation respondents: 63 People identified Kaimhill as the library they most frequently used out of the 6 closed libraries. No one attended focus groups for Kaimhill Library.</p> <p>*Visits – all people coming into a library building; library members, school visits, picking up green bags, printing, reading the newspaper, not everyone will be a library member **Active Library members - a library member who have used their membership; take out a book, PC use.</p>		
Do you consider this proposal to have any impact on the:			
<p>a. Human Rights of people?</p> <p>b. Rights of Children and Young people?</p>	<p>YES- Option 1 Article 9 Freedom of thought, conscience and religion Article 10 Freedom of expression. Libraries provide access a wide range of resources, which support individuals being able to exercise the above articles</p>	<p>No - Option 2</p>	<p>Unsure</p>

	YES - Option 1, Article 2 Non discrimination Article 3 Best interest of the child Article 5 Parental guidance and child's evolving capacities Article 12 Respect for the views of the child Article 13 Freedom Article 14 Freedom of thought, belief and religion Article 17 Access to information from the media of expression Article 28 Right to education	No - Option 2	Unsure					
What is your assessment of the impact on groups with: a. Protected characteristics b. Children and young people c. Other As part of your assessment here, consider the impact of your policy on people and how they will be able to access goods, services and information with no barriers.	H	High negative impact	H	M	L	N	P	U
	M	Medium negative impact						
	L	Low negative impact						
	N	No impact						
	P	Positive impact						
	U	Unsure						
	Age			x				
	Disability			x				
	Gender Reassignment					x		
	Marriage and Civil partnership					x		
	Pregnancy and Maternity				x			
	Race				x			
	Religion or Belief					x		
Sex			x					
Sexual Orientation					x			
Children and young people			x					
Other								
Socio-Economic Inequalities	Yes Kaimhill Library is within the Garthdee neighbourhood. This	No	Unsure					

<p>Not every person / family has access to regular income or savings. Will your proposal have an adverse or high impact on them?</p>	<p>neighbourhood sits within the 40% most deprived and 40% least deprived areas in Scotland based on the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2020.</p> <p>Option 1 may have an adverse impact on individuals and families.</p> <p>Options 2 will consider longer-term impacts as part of IIA for the future library report.</p>		
<p>What considerations did you have when making the above selections?</p>			
<p>Internal or existing data Please detail your sources</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing library data (as referenced in Appendix A) • Quantitative and qualitative data captured from library users as part of the Consultation on Cornhill, Cults, Ferryhill, Kaimhill, Northfield and Woodside Libraries • Limited qualitative data captured as part of Aberdeen’s Future Library and Information Service Consultation which included a specific Child and Young person’s version. • Qualitative data from in person community engagement and promotion of the consultation; engagement walk abouts in communities where libraries have closed, including outside local supermarket and the sounding areas of Kaimhill, weekly vaccination centre visits, Locality Outcome Improvement Plan events, meeting with the Disability and Equality Partnership. 		
<p>Consultations with officers or partner organisations Please list your sources</p>	<p>Aberdeen City Council teams:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Library and Information Services • Equalities Team • Corporate Landlord • Community Planning Aberdeen • Education <p>Campaign Group:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Save Aberdeen Libraries 		

	<p>All library staff have been encouraged to share information to promote engagement with both library consultations, this includes staff across local studies, health and wellbeing, business and employability, children and young people, reader development, localities, central and community libraries.</p>		
<p>Other: Please list your sources</p>	<p>In promoting the consultation information was shared with the following partners organisations and local contacts with an ask to share across their networks: Fairer Aberdeen Fund mailing list (funded partners, board and others)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Planning Aberdeen (shared with Community Planning partners and through outcome improvement groups) • Culture Aberdeen members • Aberdeen City Library members who have indicated that they wish to be contacted about other library matters • Individuals who responded to the online or paper surveys indicating that they wanted to be updated on the consultation. • Library/CLD service mailing lists for Warm Spaces • Library/CLD mailing list from Grampian Regional Equality Council contacts list • Equalities team ACC 		
<p>Does this proposal contribute to the Public Sector Equality Duty to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations?</p>	<p>Option 1 There is a potential for indirect discrimination on certain protected characteristics including those with intersectional protected characteristics and those in socio-economic disadvantage. It is also acknowledged that the closure of Kaimhill Library could reduce opportunities, and there may be, consequential impact on good relations</p>		<p>Unsure</p>

	<p>within Kaimhill/Garthdee communities, however mitigations have been identified to reduce impact. (see mitigations in stage 2)</p> <p>Option 2 - Reopening Kaimhill Library negates possible indirect discrimination, advances equality of opportunity and generally fosters good relations, through the reinstatement of Kaimhill Library and access to services, resources and activities.</p>		
<p>Does this proposal contribute to the Council's Equality Outcomes 2021-25?</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Option2 -to reinstate provision: EO1 People with protected characteristics can access information good and services without barriers</p> <p>EO2. Diverse communities in Aberdeen who used Kaimhill Library will have access to safe spaces and services that enhance their feeling of safety and belonging.</p>	<p>No</p> <p>Option 1- EO1. however, provision of alternative services mitigates barriers created due to the closure of the library and have been identified for stage 2</p> <p>EO2. However alternative safe spaces have been identified in stage 2</p>	<p>Unsure</p>
<p>Please note for any high negative or medium negative impacts identified (red or amber), a full Integrated Impact Assessment will be required (stage 2).</p>			

Please provide a brief high-level summary that your policy will bring about:
Use this space to highlight what your proposal intends to achieve:

Option 1: Supporting the original budget decision to close the 6 libraries.

Based on the information provided from this consultation and other referenced data, the impacts of this option on library users of Kaimhill Library have been assessed as low for the protected characteristics of race and pregnancy and maternity and medium for the protected characteristics of age, disability and sex.

This taken into consideration, there will be individual instances where the personal impact will be high, and proportionality based on Kaimhill Library usage and the data and impacts from Kaimhill Library users the number of individuals experiencing a higher impact will be low, therefore recorded as medium or low impact.

Further data and examples used to inform this IIA can be found in Appendix A: Consultation 6 Libraries Report:

Option 2: Overturning the original budget decision to close the 6 libraries and to recommission all 6 and to instruct Chief Officer – Early Intervention and Community Empowerment to commence planning for the recommissioning of facilities, referring ongoing funding implications to the 2024/25 budget.

This option may mitigate for the majority of the impacts provided by library users of Kaimhill Library who shared their experiences during the consultation. From the comments collected during the consultation, opening hours and the promotion of library services has been identified as an area for improvement, and these will be progressed as part of Aberdeen’s Future Library and Information Services Plan, therefore stage 2 will only consider option 1.

Will a full assessment be required?	Yes		
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Assessment completed by: Name and job title	Margaret Stewart, Service Manager, Libraries and Community Learning
Date:	01/12/23
Signed and approved by Chief Officer (Name and signature)	Jacqui McKenzie
Date:	05/12/23

If you have any queries or require this form in an alternative format, please contact equality_and_diversity@aberdeencity.gov.uk

A fully completed and signed form should be mailed as a PDF to the above email address for publishing your assessment.



Integrated Impact Assessment Stage 2

This stage should be completed following Stage 1 of the Integrated Impact Assessment where required.

In this stage, focus is on assessments that have a high or medium negative impact and the proposed mitigations. Please tick which areas it might affect and provide a summary of your mitigating actions for the negative impacts identified. You do not need to give a mitigation for each article.

Human Rights

Does the proposal have an impact on [Human Rights](#)? Identify the relevant Article and record the relevant impact and describe as a summary the mitigating steps proposed.

	High / Medium Negative impact	Mitigations Please state/summarise your mitigating actions for the negative impact(s) identified in stage 1
Article 6 Right to a fair and public hearing	n/a	
Article 7 No punishment without law	n/a	
Article 8 Right to respect for private and family life, home and correspondence	n/a	
Article 9 Freedom of thought, conscience and religion	Low impact	
Article 10 Freedom of expression	Low impact	
Article 11	n/a	

Freedom of assembly and association		
Article 12 Right to marry and to found a family	n/a	
Article 14 Right not to be subject to discrimination	n/a	
Article 1 of Protocol 1 Protection of property	n/a	
Article 2 of Protocol 1 Right to education	n/a	
Article 3 of Protocol 1 Right to free elections	n/a	

Children and Young People's Rights

The United Nations Convention has 54 articles that cover all aspects of a child's life and set out the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights that all children everywhere are entitled to. It also explains how adults and governments must work together to make sure all children can enjoy all their rights.

Children's rights apply to every child/young person under the age of 18 and to adults still eligible to receive a "children's service" (e.g. care leavers aged 18 – 25 years old).

Identify all Articles of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and [Optional Protocols](#) which are relevant to your proposal and record the relevant impact and describe the mitigating steps.

Please tick which areas it might affect and provide a summary of your mitigating actions. You do not need to give a mitigating step for each article.

	High / Medium Negative impact	Mitigations
		Please state/summarise your mitigating actions for the negative impact(s) identified in stage 1
Article 1 <u>definition of the child</u>		School library provision is available across the majority of primary schools and all secondary schools There are 10 community libraries, a self-serve library at Old Aberdeen and the 4 departments within the Central Library that are available for people to
Article 2 <u>non-discrimination</u>	<u>Low impact</u>	
Article 3 <u>best interests of the child</u>	<u>Low impact</u>	

Article 4 <u>implementation of the convention</u>		<p>access regardless of where in the city they live.</p> <p>Airyhall Library is 1.4 miles away from Kaimhill Library with Kincorth Library 1.5 miles away. Central Library is 2.5 miles away and can be accessed by the no 1 and 2 bus routes.</p> <p>70% of Survey respondents who mainly accessed Kaimhill Library also accessed one or more of the 11 existing city libraries.</p>
Article 5 <u>parental guidance and a child's evolving capacities</u>	<u>Low impact</u>	
Article 6 <u>life, survival and development</u>		
Article 7 <u>birth registration, name, nationality, care</u>		
Article 8 <u>protection and preservation of identity</u>		
Article 9 <u>separation from parents</u>		
Article 10 <u>family reunification</u>		
Article 11 <u>abduction and non-return of children</u>		
Article 12 <u>respect for the views of the child</u>	<u>Low impact</u>	
Article 13 <u>freedom of expression</u>	<u>Low impact</u>	
Article 14 <u>freedom of thought, belief and religion</u>	<u>Low impact</u>	
Article 15 <u>freedom of association</u>		
Article 16 <u>right to privacy</u>		
Article 17	<u>Low impact</u>	

<u>access to information from the media</u>		
Article 18 <u>parental responsibilities and state assistance</u>		
Article 19 <u>protection from violence, abuse and neglect</u>		
Article 20 <u>children unable to live with their family</u>		
Article 21 <u>adoption</u>		
Article 22 <u>refugee children</u>		
Article 23 <u>children with a disability</u>		
Article 24 <u>health and health services</u>		
Article 25 <u>review of treatment in care</u>		
Article 26 <u>social security</u>		
Article 27 <u>adequate standard of living</u>		
Article 28 <u>right to education</u>	<u>Low impact</u>	
Article 29 <u>goals of education</u>		
Article 30 <u>children from minority or indigenous groups</u>		

Article 31 <u>leisure, play and culture</u>			
Article 32 <u>child labour</u>			
Article 33 <u>drug abuse</u>			
Article 34 <u>sexual exploitation</u>			
Article 35 <u>abduction, sale and trafficking</u>			
Article 36 <u>other forms of exploitation</u>			
Article 37 <u>inhumane treatment and detention</u>			
Article 38 <u>war and armed conflicts</u>			
Article 39 <u>recovery from trauma and reintegration</u>			
Article 40 <u>juvenile justice</u>			
Article 41 <u>respect for higher national standards</u>			
Article 42 <u>knowledge of rights</u>			
Optional <u>Protocol on a Communications Procedure</u>			

Protected Characteristics

Aberdeen City Council wants to ensure everyone is treated fairly. Identify the [protected characteristics](#) that your policy/ proposal affects and record the relevant impact and describe the mitigating steps.

	<u>High / Medium Negative impact</u>	<u>Mitigations</u> <u>Please state/summarise your mitigating actions for the negative impact(s) identified in stage 1</u>
<p><u>Age</u></p> <p><u>Impacts on children and young people</u></p> <p><u>Older people</u></p>	<p>Age</p> <p>Medium impact</p> <p>Under 16 yrs. =1 16-24 yrs. =0 25-34 yrs.=9 35-44 yrs.= 16 45-54 yrs.= 12 55-64 yrs.= 8 65+ yrs.= 13 prefer not to say = 2</p> <p>Travel time, cost and access: reliance on public transport: impacts children and young people, families and older people, carers. For children and young people this has a consequential impact in their ability to access the library on the way home from school.</p> <p>Limitations on ability and mobility: may have impacts on young children and older age groups due to fragility, mobility and other limiting factors and situations. for example; ability to walk longer distance and carry books and other resources.</p> <p>Reduced frequency of library visits: may have an impact on children and young people who cannot access libraries independently and older</p>	<p>Current library provision: There are 10 community libraries, a self-serve library at Old Aberdeen and the 4 departments within the Central Library that are available for people to access regardless of where in the city they live. School library provision is available across the majority of primary schools and all secondary schools Airyhall Library is 1.4 miles away from Kaimhill Library with Kincorth Library 1.5 miles away. Central Library is 2.5 miles away and can be accessed by the no 1 and 2 bus routes.</p> <p>70% of Survey respondents who mainly accessed Kaimhill Library also accessed one or more of the 11 existing city libraries.</p> <p>Travel and access: Free bus travel is available for 0–21-year-olds, with 5-21 years able to apply via the Under 22’s Bus Pass and the Older Person Bus Pass or a Disabled Person Bus Pass. Airyhall Library is 1.4 miles away from Kaimhill Library with Kincorth Library 1.5 miles away. Central Library is 2.5 miles away and can be accessed by the no 1 and 2 bus routes.</p>

	<p>adults who require carers to support them to access the library, or due to family logistics</p> <p>Support for group visits: may have an impact on young children who cannot access libraries independently and visit as a group and older adults from for example; care settings who require carers to support them to access the library.</p> <p>Social Connection: may impact early years children and their families who accessed for example Bookbug (3 out of 74 said it was an important service), and for older adults' book groups.</p> <p>Digital inclusion; May impact older adults who access PCs, Wifi and digital support.</p>	<p>Accessible parking is available nearby all libraries</p> <p>Intention-Promotion of safe active travel and bus routes to libraries</p> <p>Intention - Managing expectations of the citywide library offer, it is not always possible to be within close proximity of a library, help people as required to adjust to different routes to access.</p> <p>Home Library Service available for people of all ages who live in Aberdeen and are unable to visit their local library due to disability, illness or because they are caring for someone.</p> <p>Talking books and audio books available to borrow, Playaways are available for both Children and Adults</p> <p>Group Visits: Early Years and Children and Young People's librarians and our Health and Wellbeing and Local History Librarians continue to work with library staff, schools, early years and community settings across the city to enable access to libraries and library services as</p>
<p>Disability people with disabilities / long standing conditions</p>	<p>Disability Medium impact For Kaimhill 32% (20* out of 63) of respondents indicated that they have a disability/ long standing condition</p> <p>Library attendance: of the 20 out of 63 1 attend daily 5 attended weekly 2 attended fortnightly 6 attended monthly</p> <p>1 attend every 2-6 months 1 attended less than once a year</p>	<p>part of their lifelong learning experience. Examples include attending school events and parents' evenings. Supporting practitioners and teachers who work with children via the Curriculum Resources and Information Services (CRIS). Library staff continue to be successful in securing external funding to enable access to libraries and will continue to work with learning and community partners on this. Library staff continue to support/advice on school libraries, encouraging schools</p>

	<p>15 of the 20* have accessed other libraries</p> <p>Travel time, cost and access: reliance on public transport: impacts people with disabilities and their carers. For example, the increased time required to get to alternative provision and to fit in with carers time</p> <p>Limitations on ability and mobility: may have impacts on people with both physical and unseen disabilities. For example; ability to travel longer distance and carry books and other resources. Neurodiverse people may experience increased barriers in planning travel and accessing new and unfamiliar procedures and locations.</p> <p>Reduced frequency of library visits: may have impacts on people with both physical and unseen disabilities. who cannot access libraries independently and require carers to support them to access the library or other situational factors</p> <p>Digital inclusion; may impact people with both physical and unseen disabilities who currently access library provision and may need support</p> <p>Social Connection: may impact people with both physical and unseen disabilities who accessed for example Kaimhill Library as a warm space</p>	<p>to bid into the Scottish Library and Information Fund (SLIF)</p> <p>Children and young person's independence: Aberdeen City Libraries have age-appropriate guidance in place regarding accessing libraries independently, helping parents feel confident about how their child/ren use the library</p> <p>Idea – promotion to school parent council about buddying on library visits, encouraging older children to travel together</p> <p>Idea - establish a community initiative of 'walking library buses' to visit nearby libraries.</p> <p>Social Connection: Continued library support to book groups The Aberdeen Warm Space directory currently has 48 WarmSpace venues including Inchgarth Community Centre</p> <p>Digital Inclusion: On-line digital services will be helpful for some people with disabilities Aberdeen City Libraries has a digital inclusion librarian and a digital inclusion working group who develop and action digital support and learning.</p> <p>ACC Community Learning and Development, deliver digital adult learning classes</p> <p>Other partners in the city are funded to deliver digital support including Silver City Surfers and SHMU</p>
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	<p>Reduced safe spaces for adults: may impact people with both physical and unseen disabilities for example; people with certain mental health condition may experience increased barriers in accessing new and unfamiliar locations.</p> <p>Reduced safe spaces for children: may impact children and young people with both physical and unseen disabilities for example people with certain mental health condition may experience increased barriers in accessing new and unfamiliar locations.</p>	<p>Library staff continue to apply for and secure external funding to enable access and engagement to libraries and learning and will continue to work with learning and community partners on this.</p> <p>Intention – provide basic digital help sessions on library apps and services</p> <p>Intention – develop a series of guides on library apps</p> <p>Intention – provision of free Digital Unite guides on our website to provide basic digital support</p> <p>Intention - Promoting where free Wifi and access to devices is available in and near the Kaimhill/Garthdee community</p>
<p>Race (including Gypsy / Travellers) people from minority ethnic communities and different racial backgrounds</p>	<p>Race Low impact Data for Kaimhill: White Scottish:41 White British:11 Prefer not to say:3 African – other: 1 Other Ethnic group: 1 White Eastern European:1</p> <p>Digital inclusion: may impact people from minority ethnic communities and different racial background who currently access who access PCs, Wifi and digital support.</p>	<p>Intention – further promoting how to access the extensive online library offer</p> <p>Importance and use of physical library services: Continued positive promotion of reading, literacy and numeracy for all through different library initiatives; Every Child A Library Member, Bookbug, Scottish Book Trust book gifting, the Summer Reading Challenge and other local and national reading initiatives , Book group, ESOL classes delivered by GREC and ACC CLD team, author talks and involvement with literacy festivals; Granite Noir with Aberdeen Performing Arts and WayWORD with the University of Aberdeen to mention a few.</p>
<p>Religion or belief people with different religion and belief to include those with no beliefs</p>	<p>At this stage there are no know additional impacts on this protected group, other than impacts identified for all library users</p>	
<p>Sex - Gender identity</p>	<p>Sex</p>	

<p>men or women, boys and girls</p>	<p>Medium Impact</p> <p>41 out of 63 (65%) respondents for Kaimhill are female</p> <p>14 out of 18 (78%) carers are female</p> <p>Travel time, cost and access: reliance on public transport or alternative transport to visit libraries: may impact disproportionately on female care givers in families and as carers relating to the logistics and cost visiting alternative library sites.</p> <p>Limitations on ability and mobility: may have impacts female carers of young children for example; ability to walk longer distance with young children and carry books and other resources.</p> <p>Reduced frequency of library visits: may have an impact on female carer of older adults who require carers to support them to access the library, or due to family logistics</p> <p>Social Connection: may impact women disproportionately where they are the main caregiver for their family who accessed for example Bookbug (3 out of 63 said it was an important service and 5 out of 63 said that other children's activities were important services for them to access)</p>	<p>Space Spaces for Adults:</p> <p>All library sites are safe spaces for all</p> <p>Library staff receive training to support people with additional support needs and apply these into the library environments as well as to their interactions</p> <p>Intention – further considerations to make spaces more ASN friendly, library staff are about to embark on British sign language (BSL) training</p> <p>Familiarisation tours are offered with storyboards for use prior to visits.</p> <p>Intention – create welcoming video tours of libraries so library users know what to expect when they visit and can anticipate what services and spaces they can use.</p> <p>Intention – promote when there are quieter times to access the library</p> <p>Intention – promote the work we do in libraries to improve access for all, so families are aware of what they can expect.</p> <p>Aberdeen City Libraries continue to work with partners such as Narcotics Anonymous (NA), Shelter, The Foyer and Realistic Medicine Team at NHS to continually improve the library experience for all.</p> <p>Aberdeen City Libraries offers dementia friendly events</p>
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		Safe Spaces for Children and Young people:
Pregnancy and maternity women who are pregnant and / or on maternity leave	Pregnancy and maternity There were 2 women who indicated they were pregnant or on maternity leave from Kaimhill respondents Safe space for adults: may impact women who are pregnant or on maternity leave for example all libraries are breast feeding friendly places	All library sites are safe spaces for children and young people Library staff receive training to support children and young people with additional support needs (ASN) and apply these into the library environments as well as to their interactions with Children and Young People Intention – further consideration to make spaces more Additional Support Needs friendly, library staff are trained in Makaton and are about to embark on British sign language (BSL) training
Sexual orientation lesbian, gay, bisexual, heterosexual / straight	At this stage there are no know additional impacts on this protected group, other than impacts identified for all library users	Familiarisation tours are offered with storyboards for use prior to visits.
Gender reassignment anybody whose gender identity / expression is different to the sex assigned to them at birth	At this stage there are no know additional impacts on this protected group, other than impacts identified for all library users	Intention: create further welcoming video tours of libraries so Children, young people and families know what to expect when they visit and can anticipate what services and spaces they can use. Libraries have BSL videos and plan further work with Aberdeen School for the deaf around this.
Marriage and civil partnership people who are married or in a civil partnership	At this stage there are no know additional impacts on this protected group, other than impacts identified for all library users	Intention -promote when there are quieter times to access the library Intention - promote the work we do in libraries to improve access for all, so families are aware of what they can expect. Continue to work with Understanding Autism to continually improve the library experience for all.
		Opening Hours:

		<p>Library opening hours are to be reviewed as part of the Aberdeen's Future Library and Information Services plan.</p> <p>Intention – awareness raising of library access with Fairer Aberdeen funded programmes and other Community Learning and Development partners.</p> <p>Reduced frequency of library visits:</p> <p>Intention – Further promotion of library services and events, so library users can make the most of their in-person visits.</p>
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Socio-Economic Inequalities

Not every person / family has access to regular income or savings. You should therefore consider the impact of your proposal on people who might be unemployed, single parents, people with lower education or literacy, looked after children, those with protected characteristics are just some examples.

Identify the group that your policy/ proposal affects and record the relevant impact and describe the mitigating steps.

	High / Medium Negative impact	Mitigations
		Please state/summarise your mitigating actions for the negative impact(s) identified in stage 1
<p>Low income / income poverty – those who cannot afford regular bills, food, clothing payments.</p>	<p>Low/Medium</p> <p>Kaimhill Library is within the Garthdee neighbourhood. This neighbourhood sits within the 40% most deprived and 40% least deprived areas in Scotland based on the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2020. Garthdee sits within the middle of the SIMD bands there will</p>	<p>Free period products can be collected at the 10 Community Libraries and at Central Library and locally at Kaimhill Community Centre, Inchagarth Community Centre and Garthdee Medical Practice as well as other venues on PickUpMyPeriod App.</p> <p>Intention – promotion of community resources where free products can be collected.</p> <p>Intention - promotion of anti-poverty initiatives in communities.</p>

	<p>be some individual and families who experience socio-economic disadvantage.</p>	<p>Intention – awareness raising of library access with Fairer Aberdeen funded programmes and other Community Learning and Development partners.</p> <p>Intention - Promoting where free Wifi and access to devices is available in and near the Kaimhill/Garthdee community.</p> <p>Free bus travel is available for u22 via the Under 22's Bus Pass and the Older person Bus Pass or a Disabled Person Bus Pass.</p>
<p>Low and/or no wealth – those who can meet basic living costs but have no savings for unexpected spend or provision for the future</p>		
<p>Material deprivation – those who cannot access basic goods and services, unable to repair/replace broken electrical goods, heat their homes or access to leisure or hobbies</p>		
<p>Area deprivation – consider where people live and where they work (accessibility and cost of transport)</p>		
<p>Socio-economic background – social class, parents' education,</p>		

employment, income.		
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Consultation and monitoring

Have you undertaken any of form of consultation with any of the affected groups?	Yes	No
Describe the consultation processes/methods undertaken and the number of participants/respondents	<p>Consultation on Cornhill, Cults, Ferryhill, Kaimhill, Northfield and Woodside Libraries took place between 11 September 2023 and 6 November 2023, this included an online and printed survey and in person and online focus groups, at times to be inclusive to working hours, school holidays offering accessible options.</p> <p>Data informing this IIA is from Library users who identified as using Kaimhill Library most frequently from the 6 libraries in the survey or who attended the Kaimhill specific focus groups.</p> <p>Respondents to the survey = 63 Attendee at Focus groups = 0</p>	
Summarise the changes or improvements that have been made to the policy because of the consultation.	<p>The consultation has provided valuable insight into the importance of access to library services and resources for library users who have previously used Kaimhill Library.</p> <p>Impacts that affect people with certain protected characteristics have been considered and mitigations identified to lessen the impact on the majority of library users with protected characteristics relating to age, disability, sex, race and pregnancy and maternity. There are also mitigating actions for Aberdeen Library Service and other Community Planning partners to apply. Many of these mitigations will be incorporated into the Future Library and Information services Plan which is in development.</p>	

Set out what suggested changes or improvements that have not been made and why	Many of the mitigations already exist with some requiring promotion, there are also further actions that can be taken to lessen the impact of Option 1.
What impact(s) has the consultation had upon your proposal?	The consultation has helped to better understand the impacts on library users and those with certain protected characteristics and through that understanding consider local and city-wide mitigations to lessen the impact of Option 1 and consider the longer-term implications of Option 2.
How will this policy be monitored	The mitigations provided are vital to lessening the impact of Option 1, The Future Library and Information Services plan provides opportunity and accountability for the mitigating actions presented.
Use this section to justify why your proposal should go ahead despite the negative impacts identified.	The mitigations and the further mitigating actions provide access and opportunity for the majority of consultation respondents who have previously used Kaimhill Library to continue to access library provision. There may still a negative impact for some library users and given the level of mitigations provided this impact is now considered to be low.

Authorisation and sign off: for Stage 2:

Title of Policy / proposal:	Review of city-wide provision of Libraries – Closure of Kaimhill Library	
Directorate and Cluster:	Customer, Early Intervention and Community Empowerment	
Policy and assessment author (s)	Name: Margaret Stewart Job title: Service Manager, Libraries and Community Learning Date: 05/12/23	Name: Job title: Date:
Authorised and approved by Director or Chief Officer	Name: Jacqui McKenzie Job title: Chief Officer, Early Intervention and Community Empowerment Date: 05/12/23	Name: Job title: Date:

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Following completion and approval, please email your completed assessment to:
equality_and_diversity@aberdeencity.gov.uk

Integrated Impact Assessment Pre-screening

Stage 1



The Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) supersedes the previous Equality and Human Rights Impact Assessment (EHRIA) form.

The pre-screening (Stage 1) will determine if your proposal requires a full impact assessment (Stage 2). Stage 2 will look at details of your proposals, the impact and any mitigations in place.

Note: This form should be completed using the guidance contained in the document: 'Guide to Completing an Integrated Impact Assessment'. Please read the guidance before completing this form.

This assessment and accompanying guidance use the term 'policy' for any activity within Aberdeen City Council. Therefore 'policy' should be understood broadly to embrace the full range of your policies, provisions, criteria, functions, practices and activities including the delivery of services – essentially everything you do.

Purpose:

Aberdeen City Council wants Aberdeen to be a place where all people can prosper. We want everyone in Aberdeen to have fair opportunities regardless of their background and circumstances. The aim of this assessment is to allow you to critically assess:

- the impact of the policy / proposal on different communities.
- whether Aberdeen City Council is meeting its legal requirements in terms of [Public Sector Equality Duty](#), [Equality Outcomes](#) and [Human Rights](#);
- whether [Children's Rights](#) have been impacted;
- whether [Socio-economic disadvantage](#) is reduced;
- whether any measures need to be put in place to ensure any negative impacts are eliminated or minimised which will be covered in Stage 2.

<p>Title* Name your business case, policy, strategy or proposal (including budget proposals)</p>	<p>Review of city-wide provision of Libraries – Closure of Northfield Library</p>
<p>Report no or Budget proposal number:</p>	<p>CUS/23/386</p>
<p>Committee name and date :</p>	<p>Council 13 December 2023</p>
<p>Is this a new or existing policy/ proposal?</p>	<p>Existing</p>
<p>Brief description of policy / proposal (including intended outcomes and purposes)</p>	<p>This is an update to the IIAs published 5/12/22 and 24/03/23 19b_Review of city-wide provision of Libraries_05-12-22.pdf (aberdeencity.gov.uk) 19b_v2_Review of city-wide provision of libraries_24-03-23.pdf (aberdeencity.gov.uk)</p> <p>The IIA produced prior to the budget meeting included the closure of 4 libraries; Cornhill, Cults, Ferryhill and Northfield. Subsequently at the Full Council Budget Meeting, the approved budget included the closure of 6 libraries. As a result of this decision the Library IIA was updated to reflect the closure of an additional two libraries; Kaimhill and Woodside.</p> <p>Following the decision at the Council Budget meeting on 1 March 2023 the Council received four petitions for Judicial Reviews from individuals. The basis of the claims was that the Council had failed in exercising its duties under the Equality Act 2010, and that the Integrated Impact Assessments that had been prepared were not sufficient enough. Following a review of the four cases, negotiations took place with the four petitioners, Through dialogue with all parties, it was agreed that ACC would carry out specific consultation on the library budget option. It was also agreed that the Judicial Reviews would be sisted, and the outcome of the budget decision would be reconsidered, taking into account the further consultation.</p> <p>The Consultation on Cornhill, Cults, Ferryhill, Kaimhill, Northfield and Woodside Libraries took place from 11 September to 6 November 2023. The consultation included an online and printed survey and in person and online focus groups, at times to be inclusive to working hours, school holidays offering accessible options. Where people required support, options were available at</p>

libraries and Marischal College Customer Service Centre. Having carried out an initial analysis of the Aberdeen's Future Library an Information service consultation similar themes have been noted from both consultations as:

Travel

Importance and use of physical library services

Promotion and awareness of services

Digital Inclusion

Physical Access

Reduced frequency of use

Opening hours

Childrens activities

Group visits

Social connections

Safe Spaces for Adults

Safe Spaces for children and young people

Childrens and Young people's independence

Community Value

Nostalgia

This Integrated Impact Assessment considers the potential impact of Option 1 and Option 2 as detailed below:

Option 1 – Support the original budget decision to close the 6 libraries, including Northfield Library.

This requires an understanding and assessment of the impact the closure of Northfield Library on those library users especially those with particular protected characteristics who may be detrimentally affected, and identification of mitigating actions to minimise potential impact.

Option 2 – Overturn the original budget decision to close the 6 libraries and to recommission all 6, including Northfield Library and to instruct Chief Officer – Early Intervention and Community Empowerment to commence planning for the recommissioning of facilities, referring ongoing funding implications to the 2024/25 budget.

The recommissioning of all 6 closed libraries including Northfield Library will require consideration of the longer-term budgetary implications of reinstating Northfield Library on the wider Library and Information Service and /or other council services. This will be considered within

	<p>Aberdeen’s Future Library and Information Services report due to be taken to the Communities, Housing and Public Protection Committee in January 2024. An IIA will accompany future library reports.</p> <p>Based on the data collected through the library service, Northfield Library over the last 5 years have had an average of 5848 visits* each year. Across the city there have been on average 14465 active library members each year** from 2018/19 to 2022/23. Northfield visits account for 1.2% of the overall library visits in the city Based on these figures there are approximately 174 active members accessing Northfield Library each year.</p> <p>Northfield Library is within the Northfield neighbourhood. This neighbourhood in the 10-20% band of the most deprived areas in Scotland based on the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2020.</p> <p>Consultation respondents: 66 People identified Northfield as the library they most frequently used out of the 6 closed libraries. 4 people attended focus groups</p> <p>*Visits – all people coming into a library building; library members, school visits, picking up green bags, printing, reading the newspaper, not everyone will be a library member **Active Library members - a library member who have used their membership; take out a book, PC use.</p>		
Do you consider this proposal to have any impact on the:			
<p>a. Human Rights of people?</p> <p>b. Rights of Children and Young people?</p>	<p>YES- Option 1 Article 9 Freedom of thought, conscience and religion Article 10 Freedom of expression. Libraries provide access a wide range of resources, which support individuals being able to exercise the above articles</p>	<p>No - Option 2</p>	<p>Unsure</p>

	YES - Option 1, Article 2 Non discrimination Article 3 Best interest of the child Article 5 Parental guidance and child's evolving capacities Article 12 Respect for the views of the child Article 13 Freedom Article 14 Freedom of thought belief and religion Article 17 Access to information from the media of expression Article 28 Right to education	No - Option 2	Unsure					
What is your assessment of the impact on groups with: a. Protected characteristics b. Children and young people c. Other As part of your assessment here, consider the impact of your policy on people and how they will be able to access goods, services and information with no barriers.	H	High negative impact	H	M	L	N	P	U
	M	Medium negative impact						
	L	Low negative impact						
	N	No impact						
	P	Positive impact						
	U	Unsure						
	Age			x				
	Disability			x				
	Gender Reassignment					x		
	Marriage and Civil partnership					x		
	Pregnancy and Maternity				x			
	Race				x			
	Religion or Belief					x		
Sex				x				
Sexual Orientation						x		
Children and young people				x				
Other								
Socio-Economic Inequalities	Yes	No	Unsure					
	Northfield Library is within the Northfield							

<p>Not every person / family has access to regular income or savings. Will your proposal have an adverse or high impact on them?</p>	<p>neighbourhood. This neighbourhood in the 10-20% band of the most deprived areas in Scotland based on the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2020.</p> <p>Option 1 may have an adverse impact on individuals and families. Options 2 will consider longer-term impacts as part of IIA for the future library report.</p>		
<p>What considerations did you have when making the above selections?</p>			
<p>Internal or existing data Please detail your sources</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing library data (as referenced in Appendix A) • Quantitative and qualitative data captured from library users as part of the Consultation on Cornhill, Cults, Ferryhill, Kaimhill, Northfield and Woodside Libraries • Limited qualitative data captured as part of Aberdeen’s Future Library and Information Service Consultation which included a specific Child and Young person’s version. • Qualitative data from in person community engagement and promotion of the consultation; engagement walk abouts in communities where libraries have closed, including outside local supermarket and the sounding areas of Northfield, weekly vaccination centre visits, Locality Outcome Improvement Plan events, meeting with the Disability and Equality Partnership. • Qualitative data captured from focus groups, 1 held at Northfield Community Centre and 1 online. 		
<p>Consultations with officers or partner organisations Please list your sources</p>	<p>Aberdeen City Council teams: Library and Information Services Equalities Team Corporate Landlord Community Planning Aberdeen Education</p> <p>Campaign Group: Save Aberdeen Libraries</p> <p>All library staff have been encouraged to share information to promote engagement with both library consultations, this includes staff across local studies, health and wellbeing, business and</p>		

	employability, children and young people, reader development, localities, central and community libraries.		
<p>Other: Please list your sources</p>	<p>In promoting the consultation information was shared with the following partners organisations and local contacts with an ask to share across their networks: Fairer Aberdeen Fund mailing list (funded partners, board and others) Community Planning Aberdeen (shared with Community Planning partners and through outcome improvement groups) Culture Aberdeen members Aberdeen City Library members who have indicated that they wish to be contacted about other library matters Individuals who responded to the online or paper surveys indicating that they wanted to be updated on the consultation. Library/CLD service mailing lists for WarmSpaces Library/CLD mailing list from Grampian Regional Equality Council contacts list Equalities team ACC</p>		
<p>Does this proposal contribute to the Public Sector Equality Duty to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations?</p>	<p>Option 1 -There is a potential for indirect discrimination on certain protected characteristics including those with intersectional protected characteristics and those in socio-economic disadvantage. It is also acknowledged that the closure of Northfield Library could reduce opportunities, and there may be, consequential impact on good relations within Northfield communities, however mitigations have been identified to reduce impact. (see mitigations in stage 2)</p>		<p>Unsure</p>

	<p>Option 2 - Reopening Northfield Library negates possible indirect discrimination, advances equality of opportunity and generally fosters good relations, through the reinstatement of Northfield Library and access to services, resources and activities.</p>		
<p>Does this proposal contribute to the Council's Equality Outcomes 2021-25?</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Option2 -to reinstate provision:</p> <p>EO1 People with protected characteristics can access information good and services without barriers</p> <p>EO2. Diverse communities in Aberdeen who used Northfield Library will have access to safe spaces and services that enhance their feeling of safety and belonging.</p>	<p>No</p> <p>Option 1- EO1. however provision of alternative services mitigates barriers created due to the closure of the library and have been identified for stage 2</p> <p>EO2. However alternative safe spaces have been identified in stage 2</p>	<p>Unsure</p>
<p>Please note for any high negative or medium negative impacts identified (red or amber), a full Integrated Impact Assessment will be required (stage 2).</p>			
<p>Please provide a brief high-level summary that your policy will bring about: Use this space to highlight what your proposal intends to achieve:</p> <p>Option 1: Supporting the original budget decision to close the 6 libraries.</p> <p>Based on the information provided from this consultation and other referenced data, the impacts of this option on library users of Northfield Library has been assessed as low for the protected characteristics of race and pregnancy and maternity and medium for the protected characteristics of age, disability and sex.</p>			

This taken into consideration, there will be individual instances where the personal impact will be high, and proportionality based on Northfield Library usage and the data and impacts from Northfield Library users the number of individuals experiencing a higher impact will be low, therefore recorded as medium or low impact.

Further data and examples used to inform this IIA can be found in Appendix A: Consultation 6 Libraries Report:

Option 2: Overturning the original budget decision to close the 6 libraries and to recommission all 6 and to instruct Chief Officer – Early Intervention and Community Empowerment to commence planning for the recommissioning of facilities, referring ongoing funding implications to the 2024/25 budget.

This option may mitigate for the majority of the impacts provided by library users of Northfield Library who shared their experiences during the consultation. From the comments collected during the consultation, opening hours and the promotion of library services has been identified as an area for improvement, and these will be progressed as part of Aberdeen’s Future Library and Information Services Plan, therefore stage 2 will only consider option 1.

Will a full assessment be required?	Yes		
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Assessment completed by: Name and job title	Margaret Stewart, Service Manager, Libraries and Community Learning
Date:	04/12/23
Signed and approved by Chief Officer (Name and signature)	Jacqui McKenzie
Date:	05/12/23

If you have any queries or require this form in an alternative format, please contact equality_and_diversity@aberdeencity.gov.uk

A fully completed and signed form should be mailed as a PDF to the above email address for publishing your assessment.



Integrated Impact Assessment Stage 2

This stage should be completed following Stage 1 of the Integrated Impact Assessment where required.

In this stage, focus is on assessments that have a high or medium negative impact and the proposed mitigations. Please tick which areas it might affect and provide a summary of your mitigating actions for the negative impacts identified. You do not need to give a mitigation for each article.

Human Rights

Does the proposal have an impact on [Human Rights](#)? Identify the relevant Article and record the relevant impact and describe as a summary the mitigating steps proposed.

	High / Medium Negative impact	Mitigations Please state/summarise your mitigating actions for the negative impact(s) identified in stage 1
Article 6 Right to a fair and public hearing	n/a	
Article 7 No punishment without law	n/a	
Article 8 Right to respect for private and family life, home and correspondence	n/a	
Article 9 Freedom of thought, conscience and religion	Low impact	
Article 10 Freedom of expression	Low impact	
Article 11 Freedom of assembly and association	n/a	
Article 12 Right to marry and to found a family	n/a	
Article 14 Right not to be subject to discrimination	n/a	
Article 1 of Protocol 1	n/a	

Protection of property		
Article 2 of Protocol 1 Right to education	n/a	
Article 3 of Protocol 1 Right to free elections	n/a	

Children and Young People’s Rights

The United Nations Convention has 54 articles that cover all aspects of a child’s life and set out the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights that all children everywhere are entitled to. It also explains how adults and governments must work together to make sure all children can enjoy all their rights.

Children’s rights apply to every child/young person under the age of 18 and to adults still eligible to receive a “children’s service” (e.g. care leavers aged 18 – 25 years old).

Identify all Articles of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child ([UNCRC](#)) and [Optional Protocols](#) which are relevant to your proposal and record the relevant impact and describe the mitigating steps.

Please tick which areas it might affect and provide a summary of your mitigating actions. You do not need to give a mitigating step for each article.

	High / Medium Negative impact	Mitigations
Article 1 <u>definition of the child</u>		Please state/summarise your mitigating actions for the negative impact(s) identified in stage 1 School library provision is available across the majority of primary schools and all secondary schools
Article 2 <u>non-discrimination</u>	<u>Low impact</u>	There are 10 community libraries, a self-serve library at Old Aberdeen and the 4 departments within the Central Library that are available for people to access regardless of where in the city they live.
Article 3 <u>best interests of the child</u>	<u>Low impact</u>	
Article 4 <u>implementation of the convention</u>		Mastrick Library is 0.8 miles away from Northfield Library and is on the no 13 bus route from Byron Square.
Article 5 <u>parental guidance and a child's evolving capacities</u>	<u>Low impact</u>	69% of Survey respondents who mainly accessed Northfield Library also accessed one or more of the 11 existing city libraries.
Article 6 <u>life, survival and development</u>		

Article 7 <u>birth registration, name, nationality, care</u>		
Article 8 <u>protection and preservation of identity</u>		
Article 9 <u>separation from parents</u>		
Article 10 <u>family reunification</u>		
Article 11 <u>abduction and non-return of children</u>		
Article 12 <u>respect for the views of the child</u>	<u>Low impact</u>	
Article 13 <u>freedom of expression</u>	<u>Low impact</u>	
Article 14 <u>freedom of thought, belief and religion</u>	<u>Low impact</u>	
Article 15 <u>freedom of association</u>		
Article 16 <u>right to privacy</u>		
Article 17 <u>access to information from the media</u>	<u>Low impact</u>	
Article 18 <u>parental responsibilities and state assistance</u>		
Article 19 <u>protection from violence, abuse and neglect</u>		

Article 20 <u>children unable to live with their family</u>		
Article 21 <u>adoption</u>		
Article 22 <u>refugee children</u>		
Article 23 <u>children with a disability</u>		
Article 24 <u>health and health services</u>		
Article 25 <u>review of treatment in care</u>		
Article 26 <u>social security</u>		
Article 27 <u>adequate standard of living</u>		
Article 28 <u>right to education</u>	<u>Low impact</u>	
Article 29 <u>goals of education</u>		
Article 30 <u>children from minority or indigenous groups</u>		
Article 31 <u>leisure, play and culture</u>		
Article 32 <u>child labour</u>		
Article 33 <u>drug abuse</u>		
Article 34 <u>sexual exploitation</u>		

Article 35 abduction, sale and trafficking			
Article 36 other forms of exploitation			
Article 37 inhumane treatment and detention			
Article 38 war and armed conflicts			
Article 39 recovery from trauma and reintegration			
Article 40 juvenile justice			
Article 41 respect for higher national standards			
Article 42 knowledge of rights			
Optional Protocol on a Communications Procedure			

Protected Characteristics

Aberdeen City Council wants to ensure everyone is treated fairly. Identify the **protected characteristics** that your policy/ proposal affects and record the relevant impact and describe the mitigating steps.

	<u>High / Medium Negative impact</u>	<u>Mitigations</u> Please state/summarise your mitigating actions for the negative impact(s) identified in stage 1
<u>Age</u> Impacts on children and young people	<u>Age</u> Medium impact Under 16 yrs. =0 16-24 yrs. =4	<u>Current library provision:</u> There are 10 community libraries, a self-serve library at Old Aberdeen and the 4 departments within the Central

<p><u>Older people</u></p>	<p>25-34 yrs.= 13 35-44 yrs.= 23 45-54 yrs.= 9 55-64 yrs.= 5 65+ yrs.= 5 prefer not to say = 4</p> <p>Travel time, cost and access: reliance on public transport: impacts children and young people, families and older people, carers. For children and young people this has a consequential impact in their ability to access the library on the way home from school.</p> <p>Limitations on ability and mobility: may have impacts on young children and older age groups due to fragility, mobility and other limiting factors and situations. for example; ability to walk longer distance and carry books and other resources.</p> <p>Reduced frequency of library visits: may have an impact on children and young people who cannot access libraries independently and older adults who require carers to support them to access the library, or due to family logistics.</p> <p>Support for group visits: may have an impact on young children who cannot access libraries independently and visit as a group and older adults from e.g care settings who require carers to support them to access the library.</p>	<p>Library that are available for people to access regardless of where in the city they live. School library provision is available across the majority of primary schools and all secondary schools Mastrick Library is 0.8 miles away from Northfield Library and is on the no 13 bus route from Byron Square.</p> <p>69% of Survey respondents who mainly accessed Northfield Library also accessed one or more of the 11 existing city libraries.</p> <p>Travel and access: Free bus travel is available for 0-21 year olds, with 5-21 years able to apply via the Under 22's Bus Pass and the Older Person Bus Pass or a Disabled Person Bus Pass. Mastrick Library is 0.8 miles away from Northfield Library and is on the no 13 bus route from Byron Square.</p> <p>Accessible parking is available nearby all libraries Intention-Promotion of safe active travel and bus routes to libraries Intention - Managing expectations of the citywide library offer, it is not always possible to be within close proximity of a library, help people as required to adjust to different routes to access. Home Library Service available for people of all ages who live in Aberdeen and are unable to visit their local library due to disability, illness or because they are caring for someone.</p>
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	<p>Social Connection: may impact early years children and their families who accessed for example Bookbug (1 out of 66 said it was an important service), and for older adults book groups.</p> <p>Digital inclusion; May impact older adults who access PCs, Wifi and digital support.</p>	<p>Talking books and audio books available to borrow, Playaways are available for both Children and Adults</p> <p>Group Visits: Early Years and Children and Young People’s librarians and our Health and Wellbeing and Local History Librarians continue to work with library staff, schools, early years and community settings across the city to enable access to libraries and library services as part of their lifelong learning experience. Examples include attending school events and parents evenings. Supporting practitioners and teachers who work with children via the Curriculum Resources and Information Services (CRIS) . Library staff continue to be successful in securing external funding to enable access to libraries and will continue to work with learning and community partners on this. Library staff continue to support/advice on school libraries, encouraging schools to bid into the Scottish Library and Information Fund (SLIF)</p>
<p>Disability people with disabilities / long standing conditions</p>	<p>Disability Medium impact For Northfield 29% (19* out of 66) of respondents indicated that they have a disability/ long standing condition</p> <p>Library attendance: of the 19 out of 66 3 attended daily 6 attended weekly 3 attended fortnightly 2 attended monthly 4 attend every 2-6 months 15 of the 19* have accessed other libraries</p> <p>Travel time, cost and access: reliance on public transport: impacts people with disabilities and their carers. For example the increased time required to get to alternative provision and to fit in with carers time</p> <p>Limitations on ability and mobility: may have impacts on people with both physical and unseen disabilities. For example; ability to travel longer distance and carry books and other resources. Neurodiverse people may</p>	<p>Library staff continue to be successful in securing external funding to enable access to libraries and will continue to work with learning and community partners on this. Library staff continue to support/advice on school libraries, encouraging schools to bid into the Scottish Library and Information Fund (SLIF)</p> <p>Children and young person’s independence: Aberdeen City Libraries have age-appropriate guidance in place regarding accessing libraries independently, helping parents feel confident about how their child/ren use the library</p> <p>Idea – promotion to school parent council about buddying on library visits, encouraging older children to travel together</p>

	<p>experience increased barriers in planning travel and accessing new and unfamiliar procedures and locations.</p> <p>Reduced frequency of library visits: may have impacts on people with both physical and unseen disabilities who cannot access libraries independently and require carers to support them to access the library or other situational factors</p> <p>Digital inclusion; may impact people with both physical and unseen disabilities who currently access library provision and may need support</p> <p>Social Connection: may impact people with both physical and unseen disabilities who accessed for example Northfield book group or warm spaces (4/19 said warm spaces and in person services are important to them)</p> <p>Reduced safe spaces for adults: may impact people with both physical and unseen disabilities for example people with certain mental health condition may experience increased barriers in accessing new and unfamiliar locations.</p> <p>Reduced safe spaces for children: may impact children and young people with both physical and unseen disabilities for example people with certain mental health condition may experience</p>	<p>Idea - establish a community initiative of 'walking library buses' to visit nearby libraries.</p> <p>Social Connection: Continued library support to book groups The Aberdeen Warm Space directory currently has 48 WarmSpace venues including Northfield Community Centre</p> <p>Digital Inclusion: On-line digital services will be helpful for some people with disabilities Aberdeen City Libraries has a digital inclusion librarian and a digital inclusion working group who develop and action digital support and learning.</p> <p>ACC Community Learning and Development, deliver digital adult learning classes</p> <p>Other partners in the city are funded to deliver digital support including: Silver City Surfers and SHMU</p> <p>Library staff continue to apply for and secure external funding to enable access and engagement to libraries and learning and will continue to work with learning and community partners on this.</p> <p>Intention – provide basic digital help sessions on library apps and services</p> <p>Intention – develop a series of guides on library apps</p> <p>Intention – provision of free Digital Unite guides on our</p>
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	increased barriers in accessing new and unfamiliar locations.	website to provide basic digital support
Race (including Gypsy / Travellers) people from minority ethnic communities and different racial backgrounds	Race Low impact Data for Northfield: White Scottish:48 White British:7 Prefer not to say:3 Other white ethnic group:3 White Eastern European:2 Digital inclusion: may impact people from minority ethnic communities and different racial background who currently access who access PCs, Wifi and digital support.	Intention - Promoting where free Wifi and access to devices is available in and near the Northfield community Intention – further promoting how to access the extensive online library offer Importance and use of physical library services: Continued positive promotion of reading, literacy and numeracy for all through different library initiatives; Every Child A Library Member, Bookbug, Scottish Book Trust book gifting, the Summer Reading Challenge and other local and national reading initiatives , Book group, ESOL classes delivered by GREC and ACC CLD team, author talks and involvement with literacy festivals; Granite Noir with Aberdeen Performing Arts and WayWORD with the University of Aberdeen to mention a few.
Religion or belief people with different religion and belief to include those with no beliefs	At this stage there are no know additional impacts on this protected group, other than impacts identified for all library users	Every Child A Library Member, Bookbug, Scottish Book Trust book gifting, the Summer Reading Challenge and other local and national reading initiatives , Book group, ESOL classes delivered by GREC and ACC CLD team, author talks and involvement with literacy festivals; Granite Noir with Aberdeen Performing Arts and WayWORD with the University of Aberdeen to mention a few.
Sex - Gender identity men or women, boys and girls	Sex Medium Impact 48 out of 66 (73%) respondents for Northfield are female 33 out of 42 (79%) carers are female Travel time, cost and access: reliance on public transport or alternative transport to visit libraries: may impact disproportionately on female care givers in families and as carers relating to the logistics and cost visiting alternative library sites. Limitations on ability and mobility: may have impacts	Space Spaces for Adults: All library sites are safe spaces for all Library staff receive training to support people with additional support needs and apply these into the library environments as well as to their interactions Intention – further considerations to make spaces more ASN friendly, library staff are about to embark on British sign language (BSL) training

	<p>female carers of young children for example; ability to walk longer distance with young children and carry books and other resources.</p> <p>Reduced frequency of library visits: may have an impact on female carer of older adults who require carers to support them to access the library, or due to family logistics</p> <p>Social Connection: may impact women disproportionately where they are the main caregiver for their family who accessed for example Bookbug and other children's activities (3 out of 66 said they were an important service to them)</p>	<p>Familiarisation tours are offered with storyboards for use prior to visits.</p> <p>Intention – create welcoming video tours of libraries so library users know what to expect when they visit and can anticipate what services and spaces they can use.</p> <p>Intention – promote when there are quieter times to access the library</p> <p>Intention – promote the work we do in libraries to improve access for all, so families are aware of what they can expect.</p> <p>Aberdeen City Libraries continue to work with partners such as Narcotics Anonymous (NA), Shelter, The Foyer and Realistic Medicine Team at NHS to continually improve the library experience for all.</p>
<p>Pregnancy and maternity women who are pregnant and / or on maternity leave</p>	<p>Pregnancy and maternity</p> <p>There were no women who indicated they were pregnant or on maternity leave from Northfield respondents</p> <p>Safe space for adults: may impact women who are pregnant or on maternity leave for example all libraries are breast feeding friendly places</p>	<p>Aberdeen City Libraries offers dementia friendly events</p> <p>Safe Spaces for Children and Young people:</p> <p>All library sites are safe spaces for children and young people</p> <p>Library staff receive training to support children and young people with additional support needs (ASN) and apply these into the library environments as well as to their interactions with Children and Young People</p>
<p>Sexual orientation lesbian, gay, bisexual, heterosexual / straight</p>	<p>At this stage there are no know additional impacts on this protected group, other than impacts identified for all library users</p>	
<p>Gender reassignment anybody whose gender identity / expression is</p>	<p>At this stage there are no know additional impacts on this protected group, other</p>	

<p>different to the sex assigned to them at birth</p>	<p>than impacts identified for all library users</p>	<p>Intention – further consideration to make spaces more Additional Support Needs friendly, library staff are trained in Makaton and are about to embark on British sign language (BSL) training</p>
<p>Marriage and civil partnership people who are married or in a civil partnership</p>	<p>At this stage there are no know additional impacts on this protected group, other than impacts identified for all library users</p>	<p>Familiarisation tours are offered with storyboards for use prior to visits.</p> <p>Intention: create further welcoming video tours of libraries so Children, young people and families know what to expect when they visit and can anticipate what services and spaces they can use. Libraries have BSL videos and plan further work with Aberdeen School for the deaf around this.</p> <p>Intention -promote when there are quieter times to access the library</p> <p>Intention - promote the work we do in libraries to improve access for all, so families are aware of what they can expect.</p> <p>Continue to work with Understanding Autism to continually improve the library experience for all.</p> <p>Opening Hours: Library opening hours are to be reviewed as part of the Aberdeen’s Future Library and Information Services plan.</p> <p>Intention – awareness raising of library access with Fairer Aberdeen funded programmes</p>

		<p>and other Community Learning and Development partners.</p> <p>Reduced frequency of library visits:</p> <p>Intention – Further promotion of library services and events, so library users can make the most of their in-person visits.</p>
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Socio-Economic Inequalities

Not every person / family has access to regular income or savings. You should therefore consider the impact of your proposal on people who might be unemployed, single parents, people with lower education or literacy, looked after children, those with protected characteristics are just some examples.

Identify the group that your policy/ proposal affects and record the relevant impact and describe the mitigating steps.

	High / Medium Negative impact	Mitigations
		Please state/summarise your mitigating actions for the negative impact(s) identified in stage 1
Low income / income poverty – those who cannot afford regular bills, food, clothing payments.	Northfield Library is within the Northfield neighbourhood. This neighbourhood in the 10-20% band of the most deprived areas in Scotland based on the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2020.	<p>Free period products can be collected at the 10 Community Libraries and at Central Library and locally at Northfield and Mastrick Medical Practice, Northfield Community Centre, Heathryburn Community Café and Middlefield Community Hub as well as other venues on PickUpMyPeriod App</p> <p>Intention – promotion of community resources where free products can be collected.</p> <p>Intention - promotion of anti-poverty initiatives in communities</p> <p>Intention – awareness raising of library access with Fairer Aberdeen funded programmes and other Community Learning and Development partners.</p>

		<p>Intention - Promoting where free Wifi and access to devices is available in and near the Northfield community</p> <p>Free bus travel is available for u22 via the Under 22's Bus Pass and the Older person Bus Pass or a Disabled Person Bus Pass</p>
<p>Low and/or no wealth – those who can meet basic living costs but have no savings for unexpected spend or provision for the future</p>		
<p>Material deprivation – those who cannot access basic goods and services, unable to repair/replace broken electrical goods, heat their homes or access to leisure or hobbies</p>		
<p>Area deprivation – consider where people live and where they work (accessibility and cost of transport)</p>		
<p>Socio-economic background – social class, parents' education, employment, income.</p>		

Consultation and monitoring

Have you undertaken any of form of consultation with any of the affected groups?	Yes	No
Describe the consultation processes/methods undertaken and the number of participants/respondents	<p>Consultation on Cornhill, Cults, Ferryhill, Kaimhill, Northfield and Woodside Libraries took place between 11 September 2023 and 6 November 2023, this included an online and printed survey and in person and online focus groups, at times to be inclusive to working hours, school holidays offering accessible options.</p> <p>Data informing this IIA is from Library users who identified as using Northfield Library most frequently from the 6 libraries in the survey or who attended the Northfield specific focus groups.</p> <p>Respondents to the survey = 66 Attendee at Focus groups = 4</p>	
Summarise the changes or improvements that have been made to the policy because of the consultation.	<p>The consultation has provided valuable insight into the importance of access to library services and resources for library users who have previously used Northfield Library.</p> <p>Impacts that affect people with certain protected characteristics have been considered and mitigations identified to lessen the impact on the majority of library users with protected characteristics relating to age, disability, sex, race and pregnancy and maternity. There are also mitigating actions for Aberdeen Library Service and other Community Planning partners to apply. Many of these mitigations will be incorporated into the Future Library and Information services Plan which is in development.</p>	
Set out what suggested changes or improvements that have not been made and why	<p>Many of the mitigations already exist with some requiring promotion, there are also further actions that can be</p>	

	taken to lessen the impact of Option 1.
What impact(s) has the consultation had upon your proposal?	The consultation has helped to better understand the impacts on library users and those with certain protected characteristics and through that understanding consider local and city-wide mitigations to lessen the impact of Option 1. and consider the longer-term implications of Option 2.
How will this policy be monitored	The mitigations provided are vital to lessening the impact of Option 1, The Future Library and Information Services plan provides opportunity and accountability for the mitigating actions presented.
Use this section to justify why your proposal should go ahead despite the negative impacts identified.	The mitigations and the further mitigating actions provide access and opportunity for the majority of consultation respondents who have previously used Northfield Library to continue to access library provision. There may still a negative impact for some library users and given the level of mitigations provided this impact is now considered to be low.

Authorisation and sign off: for Stage 2:

Title of Policy / proposal:	Review of city-wide provision of Libraries – Closure of Northfield Library	
Directorate and Cluster:	Customer, Early Intervention and Community Empowerment	
Policy and assessment author (s)	Name: Margaret Stewart Job title: Service Manager, Libraries and Community Learning Date: 05/12/23	Name: Job title: Date:
Authorised and approved by Director or Chief Officer	Name: Jacqui McKenzie Job title: Chief Officer, Early Intervention and Community Empowerment Date: 05/12/23	Name: Job title: Date:

Following completion and approval, please email your completed assessment to:
equality_and_diversity@aberdeencity.gov.uk

Integrated Impact Assessment Pre-screening

Stage 1



The Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) supersedes the previous Equality and Human Rights Impact Assessment (EHRIA) form.

The pre-screening (Stage 1) will determine if your proposal requires a full impact assessment (Stage 2). Stage 2 will look at details of your proposals, the impact and any mitigations in place.

Note: This form should be completed using the guidance contained in the document: 'Guide to Completing an Integrated Impact Assessment'. Please read the guidance before completing this form.

This assessment and accompanying guidance use the term 'policy' for any activity within Aberdeen City Council. Therefore 'policy' should be understood broadly to embrace the full range of your policies, provisions, criteria, functions, practices and activities including the delivery of services – essentially everything you do.

Purpose:

Aberdeen City Council wants Aberdeen to be a place where all people can prosper. We want everyone in Aberdeen to have fair opportunities regardless of their background and circumstances. The aim of this assessment is to allow you to critically assess:

- the impact of the policy / proposal on different communities.
- whether Aberdeen City Council is meeting its legal requirements in terms of [Public Sector Equality Duty](#), [Equality Outcomes](#) and [Human Rights](#);
- whether [Children's Rights](#) have been impacted;
- whether [Socio-economic disadvantage](#) is reduced;
- whether any measures need to be put in place to ensure any negative impacts are eliminated or minimised which will be covered in Stage 2.

<p>Title* Name your business case, policy, strategy or proposal (including budget proposals)</p>	<p>Review of city-wide provision of Libraries – Closure of Woodside Library</p>
<p>Report no or Budget proposal number:</p>	<p>CUS/23/386</p>
<p>Committee name and date :</p>	<p>Council 13 December 2023</p>
<p>Is this a new or existing policy/ proposal?</p>	<p>Existing</p>
<p>Brief description of policy / proposal (including intended outcomes and purposes)</p>	<p>This is an update to the IIAs published 5/12/22 and 24/03/23 19b_Review of city-wide provision of Libraries_05-12-22.pdf (aberdeencity.gov.uk) 19b_v2_Review of city-wide provision of libraries_24-03-23.pdf (aberdeencity.gov.uk)</p> <p>The IIA produced prior to the budget meeting included the closure of 4 libraries; Cornhill, Cults, Ferryhill and Northfield. Subsequently at the Full Council Budget Meeting, the approved budget included the closure of 6 libraries. As a result of this decision the Library IIA was updated to reflect the closure of an additional two libraries; Kaimhill and Woodside.</p> <p>Following the decision at the Council Budget meeting on 1 March 2023 the Council received four petitions for Judicial Reviews from individuals. The basis of the claims were that the Council had failed in exercising its duties under the Equality Act 2010, and that the Integrated Impact Assessments that had been prepared were not sufficient enough. Following a review of the four cases, negotiations took place with the four petitioners, Through dialogue with all parties, it was agreed that ACC would carry out specific consultation on the library budget option. It was also agreed that the Judicial Reviews would be sisted, and the outcome of the budget decision would be reconsidered, taking into account the further consultation.</p> <p>The Consultation on Cornhill, Cults, Ferryhill, Kaimhill, Northfield and Woodside Libraries took place from 11 September to 6 November 2023. The consultation included an online and printed survey and in person and online focus groups, at times to be inclusive to working hours, school holidays offering accessible options. Where people required support, options were available at</p>

libraries and Marischal College Customer Service Centre. Having carried out an initial analysis of the Aberdeen's Future Library an Information service consultation similar themes have been noted from both consultations as:

Travel

Importance and use of physical library services

Promotion and awareness of services

Digital Inclusion

Physical Access

Reduced frequency of use

Opening hours

Childrens activities

Group visits

Social connections

Safe Spaces for Adults

Safe Spaces for Children and Adults

Childrens and Young people's independence

Community Value

Nostalgia

This Integrated Impact Assessment considers the potential impact of Option 1 and Option 2 as detailed below:

Option 1 – Support the original budget decision to close the 6 libraries, including Woodside Library.

This requires an understanding and assessment of the impact the closure of Woodside Library on those library users especially those with particular protected characteristics who may be detrimentally affected, and identification of mitigating actions to minimise potential impact.

Option 2 – Overturn the original budget decision to close the 6 libraries and to recommission all 6, including Woodside Library and to instruct Chief Officer – Early Intervention and Community Empowerment to commence planning for the recommissioning of facilities, referring ongoing funding implications to the 2024/25 budget.

The recommissioning of all 6 closed libraries including Woodside Library will require consideration of the longer-term budgetary implications of reinstating Woodside Library on the wider Library and Information Service and /or other council services. This will be considered within

	<p>Aberdeen’s Future Library and Information Services report due to be taken to the Communities, Housing and Public Protection Committee in January 2024. An IIA will accompany future library reports.</p> <p>Based on the data collected through the library service, Woodside Library over the last 5 years have had an average of 11919 visits* each year. Across the city there have been on average 14465 active library members each year** from 2018/19 to 2022/23. Woodside visits account for 2.5% of the overall library visits in the city Based on these figures there are approximately 362 active members accessing Woodside Library each year.</p> <p>Woodside Library is within the Woodside neighbourhood. This neighbourhood in the 20-40% band of the most deprived areas based on the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2020.</p> <p>Consultation respondents: 132 People identified Woodside as the library they most frequently used out of the 6 closed libraries. 11 people attended focus groups</p> <p>*Visits – all people coming into a library building; library members, school visits, picking up green bags, printing, reading the newspaper, not everyone will be a library member **Active Library members - a library member who have used their membership; take out a book, PC use.</p>
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Do you consider this proposal to have any impact on the:			
<p>a. Human Rights of people?</p> <p>b. Rights of Children and Young people?</p>	<p>YES- Option 1 Article 9 Freedom of thought, conscience and religion Article 10 Freedom of expression. Libraries provide access a wide range of resources, which support individuals being able to exercise the above articles</p>	<p>No - Option 2</p>	<p>Unsure</p>

	YES - Option 1, Article 2 Non discrimination Article 3 Best interest of the child Article 5 Parental guidance and child's evolving capacities Article 12 Respect for the views of the child Article 13 Freedom Article 14 Freedom of thought belief and religion Article 17 Access to information from the media of expression Article 28 Right to education	No - Option 2	Unsure					
What is your assessment of the impact on groups with: a. Protected characteristics b. Children and young people c. Other As part of your assessment here, consider the impact of your policy on people and how they will be able to access goods, services and information with no barriers.	H	High negative impact	H	M	L	N	P	U
	M	Medium negative impact						
	L	Low negative impact						
	N	No impact						
	P	Positive impact						
	U	Unsure						
	Age			x				
	Disability			x				
	Gender Reassignment					x		
	Marriage and Civil partnership					x		
	Pregnancy and Maternity				x			
	Race				x			
	Religion or Belief					x		
Sex			x					
Sexual Orientation					x			
Children and young people			x					
Other								
Socio-Economic Inequalities	Yes	No	Unsure					
	Woodside Library is within the Woodside							

<p>Not every person / family has access to regular income or savings. Will your proposal have an adverse or high impact on them?</p>	<p>neighbourhood. This neighbourhood in the 20-40% band of the most deprived areas based on the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2020.</p> <p>Option 1 may have an adverse impact on individuals and families. Options 2 will consider longer-term impacts as part of IIA for the future library report.</p>		
<p>What considerations did you have when making the above selections?</p>			
<p>Internal or existing data Please detail your sources</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing library data (as referenced in Appendix A) • Quantitative and qualitative data captured from library users as part of the Consultation on Cornhill, Cults, Ferryhill, Kaimhill, Northfield and Woodside Libraries • Limited qualitative data captured as part of Aberdeen’s Future Library and Information Service Consultation which included a specific Child and Young person’s version. • Qualitative data from in person community engagement and promotion of the consultation; engagement walkabouts in communities where libraries have closed, including outside local supermarket and the sounding areas of Woodside, weekly vaccination centre visits, Locality Outcome Improvement Plan events, meeting with the Disability and Equality Partnership. • Qualitative data captured from focus groups, 2 held at Hilton Community Centre and 1 online. 		
<p>Consultations with officers or partner organisations Please list your sources</p>	<p>Aberdeen City Council teams: Library and Information Services Equalities Team Corporate Landlord Community Planning Aberdeen Education</p> <p>Campaign Group: Save Aberdeen Libraries</p> <p>All library staff have been encouraged to share information to promote engagement with both library consultations, this includes staff across local studies, health and wellbeing, business and employability, children and young people, reader development, localities, central and community libraries.</p>		

<p>Other: Please list your sources</p>	<p>In promoting the consultation information was shared with the following partners organisations and local contacts with an ask to share across their networks: Fairer Aberdeen Fund mailing list (funded partners, board and others) Community Planning Aberdeen (shared with Community Planning partners and through outcome improvement groups) Culture Aberdeen members Aberdeen City Library members who have indicated that they wish to be contacted about other library matters Individuals who responded to the online or paper surveys indicating that they wanted to be updated on the consultation. Library/CLD service mailing lists for Warm Spaces Library/CLD mailing list from Grampian Regional Equality Council contacts list Equalities team ACC</p>		
<p>Does this proposal contribute to the Public Sector Equality Duty to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations?</p>	<p>Option 1 -There is a potential for indirect discrimination on certain protected characteristics including those with intersectional protected characteristics and those in socio-economic disadvantage. It is also acknowledged that the closure of Woodside Library could reduce opportunities, and there may be, consequential impact on good relations within Woodside communities, however mitigations have been identified to reduce impact. (see mitigations in stage 2)</p>		<p>Unsure</p>

	<p>Option 2 - Reopening Woodside Library negates possible indirect discrimination, advances equality of opportunity and generally fosters good relations, through the reinstatement of Woodside Library and access to services, resources and activities.</p>		
<p>Does this proposal contribute to the Council's Equality Outcomes 2021-25?</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Option2 -To reinstate provision: EO1 People with protected characteristics can access information good and services without barriers</p> <p>EO2. Diverse communities in Aberdeen who used Woodside Library will have access to safe spaces and services that enhance their feeling of safety and belonging.</p>	<p>No</p> <p>Option 1- EO1. however, provision of alternative services mitigates barriers created due to the closure of the library and have been identified for stage 2</p> <p>EO2. However alternative safe spaces have been identified in stage 2</p>	<p>Unsure</p>
<p>Please note for any high negative or medium negative impacts identified (red or amber), a full Integrated Impact Assessment will be required (stage 2).</p>			
<p>Please provide a brief high-level summary that your policy will bring about: Use this space to highlight what your proposal intends to achieve:</p> <p>Option 1: Supporting the original budget decision to close the 6 libraries.</p> <p>Based on the information provided from this consultation and other referenced data, the impacts of this option on library users of Woodside Library have been assessed as low for the protected characteristics of race and pregnancy and maternity and medium for the protected characteristics of age, disability and sex.</p>			

This taken into consideration, there will be individual instances where the personal impact will be high, and proportionality based on Woodside Library usage and the data and impacts from Woodside Library users the number of individuals experiencing a higher impact will be low, therefore recorded as medium or low impact.

Further data and examples used to inform this IIA can be found in Appendix A: Consultation 6 Libraries Report:

Option 2: Overturning the original budget decision to close the 6 libraries and to recommission all 6 and to instruct Chief Officer – Early Intervention and Community Empowerment to commence planning for the recommissioning of facilities, referring ongoing funding implications to the 2024/25 budget.

This option may mitigate for the majority of the impacts provided by library users of Woodside Library who shared their experiences during the consultation. From the comments collected during the consultation, opening hours and the promotion of library services has been identified as an area for improvement, and these will be progressed as part of Aberdeen’s Future Library and Information Services Plan, therefore stage 2 will only consider option 1.

Will a full assessment be required?	Yes		
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Assessment completed by: Name and job title	Margaret Stewart, Service Manager, Libraries and Community Learning
Date:	05/12/23
Signed and approved by Chief Officer (Name and signature)	Jacqui McKenzie
Date:	05/12/23

If you have any queries or require this form in an alternative format, please contact equality_and_diversity@aberdeencity.gov.uk

A fully completed and signed form should be mailed as a PDF to the above email address for publishing your assessment.



Integrated Impact Assessment Stage 2

This stage should be completed following Stage 1 of the Integrated Impact Assessment where required.

In this stage, focus is on assessments that have a high or medium negative impact and the proposed mitigations. Please tick which areas it might affect and provide a summary of your mitigating actions for the negative impacts identified. You do not need to give a mitigation for each article.

Human Rights

Does the proposal have an impact on [Human Rights](#)? Identify the relevant Article and record the relevant impact and describe as a summary the mitigating steps proposed.

	High / Medium Negative impact	Mitigations Please state/summarise your mitigating actions for the negative impact(s) identified in stage 1
Article 6 Right to a fair and public hearing	n/a	
Article 7 No punishment without law	n/a	
Article 8 Right to respect for private and family life, home and correspondence	n/a	
Article 9 Freedom of thought, conscience and religion	Low impact	
Article 10 Freedom of expression	Low impact	
Article 11 Freedom of assembly and association	n/a	
Article 12 Right to marry and to found a family	n/a	
Article 14 Right not to be subject to discrimination	n/a	
Article 1 of Protocol 1	n/a	

Protection of property		
Article 2 of Protocol 1 Right to education	n/a	
Article 3 of Protocol 1 Right to free elections	n/a	

Children and Young People’s Rights

The United Nations Convention has 54 articles that cover all aspects of a child’s life and set out the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights that all children everywhere are entitled to. It also explains how adults and governments must work together to make sure all children can enjoy all their rights.

Children’s rights apply to every child/young person under the age of 18 and to adults still eligible to receive a “children’s service” (e.g. care leavers aged 18 – 25 years old).

Identify all Articles of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child ([UNCRC](#)) and [Optional Protocols](#) which are relevant to your proposal and record the relevant impact and describe the mitigating steps.

Please tick which areas it might affect and provide a summary of your mitigating actions. You do not need to give a mitigating step for each article.

	High / Medium Negative impact	Mitigations
		Please state/summarise your mitigating actions for the negative impact(s) identified in stage 1
Article 1 <u>definition of the child</u>		School library provision is available across the majority of primary schools and all secondary schools
Article 2 <u>non-discrimination</u>	<u>Low impact</u>	
Article 3 <u>best interests of the child</u>	<u>Low impact</u>	There are 10 community libraries, a self-serve library at Old Aberdeen and the 4 departments within the Central Library that are available for people to access regardless of where in the city they live.
Article 4 <u>implementation of the convention</u>		Tillydrone Library is 0.7 miles away from Woodside Library and is on the no 19 bus route
Article 5 <u>parental guidance and a child's evolving capacities</u>	<u>Low impact</u>	Central Library is 2.1 miles from Woodside Library and is on the no 23 bus route. Bucksburn Library is 2.3 miles from Woodside Library and is on the no 17 bus route
Article 6 <u>life, survival and development</u>		

		74% of survey respondents who mainly accessed Woodside Library also accessed one or more of the 11 existing city libraries.
Article 7 <u>birth registration, name, nationality, care</u>		
Article 8 <u>protection and preservation of identity</u>		
Article 9 <u>separation from parents</u>		
Article 10 <u>family reunification</u>		
Article 11 <u>abduction and non-return of children</u>		
Article 12 <u>respect for the views of the child</u>	<u>Low impact</u>	
Article 13 <u>freedom of expression</u>	<u>Low impact</u>	
Article 14 <u>freedom of thought, belief and religion</u>	<u>Low impact</u>	
Article 15 <u>freedom of association</u>		
Article 16 <u>right to privacy</u>		
Article 17 <u>access to information from the media</u>	<u>Low impact</u>	
Article 18 <u>parental responsibilities and state assistance</u>		
Article 19 <u>protection from violence, abuse and neglect</u>		

Article 20 <u>children unable to live with their family</u>		
Article 21 <u>adoption</u>		
Article 22 <u>refugee children</u>		
Article 23 <u>children with a disability</u>		
Article 24 <u>health and health services</u>		
Article 25 <u>review of treatment in care</u>		
Article 26 <u>social security</u>		
Article 27 <u>adequate standard of living</u>		
Article 28 <u>right to education</u>	<u>Low impact</u>	
Article 29 <u>goals of education</u>		
Article 30 <u>children from minority or indigenous groups</u>		
Article 31 <u>leisure, play and culture</u>		
Article 32 <u>child labour</u>		
Article 33 <u>drug abuse</u>		
Article 34 <u>sexual exploitation</u>		

Article 35 abduction, sale and trafficking			
Article 36 other forms of exploitation			
Article 37 inhumane treatment and detention			
Article 38 war and armed conflicts			
Article 39 recovery from trauma and reintegration			
Article 40 juvenile justice			
Article 41 respect for higher national standards			
Article 42 knowledge of rights			
Optional Protocol on a Communications Procedure			

Protected Characteristics

Aberdeen City Council wants to ensure everyone is treated fairly. Identify the **protected characteristics** that your policy/ proposal affects and record the relevant impact and describe the mitigating steps.

	<u>High / Medium Negative impact</u>	<u>Mitigations</u> Please state/summarise your mitigating actions for the negative impact(s) identified in stage 1
<u>Age</u> Impacts on children and young people	<u>Age</u> Medium impact Under 16 yrs. =2 16-24 yrs. =1	<u>Current library provision:</u> There are 10 community libraries, a self-serve library at Old Aberdeen and the 4 departments within the Central

<p><u>Older people</u></p>	<p>25-34 yrs.=15 35-44 yrs.= 32 45-54 yrs.= 16 55-64 yrs.= 21 65+ yrs.= 29 prefer not to say = 12</p> <p>Travel time, cost and access: reliance on public transport: impacts children and young people, families and older people, carers. For children and young people this has a consequential impact in their ability to access the library on the way home from school.</p> <p>Limitations on ability and mobility: may have impacts on young children and older age groups due to fragility, mobility and other limiting factors and situations. for example; ability to walk longer distance and carry books and other resources.</p> <p>Reduced frequency of library visits: may have an impact on children and young people who cannot access libraries independently and older adults who require carers to support them to access the library, or due to family logistics</p> <p>Support for group visits: may have an impact on young children who cannot access libraries independently and visit as a group and older adults from e.g care settings who require carers to support them to access the library.</p>	<p>Library that are available for people to access regardless of where in the city they live. School library provision is available across the majority of primary schools and all secondary schools</p> <p>Tillydrone Library is 0.7 miles away from Woodside Library and is on the no 19 bus route Central Library is 2.1 miles from Woodside Library and is on the no 23 bus route. Bucksburn Library is 2.3 miles from Woodside Library and is on the no 17 bus route 74% of survey respondents who mainly accessed Woodside Library also accessed one or more of the 11 existing city libraries.</p> <p>Travel and access: Free bus travel is available for 0–21-year-olds, with 5-21 years able to apply via the Under 22’s Bus Pass and the Older Person Bus Pass or a Disabled Person Bus Pass.</p> <p>Tillydrone Library is 0.7 miles away from Woodside Library and is on the no 19 bus route Central Library is 2.1 miles from Woodside Library and is on the no 23 bus route. Bucksburn Library is 2.3 miles from Woodside Library and is on the no 17 bus route</p> <p>Accessible parking is available nearby all libraries</p> <p>Intention-Promotion of safe active travel and bus routes to libraries</p>
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	<p>Social Connection: may impact early years children and their families who accessed for example Bookbug (6 out of 74 said it was an important service), and for older adults book groups.</p> <p>Digital inclusion; May impact older adults who access PCs, Wifi and digital support.</p>	<p>Intention - Managing expectations of the citywide library offer, it is not always possible to be within close proximity of a library, help people as required to adjust to different routes to access.</p> <p>Home Library Service available for people of all ages who live in Aberdeen and are unable to visit their local library due to disability, illness or because they are caring for someone.</p> <p>Talking books and audio books available to borrow, Playaways are available for both Children and Adults</p>
<p>Disability people with disabilities / long standing conditions</p>	<p>Disability Medium impact For Woodside 23% (31* out of 132) of respondents indicated that they have a disability/ long standing condition</p> <p>Library attendance: of the 31* out of 132 1 attended daily 10 attended weekly 5 attended monthly 8 attended fortnightly 5 attend every 2-6 months 22 of the 31* have accessed other libraries</p> <p>Travel time, cost and access: reliance on public transport: impacts people with disabilities and their carers for example; the increased time required to get to alternative provision and to fit in with carers time</p> <p>Limitations on ability and mobility: may have impacts on people with both physical and unseen disabilities. For example; ability to travel longer distance and carry books and other resources. Neurodiverse people may</p>	<p>Group Visits: Early Years and Children and Young People's librarians and our Health and Wellbeing and Local History Librarians continue to work with library staff, schools, early years and community settings across the city to enable access to libraries and library services as part of their lifelong learning experience. Examples include attending school events and parents' evenings. Supporting practitioners and teachers who work with children via the Curriculum Resources and Information Services (CRIS).</p> <p>Library staff continue to be successful in securing external funding to enable access to libraries and will continue to work with learning and community partners on this. Library staff continue to support/advice on school libraries, encouraging schools</p>

	<p>experience increased barriers in planning travel and accessing new and unfamiliar procedures and locations.</p> <p>Reduced frequency of library visits: may have impacts on people with both physical and unseen disabilities. who cannot access libraries independently and require carers to support them to access the library or other situational factors</p> <p>Digital inclusion; may impact people with both physical and unseen disabilities who currently access library provision and may need support</p> <p>Social Connection: may impact people with both physical and unseen disabilities who accessed for example Woodside book group or warm spaces (2/31* said warm spaces are important, 9 out of 31* said that in person services were important to them)</p> <p>Reduced safe spaces for adults: may impact people with both physical and unseen disabilities for example; people with certain mental health condition may experience increased barriers in accessing new and unfamiliar locations.</p> <p>Reduced safe spaces for children: may impact children and young people with both physical and unseen disabilities for example people with certain mental health condition may experience</p>	<p>to bid into the Scottish Library and Information Fund (SLIF)</p> <p>Children and young person's independence: Aberdeen City Libraries have age-appropriate guidance in place regarding accessing libraries independently, helping parents feel confident about how their child/ren use the library</p> <p>Idea – promotion to school parent council about buddying on library visits, encouraging older children to travel together</p> <p>Idea - establish a community initiative of 'walking library buses' to visit nearby libraries.</p> <p>Social Connection: Continued library support to book groups The Aberdeen Warm Space directory currently has 48 WarmSpace venues including Woodside Fountain Centre</p> <p>Digital Inclusion: On-line digital services will be helpful for some people with disabilities Aberdeen City Libraries has a digital inclusion librarian and a digital inclusion working group who develop and action digital support and learning.</p> <p>ACC Community Learning and Development, deliver digital adult learning classes</p> <p>Other partners in the city are funded to deliver digital support including Silver City Surfers and SHMU</p>
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	increased barriers in accessing new and unfamiliar locations.	Library staff continue to apply for and secure external funding to enable access and engagement to libraries and learning and will continue to work with learning and community partners on this.
Race (including Gypsy / Travellers) people from minority ethnic communities and different racial backgrounds	Race Low impact Data for Woodside: White Scottish:74 White British:18 Prefer not to say:8 Other white ethnic group:6 White Irish:5 Mixed or multiple:3 African, Scottish African or British African:1 Digital inclusion: may impact people from minority ethnic communities and different racial background who currently access who access PCs, Wifi and digital support.	Intention – provide basic digital help sessions on library apps and services Intention – develop a series of guides on library apps Intention – provision of free Digital Unite guides on our website to provide basic digital support Intention - Promoting where free Wifi and access to devices is available in and near the Woodside community
Religion or belief people with different religion and belief to include those with no beliefs	At this stage there are no know additional impacts on this protected group, other than impacts identified for all library users	Intention – further promoting how to access the extensive online library offer Importance and use of physical library services:
Sex - Gender identity men or women, boys and girls	Sex Medium Impact 81 out of 132 (61%) respondents for Woodside are female 22 out of 30 (73%) carers are female Travel time, cost and access: reliance on public transport or alternative transport to visit libraries: may impact disproportionately on female care givers in families and as carers relating to the	Continued positive promotion of reading, literacy and numeracy for all through different library initiatives; Every Child A Library Member, Bookbug, Scottish Book Trust book gifting, the Summer Reading Challenge and other local and national reading initiatives , Book group, ESOL classes delivered by GREC and ACC CLD team, author talks and involvement with literacy festivals; Granite Noir with Aberdeen Performing Arts and WayWORD with the

	<p>logistics and cost visiting alternative library sites.</p> <p>Limitations on ability and mobility: may have impacts female carers of young children for example; ability to walk longer distance with young children and carry books and other resources.</p> <p>Reduced frequency of library visits: may have an impact on female carer of older adults who require carers to support them to access the library, or due to family logistics</p> <p>Social Connection: may impact women disproportionately where they are the main caregiver for their family who accessed for example Bookbug (10 out of 132 said it was an important service and 8 out of 132 said children's activities were an important service for them)</p>	<p>University of Aberdeen to mention a few.</p> <p>Space Spaces for Adults:</p> <p>All library sites are safe spaces for all</p> <p>Library staff receive training to support people with additional support needs and apply these into the library environments as well as to their interactions</p> <p>Intention – further considerations to make spaces more ASN friendly, library staff are about to embark on British sign language (BSL) training</p> <p>Familiarisation tours are offered with storyboards for use prior to visits.</p> <p>Intention – create welcoming video tours of libraries so library users know what to expect when they visit and can anticipate what services and spaces they can use.</p> <p>Intention – promote when there are quieter times to access the library</p>
<p>Pregnancy and maternity women who are pregnant and / or on maternity leave</p>	<p>Pregnancy and maternity</p> <p>There were no women who indicated they were pregnant or on maternity leave from Woodside respondents</p> <p>Safe space for adults: may impact women who are pregnant or on maternity leave for example all libraries are breast feeding friendly places</p>	<p>Intention – promote the work we do in libraries to improve access for all, so families are aware of what they can expect.</p> <p>Aberdeen City Libraries continue to work with partners such as Narcotics Anonymous (NA), Shelter, The Foyer and Realistic Medicine Team at NHS to continually improve the library experience for all.</p>
<p>Sexual orientation</p>	<p>At this stage there are no know additional impacts on</p>	

lesbian, gay, bisexual, heterosexual / straight	this protected group, other than impacts identified for all library users	Aberdeen City Libraries offers dementia friendly events
Gender reassignment anybody whose gender identity / expression is different to the sex assigned to them at birth	At this stage there are no know additional impacts on this protected group, other than impacts identified for all library users	Safe Spaces for Children and Young people: All library sites are safe spaces for children and young people
Marriage and civil partnership people who are married or in a civil partnership	At this stage there are no know additional impacts on this protected group, other than impacts identified for all library users	<p>Library staff receive training to support children and young people with additional support needs (ASN) and apply these into the library environments as well as to their interactions with Children and Young People</p> <p>Intention – further consideration to make spaces more Additional Support Needs friendly, library staff are trained in Makaton and are about to embark on British sign language (BSL) training</p> <p>Familiarisation tours are offered with storyboards for use prior to visits.</p> <p>Intention: create further welcoming video tours of libraries so Children, young people and families know what to expect when they visit and can anticipate what services and spaces they can use. Libraries have BSL videos and plan further work with Aberdeen School for the deaf around this.</p> <p>Intention -promote when there are quieter times to access the library</p> <p>Intention - promote the work we do in libraries to improve access for all, so families are</p>

		<p>aware of what they can expect.</p> <p>Continue to work with Understanding Autism to continually improve the library experience for all.</p> <p>Opening Hours: Library opening hours are to be reviewed as part of the Aberdeen's Future Library and Information Services plan.</p> <p>Intention – awareness raising of library access with Fairer Aberdeen funded programmes and other Community Learning and Development partners.</p> <p>Reduced frequency of library visits: Intention – Further promotion of library services and events, so library users can make the most of their in-person visits.</p>
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Socio-Economic Inequalities

Not every person / family has access to regular income or savings. You should therefore consider the impact of your proposal on people who might be unemployed, single parents, people with lower education or literacy, looked after children, those with protected characteristics are just some examples.

Identify the group that your policy/ proposal affects and record the relevant impact and describe the mitigating steps.

	High / Medium Negative impact	Mitigations
		Please state/summarise your mitigating actions for the negative impact(s) identified in stage 1
Low income / income poverty – those who cannot afford regular bills, food,	Medium impact Woodside Library is within the Woodside neighbourhood. This	Free period products can be collected at the 11 Community Libraries and at Central Library and locally at Hilton Community Centre, Fersands and Fountain Community Project and Station

<p>clothing payments.</p>	<p>neighbourhood in the 20-40% band of the most deprived areas based on the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2020.</p>	<p>House Medi Unit as well as other venues on PickUpMyPeriod App</p> <p>Intention – promotion of community resources where free products can be collected.</p> <p>Intention - promotion of anti-poverty initiatives in communities</p> <p>Intention – awareness raising of library access with Fairer Aberdeen funded programmes and other Community Learning and Development partners.</p> <p>Intention - Promoting where free Wifi and access to devices is available in and near the Woodside community</p> <p>Free bus travel is available for u22 via the Under 22's Bus Pass and the Older person Bus Pass or a Disabled Person Bus Pass</p>
<p>Low and/or no wealth – those who can meet basic living costs but have no savings for unexpected spend or provision for the future</p>		
<p>Material deprivation – those who cannot access basic goods and services, unable to repair/replace broken electrical goods, heat their homes or access to leisure or hobbies</p>		

Area deprivation – consider where people live and where they work (accessibility and cost of transport)		
Socio-economic background – social class, parents' education, employment, income.		

Consultation and monitoring

Have you undertaken any of form of consultation with any of the affected groups?	Yes	No
Describe the consultation processes/methods undertaken and the number of participants/respondents	<p>Consultation on Cornhill, Cults, Ferryhill, Kaimhill, Northfield and Woodside Libraries took place between 11 September 2023 and 6 November 2023, this included an online and printed survey and in person and online focus groups, at times to be inclusive to working hours, school holidays offering accessible options.</p> <p>Data informing this IIA is from Library users who identified as using Woodside Library most frequently from the 6 libraries in the survey or who attended the Woodside specific focus groups.</p> <p>Respondents to the survey = 132 Attendee at Focus groups = 11</p>	
Summarise the changes or improvements that have been made to the policy because of the consultation.	<p>The consultation has provided valuable insight into the importance of access to library services and resources for library users who have previously used Woodside Library.</p> <p>Impacts that affect people with certain protected characteristics have been considered and mitigations identified</p>	

	to lessen the impact on the majority of library users with protected characteristics relating to age, disability, sex, race and pregnancy and maternity. There are also mitigating actions for Aberdeen Library Service and other Community Planning partners to apply. Many of these mitigations will be incorporated into the Future Library and Information services Plan which is in development.
Set out what suggested changes or improvements that have not been made and why	Many of the mitigations already exist with some requiring promotion, there are also further actions that can be taken to lessen the impact of Option 1.
What impact(s) has the consultation had upon your proposal?	The consultation has helped to better understand the impacts on library users and those with certain protected characteristics and through that understanding consider local and city-wide mitigations to lessen the impact of Option 1. and consider the longer-term implications of Option 2.
How will this policy be monitored	The mitigations provided are vital to lessening the impact of Option 1, The Future Library and Information Services plan provides opportunity and accountability for the mitigating actions presented.
Use this section to justify why your proposal should go ahead despite the negative impacts identified.	The mitigations and the further mitigating actions provide access and opportunity for the majority of consultation respondents who have previously used Woodside Library to continue to access library provision. There may still a negative impact for some library users and given the level of mitigations provided this impact is now considered to be low.

Authorisation and sign off: for Stage 2:

Title of Policy / proposal:	Review of city-wide provision of Libraries – Closure of Woodside Library
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Directorate and Cluster:	Customer, Early Intervention and Community Empowerment	
Policy and assessment author (s)	Name: Margaret Stewart Job title: Service Manager, Libraries and Community Learning Date: 05/12/23	Name: Job title: Date:
Authorised and approved by Director or Chief Officer	Name: Jacqui McKenzie Job title: Chief Officer, Early Intervention and Community Empowerment Date: 05/12/23	Name: Job title: Date:

Following completion and approval, please email your completed assessment to:
equality_and_diversity@aberdeencity.gov.uk

Consultation on Bucksburn Swimming Pool

The consultation invited pool users to complete the survey. An online survey along with paper copies were available. Focus Groups were also set up to complement the process.

Representation of responses

City population 227,430 ([National Records of Scotland](#))

Number of visitors: 69,089 (2022/23)

Number of respondents: 987 (includes 37 from outwith the city)

Respondents to survey	Attendees focus groups
987*	21
*Any submissions that indicated that they had not used the pool in the last 5 years were discounted. There were 29 in total. Leaving <u>958</u> to be analysed.	

Follow link for [survey questions](#).

Following analysis of the responses, common impact themes were identified from the questionnaire and focus group responses. Free text fields were assessed, and relevant comments were matched to those themes. The key themes have been reported in Figure 7 of this report. 176 respondents did not indicate any impact. That was where the respondents did not provide any answers in the free text fields and/or did not indicate swimming activities had stopped. Alternatively they only provided opinion on the decision to close the pool rather than outline any impact.

Q1: Have you used Bucksburn Swimming Pool in the last five years?

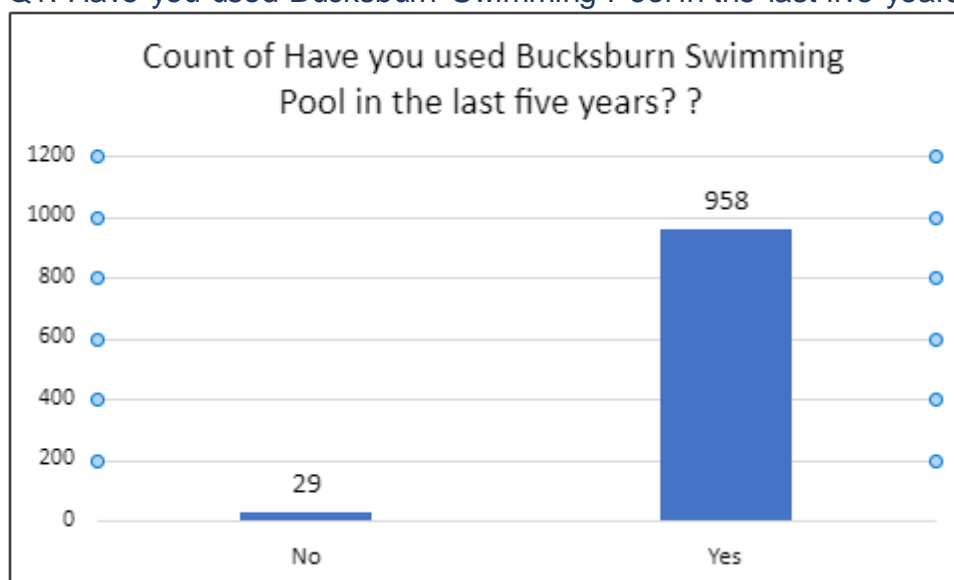


Figure 1: Number of respondents using pool in last 5 years.

Q2 . What is your full name? (Optional)

Responses removed before analysis.

Q3. Do you live, work, study or care for someone in Aberdeen City?

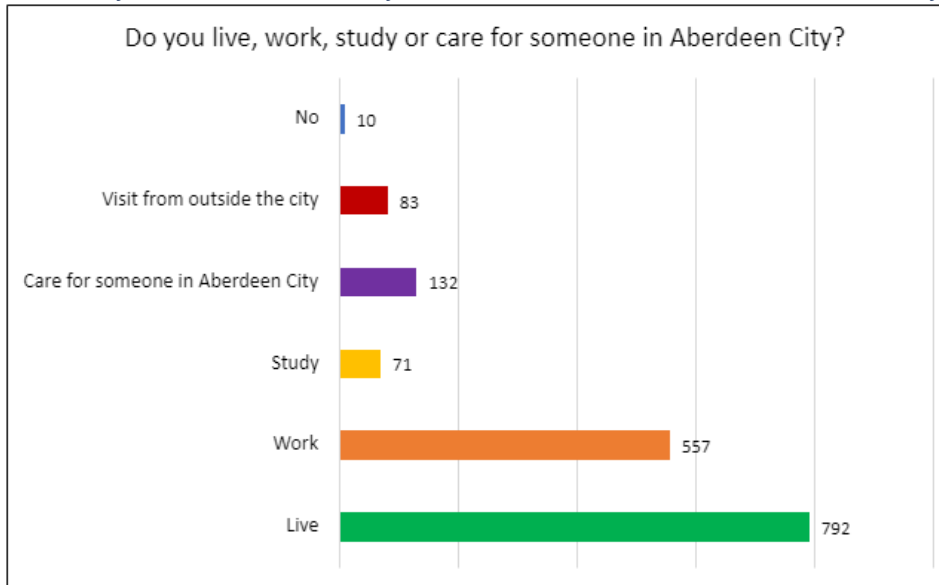


Figure 2: Live, work, study or care for someone in Aberdeen

Q4. How often did you use Bucksburn Swimming Pool?

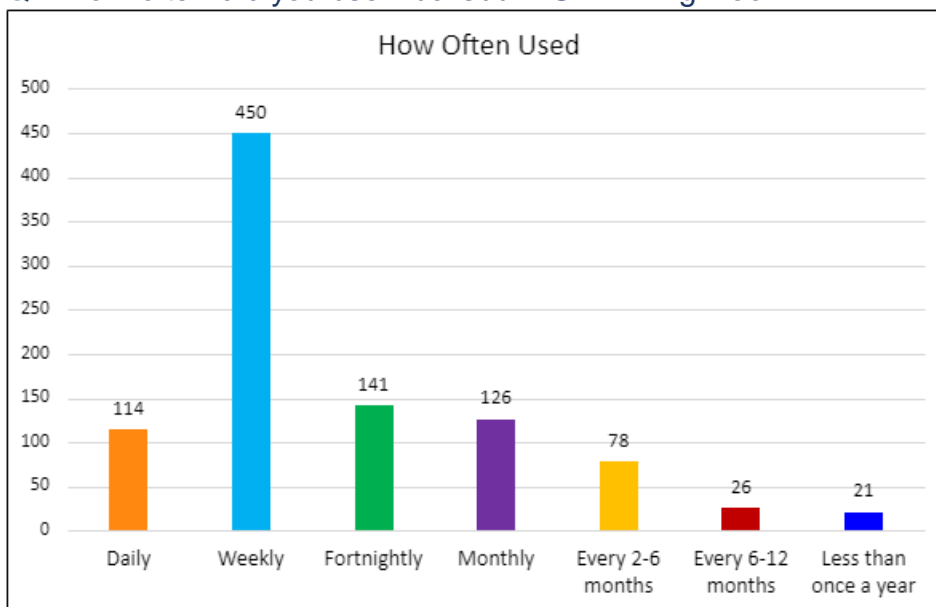


Figure 3: Frequency of pool use

Commentary

The option to select Weekly was not initially available on the online version. The error was flagged on Social Media and steps were taken to rectify this. 122 responses were submitted without the weekly option being available. Comments were made in the Free Text fields to reflect weekly use. It is not considered good practice to manually change questionnaire submissions, so in some cases weekly use will not be captured in the table. However, given the very clear indication of weekly use being the predominant answer in the table the question has provided appropriate data.

Q5. Have you started using any other swimming pools since the closure of Bucksburn Swimming Pool?

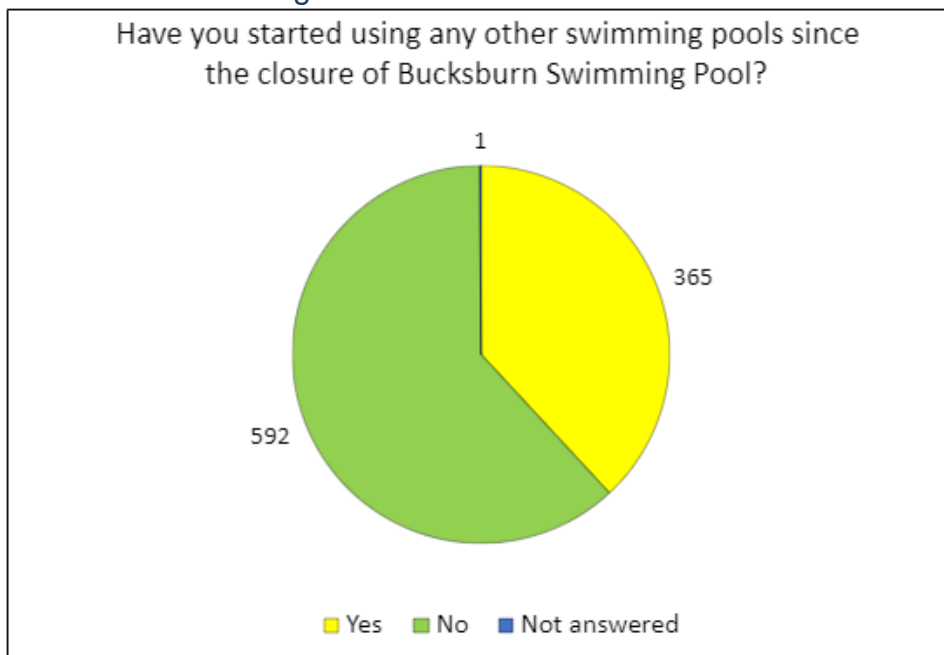


Figure 4: Use of alternatives

Q6. Please select the facilities, services or activities that you accessed at Bucksburn swimming pool?

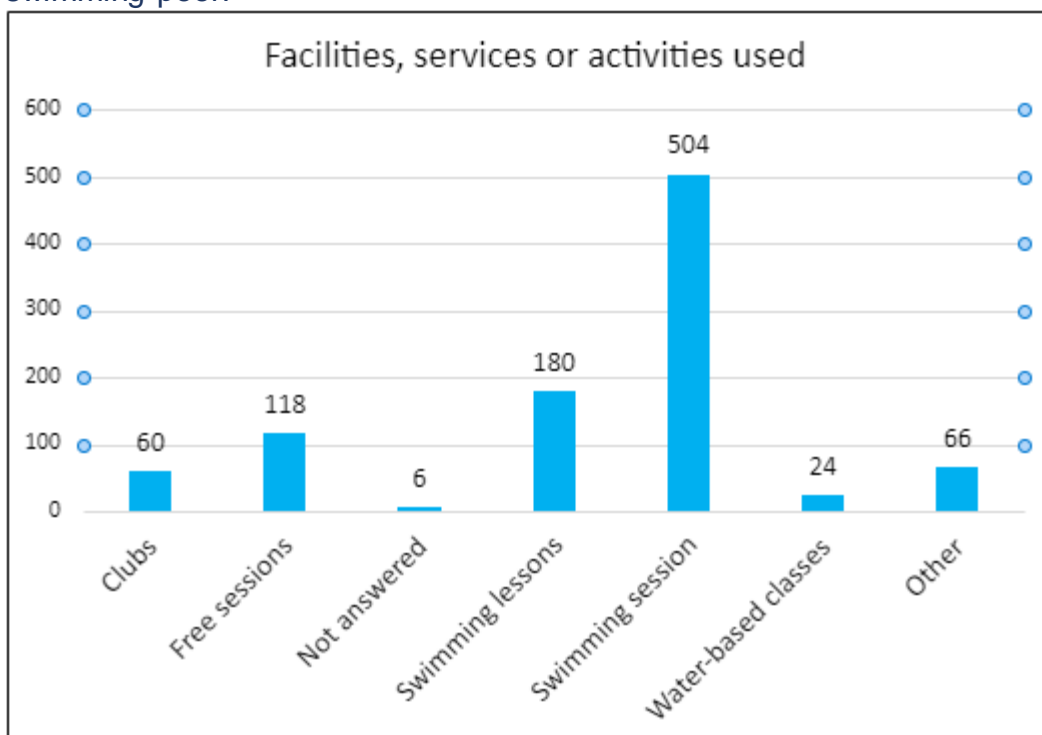


Figure 5: Type of activity

Commentary

The 'Other' free text field in some instances was used to identify impacts by users of the pool. These have been matched against the themes and included in the overall analysis of free text field submissions (see Figure 7).

Q7. Please select where you have taken up separate provision from the list below?

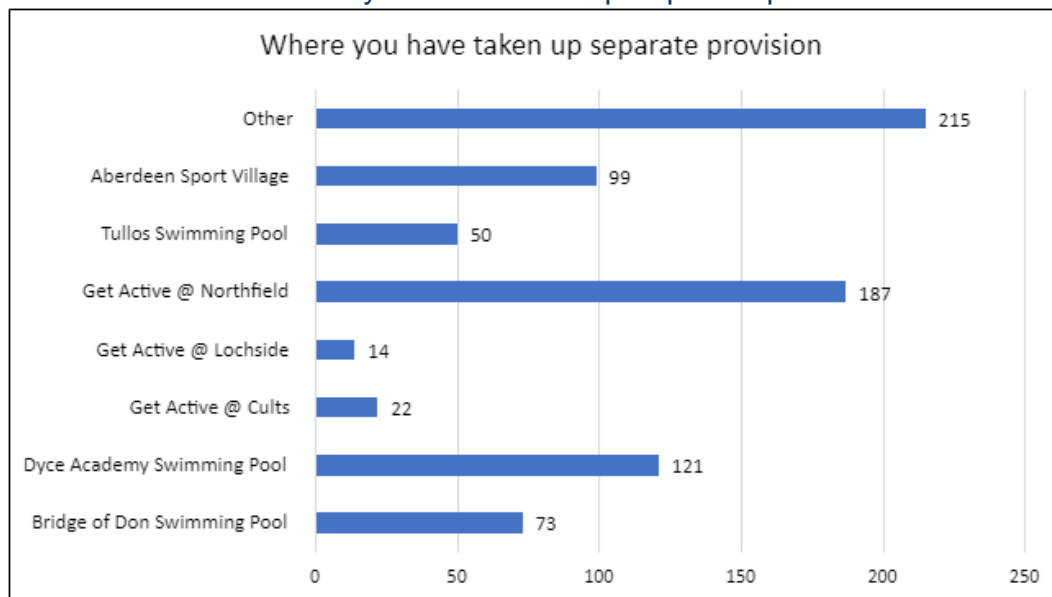


Figure 6: Alternative provision taken up

Private gyms with pools: Warehouse Gym, Bannatynes, David Lloyds, RGU

Hotels with pools: Ardoe, Hilton @ TECA, Thainstone, Village Hotel

Aberdeenshire: Aboyne, Alford, Ellon, Inverurie, Peterhead, Stonehaven, Westhill.

Angus: Brechin.

Outdoor: Cruden Bay Harbour, Knockburn Loch

Commentary

Respondents were not given the choice to select multiple alternative venues. As such the full utilisation of the those venues may not be reflected.

The 'Other' free text field was used by respondents in some cases to indicate that they had reduced their swimming activities or stopped completely following the closure. Other free text fields also included such statements. That alongside the analysis of Question 5 provided a total of 464 respondents indicating that swimming activities had stopped or had been reduced.

Responses indicating that swimming activities were attended less frequently – 23 of 464.

Response indicating that swimming based activities had stopped – 441 of the 464.

Q8 to Q11 all captured within a single table.

Q8. Access to Sport Aberdeen swimming pools is available at 6 locations across Aberdeen City.

If you are not able to access alternative swimming pool provision, we would like to understand more as to the reasons and factors why.

Q9. Access to Sport Aberdeen swimming pools is available at 6 locations across the city. If you have a connection to a swimming club that accessed Bucksburn Swimming Pool, what has your experience been in continuing to access city pools for swimming club activity?

Q10. Access to swimming lessons are available across the city from Sport Aberdeen, Aberdeen Aquatic centre and private swimming pools. If you attended swimming lessons at Bucksburn pool, what has your experience been in continuing to access lessons?

Q11. If there are any other factors or barriers that impacted your ability to access swimming pool provision, please detail them below.

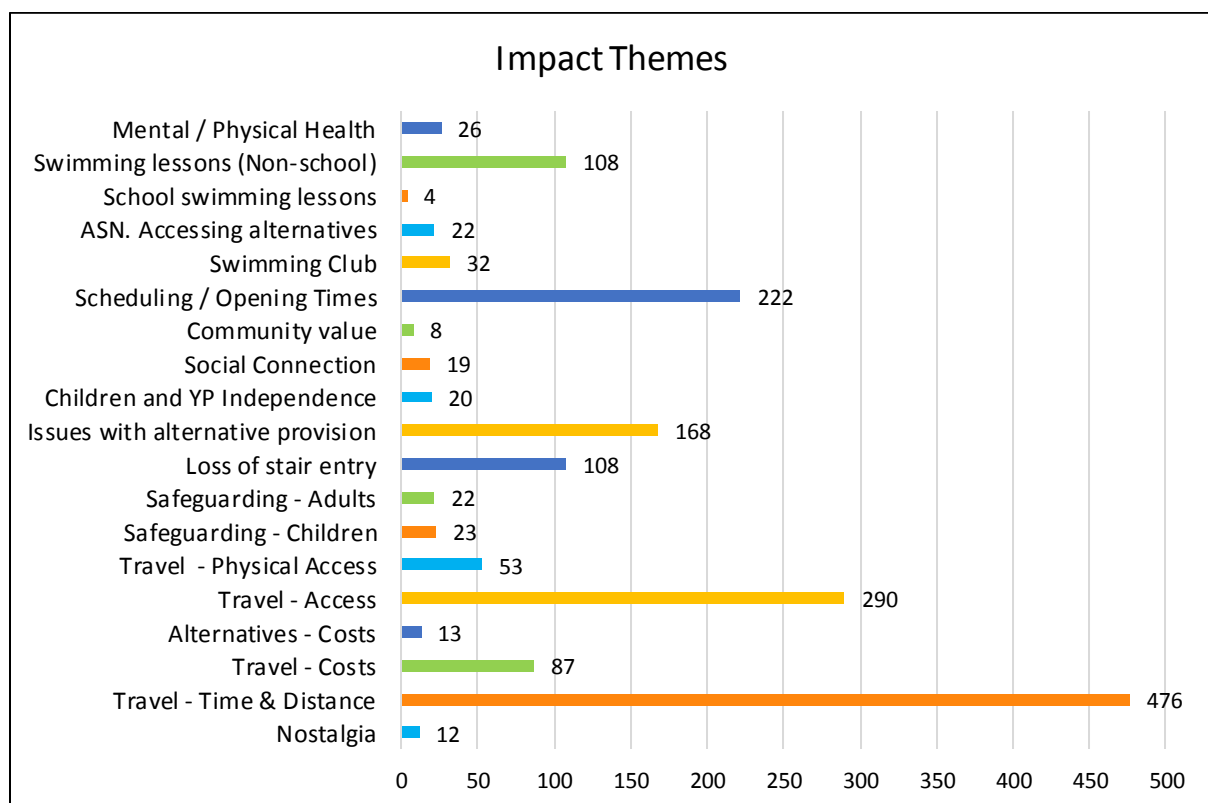


Figure 7: Number of comments identifying an impact against a theme

Q12. Where do you live?

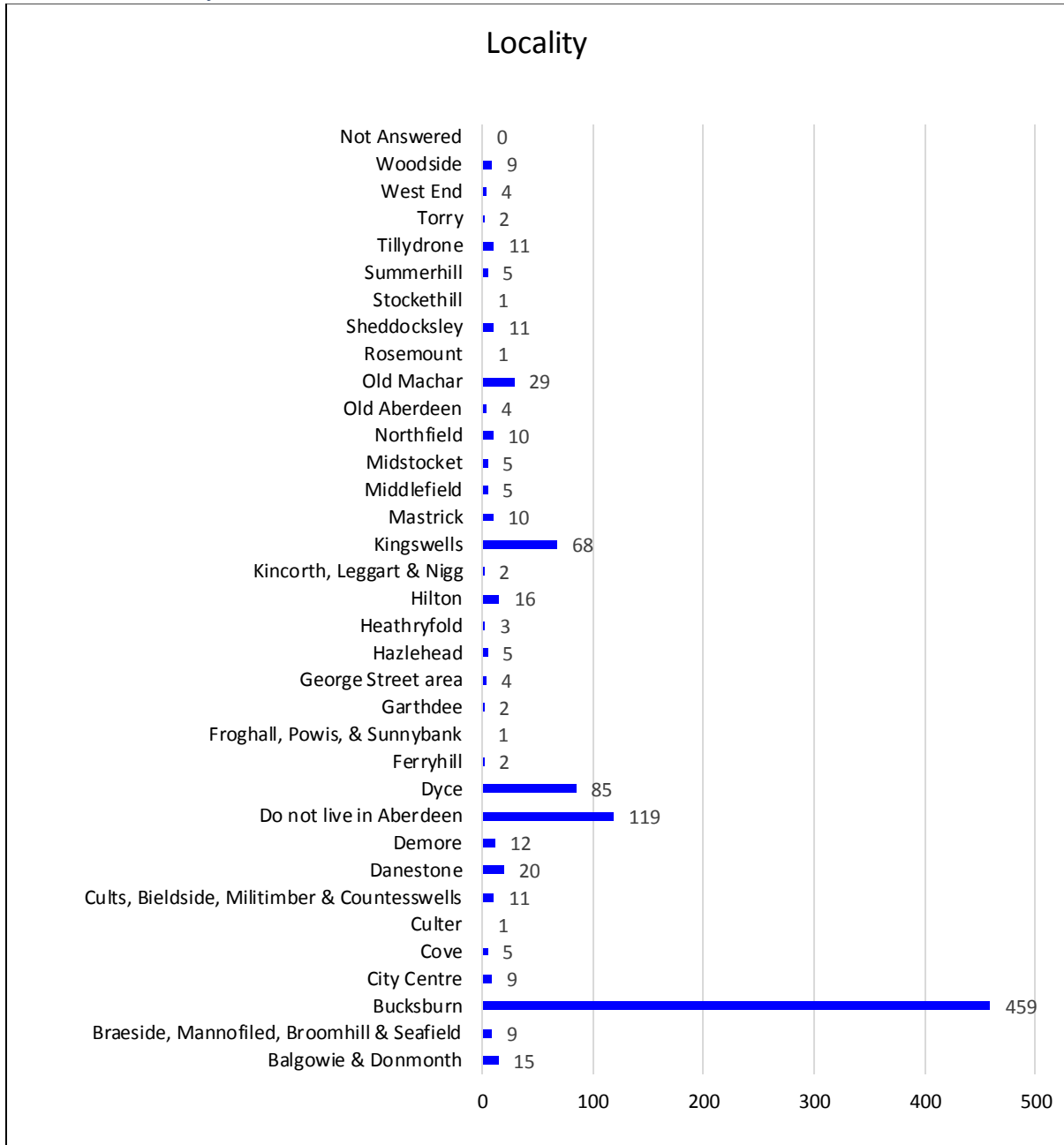


Figure 8: Where the respondents live

Equalities questions Q15-25

The equalities questions were optional. The completion rate was as follows:-
 933 completed one or more of the questions.
 20 respondents opted out and did not respond to any questions.

By question response rate:-

Age – 933 (including prefer not to say – 29)

Employment status – 938

Sex – 918 (including prefer not to say - 34)

Prefer to self identify – 4

Sexual orientation – 876 (including prefer not to say - 93)
 Sexual orientation description – 3
 Consider yourself to be trans or trans history – 73 (including prefer not to say – 69)
 Ethnicity / Nationality – 863 (including prefer not to say – 22)
 Ethnicity own words – 4
 Religion – 806 (including prefer not to say – 48)
 Religion description – 7.
 Marital status – 872 (including prefer not to say 70)
 Pregnant or on maternity leave – 50 (including prefer not to say - 43)
 Neither pregnant or on maternity leave – 516
 Activities limited – 845
 Activities limited. Deafness or partial hearing loss – 22
 Activities limited. Blindness or partial sight loss – 10
 Activities limited. Learning disability – 12
 Activities limited. Development disorder – 5
 Activities limited. Mental Health – 49
 Activities limited. Physical disability – 85
 Activities limited. Long-term illness, disease or condition – 97
 Activities limited. Prefer not to say – 49
 Caring responsibilities – 860 (including prefer not to say – 63)

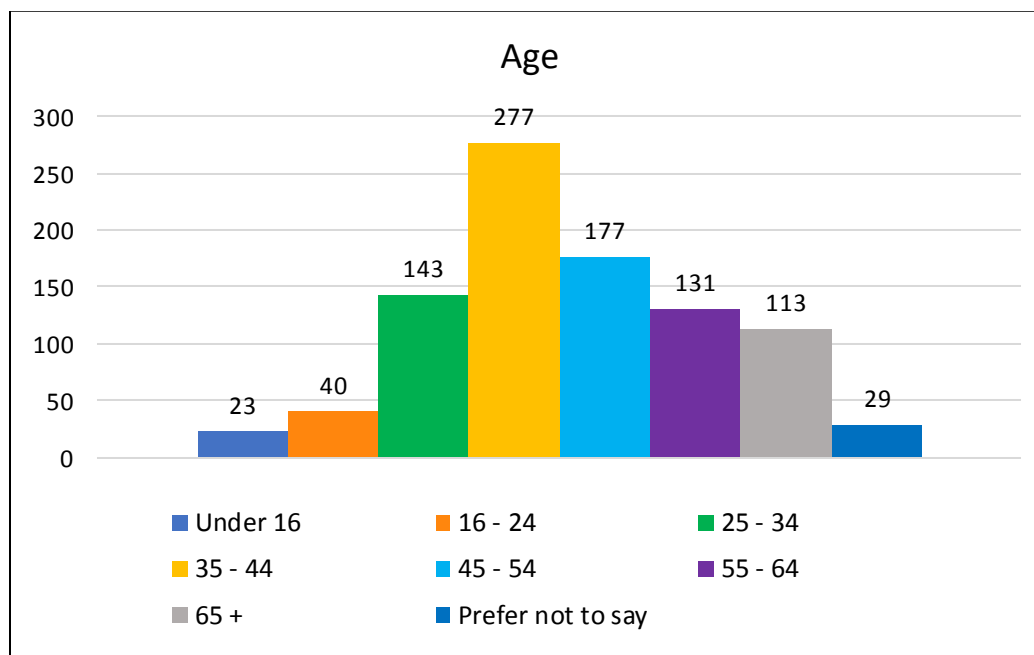


Figure 9: Respondents by age

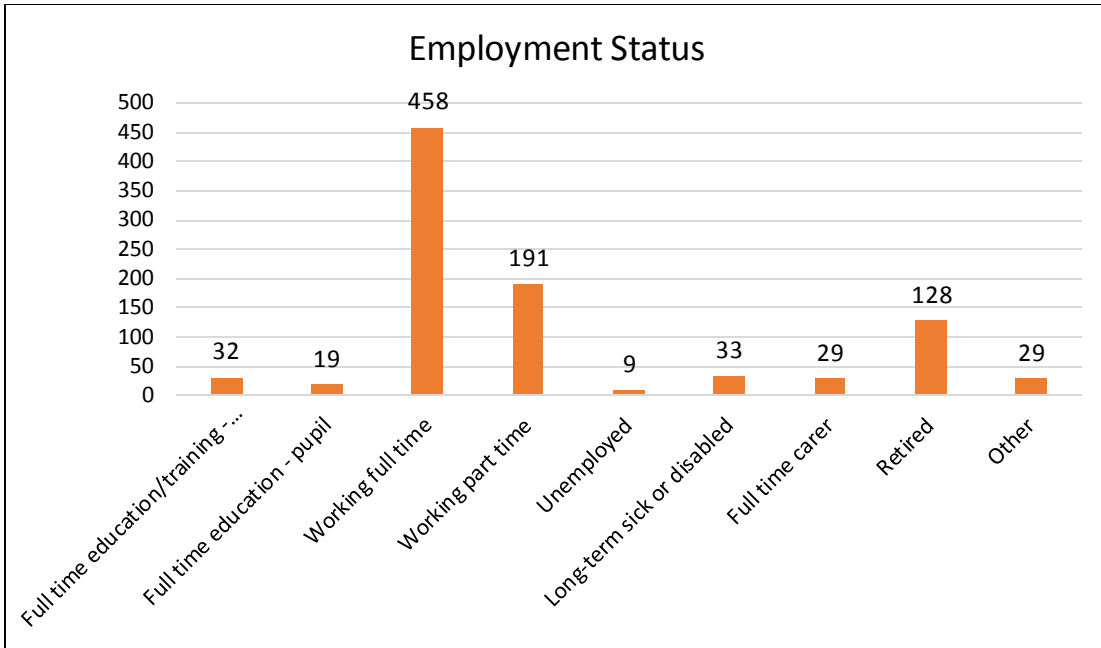


Figure 10: Respondents by Employment Status

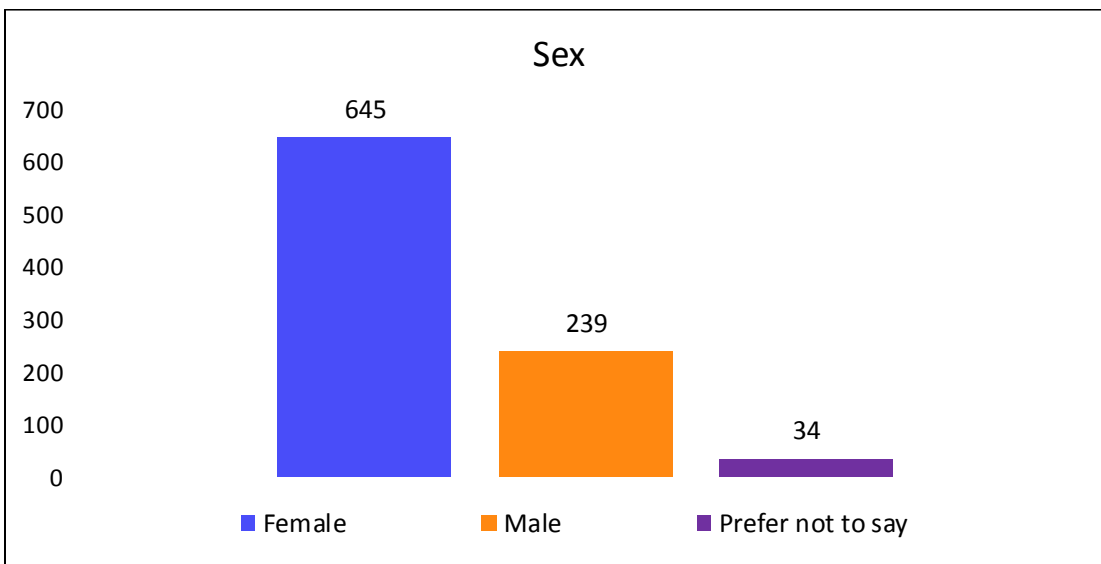


Figure 11: Respondents by sex

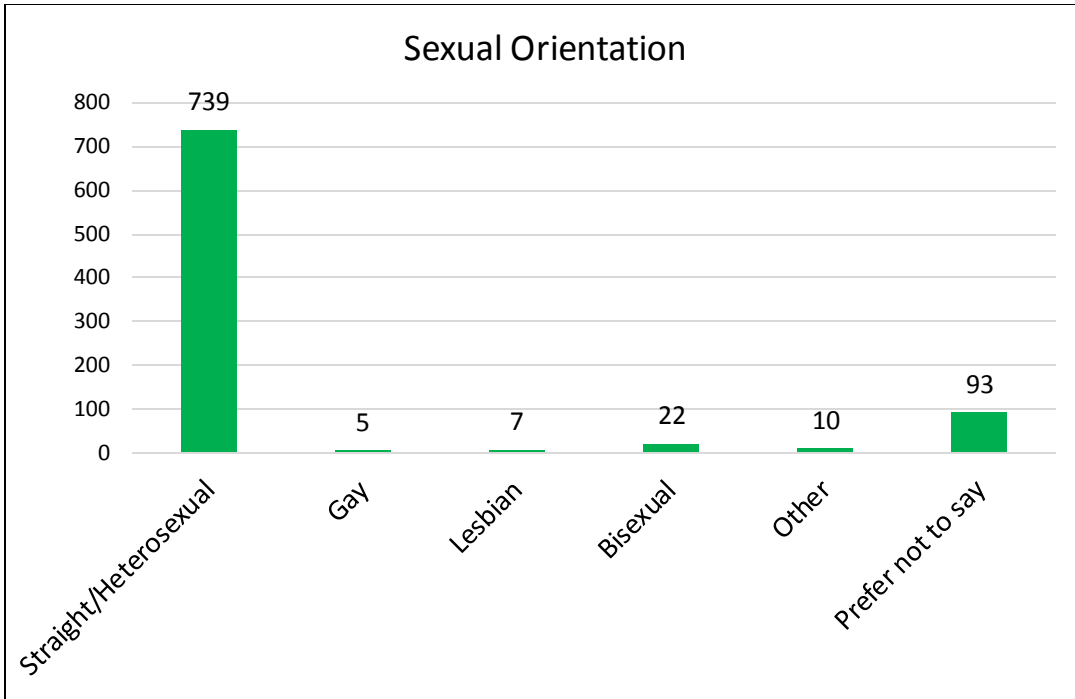


Figure 12: Respondents sexual orientation

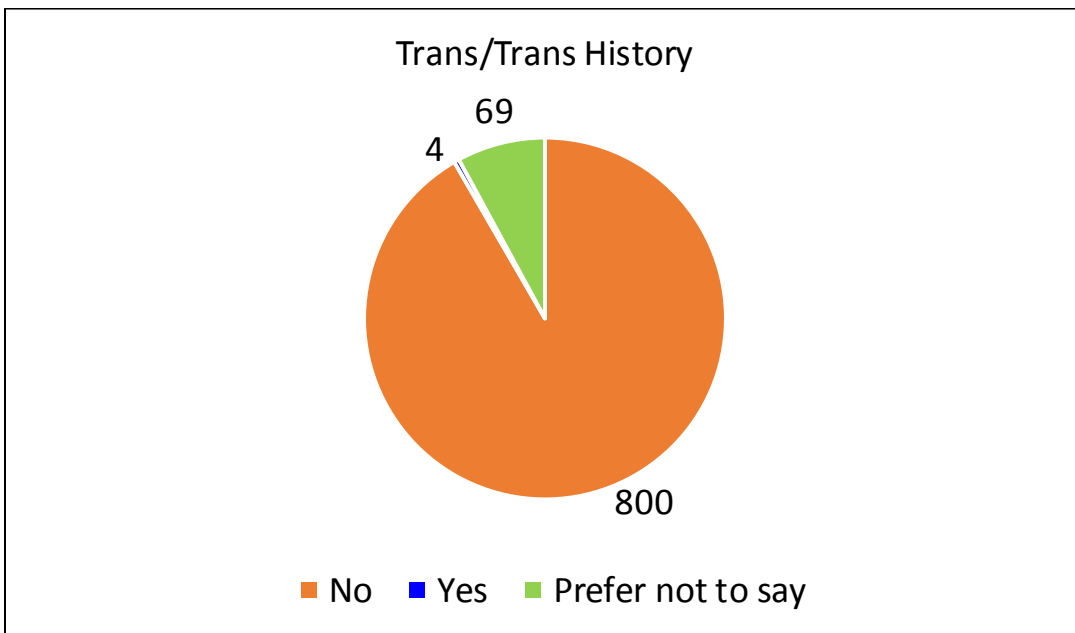


Figure 13: Respondents indicating they are trans or have a trans history

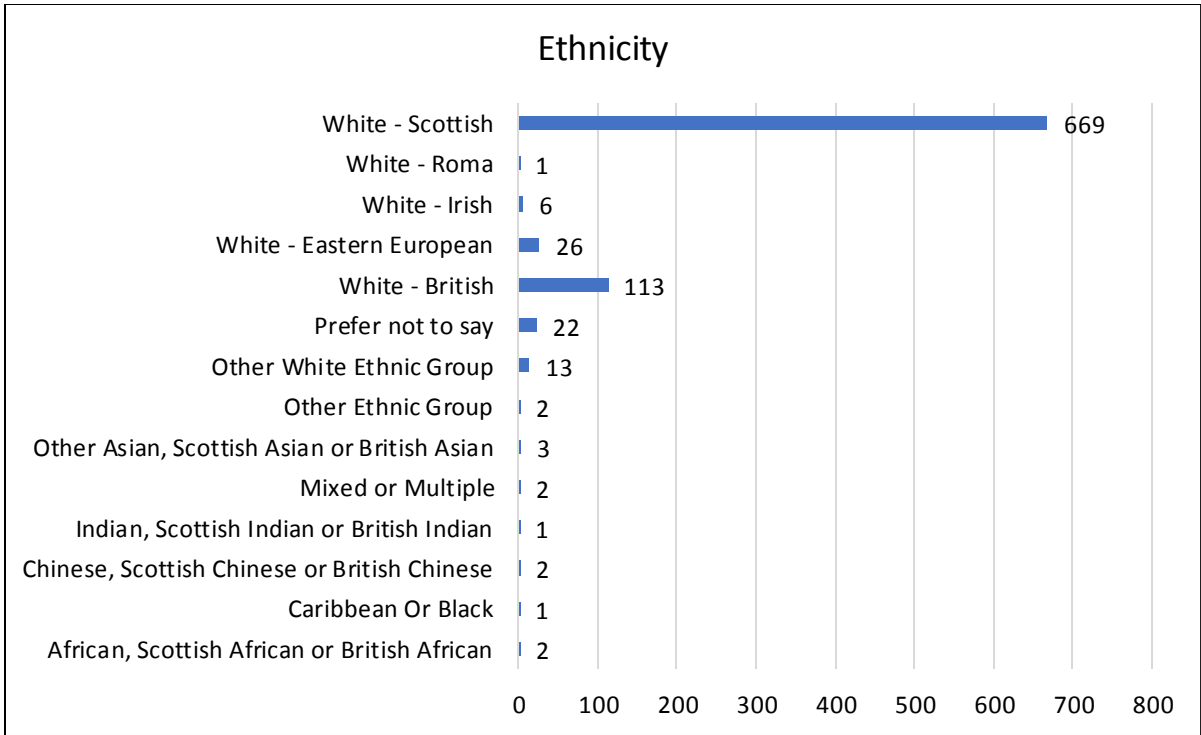


Figure 14: Respondents ethnicity and nationality

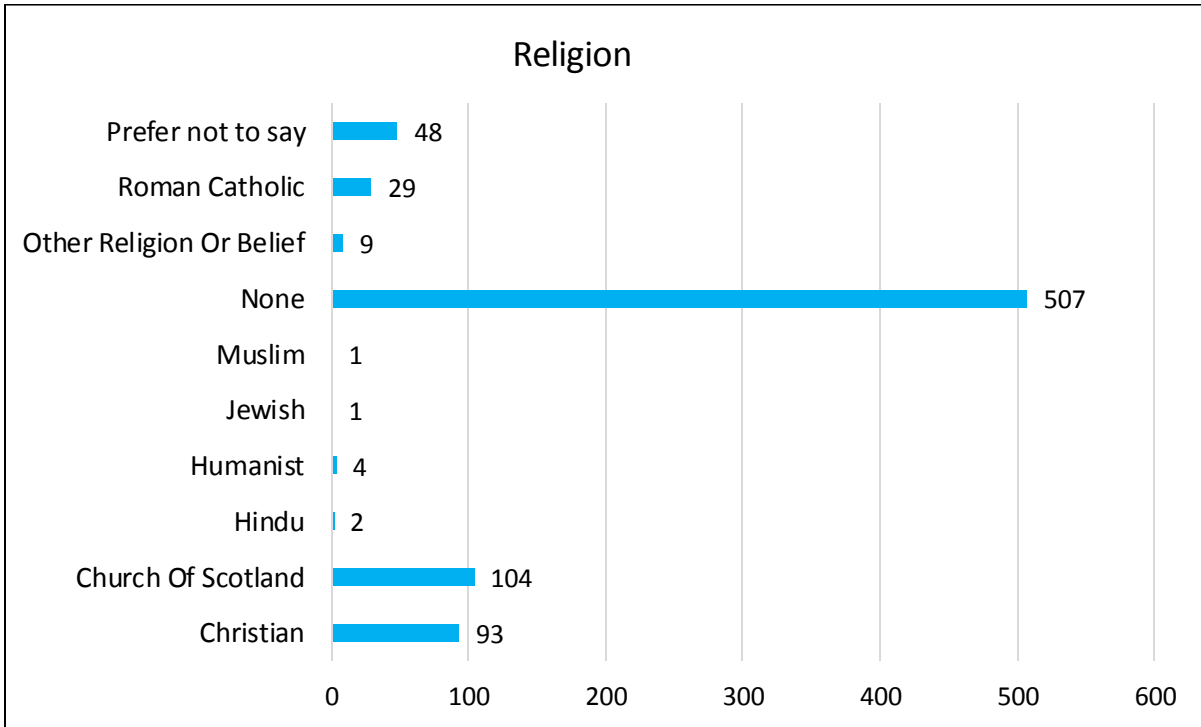


Figure 15: Respondents religion, religious denomination or body they belong to

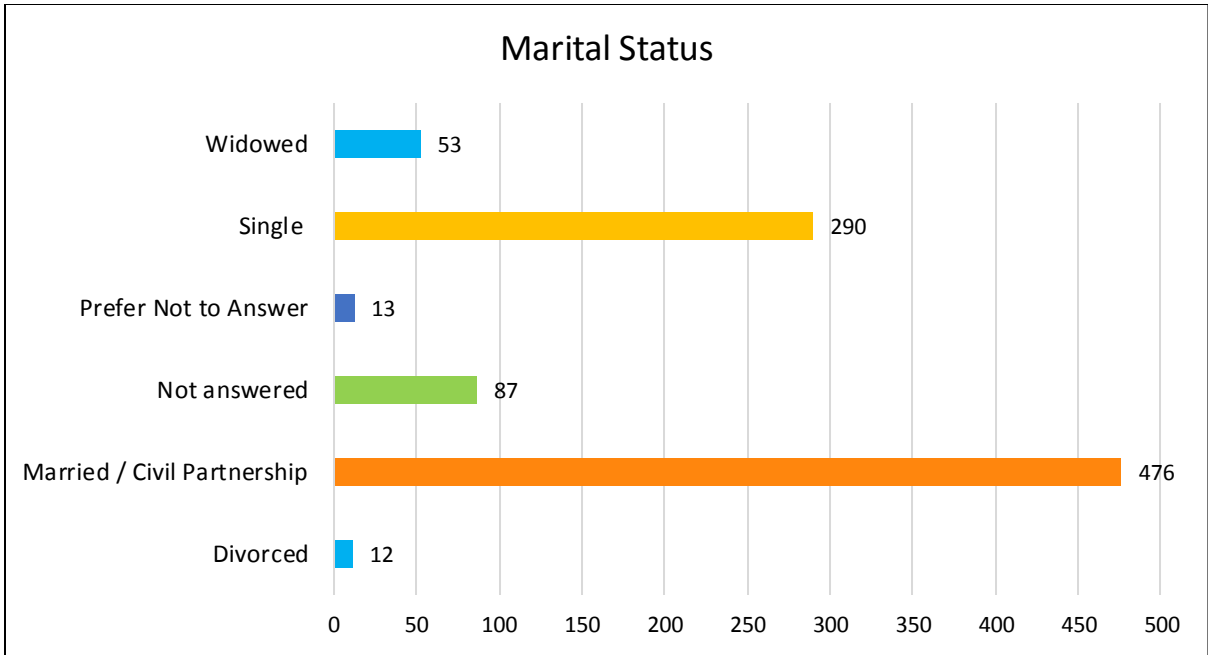


Figure 16: Respondents marital status

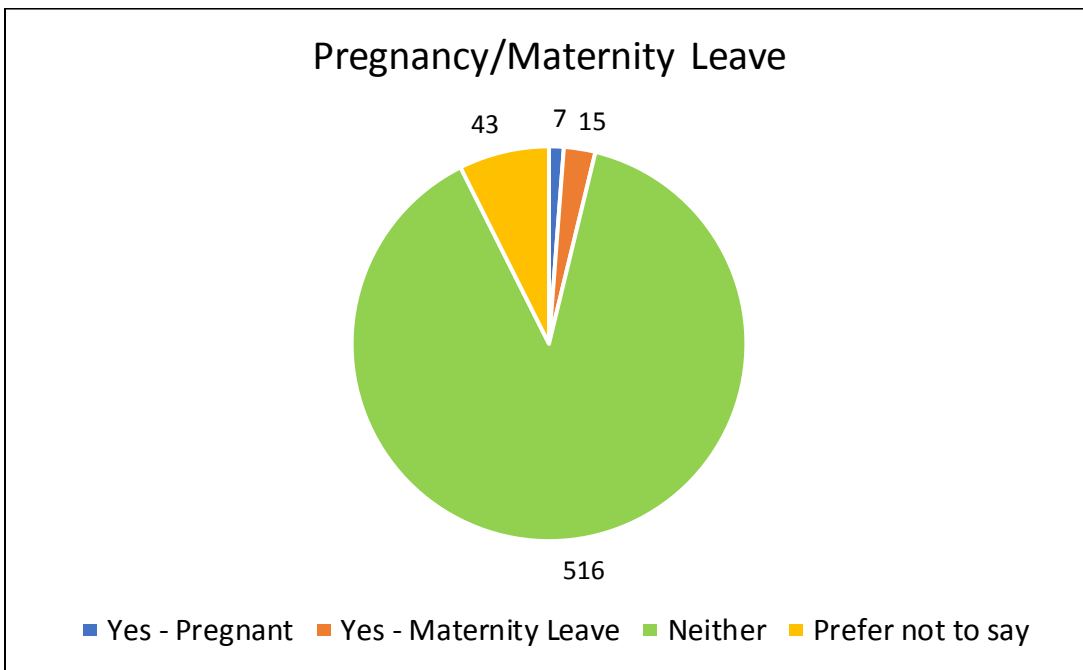


Figure 17: Respondents indicating they are pregnant or on maternity leave

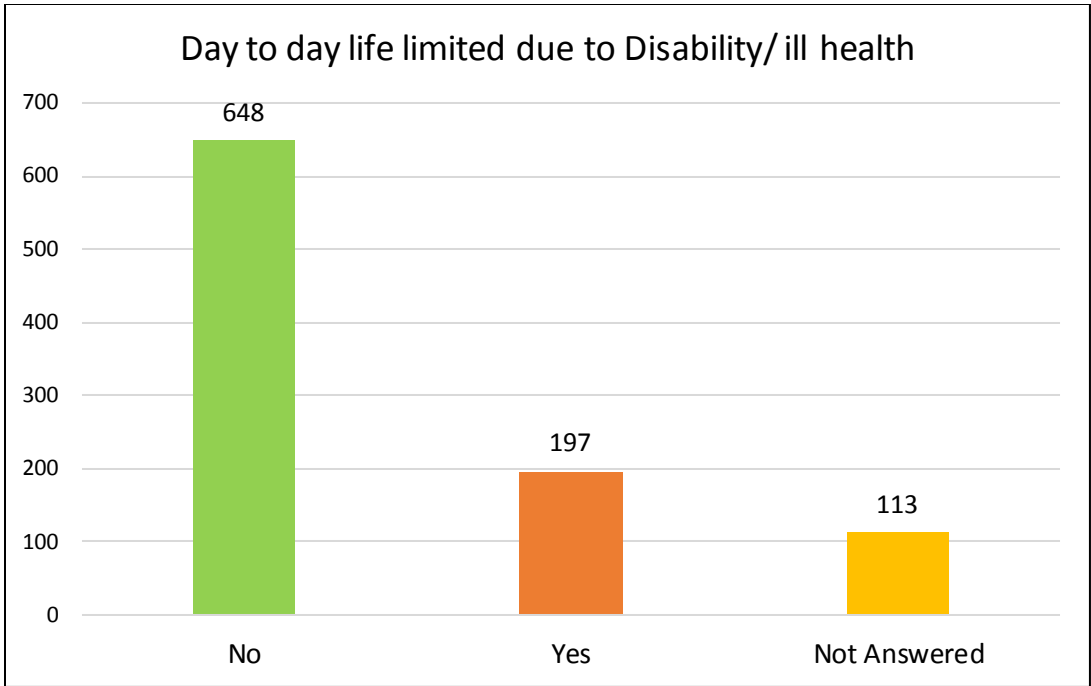


Figure 18: Respondents indicating they have a disability or health condition that limits day-to-day activities

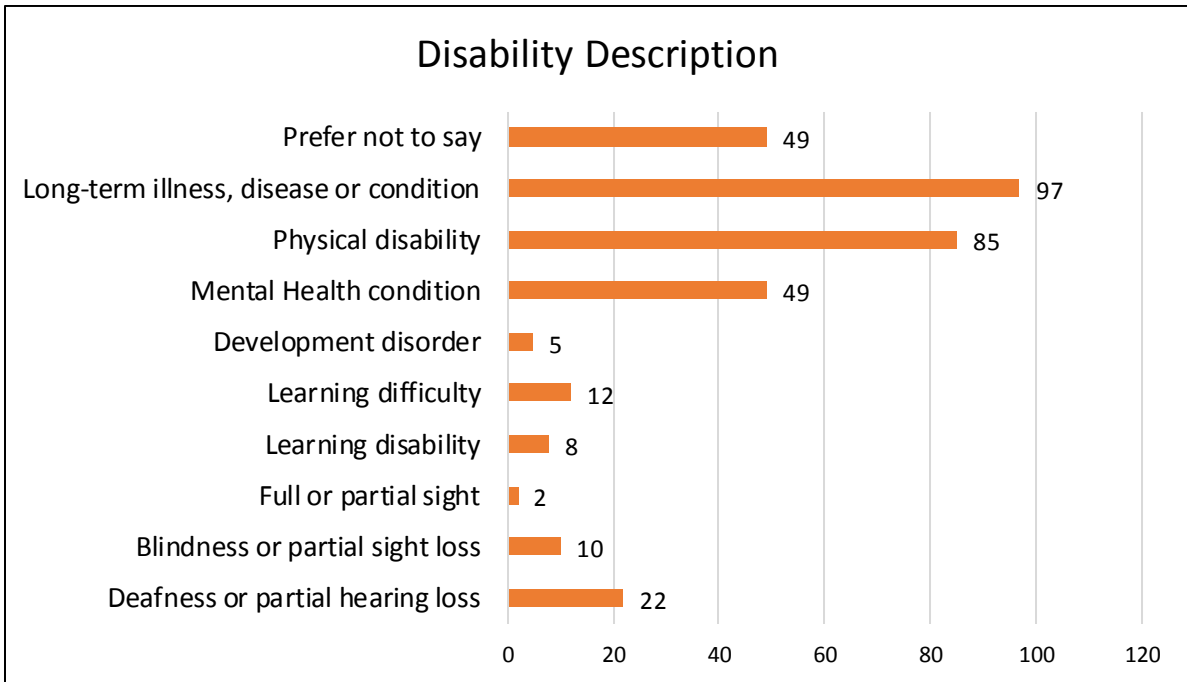


Figure 19: Respondents by disability or health condition

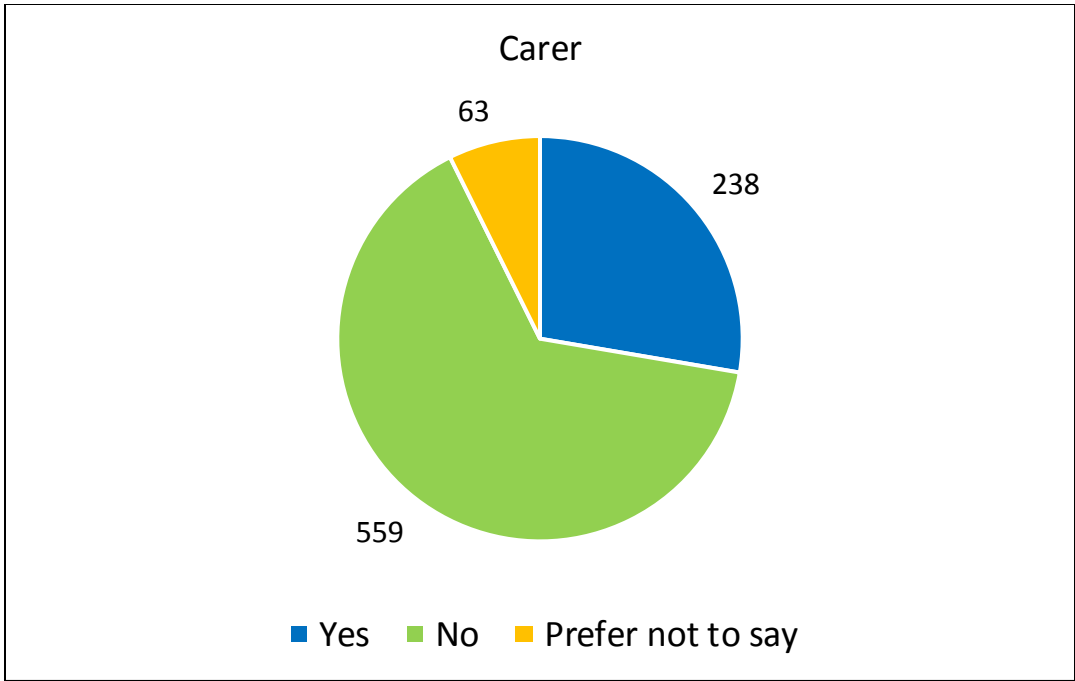


Figure 20: Respondents indicating if they are a carer

Focus Groups

Bucksburn Swimming Pool Consultation 1 – 2nd November 2023 5:30pm

Attendees – 3 Aberdeen City Council staff, 1 Sport Aberdeen and 6 members of the public.

Most of the participants live in Bucksburn, those that did not, worked in the Bucksburn area.

The members of public were there to represent themselves, their families, Bucksburn Amateur Swimming Club, and the Bucksburn Academy Parents Council.

Here's a summary of the document:

The summary of the document is that it reports on a consultation held on 2nd November 2023 to gather feedback on the impact of the closure of Bucksburn Swimming Pool, which was attended by 10 people from various backgrounds and interests. The document reveals that all participants used the pool frequently and for various purposes, such as swimming lessons, club sessions, family sessions, relaxed sessions, Aqua Zumba class, and school sessions, and that some of them accessed the pool through the Bucksburn ASN wing. The document also shows that some participants tried other pools after the closure, but faced barriers such as transportation, scheduling, cost, and accessibility, and that the quality of swimming lessons and club sessions was affected by the depth and size of other pools. The document further highlights the concern of many participants about the impact of the pool closure on the primary schools and the Bucksburn ASN wing, which used to have regular sessions at the pool, and the importance of swimming for the physical and mental wellbeing of the ASN children. The document finally indicates the negative effects of the pool closure on the social and health aspects of the participants and the wider community, as some participants lost their only opportunity to socialise, especially the elderly, and some experienced a decline in their physical and mental health, as they could not exercise or enjoy the water as before.

Main ideas:

- **Attendees and purpose of the consultation:** The consultation was held on 2nd November 2023 and attended by 6 members of the public who represented themselves, their families, a swimming club, and a school parents council. The purpose was to gather feedback on the impact of the closure of Bucksburn Swimming Pool.
- **Frequency and activities of pool usage:** All participants used the pool more than once a week before it closed, for various activities such as lane sessions, swimming lessons, club swimming, family sessions, relaxed sessions, Aqua Zumba class, and school sessions. Some participants accessed the pool through the Bucksburn ASN wing, which catered to children with additional support needs.
- **Alternative pool provision and barriers:** Some participants tried other pools such as private ones, Aberdeen Sports Village, Northfield, Bridge of Don, and Dyce, but faced barriers such as transportation, scheduling, cost, and accessibility. The loss of the graduated stairs at Bucksburn Pool made it difficult for some groups to enter the water easily, such as ASN, disabled, elderly, and children. The depth and size of other pools also affected the quality of swimming lessons and club sessions.
- **Impact on schools and ASN wing:** Many participants expressed concern about the impact of the pool closure on the primary schools and the Bucksburn ASN wing, which used to have regular sessions at the pool. They felt that the schools had not been consulted and that the alternative provision was inadequate, costly, and

disruptive. They also highlighted the importance of swimming for the physical and mental wellbeing of the ASN children.

- **Social and health implications:** The pool closure also had negative effects on the social and health aspects of the participants and the wider community. Some participants lost their only opportunity to socialise, especially the elderly. Some also experienced a decline in their physical and mental health, as they could not exercise or enjoy the water as before. The pool was seen as a valuable asset for the Bucksburn area, and its closure was felt as a loss of identity and pride.

According to the document: The key themes in the feedback from the consultation are:

1. **Frequency and activities of pool usage:** All participants used the pool more than once a week for various activities such as lane sessions, swimming lessons, club swimming, family sessions, relaxed sessions, Aqua Zumba class, and school sessions. Some participants accessed the pool through the Bucksburn ASN wing, which catered to children with additional support needs.
2. **Alternative pool provision and barriers:** Some participants tried other pools such as private ones, Aberdeen Sports Village, Northfield, Bridge of Don, and Dyce, but faced barriers such as transportation, scheduling, cost, and accessibility. The loss of the graduated stairs at Bucksburn Pool made it difficult for some groups to enter the water easily, such as ASN, disabled, elderly, and children. The depth and size of other pools also affected the quality of swimming lessons and club sessions.
3. **Impact on schools and ASN wing:** Many participants expressed concern about the impact of the pool closure on the primary schools and the Bucksburn ASN wing, which used to have regular sessions at the pool. They felt that the schools had not been consulted and that the alternative provision was inadequate, costly, and disruptive. They also highlighted the importance of swimming for the physical and mental wellbeing of the ASN children.
4. **Social and health implications:** The pool closure also had negative effects on the social and health aspects of the participants and the wider community. Some participants lost their only opportunity to socialise, especially the elderly. Some also experienced a decline in their physical and mental health, as they could not exercise or enjoy the water as before. The pool was seen as a valuable asset for the Bucksburn area, and its closure was felt as a loss of identity and pride.

Notes

1. Have you used the pool in the last five years?

All participants used the pool within the last weeks and days of the pool being open.

2. Do you live, work, study or care for someone in Aberdeen City? What area of Aberdeen do you stay?

All yes.

3. How often did you use Bucksburn Swimming Pool?

All participants used the pool more than once a week – several mornings a week, a morning lane session then fun session with family as weekend. Children went several time - with school then swimming lessons and family sessions.

Children accessed through Bucksburn ASN wing, swimming lessons, lane sessions, club swimming, family sessions, relaxed sessions Aqua Zumba class.

4. Have you started using any other swimming pools since the closure of Bucksburn Swimming Pool?

Yes

5. What activities did you access at Bucksburn swimming pool?

Early morning lane session, fun session with family as weekend. Children went several time - with school then swimming lessons and family sessions. Children accessed through Bucksburn ASN wing. Swimming lessons, lane sessions, club swimming, family sessions, relaxed sessions and Aqua Zumba class.

6. Where have you taken up separate provision? e.g. Get Active @ Northfield

Other provision has been tried including private (Bannatyne), Aberdeen Sports Village for swimming lessons, Northfield, Bridge of Don and Dyce.

Swimming Club time is now split between Dyce and Northfield.

7. If you are not able to access alternative swimming pool provision we would like to understand more as to the reasons and factors why.

Transportation – no longer able to walk to pool, children no longer independent and rely on parents to drive. Getting to Northfield requires 2 buses. The additional time required to get to and from them. The cost of transportation.

Scheduling – lack of appropriate sessions for example lunch time or no family session on Saturday mornings. There is only 1 ASN session at Northfield that lasts 1 hour and it at tea time, which creates challenges.

8. If you have a connection to a swimming club that accessed Bucksburn Swimming Pool, what has your experience been in continuing to access city pools for swimming club activity?

The depth of the deep end of Dyce swimming pool is not as deep, meaning children can not learn how to dive or swim out of their depth. There is no viewing area at Dyce for parent to watch club sessions. Dyce pool is smaller which means less children can attend each session so the club have had to increase the number of sessions. Some participants felt Dyce Pool was in poor condition.

The club have to share Northfield pool with the public which has resulted in a increase in hours and costs as they can not have the same number of children at the sessions. Also the public use the club lanes. The change to locations has directly led to a loss of 20-25 members. Attendance at Dyce is below numbers achieved at Bucksburn.

9. If you attended swimming lessons at Bucksburn pool, what has your experience been in continuing to access lessons?

Many have continued swimming lessons, however the scheduling is less suitable. Some have paid more for lessons at the Sports Village.

A number of participants were very considered that the primary schools that were using Bucksburn had been significantly impacted. That impact being that some may no longer be

getting lessons, that additional costs to the school were being incurred and that additional travel time was now required.

10. Are there are any other factors or barriers that impacted your ability to access swimming alternative pool provision?

The loss of the graduated stairs which allowed ASN, disabled, those with health conditions and the elderly to enter the water easily. The stairs also helped children to play independently.

Other Issues / Comments

The lack of alternative provision for ASN wing sessions and the interruption of routines. There was very strong sentiment that this was a major impact.

When Bucksburn Academy (including the ASN wing) was built they were told a pool would not be included as there was swimming facilities at Bucksburn pool, as there had been provision at previous ASN service at Marlpool.

There was concern that the school, especially the ASN wing, had not been consulted on the impact of the closure of the pool. Also that the ASN wing have only had 2 short sessions since the closure.

There was concern for elderly people who have lost a socialising for some their only opportunity to do so.

For those that have not access alternative provision there has been a detrimental impact on their physical and mental health wellbeing

The question was raised if Aberdeen City Council had received any funding from the UK Governments Swimming Pool Support Fund. Officers advised that this was not the case.

The loss of publicly accessible pools in the North of the city.

Bucksburn Swimming Pool Consultation 2 – 2nd November 2023 6.45pm

Attendees – 3 Aberdeen City Council staff, 1 Sport Aberdeen and 10 members of the public.

Almost all the participants lived in Bucksburn, and those that did not worked in Bucksburn

The members of public were there to represent themselves, their families, neighbours, colleagues and the Bucksburn Amateur Swimming Club.

Here's a summary of the document:

The document is a summary of a consultation that was held on 2nd November 2023 to gather feedback from the public on the closure of Bucksburn Swimming Pool and its impact on their swimming activities. The attendees included three Aberdeen City Council staff, one Sport Aberdeen staff and 10 members of the public who lived or worked in Bucksburn. The participants reported that they used the pool regularly, ranging from weekly to daily, for various activities such as early morning, lunch time, evening, weekend family sessions, lessons and club sessions for their children. They also said that they had tried other public and private pools in the city, but faced several barriers such as scheduling, transportation, cost, time, quality and accessibility. They expressed that the pool had a social value for them, as it was a place where they could interact with their neighbours, colleagues, club members and pool staff, and that swimming at the pool had a positive effect on their mental health and well-being. The consultation also received two letter submissions from a user who had a disability and a health condition that made swimming the only possible activity for them, and from a club that had lost 35% of its membership due to the closure.

According to the document: The key themes in the feedback are:

1. **Usage and activities of Bucksburn Swimming Pool:** The participants used the pool regularly, ranging from weekly to daily, for various activities such as early morning, lunch time, evening, weekend family sessions, lessons and club sessions for their children.
2. **Alternative swimming pool provision and the barriers to access them:** The participants said that they had tried other public and private pools in the city, but faced several barriers such as scheduling, transportation, cost, time, quality and accessibility. They also mentioned that some pools did not have suitable facilities for their needs, such as stepped access, deep end, diving, viewing area, communal changing rooms and ASN provision.
3. **Social and mental value of Bucksburn Swimming Pool:** The participants expressed that the pool had a social value for them, as it was a place where they could interact with their neighbours, colleagues, club members and pool staff. They also said that swimming at the pool had a positive effect on their mental health and well-being, and that the closure had negatively affected them.

Main ideas:

- **The purpose and participants of the consultation:** The consultation was held to gather feedback from the public on the closure of Bucksburn Swimming Pool and its impact on their swimming activities. The attendees included three Aberdeen City Council staff, one Sport Aberdeen staff and 10 members of the public who lived or worked in Bucksburn.
- **The usage and activities of Bucksburn Swimming Pool:** The participants reported that they used the pool regularly, ranging from weekly to daily, for various activities

such as early morning, lunch time, evening, weekend family sessions, lessons and club sessions for their children.

- **The alternative swimming pool provision and the barriers to access them:** The participants said that they had tried other public and private pools in the city, but faced several barriers such as scheduling, transportation, cost, time, quality and accessibility. They also mentioned that some pools did not have suitable facilities for their needs, such as stepped access, deep end, diving, viewing area, communal changing rooms and ASN provision.
- **The social and mental value of Bucksburn Swimming Pool:** The participants expressed that the pool had a social value for them, as it was a place where they could interact with their neighbours, colleagues, club members and pool staff. They also said that swimming at the pool had a positive effect on their mental health and well-being, and that the closure had negatively affected them.
- **The letter submissions from a user and a club:** The consultation also received two letter submissions from a user who had a disability and a health condition that made swimming the only possible activity for them, and from a club that had lost 35% of its membership due to the closure. Both letters highlighted the importance and benefits of Bucksburn Swimming Pool for their personal and club activities.

Notes

1. Have you used the pool in the last five years?

They all used the pool in the weeks/days before it closed.

2. Do you live, work, study or care for someone in Aberdeen City? What area of Aberdeen do you stay?

All yes.

3. How often did you use Bucksburn Swimming Pool?

The participants used the pool weekly, several times a week up to daily usage. This included early morning, lunch time, evening, weekend family session. Plus lessons and club session for their children.

4. Have you started using any other swimming pools since the closure of Bucksburn Swimming Pool?

Yes.

5. What activities did you access at Bucksburn swimming pool?

Early morning, lunch time, evening, weekend family session. Plus lessons and club session for their children.

6. Where have you taken up separate provision? e.g. Get Active @ Northfield

Other provision has been tried including private (The Village and Hilton Hotel), Aberdeen Sports Village, Northfield, Bridge of Don, Westhill and Dyce.

7. If you are not able to access alternative swimming pool provision we would like to understand more as to the reasons and factors why.

Barriers include scheduling, transportation, cost and the additional time required to travel to and from the pool. Those costs included fuel, bus travel and prices at alternatives. Bus travel was seen as very problematic as it is not possible to get to public pools without two buses, along with some walking. Bus travel was particularly challenging for the elderly and those with young children.

The appropriate sessions at Northfield are later in the evening plus additional travel mean they are challenging to attend. Loss of lane swimming at suitable times was flagged as an issue.

Many families only have 1 car and as a result find it challenging to fit all activities in.

One participant commented that they have taken children out of Nursery early to attend swimming lessons due to the additional time required to travel to Northfield.

Children were able to walk to the pool independently now rely on parents to get them to Dyce or Northfield.

Several people did not like the communal changing rooms at Northfield.

8. If you have a connection to a swimming club that accessed Bucksburn Swimming Pool, what has your experience been in continuing to access city pools for swimming club activity?

The depth of the deep end at Dyce was a concern as it is shallower and does not allow swimmers to get out of there depth therefore this skill can not be taught or tested. Diving is not possible at Dyce. The general quality of Dyce as a facility was considered poor and that it was very much a downgrade. That includes lack of a spectating and waiting area. The lack of spectating and waiting area results in less parental interaction with club representatives. This has made it harder to get parents involved in club activities.

There is no viewing area for parents during club sessions and swimming lessons, this can lead to disruptive behaviour. Parents also can not wait in foyer and during an ASN session there was an incident where a life guard had to try to find the parent in the car park.

Club fees have been increased due to additional number of sessions put in place to accommodate the swimmers at alternative venues. There were concerns with club times at Northfield which coincided with the Street sport activities which results in the reception area being very overcrowded.

9. If you attended swimming lessons at Bucksburn pool, what has your experience been in continuing to access lessons?

Although children's swimming lessons continued they some had not been swimming as a family since the closure. The lack of suitable family sessions that were accessible and at appropriate times were a major barrier to those continuing.

Children liked the friendly atmosphere of Bucksburn and did not continue swimming lessons when they changed to Aberdeen Sports Village.

The lack of swimming in PE lessons at Bucksburn Academy was a concern.

The limited amount of ASN swimming provision since the closure, previously the wing had 2-3 sessions per week, however they have only managed 2 short sessions since the closure.

10. Are there any other factors or barriers that impacted your ability to access swimming alternative pool provision?

The lunch time sessions are much shorter plus the additional travel time means some are no longer able to attend.

The cost of going private was flagged as an issue. Some the private facilities are not child friendly.

No steps into the pool make baby and toddler sessions very difficult try to climb in/out of pool with child. The stepped access was also hugely beneficial to

Some participants had reduced or stopped swimming activities.

Other Issues / Comments

Bucksburn is considered to have social value in addition to just being a centre for physical activity.

The impact on mental health was concern was as physical health, as many felt their mental well being has been negatively affected since the closure.

The closure came as shock as they felt the pool was well attended.

A concern there was limited swimming facilities for the north side of the city.

There were concerns for the loss of social interaction especially for the elderly.

The question was raised if Aberdeen City Council had received any funding from the UK Governments Swimming Pool Support Fund. Officers advised that this was not the case.

Letter submission 1 - A letter was submitted on behalf of a user who was unable to attend. The content was read out by a participant who was there to represent the user. That letter detailed their disability associated with a health condition and the severe challenges that it brings. Swimming is the only activity that is now possible for them. The proximity of the pool and the stepped access are perfect for their needs. Furthermore the user had planned to take their young children for lessons at Bucksburn. They are now concerned that their children will not be able to attend lessons as her deteriorating health may well limit how far they can travel. They firmly believe that learning to swim are a vital life saving skill.

Letter submission 2 – A letter was submitted by a swimming club that were a user of the pool. It detailed six reasons which led to a 35% reduction in club membership. Reasons directly associated with the closure included lateness of sessions, reliance on parental travel, increased fees associated with taking on additional lanes and issues with alternative provision at Dyce Academy. The loss of older members has brought challenges with resources around competitive swimming. Parental engagement has reduced at Dyce due to lack of a spectating area. They indicate that many people think the club has shut down along with the pool and feel the club has lost its identity. Noting that membership from the Bucksburn area has reduced. The closure has reduced capacity, availability and pushed up costs for parents.

Bucksburn Swimming Pool Consultation 3 – 3rd November 2023 9.30am

Attendees – 3 Aberdeen City Council staff, 1 Sport Aberdeen and 5 members of the public.

Almost all the participants lived in Bucksburn, those that didn't live in Dyce and had childcare in Bucksburn.

The members of public were there to represent themselves and their families.

Here's a summary of the document:

The document is a summary of a consultation session held on 3rd November 2023 about the closure of Bucksburn Swimming Pool, which was attended by three Aberdeen City Council staff, one Sport Aberdeen staff and five members of the public. The participants shared their dissatisfaction with the pool closure, as they faced several barriers to access alternative pools, such as transportation, cost, availability, quality and suitability. They also highlighted the loss of social interactions and the negative effects on their physical and mental health, especially for the elderly and the additional support needs (ASN) children, who used to benefit from the pool at Bucksburn. They gave some feedback on the consultation process, such as the technical issues with booking the sessions, the lack of publicity and the short notice, and suggested that the council should have consulted the public before deciding to close the pool and considered the wider impacts on the community.

Main ideas:

- **The purpose and participants of the consultation:** The document reports on a consultation session held on 3rd November 2023 about the closure of Bucksburn Swimming Pool. The attendees were three Aberdeen City Council staff, one Sport Aberdeen staff and five members of the public who lived or worked in Bucksburn or Dyce.
- **The impact of the pool closure on the public:** The participants expressed their dissatisfaction with the pool closure, as they used it regularly for various activities and had difficulties accessing alternative pools. They mentioned several barriers such as transportation, cost, availability, quality and suitability of other venues. They also highlighted the loss of social interactions and the negative effects on their physical and mental health.
- **The concerns about the provision for ASN children:** Some participants raised concerns about the lack of adequate provision for additional support needs (ASN) children, who used to benefit from the pool at Bucksburn. They said that there were only two short sessions for ASN children since the closure, and that the disruption to their routine and the unfamiliarity of new places caused stress and anxiety. They also pointed out that Bucksburn Academy did not have a pool to cater for ASN children, unlike the previous Marlpool school.
- **The feedback on the consultation process:** The participants gave some feedback on the consultation process, such as the technical issues with booking the sessions, the lack of publicity and the short notice. They also suggested that the council should have consulted the public before deciding to close the pool, and that they should have considered the wider impacts on the community.

According to the document: The key themes in the feedback are:

1. **The impact of the pool closure on the public:** The participants expressed their dissatisfaction with the pool closure, as they used it regularly for various activities and had difficulties accessing alternative pools. They mentioned several barriers

such as transportation, cost, availability, quality and suitability of other venues. They also highlighted the loss of social interactions and the negative effects on their physical and mental health.

2. **The concerns about the provision for ASN children:** Some participants raised concerns about the lack of adequate provision for additional support needs (ASN) children, who used to benefit from the pool at Bucksburn. They said that there were only two short sessions for ASN children since the closure, and that the disruption to their routine and the unfamiliarity of new places caused stress and anxiety.
3. **The feedback on the consultation process:** The participants gave some feedback on the consultation process, such as the technical issues with booking the sessions, the lack of publicity and the short notice.

Notes

1. Have you used the pool in the last five years?

They used the pool in the weeks before it closed up to the point it closed.

2. Do you live, work, study or care for someone in Aberdeen City? What area of Aberdeen do you stay?

All yes.

3. How often did you use Bucksburn Swimming Pool?

The participants used the pool weekly or several times a week.

4. Have you started using any other swimming pools since the closure of Bucksburn Swimming Pool?

Yes

5. What activities did you access at Bucksburn swimming pool?

Open toddler/baby, relaxed sessions and weekend family sessions, as well as Aqua Aerobics. Some of their children used it at least twice weekly as it was activity they could attend independently. That has now been lost as they can no longer walk to a pool.

6. Where have you taken up separate provision? e.g. Get Active @ Northfield

Northfield, Dyce and Bridge of Don .

Private swimming lessons.

Stonehaven as only suitable session at suitable time.

7. If you are not able to access alternative swimming pool provision we would like to understand more as to the reasons and factors why.

Unfamiliarity of new places causes panic attacks and anxiety.

Lack of transportation – no car. Driving is really the only option for some venues.

Cost of hotels pools - £25 per session or £60 for family.

Relative with Dementia is unable to use alternatives.

Travel – requires 2 buses to get Northfield or 40 minutes on bus to Bridge of Don on a good day. 2 buses from Dyce to Northfield took 2 hours.

Sessions are full so no point travelling to check.

Difficulties booking into Aqua Aerobics classes as always full.

The shorter sessions at lunch time are no longer a suitable option

Scheduling / timing – only suitable session are later in evening which is not suitable for children.

A participant advised that they no longer took their child to lessons.

8. If you have a connection to a swimming club that accessed Bucksburn Swimming Pool, what has your experience been in continuing to access city pools for swimming club activity?

No connection to swimming clubs

9. If you attended swimming lessons at Bucksburn pool, what has your experience been in continuing to access lessons?

The loss of the steps into the pool was seen as a significant issue. They helped learners gain confidence.

The shallow end at Dyce end is deeper than at Bucksburn .

10. Are there are any other factors or barriers that impacted your ability to access swimming alternative pool provision?

Dyce and Bridge of Don not nice alternative provisions – mould, broken tiles, bad smell, need a good clean and not very unappealing.

Children can no longer travel independently to a swimming pool.

Other Issues / Comments

- Technical issues booking consultation sessions. The lack of publicity around the consultations – sessions only advertised on social media.
- ASN provision – as only 2 short sessions since closure. The disruption to routine which has detrimental effect. Additional travel time, which can be stressful. Previously ASN galas were held. It was some of theirs central focus and joy in life.
- Swimming pool not built in when Bucksburn Academy was built as Bucksburn pool already there which could service mainstream and ASN children. Concerns raised at time as previous ASN provision at Marlpool school had a pool.
- The loss in social interactions especially for the elderly.
- Only 1 pool open to public on the north side of the city. There has been a general loss of public sessions.
- One participant felt that the closure of the pool was putting children's lives at risk.

Equalities Questions – Focus Groups

The equalities questions were optional. The completion rate was as follows:-
6 completed one or more of the questions.
15 respondents opted out and did not respond to any questions.

By question response rate:-

Age – 6

Employment status – 6

Sex – 6 (including prefer not to say - 1)

Prefer to self identify – 0

Sexual orientation – 5 (including prefer not to say - 1)

Sexual orientation description – 0

Consider yourself to be trans or trans history – 5 (including prefer not to say – 3)

Ethnicity / Nationality – 6 (including prefer not to say – 1)

Ethnicity own words – 0

Religion – 6

Religion description – 0.

Marital status – 6 (including prefer not to say - 1)

Activities limited – 5

Activities limited. Mobility – 2.

Caring responsibilities – 6 (including prefer not to say – 1)

Other Correspondence Received

Letter submission 3 – A letter was submitted by Scottish Swimming the National Governing Body for Swimming. They advised of their support for the consultation and hope that the decision to close the pool will be reconsidered. Furthermore they explained the importance of community pools in general and how that those without cars were being disadvantaged by the closure. An impact on the mental and physical health of children, and the elderly was of particular concern. They view the pool as “a vital part of the country’s armoury in keeping the population, safe, fit and mentally and physically healthy”.

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Integrated Impact Assessment Pre-screening Stage 1

The Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) supersedes the previous Equality and Human Rights Impact Assessment (EHRIA) form.

The pre-screening (Stage 1) will determine if your proposal requires a full impact assessment (Stage 2). Stage 2 will look at details of your proposals, the impact and any mitigations in place.

Note: This form should be completed using the guidance contained in the document: 'Guide to Completing an Integrated Impact Assessment'. Please read the guidance before completing this form.

This assessment and accompanying guidance use the term 'policy' for any activity within Aberdeen City Council. Therefore 'policy' should be understood broadly to embrace the full range of your policies, provisions, criteria, functions, practices and activities including the delivery of services – essentially everything you do.

Purpose:

Aberdeen City Council wants Aberdeen to be a place where all people can prosper. We want everyone in Aberdeen to have fair opportunities regardless of their background and circumstances. The aim of this assessment is to allow you to critically assess:

- the impact of the policy / proposal on different communities.
- whether Aberdeen City Council is meeting its legal requirements in terms of [Public Sector Equality Duty](#), [Equality Outcomes](#) and [Human Rights](#);
- whether [Children's Rights](#) have been impacted;
- whether [Socio-economic disadvantage](#) is reduced;
- whether any measures need to be put in place to ensure any negative impacts are eliminated or minimised which will be covered in Stage 2.

Title* Name your business case, policy, strategy or proposal (including budget proposals)	Review of closure of Bucksburn Pool
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Report no or Budget proposal number:	CUS/23/386							
Committee name and date :	Council - 13 December 2023							
Is this a new or existing policy/ proposal?	Original decision from budget 2023 being re-considered. (budget saving – Sport Aberdeen net reduction in core grant)							
Brief description of policy / proposal (including intended outcomes and purposes)	<p>At the 1 March 2023 Council Budget meeting , the Committee made a decision to withdraw core funding from Sport Aberdeen. This resulted in funding being reduced to £4.5 million.</p> <p>It was not expected that this would remove all services from the city but provision level, availability and location may change. At that time it was not anticipated that there would be an impact on groups with protected characteristics.</p> <p>ACC with Sport Aberdeen has agreed to revisit the decision around the closure of Bucksburn Pool, which was an implication of the funding reduction. A revised Integrated Impact Assessment will be a key element of that decision making process.</p> <p>This Integrated Impact Assessment considers whether the closure has had any impact on users which are related to their protected characteristics. To assess impact, a period of consultation was agreed taking place between 19/10/23 and 06/11/23. Consultation included an online and printed survey along with in person focus groups.</p> <p>Proposal :</p> <p>Consider the overall findings of the report and agree one of the following options in regard to the Reduction in Sport Aberdeen Funding Option:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Option 1 – Reaffirm the original budget decision regarding the reduction of funding o Option 2 – Request Sport Aberdeen to recommission Bucksburn Pool and instruct the Chief Officer – Corporate Landlord, following consultation with the Chief Officer – Finance, to work with Sport Aberdeen to investigate how the possible recommissioning of the Pool could be funded, referring any ongoing funding implications to the 2024/25 budget 							
Do you consider this proposal to have any impact on the:								
a. Human Rights of people?	Yes	No – Option 1 and Option 2	Unsure					
b. Rights of Children and Young people?	Yes – Option 1	No – Option 2	Unsure					
What is your assessment of the impact on groups with: a. Protected characteristics b. Children and young people c. Other	H	High negative impact	H	M	L	N	P	U
	M	Medium negative impact						
	L	Low negative impact						
	N	No impact						
	P	Positive impact						

As part of your assessment here, consider the impact of your policy on people and how they will be able to access goods, services and information with no barriers.	U	Unsure						
	Age			x				
	Disability			x				
	Gender Reassignment					x		
	Marriage and Civil partnership					x		
	Pregnancy and Maternity				x			
	Race				x			
	Religion or Belief					x		
	Sex				x			
	Sexual Orientation					x		
	Children and young people			x				
Other								
Socio-Economic Inequalities Not every person / family has access to regular income or savings. Will your proposal have an adverse or high impact on them?	Yes – Option 1 Adverse impact – Additional travel costs and/or additional costs of lessons.	No – Option 2	Unsure					
What considerations did you have when making the above selections?								
Internal or existing data Please detail your sources	<p><u>Usage Data</u> Prior to closure figures</p> <p>Number of pool visits:- 2022/23 – 69,219 2021/22 – 43,358 2020/21 – 6,215 (closed for part of year) 2019/20 – 72,656 2018/19 – 76,754</p> <p>Swimming Lesson participants at Bucksburn – 775 Swimming Lesson participants city wide - 5002</p> <p>Post closure figures Swimming Lesson participants at Dyce – 750 Swimming Lesson participants city wide - 5350</p> <p><u>Bucksburn Opening Hours</u> Monday - 6am-9:15pm Tuesday - 6am-9:00pm Wednesday - 6am-8:15pm Thursday - 9:30am-9:15pm Friday - 9:30am-9pm Saturday - 7am-4:00pm Sunday - 9am-6:30pm</p> <p><u>Public Consultation</u> City wide survey Engagement in a limited number of focus groups (3) Discussion with Save Bucksburn Pool campaign group</p>							

Consultation Questionnaire

987 submissions. 29 that had not used the pool in the last 5 years were discounted leaving 958 to be considered.

It was not possible to determine any impact from 176 submissions. That was where the respondents did not provide any answers in the free text fields and/or did not indicate swimming activities had stopped. Alternatively they only provided opinion on the decision to close the pool rather than outline any impact. That leaves 782 respondents indicating that there has been a negative impact of the closure.

Of that 782 respondents, 441 indicated they had stopped attending swimming based activities. A further 23 indicated they attended swimming based activities less often.

Impact themes identified based on responses:

- 1) Travel – Time and Distance. 476 responses to questions indicated this was an impact. Example: It takes longer to get to alternative provision.
- 2) Travel – Access. 290 responses to questions indicated this was an impact. Example: Two bus journeys were now required to access an alternative venue.
- 3) Scheduling / Opening Times at alternatives. 222 responses to questions indicated this was an impact. Example: Alternative provision was not available at a suitable time making it impossible to continue to swim.
- 4) Issues with alternative provision. 168 responses to questions indicated this was an impact. Example: An alternative venue was in poorer condition than Bucksburn.
- 5) Loss of stair entry. 108 responses to questions indicated this was an impact. Example: The loss of stair entry meant swimming was no longer possible.
- 6) Swimming Lessons (non-school). 108 responses to questions indicated this was an impact. Example: Alternative lessons were unsuitable.
- 7) Travel – Costs. 87 responses to questions indicated this was an impact. Example: Driving to an alternative incurs additional fuel costs.
- 8) Travel – Physical Access. 53 responses to questions indicated this was an impact. Example: Accessing an alternative was not possible due to a health limitation.
- 9) Swimming Club. 32 responses to questions indicated this was an impact. Example: There was additional costs to the club to operate from alternative venues.
- 10) Mental / Physical Health. 26 responses to questions indicated this was an impact. Example: The mental health of the participant had been negatively impacted.
- 11) Safeguarding – Children. 23 responses to questions indicated this was an impact. Example: Anxiety created by change of venue and routine.

- 12) Safeguarding – Adults. 22 responses to questions indicated this was an impact. Example: Anxiety created by change of venue and routine.
- 13) Additional Support Needs – Accessing Alternatives. 22 responses to questions indicated this was an impact. Example: Alternative provision not made available.
- 14) Children & Young Person Independence. 20 responses to questions indicated this was an impact. Example: Children could no longer attend swimming unaccompanied.
- 15) Social Connection. 19 responses to questions indicated this was an impact. Example: Interactions with friendship groups had stopped.
- 16) Alternatives – Costs. 13 responses to questions indicated this was an impact. Example: The cost of alternative swimming lessons was greater.
- 17) Nostalgia. 12 responses to questions indicated this was an impact. Example: Loss of shared family connection to the pool.
- 18) Community Value. 8 responses to questions indicated this was an impact. Example: Sense of community impacted.
- 19) Swimming Lessons (school). 4 responses to questions indicated this was an impact. Example: Frequency of school based swimming had been reduced.

Focus Groups

Three focus groups were held with 21 attendees in total. The comments and impacts matched with themes of the questionnaire. There were particularly strong views around these themes which perhaps weren't so well reflected in the questionnaire responses.

- a) Social connection. An impact was felt for the elderly and young people not meeting friends. With family sessions being limited elsewhere reducing the quality of family interactions
- b) Additional Support Needs – Accessing Alternatives. It was believed that the ASN sessions had not been replaced and that the impact on the pupils was significant.
- c) Swimming Lessons (schools). That schools and pupils from multiple primary schools has been negatively impacted. Both in terms of loss of time and sessions not being replaced.

Letters / Emails

Letters were submitted by a Sports Governing body and a swimming club based at Bucksburn. An email was submitted by an individual with a health condition outlining the impact of the closure. Summaries provided in Report Appendix C.

Equalities Summary

Questionnaire - 933 people provided one or more responses to the questions. A 97% response.

Focus Group - 5 people provided one or more responses to the questions. A 24% response.

A detailed breakdown is available in Report Appendix C.

	<p><u>Alternative Venues</u> The following venues are operated by Sport Aberdeen or part funded by the Council:- 2.8 Miles – Get Active @ Northfield 2.9 Miles – Dyce Academy Pool (lessons / club only) 4.2 Miles – Aberdeen Sports Village (ASV) 4.3 Miles – Bridge of Don Swimming Pool 6.7 Miles – Tullos Swimming Pool 6.9 Miles – Get Active @ Cults 8.5 Miles – Get Active @ Lochside</p> <p>Condition A: Good – Northfield, Tullos, Cults and Lochside Condition B: Satisfactory – Dyce Academy and Bridge of Don Suitability A: Good Northfield, Cults and Lochside Suitability B: Tullos Suitability C: Dyce (part of wider school assessment) Accessibility A: Good – Cults, Lochside Accessibility B: Satisfactory – Bridge of Don, Northfield (update required), Tullos Accessibility Not Assessed – Dyce Academy</p> <p>Note: Aberdeen Sports Village assumed to be A or B for both condition and suitability due to age of building. No requirement for the Council to make those assessments.</p>		
<p>Consultations with officers or partner organisations Please list your sources</p>	<p>Sport Aberdeen Equalities team ACC Chief Education Officer</p>		
<p>Other: Please list your sources</p>	<p>Campaign Group: Save Bucksburn Pool Swimming Club: Bucksburn Swimming Club (represented at 2 Focus Groups).</p>		
<p>Does this proposal contribute to the Public Sector Equality Duty to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations?</p>	<p>Yes – Option 1 See notes section.</p>	<p>No – Option 2</p>	<p>Unsure</p>
<p>Does this proposal contribute to the Council's Equality Outcomes 2021-25?</p>	<p>Yes – Option 2 See notes section.</p>	<p>No – Option 1</p>	<p>Unsure</p>
<p>Please note for any high negative or medium negative impacts identified (red or amber), a full Integrated Impact Assessment will be required (stage 2).</p>			
<p>Please provide a brief high-level summary that your policy will bring about:</p> <p>The decision to reduce funding to Sport Aberdeen had the adverse impact in that it led to the closure of Bucksburn pool. This IIA is being completed in the context of this decision being re-visited.</p> <p>Option 1 Medium impacts were identified against Age, Disability and Children and young people. The reason for identifying a medium impact was because of the strong consultation response regarding those</p>			

particular issues. Noting that users of the pool within those categories had stopped attending swimming based activities. As a consequence, a full assessment is required.

Low impacts were identified for Pregnancy / Maternity, Race and Sex.

The purpose of original proposal contributed to the Council setting a balanced budget.

Further data and examples used to inform this IIA can be found in Appendix C: Consultation Bucksburn Pool Report.

Option 2

This option will reverse any impacts identified by the closure of the pool. The assumption being that opening hours and timetables would be very similar to when the pools was operational. As such a Stage 2 assessment is not required for this option.

Will a full assessment be required?	Yes – Option 1	No – Option 2	Unsure
Assessment completed by: Name and job title	Stephen Booth Chief Officer		
Date:	1 December 2023		
Signed and approved by Chief Officer (Name and signature)	Corporate Landlord		
Date:	1December 2023		

If you have any queries or require this form in an alternative format, please contact

equality_and_diversity@aberdeencity.gov.uk

A fully completed and signed form should be mailed as a PDF to the above email address for publishing your assessment.



Integrated Impact Assessment Stage 2

This stage should be completed following Stage 1 of the Integrated Impact Assessment where required.

In this stage, focus is on assessments that have a high or medium negative impact and the proposed mitigations. Please tick which areas it might affect and provide a summary of your mitigating actions for the negative impacts identified. You do not need to give a mitigation for each article.

Integrated Impact Assessment

Human Rights

Does the proposal have an impact on [Human Rights](#)? Identify the relevant Article and record the relevant impact and describe as a summary the mitigating steps proposed.

	High / Medium Negative impact	Mitigations Please state/summarise your mitigating actions for the negative impact(s) identified in stage 1
Article 6 Right to a fair and public hearing	n/a	
Article 7 No punishment without law	n/a	
Article 8 Right to respect for private and family life, home and correspondence	n/a	
Article 9 Freedom of thought, conscience and religion	n/a	
Article 10 Freedom of expression	n/a	
Article 11 Freedom of assembly and association	n/a	
Article 12 Right to marry and to found a family	n/a	
Article 14 Right not to be subject to discrimination	n/a	
Article 1 of Protocol 1 Protection of property	n/a	
Article 2 of Protocol 1 Right to education	n/a	
Article 3 of Protocol 1 Right to free elections	n/a	

Children and Young People’s Rights

The United Nations Convention has 54 articles that cover all aspects of a child’s life and set out the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights that all children everywhere are entitled to. It also explains how adults and governments must work together to make sure all children can enjoy all their rights.

Children’s rights apply to every child/young person under the age of 18 and to adults still eligible to receive a “children’s service” (e.g. care leavers aged 18 – 25 years old).

Identify all Articles of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child ([UNCRC](#)) and [Optional Protocols](#) which are relevant to your proposal and record the relevant impact and describe the mitigating steps.

Please tick which areas it might affect and provide a summary of your mitigating actions. You do not need to give a mitigating step for each article.

	High / Medium Negative impact	Mitigations Please state/summarise your mitigating actions for the negative impact(s) identified in stage 1
Article 1 definition of the child		<p>Article 5 – Within responses and focus groups it was identified that there was loss of independence from children not being able to independently meet friends and use the pool. Focus groups: Raised at groups 1,2 and 3. Theme: Children & Young Person Independence. 20 responses.</p> <p><u>Mitigation</u> Encouraging older children to travel together. Policies are in place regarding unaccompanied children and young people accessing facilities. Children are supported by venue staff whilst using the facilities and are encouraged to use venues by the increase of available programming and junior/ teen specific programming and products. This impact can not be fully mitigated, although disadvantage is being mitigated where possible.</p> <p>Article 6 It was noted that children not having access may impact their swimming capability – this being a life skill. Focus groups: Raised at groups 1,2 and 3.</p>
Article 2 non-discrimination		
Article 3 best interests of the child		
Article 4 implementation of the convention		
Article 5 parental guidance and a child's evolving capacities	Medium	
Article 6 life, survival and development	Medium	
Article 7 birth registration, name, nationality, care		
Article 8 protection and preservation of identity		
Article 9 separation from parents		

		Theme: Swimming Lessons (non-school). 108 responses. Theme: Swimming Club. 32 responses. Theme: Swimming Lessons (school). 4 responses.
Article 10 family reunification		
Article 11 abduction and non-return of children		<u>Mitigation</u> Revised aquatics programme is in place across alternative venues. Swimming clubs provided with same allocation of training hours. Alternative programme put in place for P4 programme.
Article 12 respect for the views of the child		Transport costs for schools covered by Sport Aberdeen.
Article 13 freedom of expression		Article 23 Impact identified of ASN children being upset by the upheaval and alternatives not swimming provision being made available. Lack of quiet session was also noted.
Article 14 freedom of thought, belief and religion		Focus groups: Raised at groups 1, 2 and 3. Theme: Additional Support Needs – Accessing Alternatives. 22 responses. Theme: Safeguarding/safe spaces children. 9 responses.
Article 15 freedom of association		<u>Mitigation</u> Same days/times made available at alternative venues for ASN. Including modern facilities at Northfield. Gala events can be held at Northfield.
Article 16 right to privacy		Article 31 The loss of the pool has been identified as an impact for children. Both in terms of limiting/preventing swimming activities and limiting children's independence. Focus Groups: Raised at groups 1, 2 and 3. Theme: Additional Support Needs – Accessing Alternatives. 22 responses. Theme: Swimming Lessons (non-school). 108 responses. Theme: Swimming Club. 32 responses. Theme: Swimming Lessons (school). 4 responses.
Article 17 access to information from the media		Other Themes: Although it is not possible to assign numbers it can be assumed that other themes such as Travel – Time and Distance and Scheduling / Opening Times
Article 18 parental responsibilities and state assistance		
Article 19 protection from violence, abuse and neglect		
Article 20 children unable to live with their family		
Article 21 adoption		
Article 22 refugee children		
Article 23 children with a disability	Medium	
Article 24		

health and health services		would also have a negative impact on this Article.
Article 25 review of treatment in care		<p><u>Mitigation</u> Same days/times made available at alternative venues for ASN. Including modern facilities at Northfield. Gala events can be held at Northfield.</p> <p>Revised aquatics programme is in place across alternative venues.</p> <p>Swimming clubs provided with same allocation of training hours.</p> <p>Alternative programme put in place for P4 programme.</p> <p>Free bus travel.</p> <p>Other pools are available although transport and independent travel are identified as barriers.</p> <p>This impact cannot be fully mitigated, although disadvantage is being mitigated where possible.</p>
Article 26 social security		
Article 27 adequate standard of living		
Article 28 right to education		
Article 29 goals of education		
Article 30 children from minority or indigenous groups		
Article 31 leisure, play and culture	Medium	
Article 32 child labour		
Article 33 drug abuse		
Article 34 sexual exploitation		
Article 35 abduction, sale and trafficking		
Article 36 other forms of exploitation		
Article 37 inhumane treatment and detention		
Article 38 war and armed conflicts		
Article 39		

recovery from trauma and reintegration			
Article 40 juvenile justice			
Article 41 respect for higher national standards			
Article 42 knowledge of rights			
Optional Protocol on a Communications Procedure			

Protected Characteristics

Aberdeen City Council wants to ensure everyone is treated fairly. Identify the [protected characteristics](#) that your policy/ proposal affects and record the relevant impact and describe the mitigating steps.

	High / Medium Negative impact	Mitigations Please state/summarise your mitigating actions for the negative impact(s) identified in stage 1
Age A person belonging to a particular age (for example 32-year-olds) or range of ages (for example 18 to 30year olds).	Medium	Age Equalities data indicate that total age groups with impacts were as follows:- 65+ - 101 (80 stopped / reduced) 55-64 – 103 (80 stopped / reduced) 45-54 – 145 (81 stopped / reduced) 35-44 – 224 (111 stopped / reduced) 25-34 – 117 (61 stopped / reduced) 16-24 – 27 (14 stopped / reduced) Less than 16 – 19 (9 stopped / reduced)
Disability people with disabilities / long standing conditions	Medium	Data suggests the groups of 55-64 and 65+ groups have been disproportionately affected based on swimming activities stopping or being reduced.
Race (including Gypsy / Travellers) people from minority ethnic communities and different racial backgrounds		Focus Groups – raised at 1, 2 and 3. Themes based on the 55+ groups. Theme. Travel – Time and Distance. 102 responses to questions indicated this was an impact. Example: It takes longer to get to alternative provision.
Religion or belief people with different religion and belief to		

include those with no beliefs		Travel – Access. 74 responses to questions indicated this was an impact. Example: Two bus journeys were now required to access an alternative venue.
Sex - Gender identity men or women, boys and girls		Scheduling / Opening Times at alternatives. 48 responses to questions indicated this was an impact. Example: Alternative provision was not available at a suitable time making it impossible to continue to swim.
Pregnancy and maternity women who are pregnant and / or on maternity leave		Issues with alternative provision. 20 responses to questions indicated this was an impact. Example: An alternative venue was in poorer condition than Bucksburn.
Sexual orientation lesbian, gay, bisexual, heterosexual / straight		Loss of stair entry. 45 responses to questions indicated this was an impact. Example: The loss of stair entry meant swimming was no longer possible.
Gender reassignment anybody whose gender identity / expression is different to the sex assigned to them at birth		Travel – Costs. 21 responses to questions indicated this was an impact. Example: Driving to an alternative incurs additional fuel costs.
Marriage and civil partnership people who are married or in a civil partnership		Travel – Physical Access. 24 responses to questions indicated this was an impact. Example: Accessing an alternative was not possible due to a health limitation.
		<p><u>Mitigation</u> Other pools are available but are less convenient than Bucksburn. Free travel is available but generally required 2 buses and impacts on use.</p> <p>Disability The loss of the stair entry strongly featured as an impact. Physical access to alternative along with safeguarding impact were also evident.</p> <p>Focus Groups: Raised at groups 1, 2 and 3. Theme: Travel – Physical Access. 53 responses. Theme: Loss of Stair Entry. 108 responses. Theme: Safeguarding – Adults. 5 responses.</p> <p><u>Mitigation</u> All Sport Aberdeen pools and Aberdeen Sports Village are accessible. Gradual entry stairs in place at Tullos teaching pool and also at Get active @ Northfield providing wide access, double handrails and gradual access rather than a ladder.</p>

	<p>Review potential for installing further moveable steps.</p> <p>Access to Community Transport is available through ACC and ThInC for some of the specialist programs which allows for door-to-door transport (booked in advance for a small cost) for those with higher support needs/ mobility challenges.</p> <p>Venues all have public carparking availability with designated spaces for blue badge holders.</p> <p>Pool Lifeguard training (monthly) syllabus includes safeguarding and EDI awareness and scenario training.</p> <p>SA corporate induction is under review and includes a new 2 hour section on EDI and Customer Service. This will be finalised and rolled out to existing staff in the coming months and will be part of new start inductions ongoing.</p> <p>Formation of SA Inclusion Forum, a working group focused on developing and improving EDI across the facilities and programs.</p> <p>SA have signed up to the SAMH sports and physical activity charter, a sub group from the Inclusion Forum is working through the implementation of various initiatives to support people with their mental health.</p> <p>Partnerships with We too! To provide supported relaxed sessions for people with ASN.</p> <p>SA web page has been updated to include descriptions and accessibility information (including photos) for venues. This allows for people to gain familiarity prior to their visit and an understanding of what to expect.</p> <p>Active lifestyles team have contact support to assist with registering and booking programmed activity where people are unable or unwilling to use online services.</p> <p>Range of ways to access information (not all web based)</p> <p>Active Lifestyles programming in place to encourage participation in activity in a more relaxed and social setting.</p> <p>Northfield Pool has undergone Tackling Inequalities in Leisure accreditation.</p>
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Socio-Economic Inequalities

Not every person / family has access to regular income or savings. You should therefore consider the impact of your proposal on people who might be unemployed, single parents, people with lower education or literacy, looked after children, those with protected characteristics are just some examples.

Identify the group that your policy/ proposal affects and record the relevant impact and describe the mitigating steps.

	High / Medium Negative impact	Mitigations Please state/summarise your mitigating actions for the negative impact(s) identified in stage 1
Low income / income poverty – those who cannot afford regular bills, food, clothing payments.		
Low and/or no wealth – those who can meet basic living costs but have no savings for unexpected spend or provision for the future		
Material deprivation – those who cannot access basic goods and services, unable to repair/replace broken electrical goods, heat their homes or access to leisure or hobbies	Medium – 87 of respondents highlighted cost of travel to other facilities as a barrier to using alternatives or as an additional financial burden. Bucksburn is not in an area of deprivation. SIMD (Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation)	Free bus travel is available for u22, 60+ and an option for those with disabilities. Access to Community Transport is available through ACC. This impact can not be fully mitigated, although disadvantage is being mitigated where possible.
Area deprivation – consider where people live and where they work (accessibility and cost of transport)		
Socio-economic background – social class, parents’ education, employment, income.		

Consultation and monitoring

Have you undertaken any of form of consultation with any of the affected groups?	Yes	No
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Describe the consultation processes/methods undertaken and the number of participants/respondents	An online consultation was launched on 19 September 2023 and closed on 6 November 2023. A total of 987 responses were received with 29 indicating they had not used the pool in the last 5 years. To complement the online survey, 3 focus groups and a meeting with the Save Bucksburn Pool Campaign Group, were held to allow a greater focus on any common themes coming through the online consultation. 21 people attended the focus groups.
Summarise the changes or improvements that have been made to the policy because of the consultation.	The consultation has provided valuable insight into the importance of Bucksburn Pool. Impacts that affect people with certain protected characteristics have been further considered and mitigations identified to lessen the impact of the closure. It should be noted that not all impacts can be fully mitigated.
Set out what suggested changes or improvements that have not been made and why	The consultation was undertaken post closure of the pool so no suggested changes have been implemented or the purpose of this assessment.
What impact(s) has the consultation had upon your proposal?	The additional data gathered has been used to inform and prepare this assessment and create options within the main decision making report.
How will this policy be monitored	Sport Aberdeen collect utilisation data on an ongoing basis. This would be re-introduced should the pool be brought back into use.
Use this section to justify why your proposal should go ahead despite the negative impacts identified.	The report gives both option 1 and option 2. Each has a financial impact which is considered within the decision. A wider range of implications around the totality of the decision and other risks will influence the decision. Once a preferred option is chosen an action plan will be developed to review and implement the mitigation measures identified where practicable.

A wider range of implications around the totality of the decision and other risks will influence the decision.

Notes

Does this proposal contribute to the Public Sector Equality Duty to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations?

Having assessed the impact of Option 1, due regard to the three needs of the Public Sector Equality Duty has to be considered. The first need is to give due regard to the impact of agreeing Option 1 on those with protected characteristics in eliminating discrimination, harassment and victimisation. There is no evidence to suggest that implementing Option 1 will lead to harassment or victimisation. Turning to the impact on discrimination, it is noted that there may be an impact on certain protected characteristics particularly those with inter-sectional protected characteristics. There is no evidence of direct discrimination on grounds of a protected characteristic if this Option is chosen. It is also not clear that indirect discrimination would result in relation to certain protected characteristics. However, even if those with protected characteristics were disproportionately impacted by the policy, this Option could be justified as a proportionate means of achieving a legitimate aim. The Council has a legal obligation to balance its budget and this Option is a reasonably necessary means of achieving that aim in comparison with Option 2, when taking into account the costs of recommissioning, running and maintaining the swimming pool as well as capital costs. This Option is proportionate when balanced against the Council's legitimate aim on the basis that any potential impact on those with protected characteristics is reduced by the various mitigations.

The second need is to give due regard to the impact of agreeing Option 1 on the advancement equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not. It is acknowledged that the closure of the pool may have an impact on equality of opportunity for those with certain protected characteristics, namely Age, Disability, Children and Young People, Pregnancy and Maternity, Race and Sex.

The third need is to give due regard to the impact of agreeing Option 1 on fostering good relations with those who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not. There is no evidence to suggest that the closure of the pool would have any impact on the fostering of good relations between those groups.

Having assessed the impact of Option 2, due regard to the three needs of the Public Sector Equality Duty also needs to be considered. Option 2 simply reverses any impacts identified by Option 1. As such, the risk of discrimination or the impact on equality of opportunity in relation to those with certain protected characteristics would be reduced. However, budget savings would require to be found in other areas, which would be likely to lead to other cuts in services which would have implications for those with protected characteristics. The amount of savings to be found in other areas would also be greater as extra resources to fund the recommissioning of the swimming pool would need to be identified.

Does this proposal contribute to the Council's Equality Outcomes 2021-25?

Within the Equalities outcomes 2021 to 25. 3 outcome are noted for the City Council in a number of roles. The councils role as a service provider are relevant to this assessment.

EO 1 - All people with protected characteristics will access information, goods and services knowing that social and physical barriers are identified and removed, with a focus on Age, Gender reassignment and Disability.

The IIA highlights that the option to close the pool will have an impact on the wider community and those with protected characteristics. In particular there are physical barriers to access swimming in other venues due to sessions availability, physical design of facilities or travel time distance and Integrated Impact Assessment

costs to get there. This has particular impact on older and younger age group as identified through focus groups. Whilst there are some mitigations such as free bus travel for some parts of the community and physical adaptation to other venues this cannot be fully mitigated.

EO 2- Diverse communities in Aberdeen will have an increased sense of safety and belonging within their neighbourhood and City, with a focus on Race (including Gypsy/Travellers), Religion and Sexual Orientation.

Belonging can be derived from using pools as a social space around an activity for gathering and integration. focus groups suggested that social gathering moments were lost so there is an impact if option 1 is implemented. this would be improved if option 2 is selected.

EO 3 – Representation in civic participation of people with protected characteristics will be improved by ensuring our leaders, staff and organisation champion the equality agenda in the City, with a focus on Disability, Race and Sex.

Not affected by proposals or options.

Authorisation and sign off: for Stage 2:

Title of Policy / proposal:	Closure of Bucksburn Pool	
Directorate and Cluster:	Resources / Corporate Landlord	
Policy and assessment author (s)	Name: Alastair Reid Job title: Team Leader – Asset management Date: 1 December 2023	Name: Job title: Date:
Authorised and approved by Director or Chief Officer	Name: Stephen Booth Job title: Chief Officer Date: 1 December 2023	Name: Job title: Date:

Following completion and approval, please email your completed assessment to: equality_and_diversity@aberdeencity.gov.uk

Q3. . Do you live, work, study or care for someone in Aberdeen City?

Do you live, work, study or care for someone in Aberdeen City?

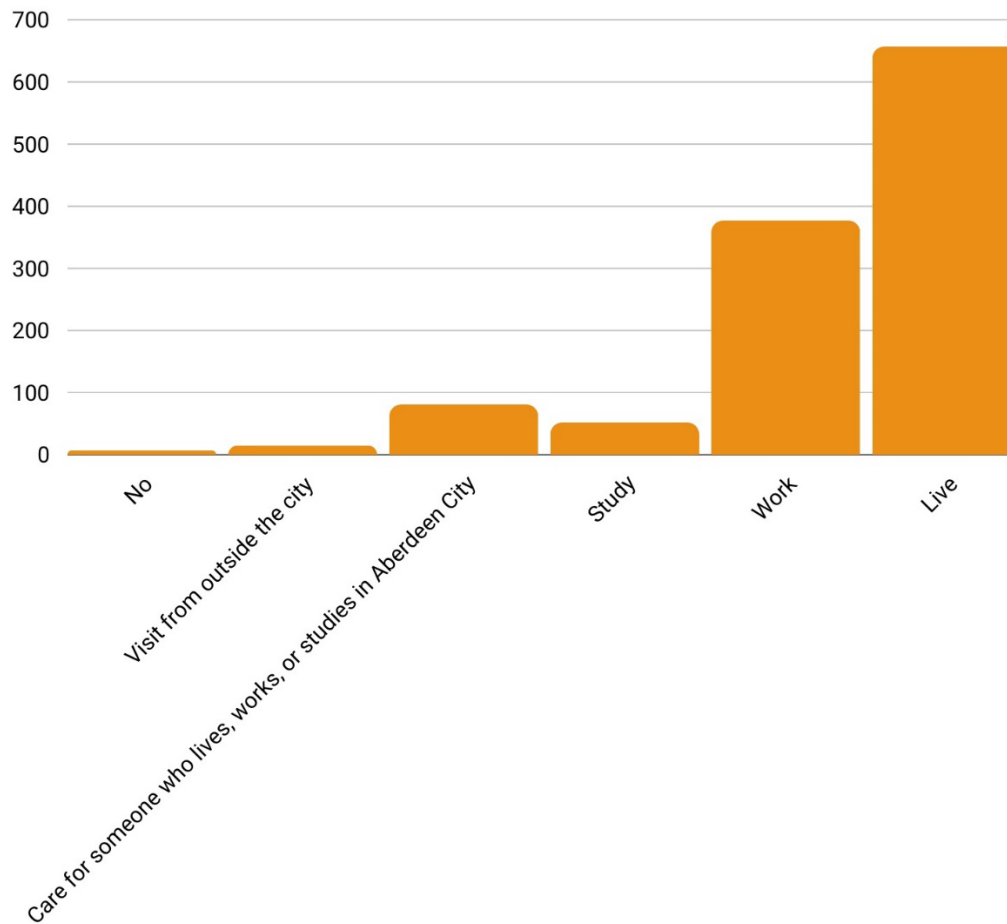


Figure 2: Live, work, study or care for someone in Aberdeen

No	7
Visit from outside the city	15
Care for someone who live, works or studies in the city	18
Study	52
Work	377
Live	657

Q6. Do you access Aberdeen City Libraries digital services?

Do you access Aberdeen City Libraries digital services?

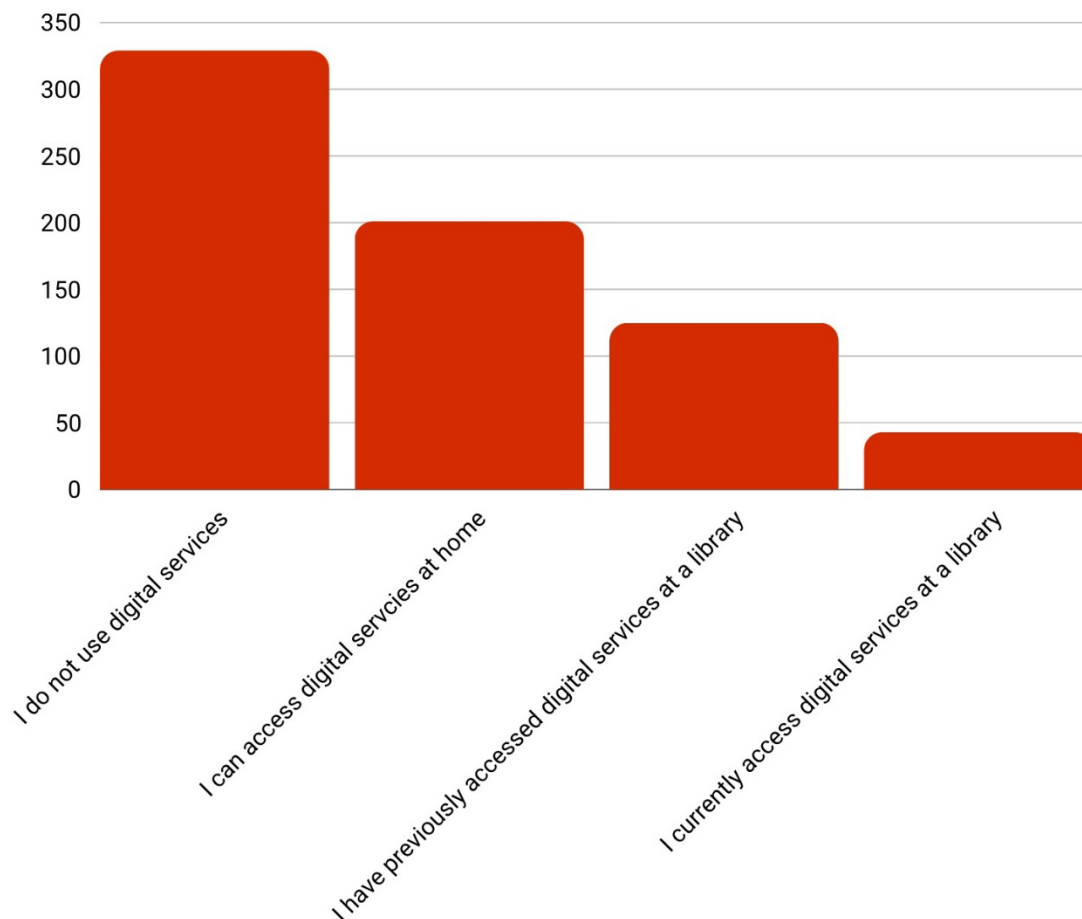


Figure 5: Access to Aberdeen City Libraries Digital Service

I do not use digital services	329
I can access digital services at home	201
I have previously accessed digital services at a library	125
I currently access digital services at a library	43

46% of survey respondents do not use digital library services, 28% can access digital library services at home, 17% of respondents have previously accessed detail services at a library, with 6% currently accessing library services at a library. Therefore 34% of respondents are accessing the digital library offer.

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Council
DATE	13 December 2023
EXEMPT	No
CONFIDENTIAL	No
REPORT TITLE	Budget Protocol: Phase 2 Consultation & Budget Update
REPORT NUMBER	RES/23/388
DIRECTOR	Steve Whyte / Gale Beattie
CHIEF OFFICER	Jonathan Belford / Martin Murchie
REPORT AUTHOR	Jonathan Belford / Martin Murchie
TERMS OF REFERENCE	2

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The report satisfies the requirements of the approved Budget Protocol, in respect of reporting to Council the results of the Phase 2 Public Budget Consultation, which includes details of the current estimated budget position for 2024/25, the budget options and the Integrated Impact Assessments (IIA).

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That Council

- 2.1 Note the contents of the report;
- 2.2 Approve the updated Medium Term Financial Strategy position for the General Fund, per paragraph 3.13, and latest budget gap for 2024/25; and
- 2.3 Note that the Council will be presented with the final budget position and the request to approve a balanced General Fund Revenue and Capital Budget, and set Council Tax for 2024/25 at the Budget meeting on 6 March 2024.

3. CURRENT SITUATION

- 3.1 On 23 August 2023 the Council approved the latest Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) (RES/23/250). This included the feedback on the Phase 1 Public Budget Consultation, which had been carried out in July 2023, and was the initial engagement step set out in the approved Budget Protocol (COM/23/162). This provided the Council with information about where the priorities of the public lie in regard to Council services.
- 3.2 The MTFS sets out scenarios for the future financial position of the Council and the Council agreed that for the second phase of public consultation the Central

Scenario would be used and that the results of this will be reported to Council in December 2023, in accordance with the Budget Protocol.

3.3 The approved MTFs shows the budget gap for the General Fund for the next five years as follows:

After Assumed Savings:	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29
General Fund Budget Gap	£M	£M	£M	£M	£M	£M
Downside Scenario	0	65	124	168	201	240
Central Scenario	0	35	62	76	83	95
Upside Scenario	0	10	18	13	-2	-3

3.4 The Central Scenario, a budget gap of £83m over the next four years (used as it is the end of the current Council term) was therefore included in the Phase 2 exercise. The Phase 2 simulator was made available online from 11 October 2023 to 12 November 2023.

3.5 The Budget Protocol is in its first year of operation and was designed to strengthen the governance around our budget setting process, particularly to help us to understand the impact of budget options on our Public Sector Equality Duty under the Equality Act before decisions are made by elected members in March 2024. Members must have due regard to the impacts when setting the budget and officers must assess the impacts and any mitigations which will minimise those impacts. The stages agreed by the Protocol are set out immediately below:

Update Medium Term Financial Strategy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Phase 1 Public Consultation – Gather Information on Priorities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Phase 1 Public Consultation – Feedback reported as part of Medium-Term Financial Strategy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Develop budget options, using Phase 1 Public Consultation, and draft/update IIAs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Elected Member Workshops to be held on budget options before going into the public domain	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Phase 2 Public Consultation including targeted consultation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Update IIAs following Phase 2 Public Consultation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Elected Member Workshops to develop budgets	January
Groups submit budgets to Chief Finance Officer (three days from publication of reports)	March

3.6 Phase 2 of public consultation has now been completed and Integrated Impact Assessments (IIAs), the Council's tool for recording the impact of proposals on groups of people with protected characteristics, are being updated using the data collected through this engagement, as well as data held internally about service users. This will allow further targeted engagement to take place with any relevant groups or individuals that may be negatively impacted by any of the options, and this feedback will be incorporated into the IIAs referred to by members at the budget meeting (drafts will be shared with elected members as part of this meeting). These IIAs continue to be updated and are live, iterative, documents, taking account of the requirement for all budget options to be legally competent and financially achievable, as well as the duty to have due regard to the impact of these options on protected characteristics groups, at the point of decision making.



3.8 A revised IIA template will be introduced from 1st January 2024 and will reflect improvements to ensure that, when budget decisions are being made, members have full information to allow them to have due regard under the Equality Act. This new template will be provided to Elected Members as part of the final budget options next year. Officers will also report to Council following the approval of the budget on lessons learned during the first year of the Protocol’s operation and any proposed refinements to process.

Phase 2 Public Consultation

3.9 The Phase 2 simulator was completed by 2,654 people. This represents approximately 1% of the population of Aberdeen. 146 of those respondents indicated that they live outside Aberdeen. People completing the simulator ranging in age from teenagers to those in their nineties.

3.10 The simulator presented people with resolving the budget gap of £83m, using the options for saving expenditure or increasing income. 18.5% of completed responses balanced the budget.

3.11 A summary of the results and feedback is included as Appendix 1.

Current Estimated Budget for 2024/25

3.12 Noted above at 3.3 is the forecast for the General Fund budget gap, as set out in the MTF5, 2023. That financial landscape evolves, and can mean that changes to the budget gap can rise and fall throughout the course of the year.

3.13 Since the approval of the MTFS in August 2023 a number of specific modelling changes are able to be incorporated into the financial model that have both a positive and negative impact on the overall budget gap. These changes result in the following updated position for 2024/25 to 2028/29.

Budget Forecasts - General Fund	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Children's & Family Services	232,160	242,759	250,990	256,152	260,967	265,722
Commissioning	18,565	19,806	21,041	21,658	22,236	22,800
Customer	42,404	45,995	49,240	51,336	53,105	54,717
Integrated Joint Board	120,781	120,781	120,781	120,781	120,781	120,781
Resources	53,259	58,950	67,122	70,143	74,419	76,360
Corporate	91,725	104,170	111,718	122,638	135,926	143,544
Total Expenditure	558,894	592,461	620,891	642,709	667,435	683,925
Funded By						
General Revenue Grant	(154,116)	(163,481)	(163,304)	(164,666)	(166,040)	(167,427)
NNDR	(257,797)	(257,797)	(257,501)	(259,780)	(262,079)	(264,398)
Council Tax	(137,908)	(138,977)	(140,047)	(140,564)	(141,082)	(141,599)
Use of Reserves	(9,072)	(3,577)	(3,577)	(3,577)	(3,577)	(3,577)
Total Income	(558,894)	(563,833)	(564,428)	(568,587)	(572,778)	(577,001)
Gap (Cumulative)	0	28,628	56,463	74,122	94,657	106,923
MTFS Assumptions re Savings from:						
Council Transformation	0	(7,611)	1,367	(2,699)	(12,744)	0
Multi-Agency Transformation	0	(500)	(1,025)	(1,285)	(1,200)	0
Efficiencies	0	(135)	(1,262)	0	0	0
Net Position (Central Scenario)	0	20,382	47,297	60,972	67,563	79,830

3.14 The main changes included are as follow:

- Local Government Pension Scheme – on a three year basis the contribution rates to the pension fund are reset by the Pension Fund and Scheme Actuary. These will be finalised and signed off by the Actuary in the last quarter of the year, and rates will apply from 1 April 2024. The indicative contribution rates for Aberdeen City Council show that a reduction in the employer rate from 17.9% to 10.5% will apply. The financial model has been updated to take account of reduced pension contributions for those employees who are members of the North East Scotland Pension Fund (£11.8m).
- Scottish Teachers Pension Scheme – the SPPA has issued Teachers Circular 2023/08, Change to Employer Contribution Rate from 1 April 2024. This confirms employer contributions will rise to 26% from 1 April 2024 subject to the necessary regulations being approved by Parliament; and that the current employer rate of 23% will continue to apply until 31 March 2024. The additional cost to the Council for those teachers who are members of the Teachers Pension Scheme (an unfunded scheme) has been included in the revised financial model (£2.2m).
- General Revenue Grant - Scottish Government Funding – in the past the higher cost of Teachers pensions has resulted in funding consequential

for Scotland, with the funding passported by Scottish Government to Councils. The assumption is that this will apply for the increase from 1 April 2024 as noted above (£2.2m). It is unclear at time of writing what the financial impact will be and it will not be known until the Scottish Budget for 2024/25 is published, at the earliest, if any funding will be passed in full to Councils.

- General Revenue Grant - Scottish Government Funding – commitment has been given to recurring funding being provided to support the implementation of the 2023/24 pay award. This amounts to approximately £94m for Scotland and the modelling assumption in the MTFS was that £2.9m of cost pressure would arise. With the commitment made, additional income (£2.9m) can be included in the financial model.

3.15 Note, no adjustment or assumption has been incorporated into the financial model for the announcement by the First Minister that Council Tax will be frozen for 2024/25. The Scottish Government has said that it will fully fund the freeze. That said, the implications for Local Government will not be known until after the Scottish Budget for 2024/25 has been announced on 19 December 2023. The Local Government Financial Settlement for 2024/25 is expected to set out the details and will only be available after the Scottish Budget is published.

Budget Options

- 3.16 As contained in the approved MTFS (RES/23/250) closing the budget gap relies on a wider range of solutions. Assumed within the MTFS are savings arising from Transformation Programme, Multi-Agency Collaboration and Efficiencies. The work to address these projects and programmes continues having been approved as part of the TOM1.2 (CUS/22/171) and associated reports. These savings and income generation opportunities amount to £8.2m in 2024/25 and £27.1m over the five years. Officers will work on delivering the financial benefits from that work and where appropriate report to committee or Council through normal governance arrangements. This only addresses a proportion of the identified budget gap.
- 3.17 The Phase 2 Budget Consultation simulator presented a wide range of options to enable the closing of the budget gap, including savings options and income generation options. In general, these options have an impact on service levels, service standards or the cost of services and in turn will affect citizens, businesses and visitors.
- 3.18 The timing of the implementation for the options was varied, shown to be achievable in the first year (2024/25) through to the final consultation year, year four (2027/28).
- 3.19 For the purposes of managing the volume of options listed in the consultation simulator some options were grouped with others, where they were of a similar nature. The list of all of the options that were available to the public is included in Appendix 2, including the titles of the lower level detail options. The options have also been prepared to show the individual year in which savings are planned for implementation.

- 3.20 Access to the current versions of Integrated Impact Assessments is provided through this report to each of the budgets options shown.
- 3.21 Included in Appendix 2 is the option in relation to Council Tax. The Council Tax is a vital income stream for the Council, therefore it is important that due consideration is given to changing this as part of the budget setting process. The Council has the power to set Council Tax, and in exercising that power will have to include consideration of the financial position, the financial settlement received from Scottish Government and any conditions or penalties that apply to our funding. I have included, as Chief Officer – Finance, my planning assumptions for Council Tax over the next four years in the Appendix, which were based on inflation levels and the expectation of this falling over time.
- 3.22 Looking at the data from the consultation approximately 40% of respondents indicated a preference for no rise in Council Tax.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no financial implications arising directly from this report, however the content of the report describes the current estimate for the financial parameters next year, that will be further updated and presented to the Council in March 2024 to approve the Budgets for 2024/25, and set Council Tax for that year.
- 4.2 The General Fund financial position for 2024/25 has changed from a budget gap of £35m (described in the MTFFS 2023) to a revised gap of £20.382m.
- 4.3 The Phase 2 Budget Consultation simulator sought feedback on a budget gap over four years of £83m and options to close that gap were presented in the form of how to save money by reducing, stopping, changing services that are currently delivered; or how to increase income from our services through fees and charges and also by raising the rate of Council Tax.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no direct legal implications in this report as no decision is required at this stage.
- 5.2 Aberdeen City Council has to comply with the Equality Act 2010 by giving due regard to the needs of the public sector equality duty. All budget options that are presented to Elected Members in 2024 will be subject to appropriate Integrated Impact Assessments, and all options will also be assessed for any specific legal implications.

6. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

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

7. RISK

Category	Risks	Primary Controls/Control Actions to achieve Target Risk Level	*Target Risk Level (L, M or H) <small>*taking into account controls/control actions</small>	*Does Target Risk Level Match Appetite Set?
Strategic Risk	Use of the General Fund fails to achieve intended strategic objectives.	Commissioning approach and service design built around stretch outcomes in the LOIP.	L	Yes
Compliance	Not preparing to set a balanced budget and set council tax.	Scrutiny and checking of budget proposals by S.95 Officer, reports and budget pack prepared with appropriate detail to enable and support decision making.	L	Yes
Operational	Options available to balance the budget have an adverse impact on the volume and quality of the services delivered.	Consulting on the options provides insight into the views of the public and implications that may arise.	M	Yes
Financial	Assumptions and judgements used for budget model and options are very different from what the Council faces in 2024/25 leading to additional	The latest and most up to date information has been used to calculate and shape the budget model and will continue to be refined in advance of the Budget Report being prepared.	H	Yes

Category	Risks	Primary Controls/Control Actions to achieve Target Risk Level	*Target Risk Level (L, M or H) *taking into account controls/control actions	*Does Target Risk Level Match Appetite Set?
	<p>action having to be taken during the year.</p> <p>Poor financial sustainability</p>	<p>The report provides details of options that are generally of a recurring nature and would provide the opportunity to balance the budget on a sustainable basis for 2024/25. information by services and corporately by Elected Members.</p>	M	Yes
Reputational	<p>Failure to prepare to manage finances including the potential impact on the Council's credit rating.</p>	<p>Year-round approach to financial planning, including Medium-term financial planning refreshed annually, options identification and transformation programme actions being progressed.</p>	L	Yes
Environment / Climate	<p>Failure to recognise the local vision and national targets and to make choices that support the delivery of target.</p>	<p>Service redesign work will consider, where appropriate, the environmental impact of changes.</p>	M	Yes

8. OUTCOMES

<u>COUNCIL DELIVERY PLAN 2023-2024</u>	
Impact of Report	
<p>Aberdeen City Council Policy Statement</p> <p><u>Working in Partnership for Aberdeen</u></p>	<p>Financial planning, budget setting and resource allocation are all enablers for the delivery of the outcomes and regular performance reviews ensure that the Council's stewardship and financial management are robust.</p>
<u>Aberdeen City Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2016-26</u>	
Prosperous Economy Stretch Outcomes	Robust and effective management of the Council's finances will ensure that services can continue to be provided, which are in pursuit of the stretch outcomes.
Prosperous People Stretch Outcomes	Robust and effective management of the Council's finances will ensure that services can continue to be provided, which are in pursuit of the stretch outcomes.
Prosperous Place Stretch Outcomes	Robust and effective management of the Council's finances will ensure that services can continue to be provided, which are in pursuit of the stretch outcomes.

9. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Assessment	Outcome
Integrated Impact Assessment	<p>The Council must have due regard to protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010. The budget proposals presented in this report are subject to impact assessment screening by the relevant Chief Officers. This enables officers to ensure proactive steps are taken to identify and mitigate any potential discrimination and violation of human rights and children's rights.</p> <p>Feedback from the Phase 2 Budget Consultation is being used in completing the Integrated Impact Assessments.</p> <p>The draft IIAs for the described budget options are available to elected members.</p>
Data Protection Impact Assessment	Not required
Other	The Fairer Scotland Duty places a legal responsibility on the Council to actively consider how inequalities of

	outcome, caused by socio-economic disadvantage, can be reduced. Budget options described in this report are subject to consideration of the Fairer Scotland Duty as part of impact assessment screening.
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10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 10.1 Medium Term Financial Strategy, 2023 [RES/23/250].
- 10.2 [Budget Protocol 2023](#)

11. APPENDICES

- 11.1 Appendix 1: Budget Consultation 2023 Phase 2 - Summary Analysis
- 11.2 Appendix 2: Draft Budget Options

12. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

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Aberdeen City Council
Budget Consultation 2023 Phase 2
Summary Analysis

Introduction

Aberdeen City Council's Phase 2 Budget Consultation ran from 11th October, 2023 to 12th November 2023. The consultation used an online simulator tool which invited respondents to select preferences in

relation to a range of potential changes to Council Tax, Fees and Charges and the delivery of council services. These options reflected an anticipated budget gap of £83M over the financial years 2024/25 to 2027/28.

52 potential service change options were included in the consultation, as well as 6 fees and charges options and the level of Council Tax.

Number and Breakdown of Respondents

In total the consultation received 2,654 responses¹. Demographic information was collected from respondents² covering geography, age, employment, sex, sexual orientation, trans history, ethnicity and nationality, religion, marital status, disability and caring.

The overall respondent demography is shown below:

Please tell us the area where you live?	Number
Cults, Bieldside & Milltimber Ferryhill	209
Blank	203
Central	178
Bucksburn	164
Outside Aberdeen	146
West End	134
Kincorth, Leggart & Nigg Torry	121
Braeside, Mannofield, Broomhill & Seafield	117
Cove	90
Danestone	87
Kingswells	85
Balgownie & Donmouth	81
Dyce	81
Hazlehead	81
Rosemount	77
Oldmachar	75
Northfield	62
Mastrick	54
Ashgrove	50
Culter	50
Midsocket	49

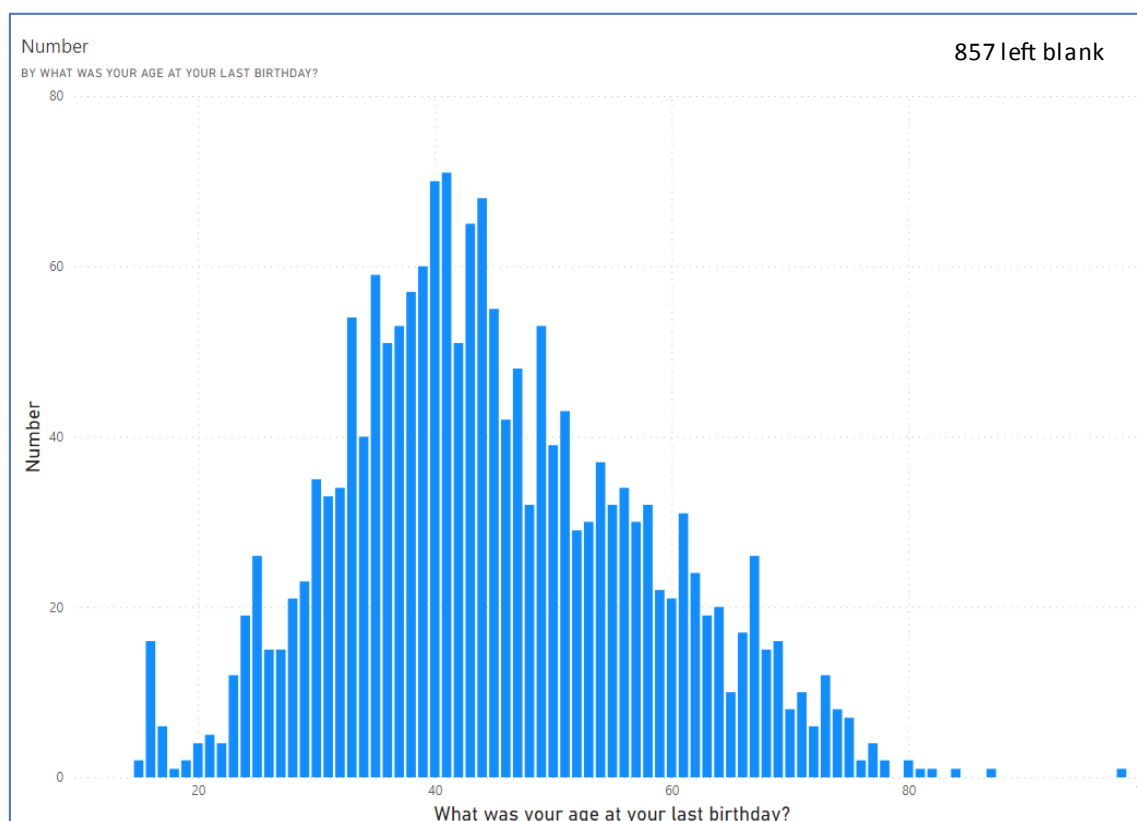
¹ It is not possible to determine if all responses are from different individuals.

² Completing demographic data was not necessary to complete the consultation.

Garthdee	46
Old Aberdeen	43
Hilton	42
Don't know	41
Sheddocksley	35
Woodside	34
Denmore	33
Summerhill	33
Tillydrone	31
George Street	28
Seaton	26
Stockethill	17
Froghall, Powis & Sunnybank	13
Heathryfold	13
Middlefield	12
Cummings Park	8
Hanover	5

What is your sex?	Number
Female	1124
Male	904
Blank	494
Prefer not to say	124
Other	8

What was your age at your last birthday?



What religion, religious denomination or body do you belong to?	Number
None	1259
Blank	655
Church Of Scotland	262
Prefer not to say	156
Other Christian	144
Roman Catholic	111
Other Religion or Body	25
Pagan	12
Muslim	11
Buddhist	8
Hindu	7
Jewish	3
Sikh	1

What is your employment status?	Number
Working full time	1418
Blank	422
Working part time	324
Retired	225
Prefer not to say	73
Undertaking full time education or training as a student	46

Other	43
Long-term sick or disabled	42
Unemployed	21
Full time carer	20
Undertaking full time education as a pupil at school	20

What is your sexual orientation?	Number
Straight / Heterosexual	1631
Blank	631
Prefer not to say	251
Gay or Lesbian	69
Bisexual	54
Other sexual orientation	18

What is your legal marital status?	Number
Married	994
Blank	931
Never married and never registered in a civil partnership	432
Divorced	117
Prefer not to say	103
Widowed	35
Separated but still legally married	33
In a registered civil partnership	4
Surviving partner from civil partnership	3
Formally in a civil partnership but now legally dissolved	1
Separated but still legally in a civil partnership	1

Do you look after, or give any help or support to family members, friends, neighbours or others because of either: long-term physical/ mental ill-health/ disability; or problems related to old age? Do not count anything you do as part of your paid employment.	Number
No	1223
Blank	888
Yes	403
Prefer not to say	140

Do you consider yourself to be trans, or have a trans history?	Number
No	1571
Blank	910
Prefer not to say	165
Yes	8

Are your day-to-day activities limited because of a health problem or disability which has lasted, or is expected to last, at least 12 months? Include problems related to old age.	Number
No	1545
Blank	735
Yes	237
Prefer not to say	137

Please indicate your ethnicity and nationality by selecting the relevant option from the list below.	Number
White – Scottish	1205
Blank	853
White – British	332
Other White Ethnic Group	69
Prefer not to say	56
White - Eastern European	36
African, Scottish African or British African	24
Mixed Or Multiple	16
White – Irish	13
Indian, Scottish Indian or British Indian	11
Other Ethnic Group	11
Chinese, Scottish Chinese or British Chinese	9
African – Other Caribbean or Black	7
Other Asian, Scottish Asian or British Asian	5
Pakistani, Scottish Pakistani or British Pakistani	4
Arab, Scottish Arab or British Arab	1
White - Gypsy/Traveller	1
White – Roma	1

- There is some correlation between the numbers of respondents living in different areas of the City and levels of deprivation as measured by the Scottish Indices of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD). Areas with more deprivation tend to have a lower level of response. 17% of all responses stated they lived in an area with some datazones in SIMD 1 (i.e. the 0 – 20% most deprived);
- Of those stating their sex, 55% were women;
- Very few (<10) respondents were under 18;
- For ethnicity and nationality 2,446 of 2,654 (92%) chose “White – Scottish”; “White – British”; “Prefer not to say”; or were “Blank”.

Analysis Methodology

Quantitative

The consultation tool (“Simulator”) required respondents to take a view on each option and select one of a number of possible positions for each. These were:

Council Tax (separately for the financial years 2024/25 to 2027/28)	Fees & Charges	Service Options
0% (increase)	2% (increase)	0% (reduction)
2%	4%	50%
4%	6%	100%
6%	8%	
8%	10%	
10%		
12%		
14%		
16%		

The data were extracted from the “Simulator” directly to MS Excel and, from there, transformed using PowerBi. The results were then charted in PowerBi.

Qualitative Analysis of Comments by Option

In order to make sense of the large number and variety of comments received and to identify the most important issues raised for each option, qualitative analyses of the comments was undertaken using an adapted Framework Analysis approach.

This Framework Analysis approach is a qualitative research method that provides a structured approach to qualitative analysis and helps to identify patterns, themes and relationships in the data. This was considered an appropriate approach as the online consultation used more than 60 pre-determined options.

There are a number of general steps in a Framework Analysis, including:

1. Familiarisation with the data
2. Coding (identifying themes and sub-themes)
3. Charting
4. Mapping and interpretation (understanding relationships within and between themes and sub-themes)
5. Reporting

Comments received on each of the options were inputted into Excel. The framework approach was followed, firstly through familiarisation with the data, whereby the researcher read all comments received. The remaining Framework analysis steps, coding, charting, mapping and interpretation and reporting, were then applied.

By grouping similar types of comments and suggestions, a range of response sub-themes emerged from the comments within each group of options. Once, the sub-themes were identified for each group, these were further refined so the prevalent issues were identified.

This process enabled the researcher to understand the content of the comments, identify similarities in content and meaning that came up repeatedly, and collate similar type comments to each sub-theme code. This was repeated across all groups. The number of comments coded within each sub-theme was charted using PowerBi.

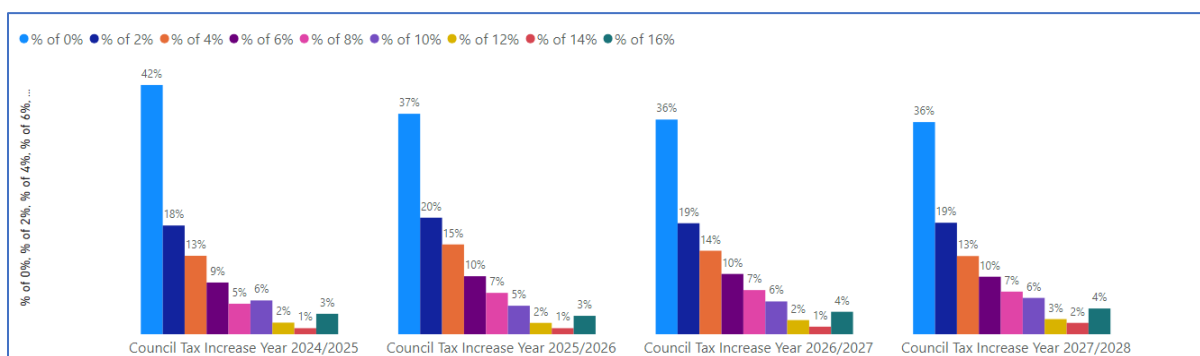
A text summary of the comments made in each group has been generated using Microsoft tools and reviewed and amended by the researcher.

Analysis of Individual Budget Options

1. Council Tax

Budget Options – Selections by Respondents

The following figures show the number and percentages of budget choices respondents made in the simulator.



	0%		2%		4%		6%		8%		10%		12%		14%		16%	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
2024/2025	988	42%	431	18%	311	13%	205	9%	121	5%	134	6%	46	2%	24	1%	81	3%
2025/2026	874	37%	462	19%	356	15%	230	10%	164	7%	113	5%	45	2%	24	1%	73	3%
2026/2027	851	36%	440	18%	331	14%	239	10%	175	7%	130	6%	56	2%	30	1%	89	4%
2027/2028	841	36%	442	18%	310	13%	228	10%	169	7%	144	6%	60	3%	45	2%	102	4%

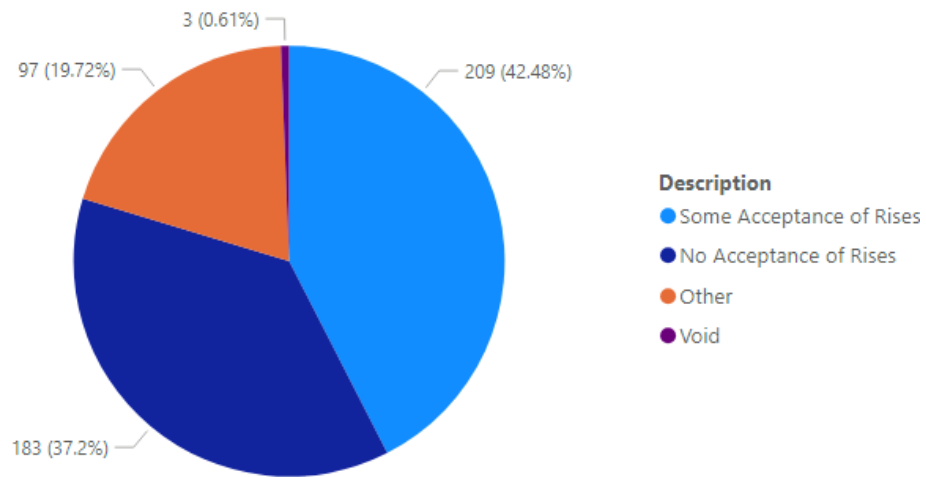
Summary of Comments

492 separate comments were received.

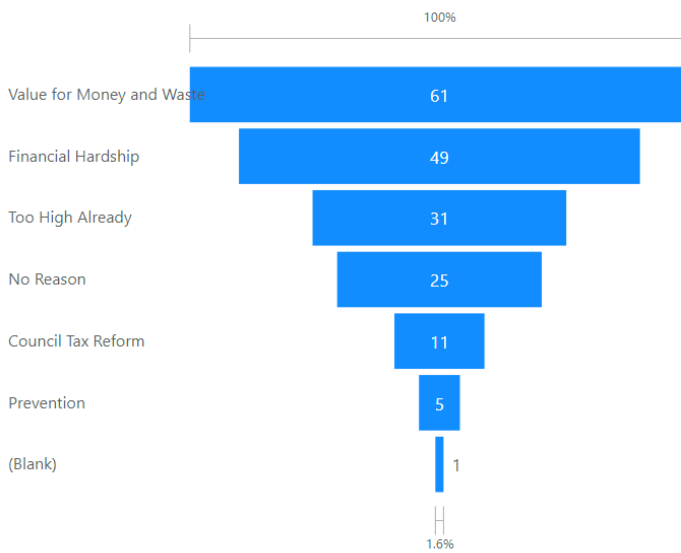
- **Council tax opinions:** Respondents’ opinions about the council tax were mostly negative or critical.
- **Council tax alternatives:** Some of the opinions suggest alternatives to the council tax, such as a local income tax, a revaluation of properties, or a more progressive system based on wealth or income.
- **Council tax impact:** Many of the opinions express concerns about the impact of council tax increases on low-income families, pensioners, single people, and renters, especially in the context of the cost of living crisis and the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Council tax services:** Some of the opinions question the value of the council tax for the services they receive, such as waste collection, road maintenance, libraries, and swimming pools. They also criticize the council for wasting money on projects, such as the bus gates and the low emission zone.
- **Council tax fairness:** A few of the opinions argue that the council tax is unfair or outdated, and that it does not reflect the current property values, the size of the household, the usage of services, or the ability to pay.

The comments have been categorized as follows:

Number of Responses by Main Category

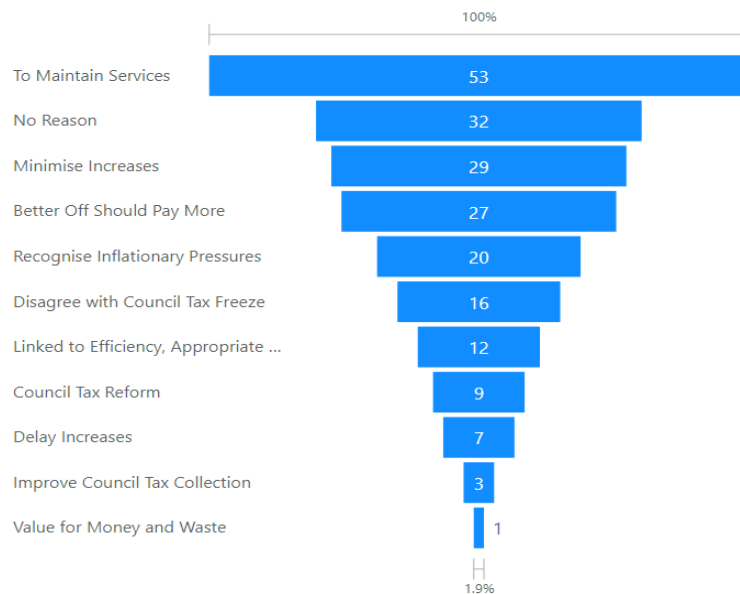


Number of Responses by Sub-Category



No Acceptance of Rise

Number of Responses by Sub-Category

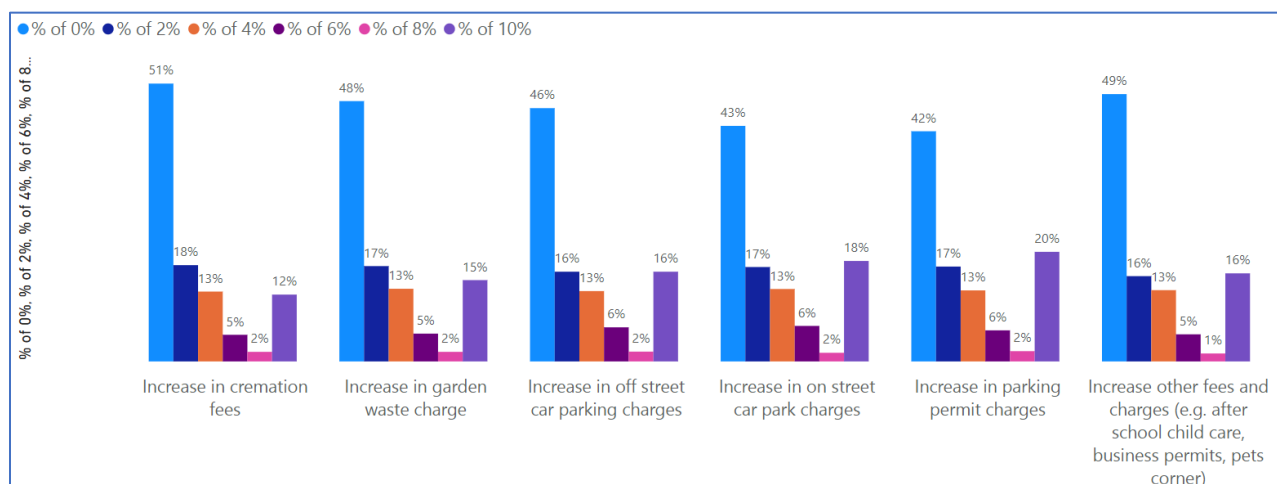


Some Acceptance of Rise

2. Fees and Charges

Budget Options – Selections by Respondents

The following figures show the number and percentages of budget choices respondents made in the simulator.



	0%		2%		4%		6%		8%		10%	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Increase in cremation fees	1189	51%	412	18%	299	13%	114	5%	41	2%	286	12%
Increase in garden waste charge	1114	48%	408	17%	311	13%	119	5%	41	2%	348	15%
Increase in off street car parking charges	1084	46%	384	16%	301	13%	146	6%	42	2%	384	16%
Increase in on street car park charges	1008	43%	404	17%	310	13%	152	6%	37	2%	430	18%
Increase in parking permit charges	985	42%	406	17%	304	13%	133	6%	44	2%	469	20%
Increase other fees and charges (e.g. after school child care, business permits, pets corner)	1144	49%	365	16%	305	13%	116	5%	34	1%	377	16%

Summary of Comments

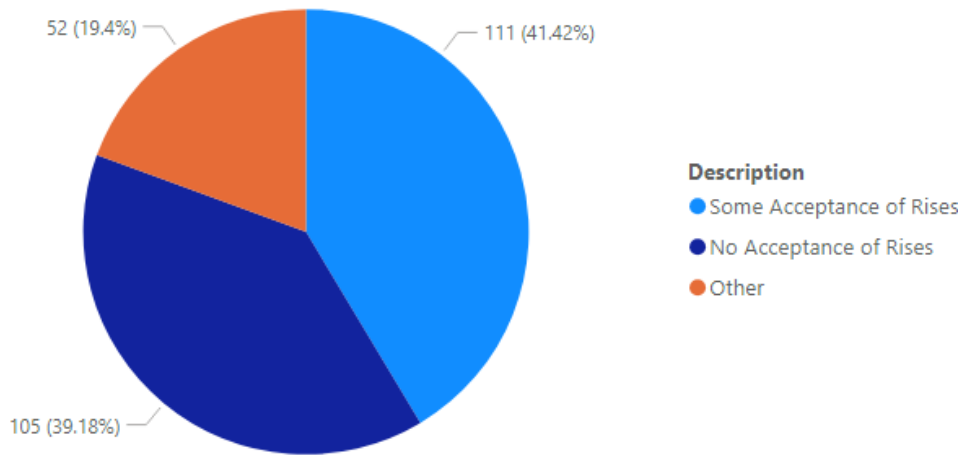
268 separate comments were received.

- The responses vary widely in their opinions and suggestions:** The responses show a range of opinions and suggestions. Some people support increasing the fees and charges, especially for car owners, to reduce traffic and pollution and encourage public transport. Others oppose any increase and argue that the fees and charges are already too high and discourage visitors and businesses from the city centre. Some people suggest cutting other costs, such as council staffing, administration, or projects, instead of raising fees and charges. Some people also comment on specific services, such as garden waste, after school child care, or pets corner, and how they should be treated differently.
- The responses reflect the current challenges and concerns of the residents:** The responses indicate that many people are facing financial difficulties and are worried about the cost of living, especially in light of the pandemic and the climate crisis. Some people express frustration with the council's

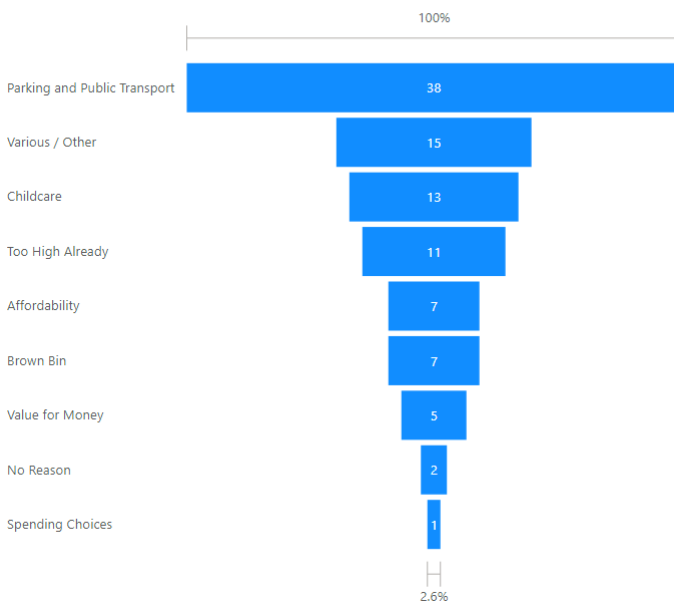
spending and decision-making, and call for more transparency and accountability. Some people also highlight the importance of protecting the environment, supporting families, and revitalising the city centre.

The comments have been categorized as follows:

Number of Responses by Main Category

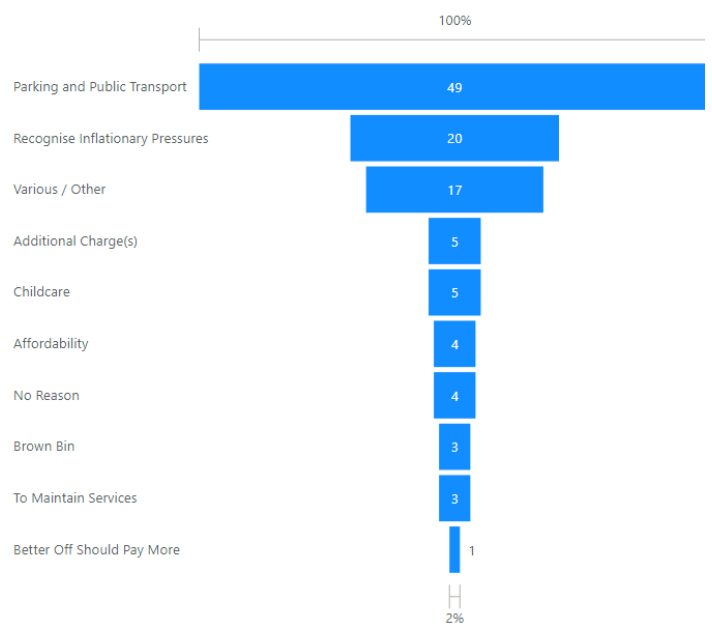


Number of Responses by Sub-Category



No Acceptance of Rise

Number of Responses by Sub-Category

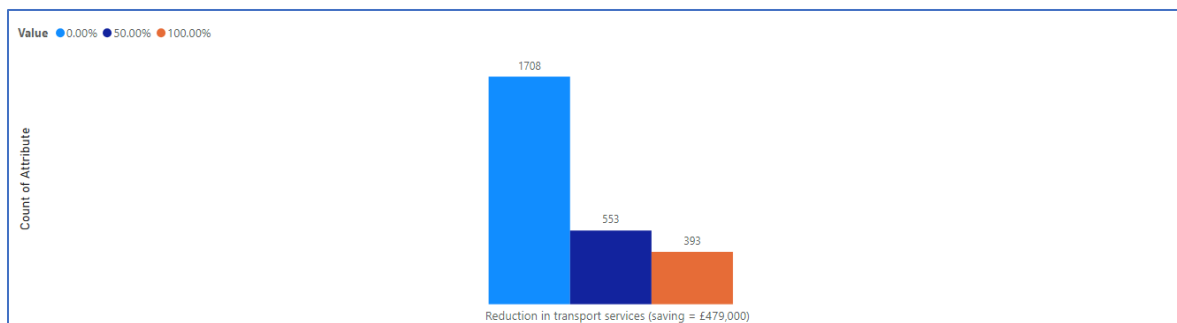


Some Acceptance of Rise

3. Adult Services

Budget Options – Selections by Respondents

The following figures show the number and percentages of budget choices respondents made in the simulator.



	0%		50%		100%	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Reduction in Transport Services	1708	64%	553	21%	393	15%

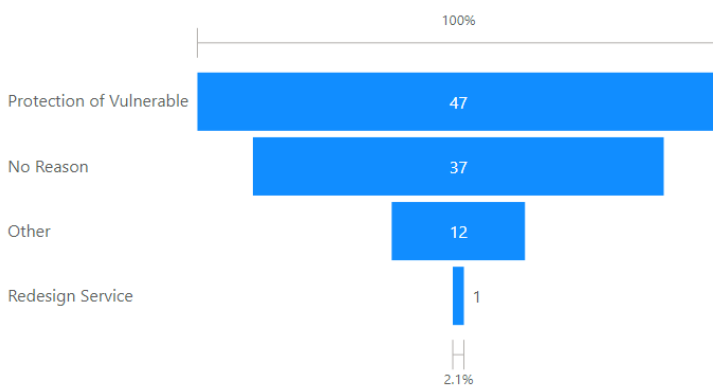
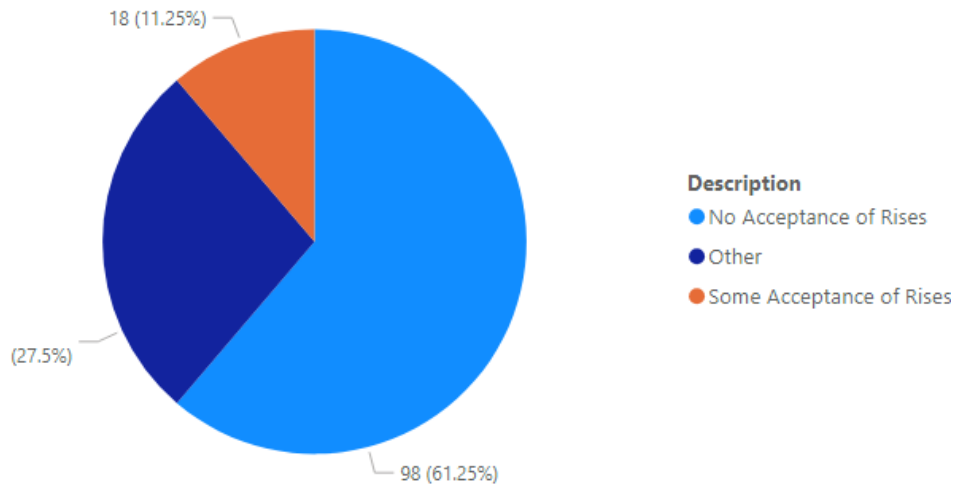
Summary of Comments

160 separate comments were received.

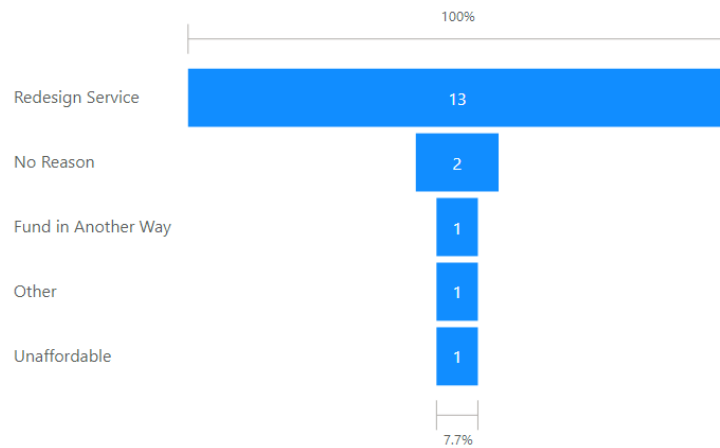
- **Impact of transportation cuts on service users:** Some people argue that cutting transportation would negatively affect the quality of life, health, and well-being of vulnerable adults who rely on the service to access day care, education, or social activities. They oppose any cuts to transportation, saying that it is an essential service, a lifeline, and a right for people who have little or no mobility. They also say that social care is already underfunded and that cuts would have long-term consequences.
- **Alternatives to transportation cuts:** Some people propose other ways to save money, such as charging for the service, using public transport, outsourcing, consolidating routes, or using volunteers.
- **Criticism of council spending priorities:** Some people criticise the council for spending money on other projects instead of focusing on statutory services and the needs of the most vulnerable citizens.
- **Suggestions for improving social care services:** Some people suggest that social care services need to be improved, overhauled, or reassessed, as they are being abused, underused, or inefficient. They also mention the need for more care, support, and inclusion for adults with disabilities or learning difficulties.

The comments have been categorized as follows:

Number of Responses by Main Category



Not Supportive of Savings Options

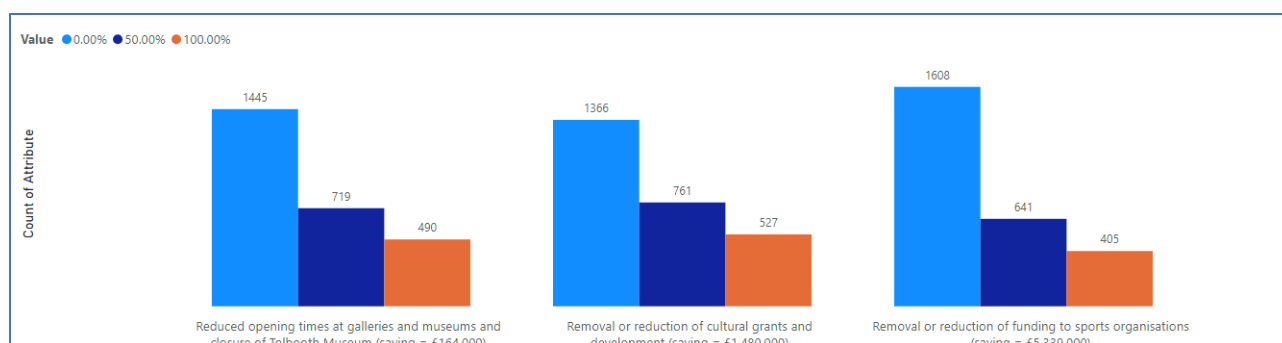


Some Acceptance of Options

4. Arts and Sport

Budget Options – Selections by Respondents

The following figures show the number and percentages of budget choices respondents made in the simulator.



	0%		50%		100%	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Reduced opening times at galleries and museums and closure of Tolbooth Museum (saving = £164,000)	1445	54%	719	27%	490	18%
Removal or reduction of cultural grants and development (saving = £1,480,000)	1366	51%	761	29%	527	20%
Removal or reduction of funding to sports organisations (saving = £5,339,000)	1608	61%	641	24%	405	15%

Summary of Comments

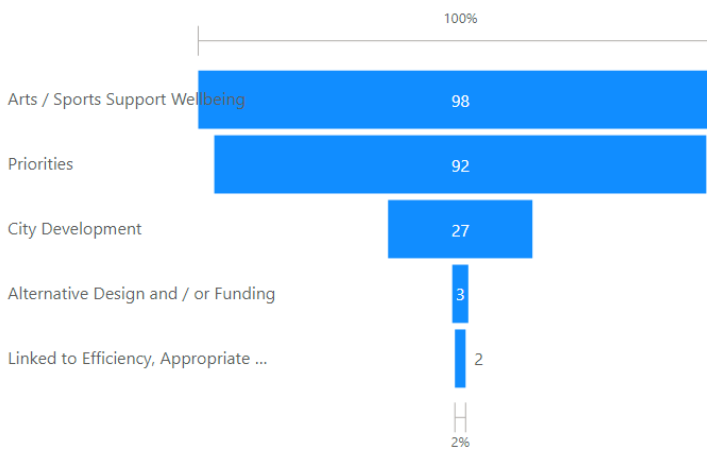
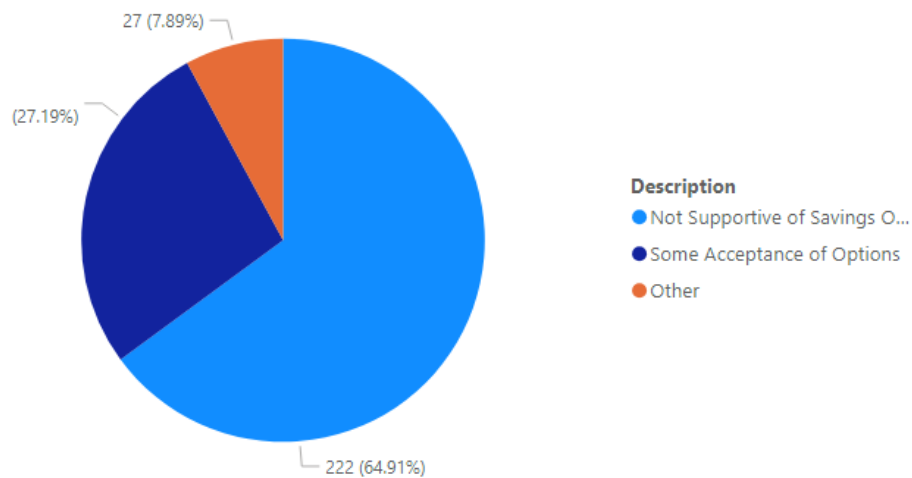
342 separate comments were received.

- **The importance of sport, art and culture for Aberdeen:** Most respondents oppose the reductions and argue that these services are vital for the well-being, health, tourism and identity of the city and its residents.
- **The suggestions for alternative sources of funding or savings:** Some of the respondents suggest that sport, art and culture services could generate more income by increasing fees, attracting sponsors, charging tourists or hosting corporate events. Others propose that the council should reduce its spending on pensions, staff or other non-essential projects.
- **The criticism of Sport Aberdeen and Aberdeen Sports Village:** A few of the respondents express dissatisfaction with the management and performance of Sport Aberdeen and Aberdeen Sports Village, the two main organisations that receive funding from the council for delivering sport services. They accuse them of being inefficient, wasteful, unaccountable or monopolistic, and suggest that they should be self-sufficient or reformed.
- **The demand for reopening Bucksburn pool and Beach Leisure Centre:** Several of the respondents demand that the council should reopen Bucksburn pool and Beach Leisure Centre. They claim that these pools were popular, accessible and beneficial for the local communities, and that their closure has reduced the availability and quality of swimming options in the city.

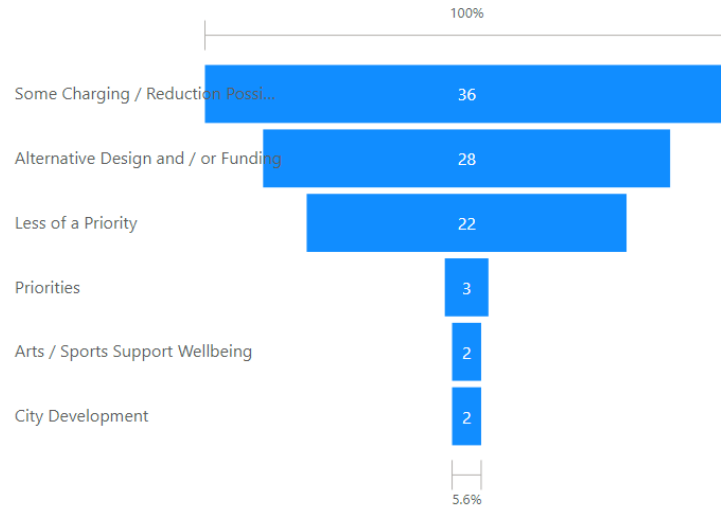
- The recognition of the challenges and trade-offs of the budget:** A few of the respondents acknowledge that the council faces a difficult situation and has to make hard decisions about the budget. They admit that some reductions in sport, art and culture services may be inevitable or necessary, and that the council should prioritise the most essential or valuable services or balance the needs of different groups.

The comments have been categorized as follows:

Number of Responses by Main Category



Not Supportive of Savings Options

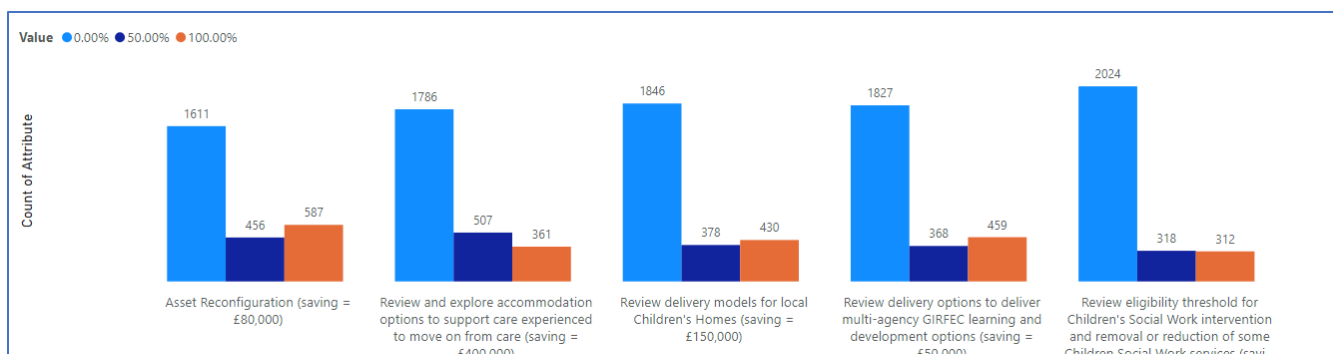


Some Acceptance of Options

5. Children’s Social Work

Budget Options – Selections by Respondents

The following figures show the number and percentages of budget choices respondents made in the simulator.



	0%		50%		100%	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Asset Reconfiguration (saving = £80,000)	1611	61%	456	17%	587	22%
Review and explore accommodation options to support care experienced to move on from care (saving = £400,000)	1786	67%	507	19%	361	14%
Review delivery models for local Children's Homes (saving = £150,000)	1846	70%	378	14%	430	16%
Review delivery options to deliver multi-agency GIRFEC learning and development options (saving = £50,000)	1827	69%	368	14%	459	17%
Review eligibility threshold for Children's Social Work intervention and removal or reduction of some Children Social Work services (saving = £180,000)	2024	76%	318	12%	312	12%

Summary of Comments

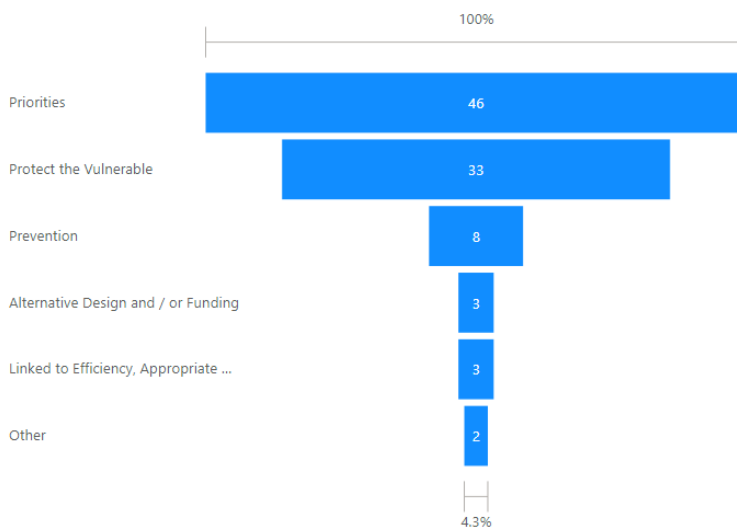
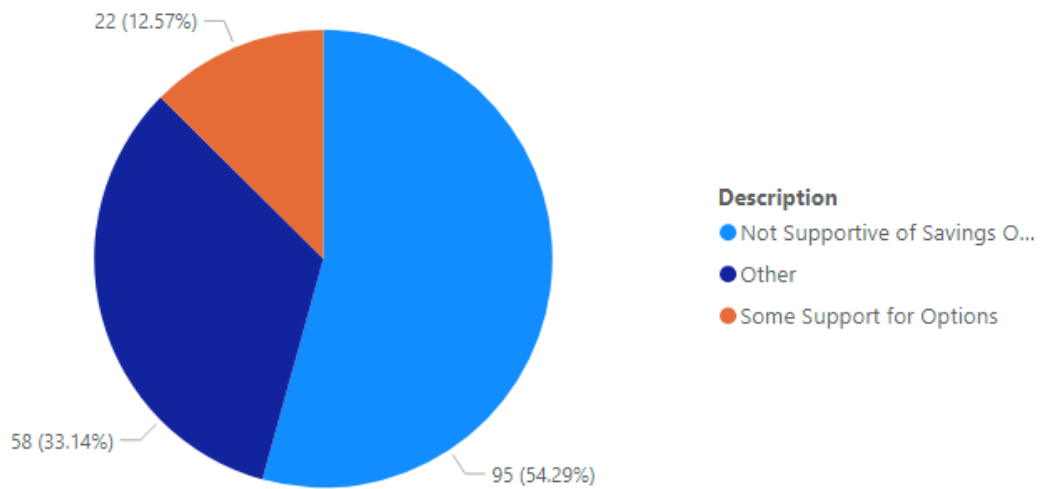
175 separate comments were received.

- **The most common themes in the feedback:** The feedback reveals that most respondents are opposed to any cuts in this area, and that they believe children's social work services are already underfunded and overstretched. Some of the common themes are: the need to protect the most vulnerable children, the importance of early intervention and prevention, the potential long-term costs of reducing support, and the dissatisfaction with the council's spending priorities.
- **The suggestions for alternative savings or revenue sources:** Some of the feedback also offers suggestions for how the council could save money or generate income in other ways, such as: reducing out of area placements and transport costs, reviewing staffing levels and pensions, outsourcing or collaborating with third sector organisations, fundraising or seeking sponsorship from local businesses and cutting non-essential projects.
- **The feedback on specific options for budget reductions:** The feedback also comments on some of the specific options for budget reductions that the council has proposed, such as: increasing the

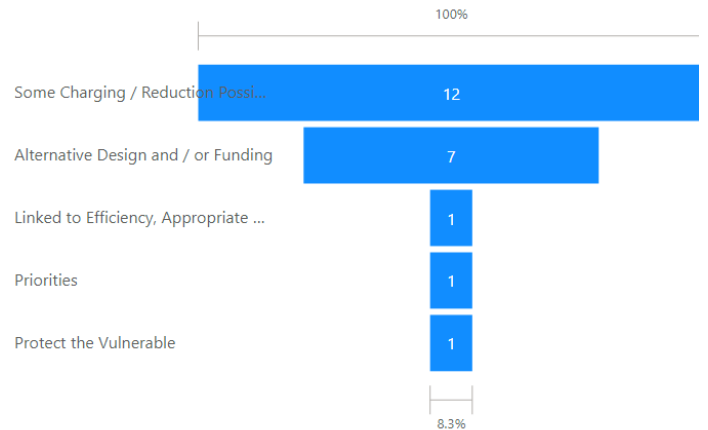
eligibility threshold for intervention, transferring children's homes to the third sector, changing accommodation support for care leavers, reviewing the delivery of GIRFEC, and relocating the Kincorth office. The majority of the feedback is negative or skeptical about these options, and expresses concerns about the impact on the quality and continuity of care, the safety and wellbeing of children, and the legal and ethical obligations of the council.

The comments have been categorized as follows:

Number of Responses by Main Category



Not Supportive of Savings Options

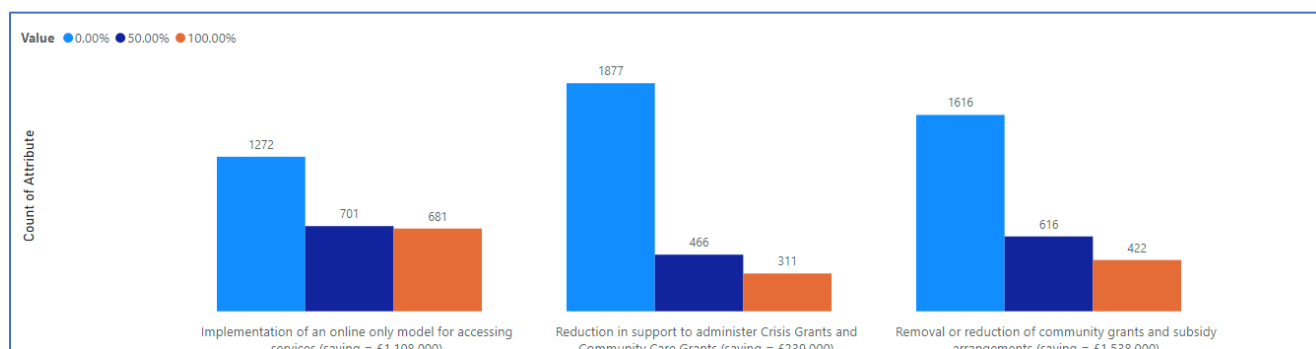


Some Acceptance of Options

6. Communities

Budget Options – Selections by Respondents

The following figures show the number and percentages of budget choices respondents made in the simulator.



	0%		50%		100%	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Implementation of an online only model for accessing services (saving = £1,108,000)	1272	48%	701	26%	681	26%
Reduction in support to administer Crisis Grants and Community Care Grants (saving = £239,000)	1877	71%	466	18%	311	12%
Removal or reduction of community grants and subsidy arrangements (saving = £1,538,000)	1616	61%	616	23%	422	16%

Summary of Comments

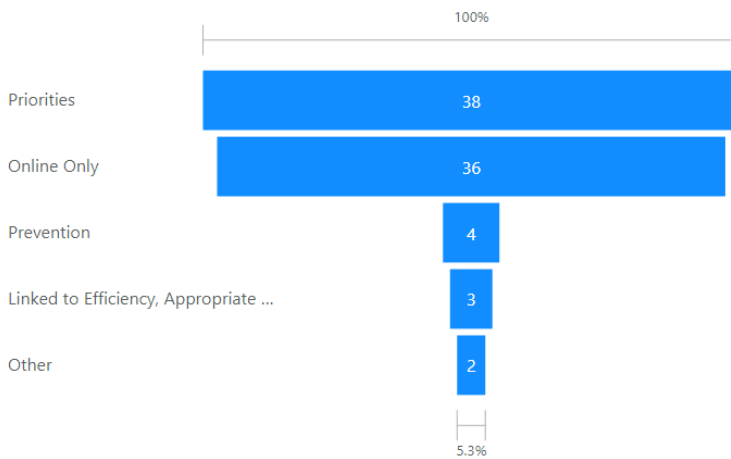
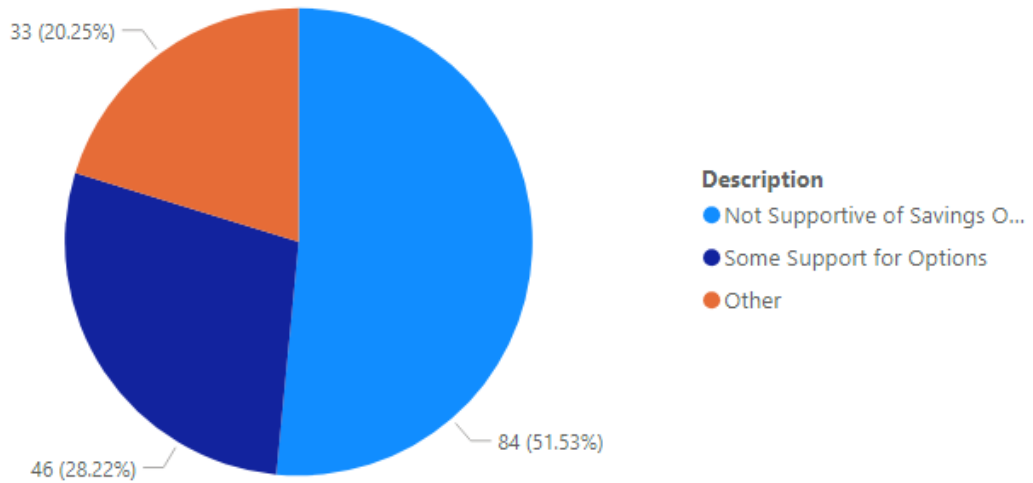
163 separate comments were received.

- **The responses varied widely in their opinions and suggestions:** The responses showed a range of opinions and suggestions on how to deal with the budget gap. Some respondents supported the online-only model, but a greater number argued that it would exclude the most vulnerable people. Some respondents suggested cutting council staff, pensions, or other services, while others opposed any reductions in vital services. Some respondents expressed frustration, anger, or confusion about the survey or the budget situation.
- **The responses highlighted the importance of early intervention and community projects:** Many responses emphasized the importance of early intervention and community projects for the well-being of the city and its residents. They argued that these services help prevent or reduce the need for more costly interventions later on, such as health care, social work, or criminal justice. They also pointed out the benefits of community projects for reducing poverty, inequality, isolation, and crime.
- **The responses reflected the diversity and complexity of the city's needs and challenges:** The responses reflected the diversity and complexity of the city's needs and challenges, as well as the

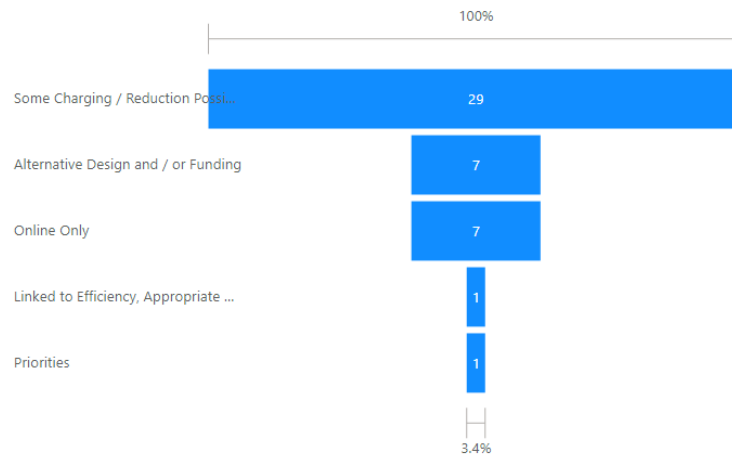
different perspectives and preferences of its residents. They showed that there is no easy or simple solution to the budget gap, and that any decision will have trade-offs and consequences.

The comments have been categorized as follows:

Number of Responses by Main Category



Not Supportive of Savings Options

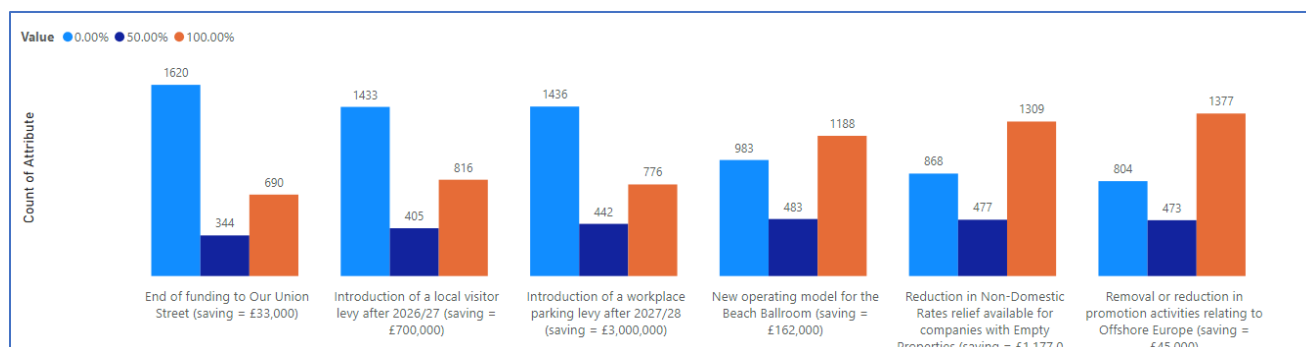


Some Acceptance of Options

7. Economic Development

Budget Options – Selections by Respondents

The following figures show the number and percentages of budget choices respondents made in the simulator.



	0%		50%		100%	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
End of funding to Our Union Street (saving = £33,000)	1620	61%	344	13%	690	26%
Introduction of a local visitor levy after 2026/27 (saving = £700,000)	1433	54%	405	15%	816	31%
Introduction of a workplace parking levy after 2027/28 (saving = £3,000,000)	1436	54%	442	17%	776	29%
New operating model for the Beach Ballroom (saving = £162,000)	983	37%	483	18%	1188	45%
Reduction in Non-Domestic Rates relief available for companies with Empty Properties (saving = £1,177,000)	868	33%	477	18%	1309	49%
Removal or reduction in promotion activities relating to Offshore Europe (saving = £45,000)	804	30%	473	18%	1377	52%

Summary of Comments

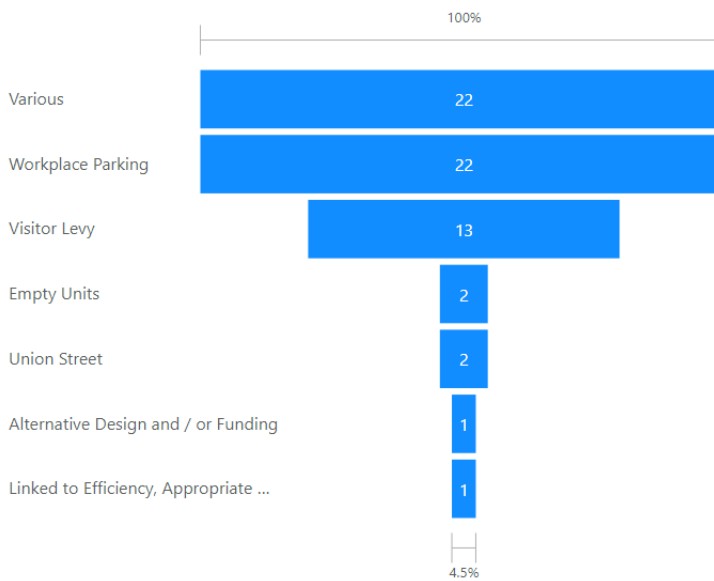
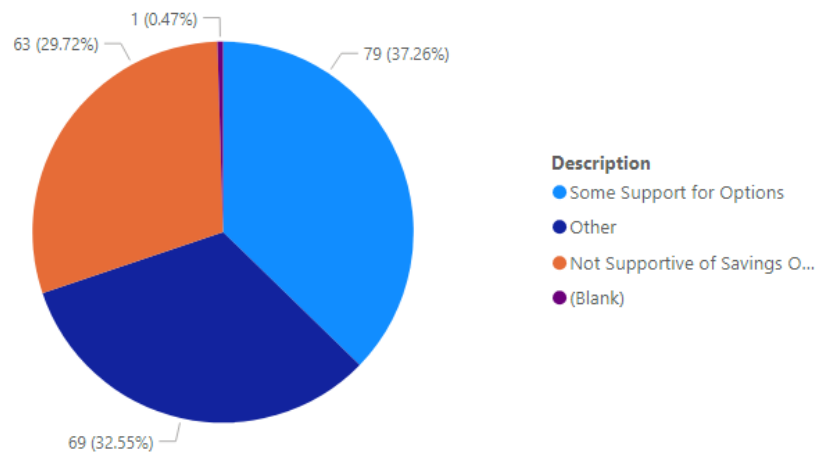
212 separate comments were received.

- **The responses varied widely in their opinions and suggestions:** Most of the comments gave views on more than one of the potential economic development options and had a mix of positive and negative opinions across these. There also appeared to be some misunderstanding of the nature of the options being considered.
- **Union Street funding:** There are various opinions on funding for Union Street regeneration. Some respondents support the funding, while others think it is a waste of money or too late.
- **Workplace parking levy:** The document also shows mixed views on the proposal to introduce a workplace parking levy, which would charge employers for providing parking spaces for their staff. Some respondents agree that this would discourage car use and encourage public transport, while others think it is unfair, costly, or impractical.
- **Local visitor levy:** Some respondents think this is a common practice in other places and would generate revenue for tourism infrastructure, while others think it would deter visitors and harm the local economy.

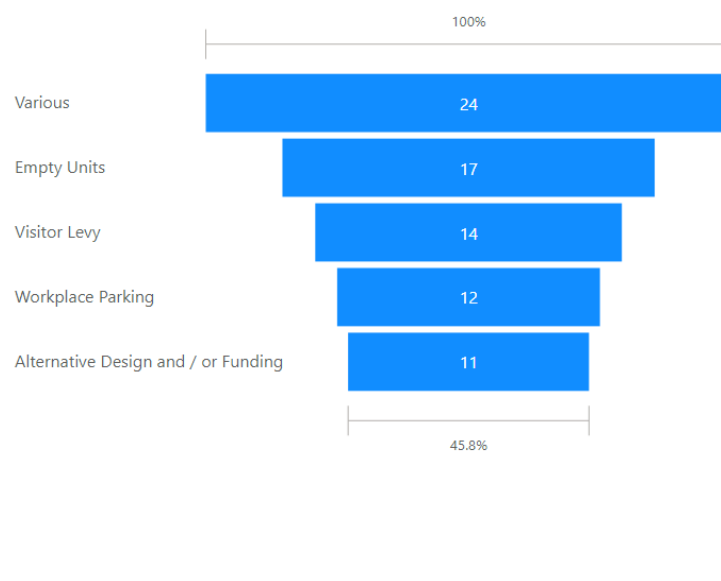
- **Non-domestic rates relief:** For the option to reduce non-domestic rates relief for empty properties, some respondents think this would encourage the use or sale of empty properties and revitalize the city, while others think it would penalize businesses or landlords who are struggling.
- **Offshore Europe promotion:** Some respondents think this is unnecessary, as the industry is well-established and profitable.
- **Beach Ballroom operation:** Some respondents think this is a positive step, as it would allow a more varied and profitable use of the facility, while others think it is a risky move, as it would compromise the quality and maintenance of the facility.

The comments have been categorized as follows:

Number of Responses by Main Category



Not Supportive of Savings Options

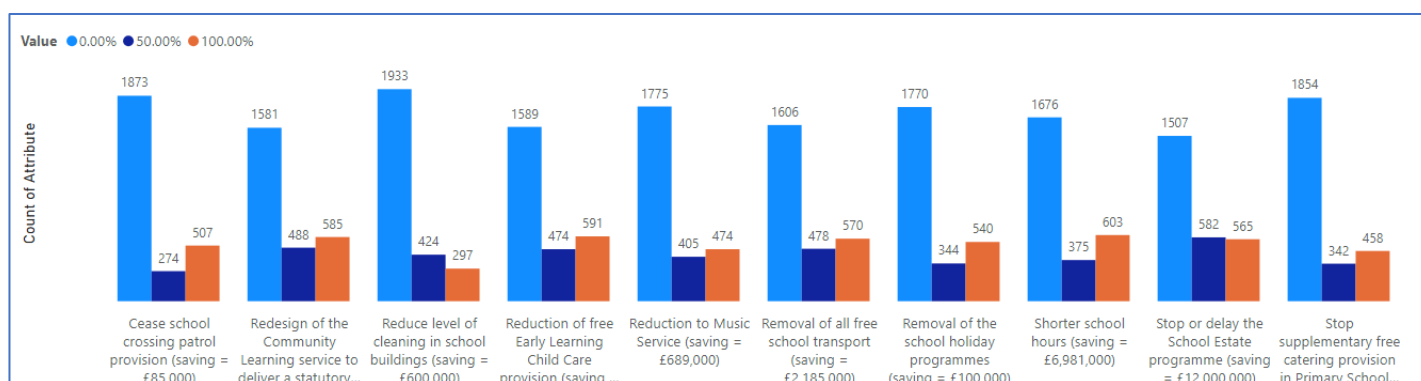


Some Acceptance of Options

8. Education

Budget Options – Selections by Respondents

The following figures show the number and percentages of budget choices respondents made in the simulator.



	0%		50%		100%	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Cease school crossing patrol provision (saving = £85,000)	1873	71%	274	10%	507	19%
Redesign of the Community Learning service to deliver a statutory minimum (saving = £1,215,000)	1581	60%	488	18%	585	22%
Reduce level of cleaning in school buildings (saving = £600,000)	1933	73%	424	16%	297	11%
Reduction of free Early Learning Child Care provision (saving = £7,000,000)	1589	60%	474	18%	591	22%
Reduction to Music Service (saving = £689,000)	1775	67%	405	15%	474	18%
Removal of all free school transport (saving = £2,185,000)	1606	61%	478	18%	570	21%
Removal of the school holiday programmes (saving = £100,000)	1770	67%	344	13%	540	20%
Shorter school hours (saving = £6,981,000)	1676	63%	375	14%	603	23%
Stop or delay the School Estate programme (saving = £12,000,000)	1507	57%	582	22%	565	21%
Stop supplementary free catering provision in Primary Schools, outside of Universal and statutory free school meals (saving = £200,000)	1854	70%	342	13%	458	17%

Summary of Comments

304 separate comments were received.

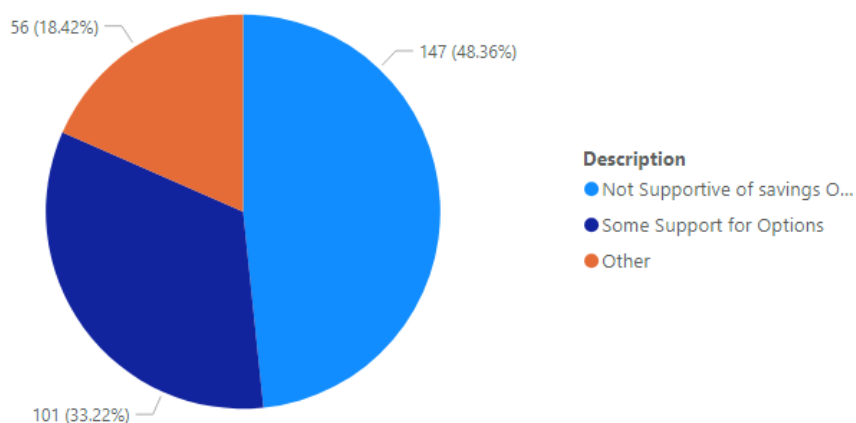
- Most comments are against reducing education services:** The majority of the comments are opposed to any reductions in education services, arguing that they are essential for the well-being, development, and future prospects of children and young people. Many comments also highlight the negative effects of the cuts on working parents, low-income families, vulnerable groups, and

staff working conditions. Some comments suggest alternative ways of saving money, such as increasing taxes, cutting council staffing levels, or reducing non-essential services.

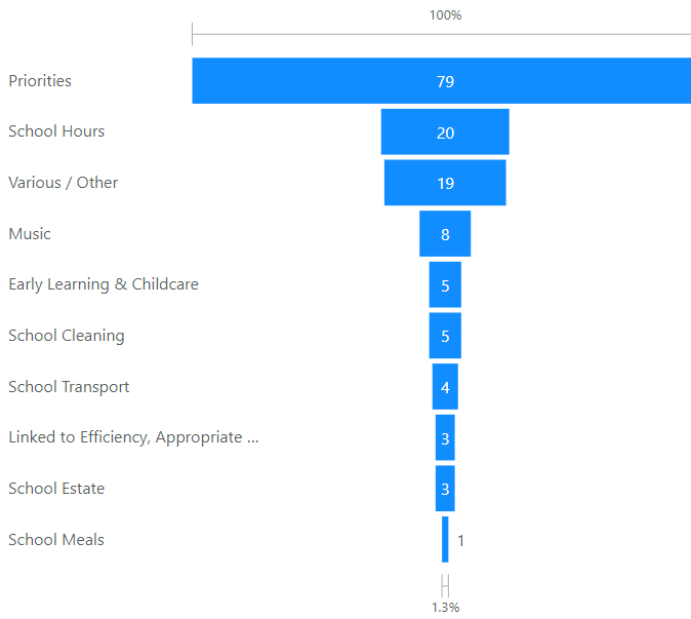
- **Some comments support reducing or charging for some education services:** A minority of the comments support reducing or charging for some education services, such as music service, school transport, school holiday programmes, or early learning. Some of these comments argue that these services are not necessary, not affordable, not equitable, or not effective. Some also suggest that parents should take more responsibility for their children's education, transport, and care.
- **Some comments question the validity of the survey or the council's decisions:** A few comments question the validity of the survey or the council's decisions, claiming that they are biased, misleading, unfair, or unrealistic. Some also doubt the feasibility or legality of some of the proposed reductions, such as shorter school hours or removal of school transport.
- **The document reflects the diversity of views and experiences of the public:** The document reflects the diversity of views and experiences of the public, as the comments vary in tone, length, style, and content. Some comments are more personal, emotional, or anecdotal, while others are more factual, logical, or statistical. Some comments are more specific, detailed, or constructive, while others are more general, vague, or critical. Some comments are more polite, respectful, or positive, while others are more rude, hostile, or negative.

The comments have been categorized as follows:

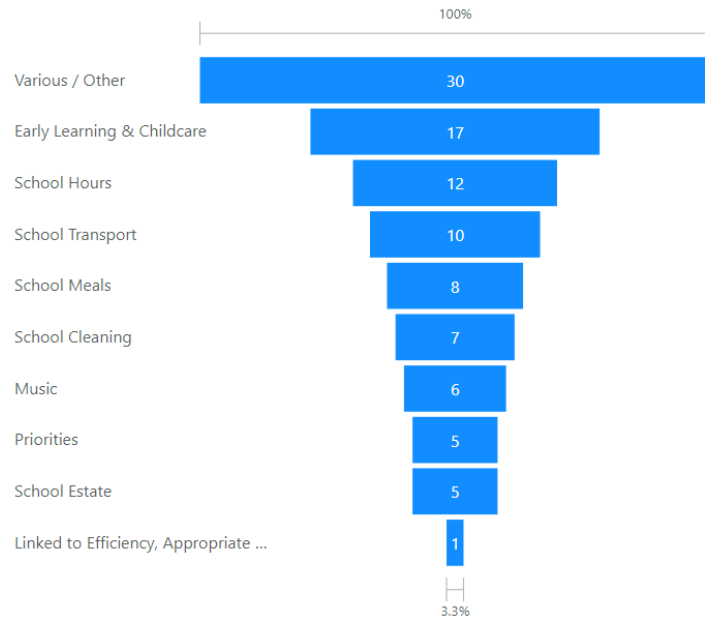
Number of Responses by Main Category



APPENDIX 1



Not Supportive of Savings Options

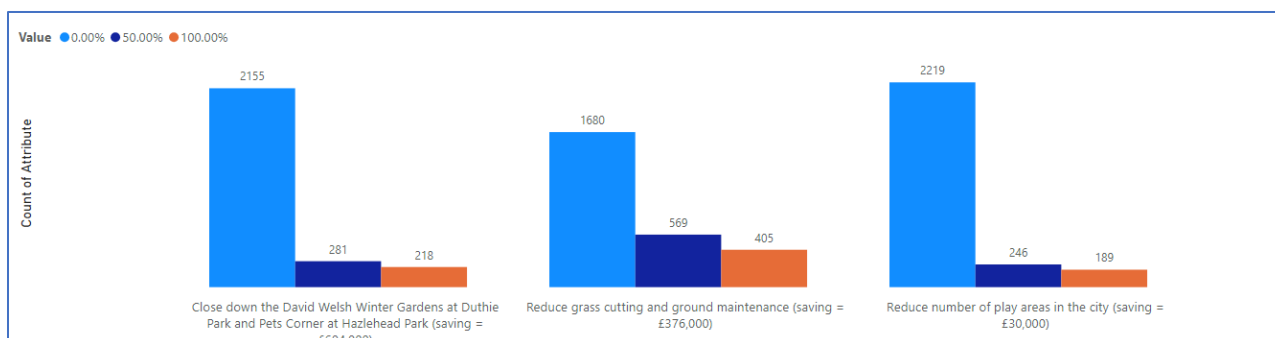


Some Acceptance of Options

9. Parks and Open Spaces

Budget Options – Selections by Respondents

The following figures show the number and percentages of budget choices respondents made in the simulator.



	0%		50%		100%	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Close down the David Welsh Winter Gardens at Duthie Park and Pets Corner at Hazlehead Park (saving = £604,000)	2155	81%	281	11%	218	8%
Reduce grass cutting and ground maintenance (saving = £376,000)	1680	63%	569	21%	405	15%
Reduce number of play areas in the city (saving = £30,000)	2219	84%	246	9%	189	7%

Summary of Comments

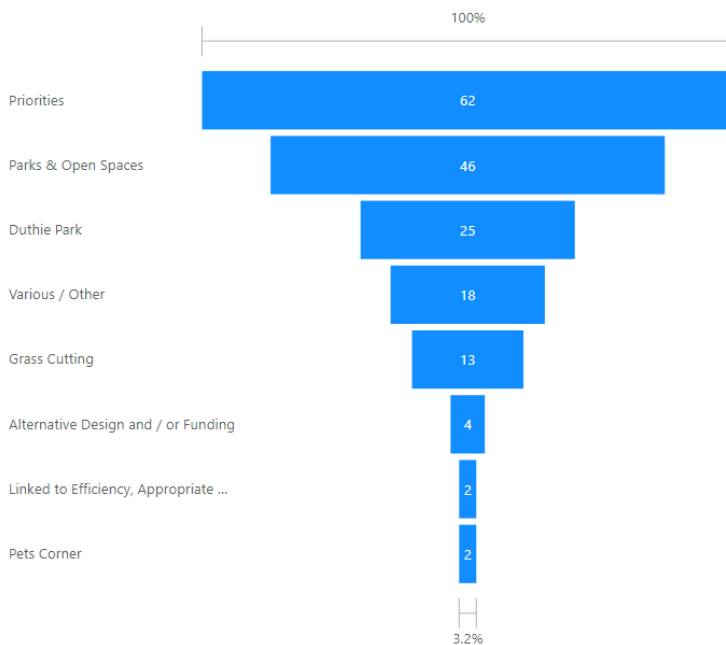
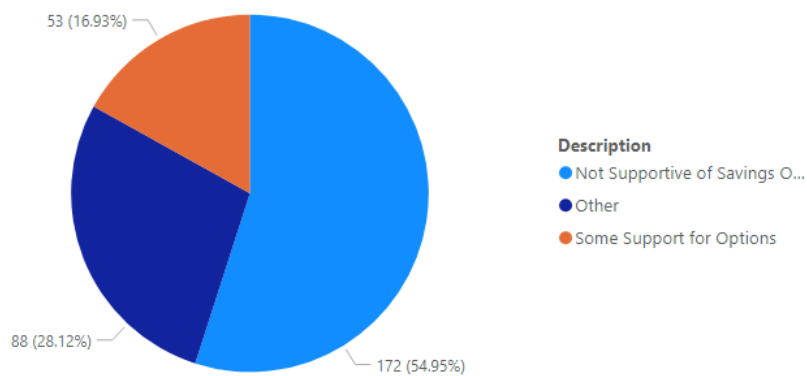
313 separate comments were received.

- **Grass cutting and maintenance issues:** Many people expressed dissatisfaction with the current level of grass cutting and ground maintenance, saying that the city looks shabby and untidy. Some suggested using community service workers or volunteers to help with the upkeep.
- **Winter Gardens and Pets Corner closure:** A large majority of people opposed the idea of closing down the Winter Gardens, arguing that they are an important attraction for visitors and residents alike. Opinion was more divided on the future of Pets Corner. Some proposed alternative ways to generate income, such as charging a small entry fee, hosting events, or seeking sponsorship.
- **Play areas reduction:** Some people agreed that reducing the number of play areas by 25 would not have a significant impact, as long as the remaining ones are well maintained and distributed. Others disagreed, saying that play areas are vital for children's health and well-being, and that closing them would lead to more social problems.
- **Environmental benefits of less grass cutting:** A few people suggested that reducing grass cutting could have positive effects on the environment, such as supporting biodiversity, creating wildflower meadows, and reducing emissions. They said that longer grass is better for wildlife and insects, and that some areas could be left to grow naturally.

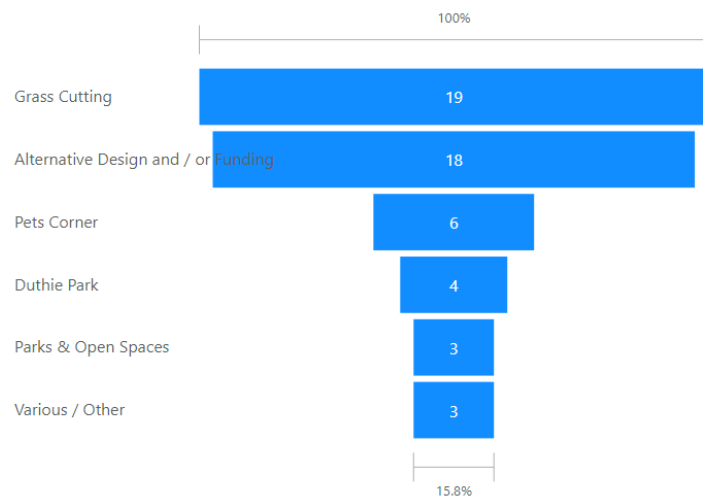
- **Other suggestions for savings or income:** Some people offered other ideas for saving money or generating income, such as reducing the heating in council buildings, charging dog owners more council tax, privatizing some services, or increasing the entry fee for Pets Corner.
- **Importance of parks and open spaces for mental health:** Many people emphasized the importance of parks and open spaces for mental health and well-being, especially during the pandemic and the cost of living crisis. They said that parks and open spaces are essential for people to enjoy nature, exercise, socialize, and escape from everyday problems.

The comments have been categorized as follows:

Number of Responses by Main Category



Not Supportive of Savings Options

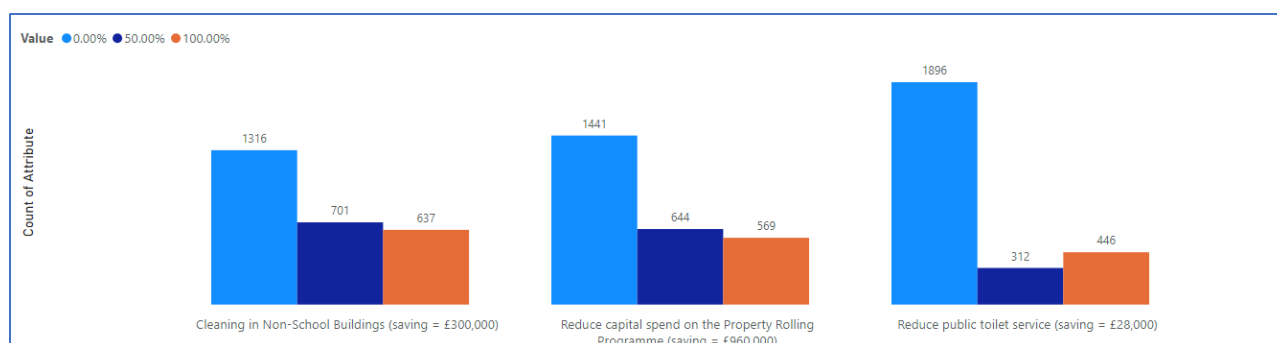


Some Acceptance of Options

10. Property and Building Maintenance

Budget Options – Selections by Respondents

The following figures show the number and percentages of budget choices respondents made in the simulator.



	0%		50%		100%	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Cleaning in Non-School Buildings (saving = £300,000)	1316	50%	701	26%	637	24%
Reduce capital spend on the Property Rolling Programme (saving = £960,000)	1441	54%	644	24%	569	21%
Reduce public toilet service (saving = £28,000)	1896	71%	312	12%	446	17%

Summary of Comments

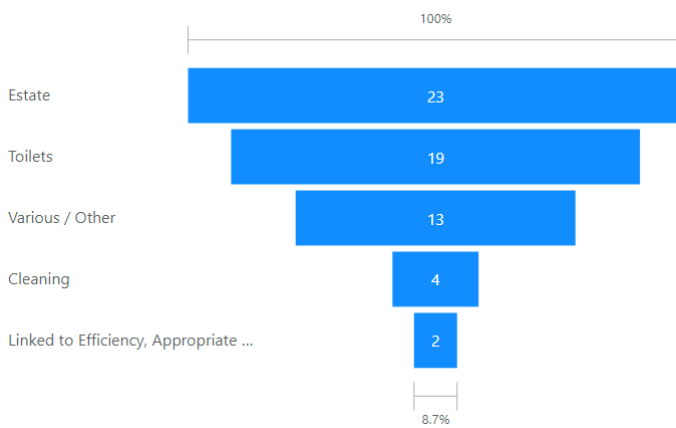
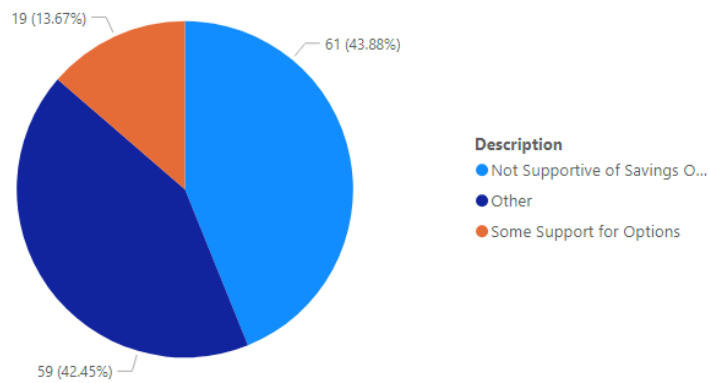
139 separate comments were received.

- **Concerns over budget cuts for property and building maintenance:** Many respondents expressed their dissatisfaction with the proposed reductions in spending on public toilets, school buildings, and cleaning services. They argued that these cuts would have negative impacts on public health, safety, and tourism.
- **Suggestions for alternative ways to save money:** Some respondents offered their ideas on how the council could reduce its expenses without compromising the quality of property and building maintenance. These included selling surplus assets or properties, outsourcing cleaning or maintenance services and relocating the council headquarters.
- **Lack of public toilet provision in the city:** A common theme among the respondents was the scarcity of public toilets in the city centre and other areas. They questioned the accuracy of the budget figure for public toilet service, as they claimed that there were hardly any public toilets left. They also stressed the importance of public toilets for people with disabilities, tourists, and the general public.
- **False economy of reducing capital spend on property rolling programme:** Several respondents warned that cutting the capital spend on property rolling programme would be a false economy, as it would lead to higher costs and more problems in the future. They also suggested that investing in property maintenance would save money and improve the city's image.

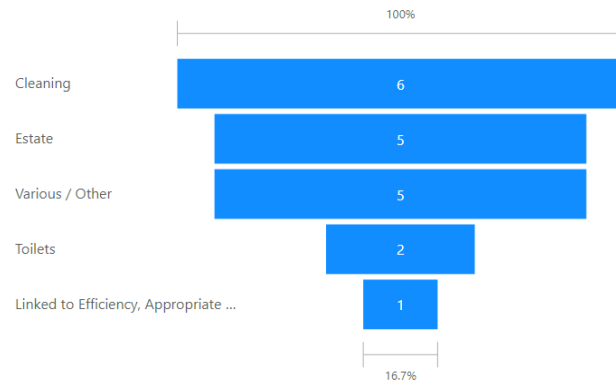
- Dissatisfaction with the budget consultation process:** Some respondents expressed their frustration with the budget consultation process, as they felt that it was not transparent, fair, or comprehensive. They complained that the budget figures were unclear, misleading, or inaccurate, and that the options for savings were limited and biased. They also demanded more information on how the council spends its money and how it allocates funds to different services.

The comments have been categorized as follows:

Number of Responses by Main Category



Not Supportive of Savings Options

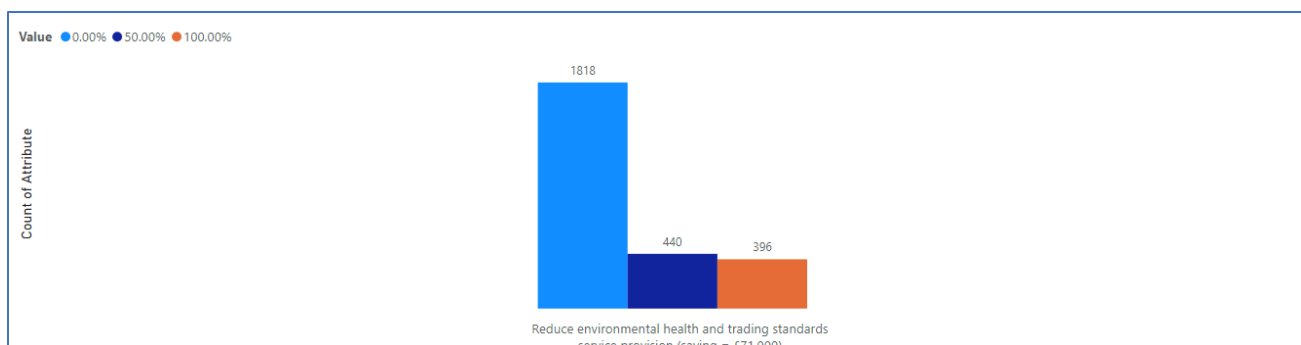


Some Acceptance of Options

11. Protective Services

Budget Options – Selections by Respondents

The following figures show the number and percentages of budget choices respondents made in the simulator.



	0%		50%		100%	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Reduce environmental health and trading standards service provision (saving = £71,000)	1818	69%	440	17%	396	15%

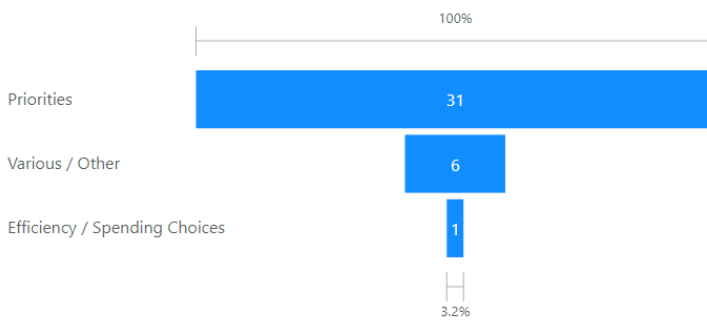
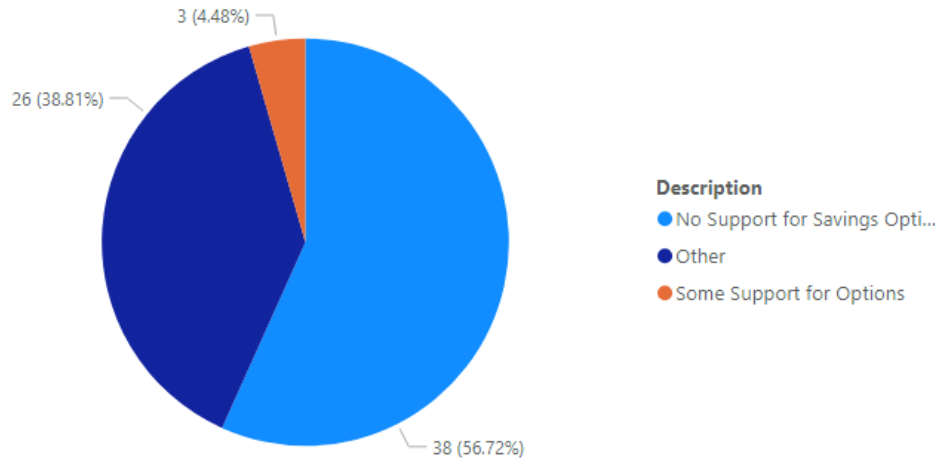
Summary of Comments

67 separate comments were received.

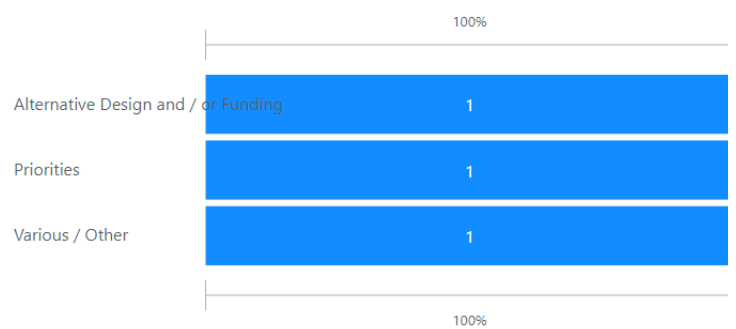
- **Service standards and council tax:** Some respondents expressed dissatisfaction with the service standards and the amount of council tax they pay, and suggested reducing staff pensions or laying off people.
- **Dog warden service:** Some respondents questioned the effectiveness or necessity of the dog warden service, and said they never saw a dog warden in their life.
- **Environmental health and trading standards:** Some respondents opposed any reduction in environmental health and trading standards, arguing that they are vital for public health, consumer protection and fraud prevention.
- **Budget transparency:** Some respondents criticized the council for not showing the whole budget or the impact of the proposed cuts, and accused the council of wasting money on non-essential projects.
- **Political influence and personal interests:** Some respondents expressed distrust in the council's decision-making process, and claimed that environmental health and trading standards are influenced by political or personal interests.

The comments have been categorized as follows:

Number of Responses by Main Category



Not Supportive of Savings Options

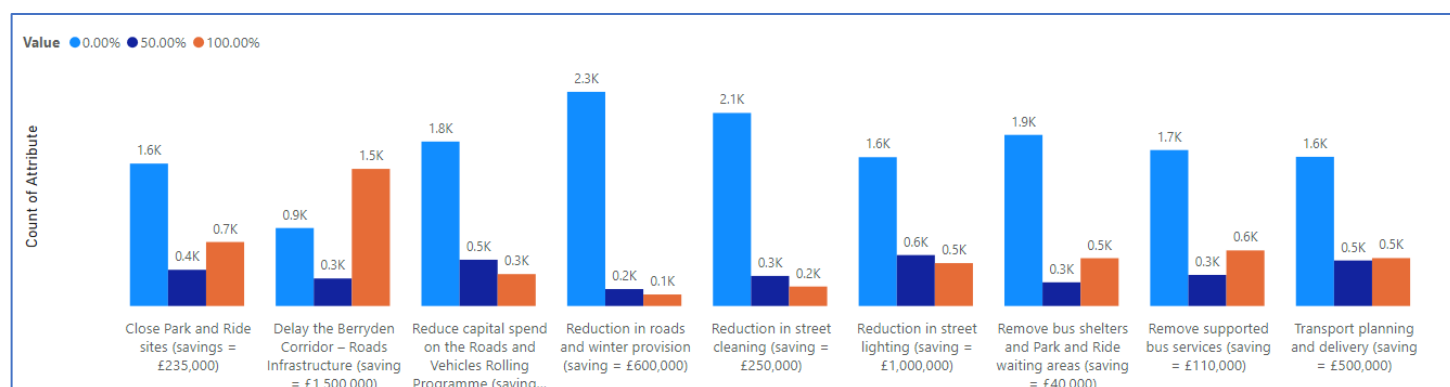


Some Acceptance of Options

12. Roads and Transport

Budget Options – Selections by Respondents

The following figures show the number and percentages of budget choices respondents made in the simulator.



	0%		50%		100%	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Close Park and Ride sites (savings = £235,000)	1558	59%	396	15%	700	26%
Delay the Berryden Corridor – Roads Infrastructure (saving = £1,500,000)	853	32%	301	11%	1500	57%
Reduce capital spend on the Roads and Vehicles Rolling Programme (saving = £1,920,000)	1799	68%	506	19%	349	13%
Reduction in roads and winter provision (saving = £600,000)	2343	88%	185	7%	126	5%
Reduction in street cleaning (saving = £250,000)	2112	80%	329	12%	213	8%
Reduction in street lighting (saving = £1,000,000)	1628	61%	557	21%	469	18%
Remove bus shelters and Park and Ride waiting areas (saving = £40,000)	1872	71%	259	10%	523	20%
Remove supported bus services (saving = £110,000)	1706	64%	340	13%	608	23%
Transport planning and delivery (saving = £500,000)	1632	61%	498	19%	524	20%

Summary of Comments

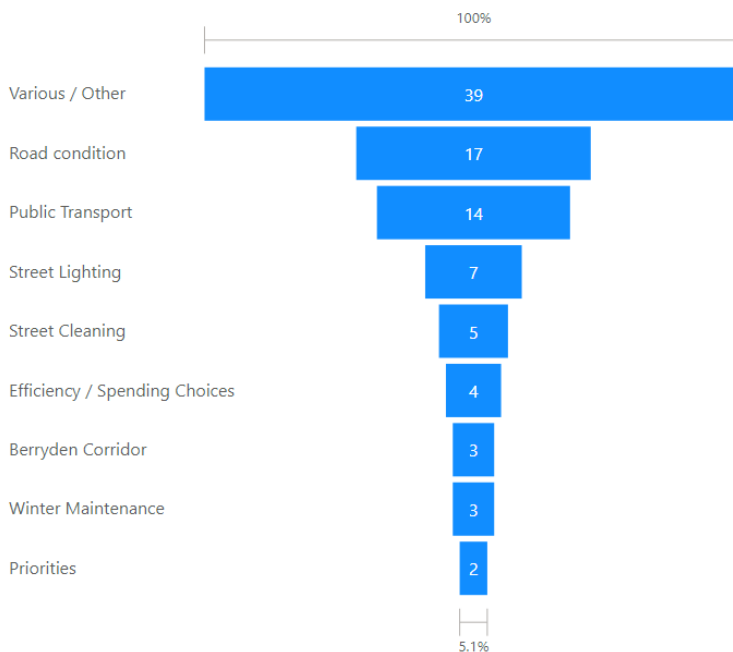
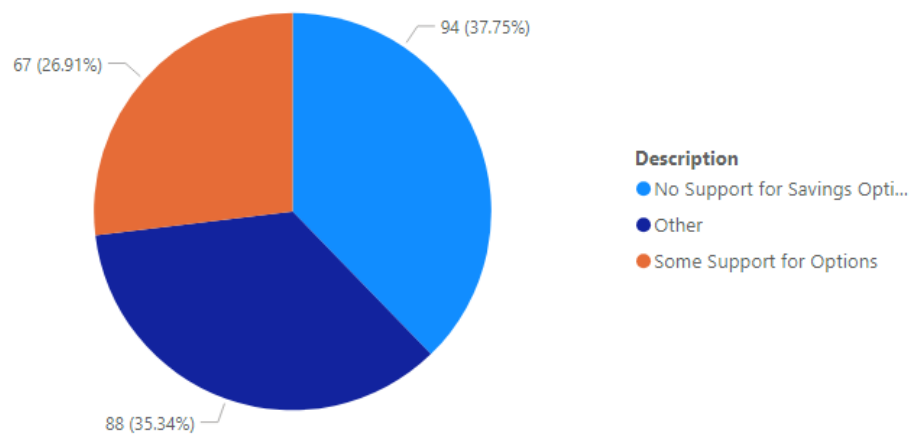
249 separate comments were received.

- Criticism of road planning and new projects:** Some respondents criticize the road planning and delivery team for wasting money on unnecessary or harmful projects, such as cycle lanes, bus gates, and low carbon vehicles. A number of respondents did not support the Berryden Corridor. They argue that these projects are either poorly executed, not in demand, or detrimental to the city's traffic and economy.
- Support for road and pavement maintenance:** A common theme among the respondents is the need for better road and pavement maintenance, as they complain about the poor state of the roads, pavements, and potholes. They suggest that the council should prioritize fixing the existing roads and pavements rather than building new ones or reducing the budget for maintenance.

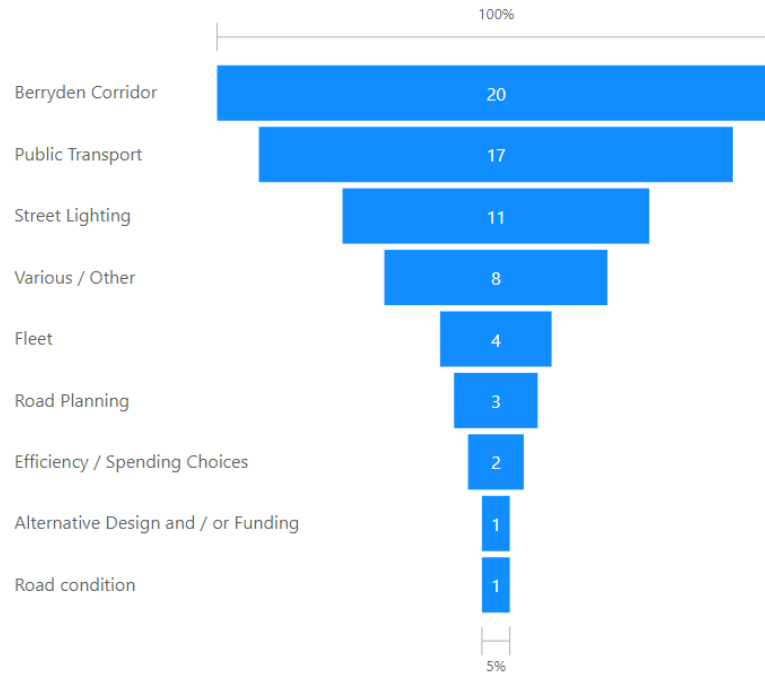
- Suggestions for improving public transport and environmental outcomes:** Some respondents offer suggestions for how to improve public transport and environmental outcomes, such as increasing the use of park and ride, charging lower fares, installing LED street lights, providing more bus shelters, and investing in cycling infrastructure. They also question the fairness and sustainability of some of the proposed cuts, such as removing the supported bus service.

The comments have been categorized as follows:

Number of Responses by Main Category



Not Supportive of Savings Options

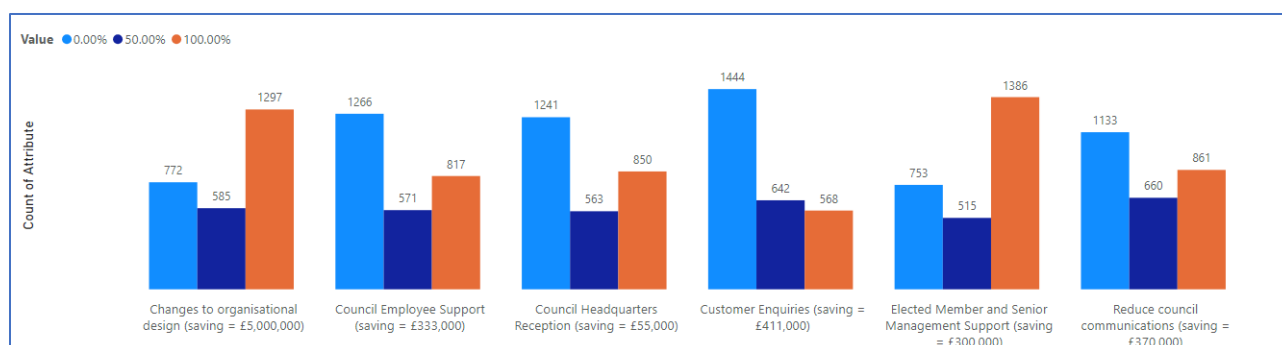


Some Acceptance of Options

13. Support and Corporate Service

Budget Options – Selections by Respondents

The following figures show the number and percentages of budget choices respondents made in the simulator.



	0%		50%		100%	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Changes to organisational design (saving = £5,000,000)	772	29%	585	22%	1297	49%
Council Employee Support (saving = £333,000)	1266	48%	571	22%	817	31%
Council Headquarters Reception (saving = £55,000)	1241	47%	563	21%	850	32%
Customer Enquiries (saving = £411,000)	1444	54%	642	24%	568	21%
Elected Member and Senior Management Support (saving = £300,000)	753	28%	515	19%	1386	52%
Reduce council communications (saving = £370,000)	1133	43%	660	25%	861	32%

Summary of Comments

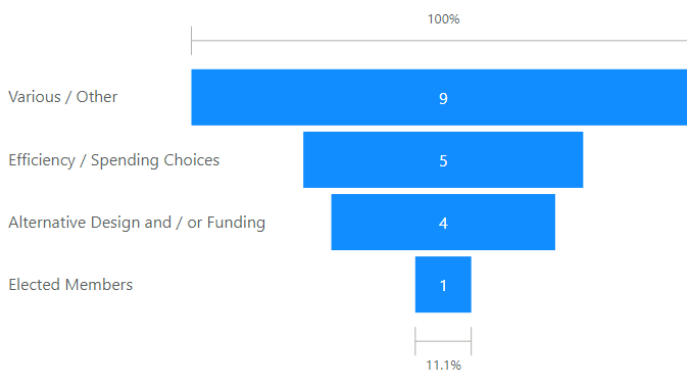
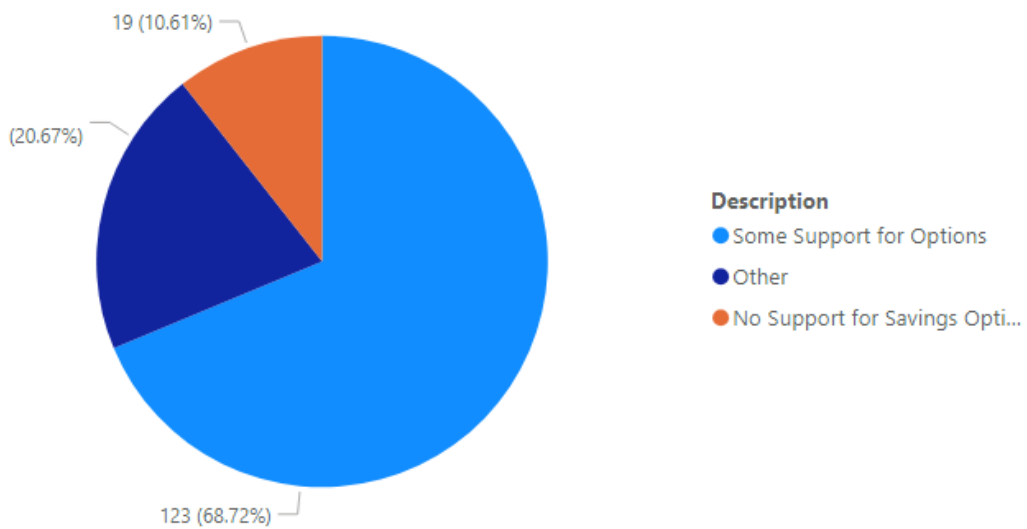
179 separate comments were received.

- Main themes of feedback:** Some of the main themes that emerge from the feedback are: dissatisfaction with the council's spending on non-essential projects; frustration with the lack of transparency and accountability of the council's decision-making process; concern for the impact of the cuts on essential services, such as education, social care, and roads; and suggestions for reducing the council's overhead costs, such as salaries, pensions, and benefits of senior management and elected members.
- Suggestions for improvement:** Some of the suggestions that the feedback offers for improving the council's performance and efficiency are: streamlining the management structure and reducing the number of councillors; increasing the use of digital technology and online platforms for communication and service delivery; collaborating with other public bodies and private sector partners to share resources and expertise; and engaging more with the public and the communities to consult on their needs and preferences.
- Positive feedback:** Some of the feedback also expresses appreciation and support for the council's efforts to cope with the financial challenges and to deliver quality services to the citizens. Some

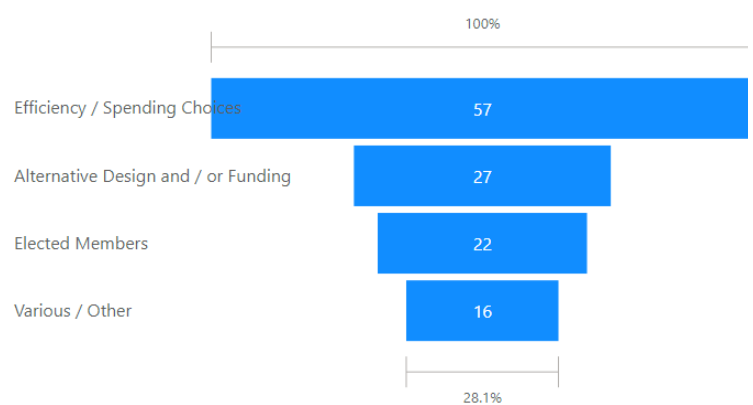
examples of positive feedback are: acknowledging the council's legal obligation to respond to FOI requests; praising the council's employee support programmes and apprenticeships; commending the council's reception and security staff for their professionalism and helpfulness; and recognising the council's need to reorganise and modernise its operations.

The comments have been categorized as follows:

Number of Responses by Main Category



Not Supportive of Savings Options

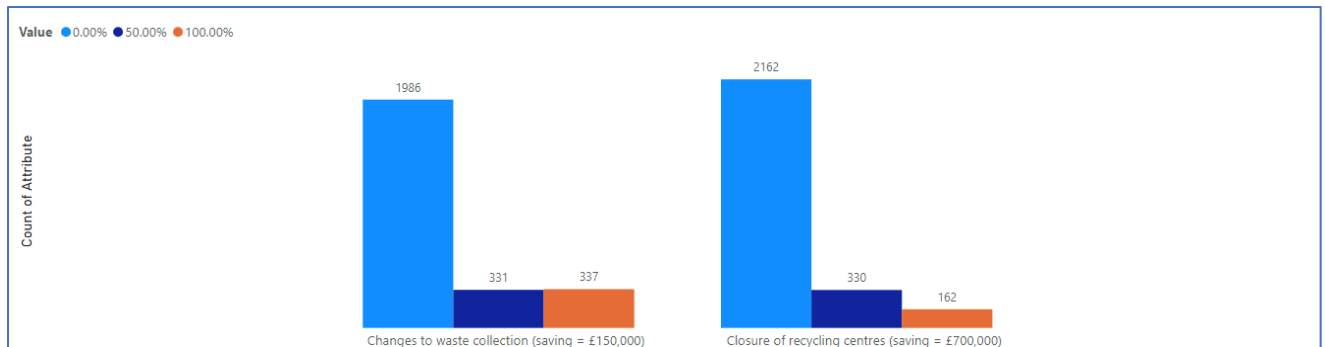


Some Acceptance of Options

14. Waste Collection and Disposal

Budget Options – Selections by Respondents

The following figures show the number and percentages of budget choices respondents made in the simulator.



	0%		50%		100%	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Changes to waste collection (saving = £150,000)	1986	75%	331	12%	337	13%
Closure of recycling centres (saving = £700,000)	2162	81%	330	12%	162	6%

Summary of Comments

198 separate comments were received.

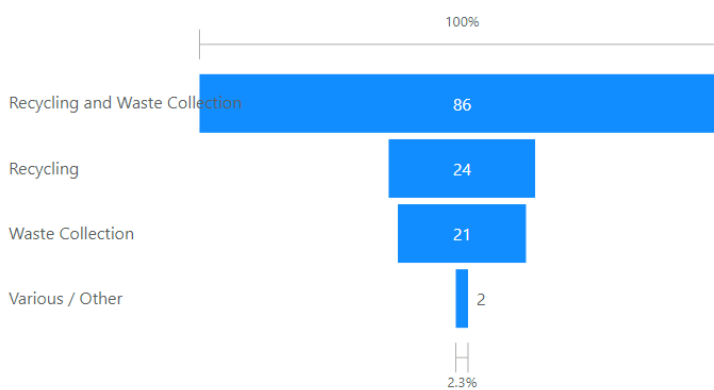
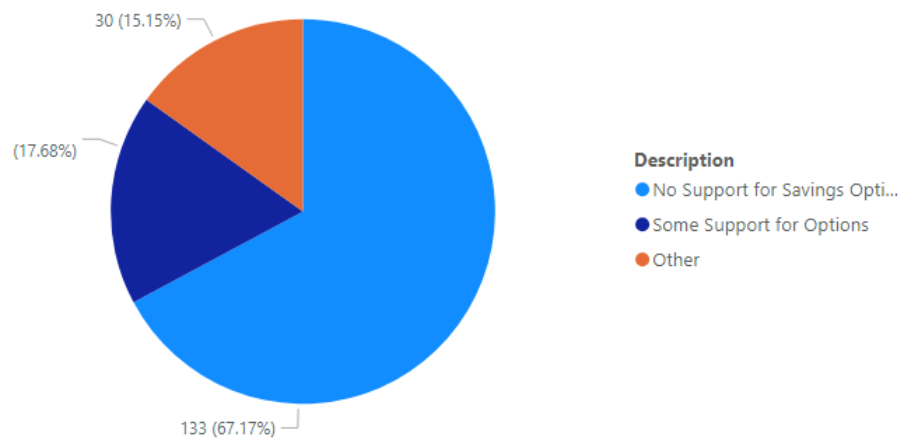
- The main concerns of the respondents are environmental, health, and aesthetic impacts of the proposed changes:** Many respondents express their worries about the negative effects of closing recycling centres or changing waste collection on the environment, such as increased fly tipping, reduced recycling rates, more waste going to landfill, and more greenhouse gas emissions. They also mention the health risks of having rotting waste in bins for longer periods, such as attracting rats, pests, and diseases. Some respondents also comment on the visual appearance of the city and how it would suffer from more littering and overflowing bins.
- Some respondents suggest alternative ways to save money or generate income from waste services:** A few respondents propose different ideas to reduce the costs of waste services or increase their revenue, such as charging more for garden waste collection, selling recyclable materials, privatizing the service, reducing staff or salaries, cutting council pensions, or increasing council tax. Some respondents also suggest ways to improve the efficiency or quality of the service, such as educating people on waste reduction, encouraging sharing of bins, increasing enforcement or fines for fly tippers, or providing more options for kerbside recycling.
- Some respondents express dissatisfaction with the survey design or the council's management:** A few respondents criticize the survey for being incomplete, biased, or misleading, and question the validity of the results. They claim that the survey does not show the full budget or the impact of the changes, and that it forces them to choose between bad

options. Some respondents also express their anger or frustration with the council's spending decisions, priorities, or competence, and accuse them of wasting money, being corrupt, or ignoring the public's views.

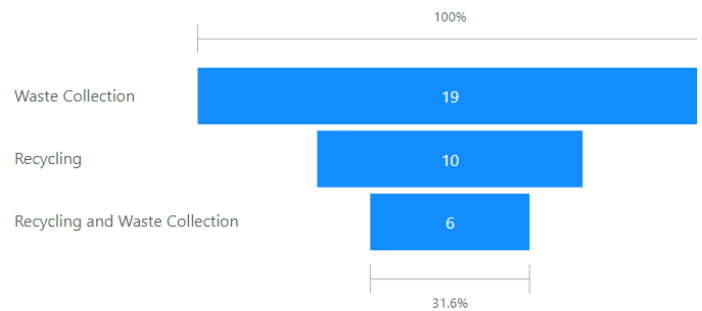
- **Some respondents support the changes or have no strong opinion:** A few respondents indicate that they are in favour of the changes or that they do not mind them, either because they think they are necessary, reasonable, or beneficial, or because they do not use the service or have other options. Some respondents also acknowledge the financial challenges that the council faces and the need to make savings.

The comments have been categorized as follows:

Number of Responses by Main Category



Not Supportive of Savings Options



Some Acceptance of Options

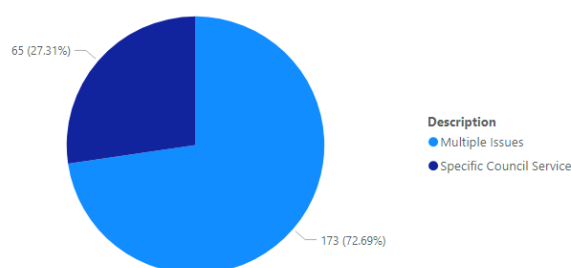
15. Final Comments

Respondents had the opportunity to make final comments, not specifically related to specific budget options.

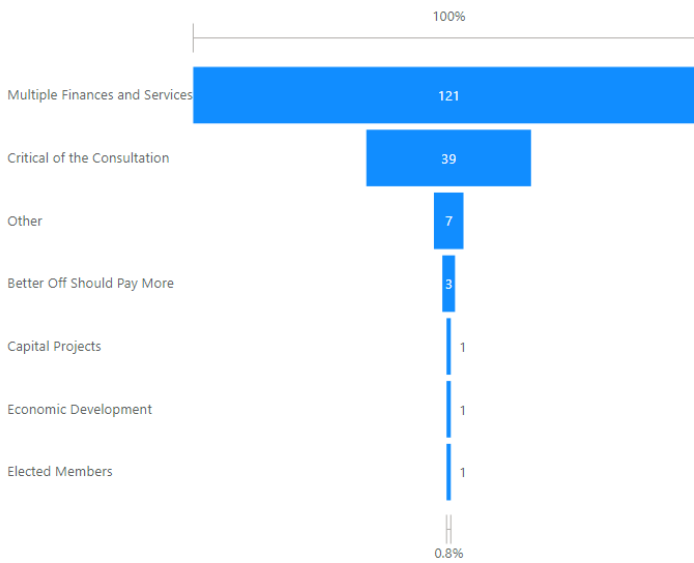
- **Concerns about the budget cuts and council tax increases:** Many of the respondents express their concerns about the impact of the budget cuts on essential services, especially education, social care, arts and culture, and public health. They also question the need for council tax increases when they are already paying high rates and getting less services.
- **Suggestions for alternative ways to save money or generate income:** Some of the respondents offer suggestions for alternative ways to save money or generate income for the council, such as reducing rent rates for city centre buildings, closing the DB pension scheme, means testing education funding, reducing council staff and salaries, postponing or cancelling capital projects, charging more for parking and business rates, making use of solar power and public-private partnerships, and negotiating more funding from the Scottish Government.
- **Criticism of the council's management and spending decisions:** Some of the respondents criticize the council's management and spending decisions, accusing them of being inefficient, wasteful, corrupt, or out of touch with the public's needs and wishes. They point out examples of money being spent on projects that they consider unnecessary, such as bus gates, cycle lanes, beach development, Union Terrace Gardens. They also challenge the council to be more transparent, accountable, and collaborative in their budgeting process.
- **Recognition of the difficulty and complexity of the budgeting task:** Some of the respondents recognize the difficulty and complexity of the budgeting task, and commend the council for creating the budget simulator tool and asking for the public's input. They acknowledge that there are no easy choices and that the council faces a challenging situation due to the reduced funding from the government and the impact of the pandemic. They also suggest some creative solutions, such as borrowing or, investing.
- **Support for the council's vision and priorities:** Some of the respondents support the council's vision and priorities, and agree with the proposed budget cuts and council tax increases. They emphasize the importance of protecting the environment, promoting sustainability, enhancing the city's vibrancy and attractiveness, and supporting the vulnerable groups and communities. They also express their appreciation for the council's services and initiatives, such as digital tools, energy efficiency, early learning and childcare, and arts and culture.

The comments have been categorized as follows:

Number of Responses by Main Category

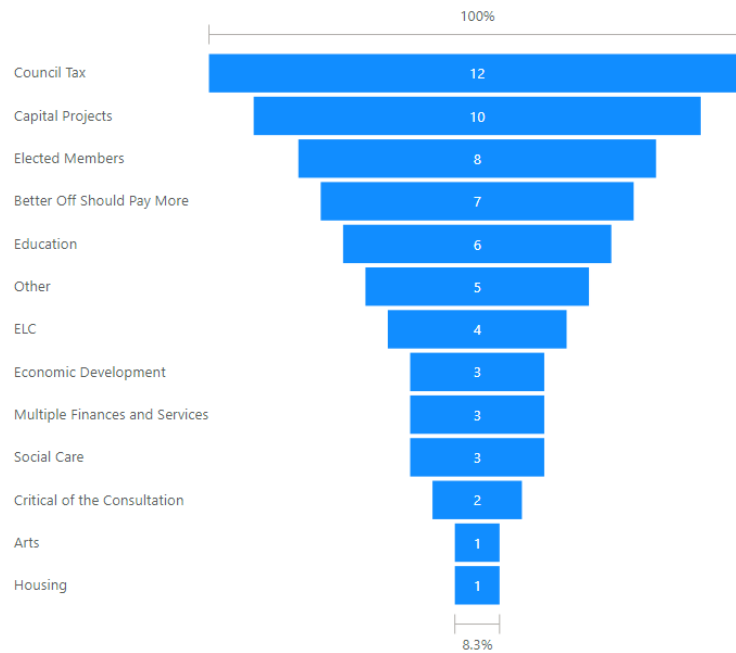


Number of Responses by Sub-Category



Multiple Issues

Number of Responses by Sub-Category



Specific Council Services

16. Balancing the Budget

Whilst the premise of the “Simulator” was that a combination of increases in Council Tax and Fees & Charges together with decreases through reducing spend on services would “close the budget gap” of £83M, respondents were not required to select options of sufficient value to achieve a balanced budget.

Of 2,654 respondents, 492 (18.5%) chose sufficient options to achieve a balanced budget.

Public Consultation - Budget Simulator			Budget Options					
Option Categorisation	Public Consultation Grouped Option Title	Public Consultation Saving Figure £'000	Consequences	Budget Options	2024/25 Indicative budget saving £'000	2025/26 Indicative budget saving £'000	2026/27 Indicative budget saving £'000	2027/28 Indicative budget saving £'000
Adult Social Care	Reduction in transport services	(479)	This would potentially mean that some transport services currently offered by the Council would cease, e.g. the transport for young people and adults with additional support needs to school and day centres. This option would result in a saving of £479k and would be delivered in 2024/25.	Stop Adult Social Care transport services	(78)	0	0	0
				Cease to operate in-house passenger fleet transport	(401)	0	0	0
Arts, Culture and Sport	Removal or reduction of cultural grants and development	(1,480)	This would potentially mean that existing funding to Aberdeen Performing Arts, grants to third party organisations, programmes of work and city events would be reduced or cease. This option would result in a saving of £1,480k and could be delivered in 2024/25 or across the four years 2024/25 – 2027/28	Phased removal of grants to third party organisations	(71)	(71)	(71)	0
				Cultural Grants Programme disbanded	(174)	0	0	0
				Cultural Development Programme reduced	(156)	0	0	0
				Funding to Aberdeen Performing Arts reduced	(234)	(234)	(234)	(234)
Arts, Culture and Sport	Reduced opening times at galleries and museums and closure of Tollbooth Museum.	(164)	This option would result in a saving of £164k delivered over 2024/25 and 2025/26.	Reduce opening hours of all galleries and museum venues	0	(114)	0	0
				Close Tollbooth Museum	(50)	0	0	0
Arts, Culture and Sport	Removal or reduction of funding to sports organisations	(5,340)	This would potentially mean that existing funding to Sport Aberdeen and Aberdeen Sports Village would be reduced or cease, resulting in those organisations having to consider the range of services and facilities they provide. This option could result in a saving of £5,340k and could be delivered across the four years 2024/25 – 2027/28	Removal or reduction of funding to sports organisations	(1,335)	(1,335)	(1,335)	(1,335)
Communities and Early Intervention	Reduction in support to administer Crisis Grants and Community Care Grants	(239)	This would mean the timescales for issuing a grant will be significantly longer and not at the point of crisis. This option would result in a saving of £239k delivered over 2024/25.	Reduction in support to administer Crisis Grants and Community Care Grants	0	(239)	0	0
Communities and Early Intervention	Implementation of an online only model for accessing services	(1,023)	This would potentially mean that telephone and face to face access channels would be removed for non emergency matters, payments would no longer be available at council offices, paypoints or post offices and direct debit may become the only option for some services. This option would result in a saving of £1,023k delivered over 2024/25, 2025/26 and 2026/27.	Removal of the telephony contact completely and Customer Service Centre Customer Services presence.	0	(1,000)	0	0
				Stop the contract to pay council tax at post office/paypoints	(23)	0	0	0
Communities and Early Intervention	Removal or reduction of community grants and subsidy arrangements	(1,538)	This would potentially mean that some existing grants to third party organisations relating to poverty, deprivation and early intervention for communities at risk would cease. This option would result in a saving of £1,538k and would be delivered in 2024/25, 2025/26 and 2026/27.	Phased removal of Fairer Aberdeen Fund	0	(767)	(767)	0
				Remove ground lease support for certain groups	(4)	0	0	0

Public Consultation - Budget Simulator				Budget Options				
Option Categorisation	Public Consultation Grouped Option Title	Public Consultation Saving Figure £'000	Consequences	Budget Options	2024/25 Indicative budget saving £'000	2025/26 Indicative budget saving £'000	2026/27 Indicative budget saving £'000	2027/28 Indicative budget saving £'000
Children's Social Work	Review and explore accommodation options to support care experienced to move on from care.	(400)	This would potentially mean that young people receiving care from social work would instead receive support from elsewhere in the council during their transition from care to independent living up until the age of 21. This option would result in a saving of £400k delivered over 2024/25, 2025/26 and 2026/27.	Review and explore accommodation options to support care experienced young people to move on from care.	(150)	(150)	(100)	0
Children's Social Work	Review eligibility threshold for Children's Social Work intervention and removal or reduction of some Children Social Work services	(180)	This would potentially mean that the non statutory Fit Like service is reduced. This option would result in a saving of £180k delivered over 2024/25.	Reduce Children's Social Work resource aligned to Fit Like Service.	(180)	0	0	0
Children's Social Work	Asset Reconfiguration	(80)	This would potentially mean the closure of the Kincorth Office and staff relocated to Kaimhill school/library and Kincorth Children's Home to remain closed. This option would result in a saving of £80k delivered over 2024/25.	Asset Reconfiguration - children's social work estate	(80)	0	0	0
Children's Social Work	Review delivery models for local Children's Homes	(150)	This would potentially mean that the third sector would run the service. This option would result in a saving of £150k delivered over 2024/25.	Externally commission local Children's Homes	(150)	0	0	0
Children's Social Work	Review delivery options to deliver multi-agency GIRFEC learning and development options.	(50)	This would potentially mean that the existing contract would need to be reviewed and an alternative model developed. This option would result in a saving of £50k delivered over 2024/25.	Review delivery options to deliver multi-agency GIRFEC learning and development options.	(50)	0	0	0
Economic Development	New Operating Model for Beach Ballroom	(162)	This would potentially mean that the Beach Ballroom is operated by a third party instead of the Council. This option would result in a saving of £162k delivered over 2024/25.	New operating model for Beach Ballroom	(162)	0	0	0
Economic Development	Removal or reduction in promotion activities relating to Offshore Europe.	(45)	This option would result in a saving of £45k delivered over 2025/26 and 2027/2028	Reduce exhibition or promotion support at offshore Europe shows	0	(15)	0	(30)
Economic Development	End of Funding to Our Union Street	(33)	This would mean the termination of the 3 year Union Steet regeneration grant. This option would result in a saving of £33k delivered over 2026/27.	End of 3 Year Funding to Our Union Street	0	0	(33)	0
Economic Development	Reduction in Non-Domestic Rates relief available for companies with Empty Properties	(1,177)	This would potentially lead to less generous relief being available to businesses and non-domestic property owners that have empty non-domestic properties, increasing the amount of non-domestic rates that they would have to pay on those properties. This option could result in a saving of £1,177k and could be delivered in 2024/25 or across the four years 2024/25 – 2027/28	Reduction in Non-Domestic Rates relief available for companies with Empty Properties	(1,177)	0	0	0

Public Consultation - Budget Simulator				Budget Options				
Option Categorisation	Public Consultation Grouped Option Title	Public Consultation Saving Figure £'000	Consequences	Budget Options	2024/25 Indicative budget saving £'000	2025/26 Indicative budget saving £'000	2026/27 Indicative budget saving £'000	2027/28 Indicative budget saving £'000
Economic Development	Introduction of a workplace parking levy	(3,000)	This would mean the implementation of a new scheme whereby employers would pay an annual levy on every parking space at their premises within the city which they could pass onto staff and visitors. This option would result in an additional income of £3,000k delivered over 2027/28.	Introduction of a workplace parking levy	0	0	0	(3,000)
Economic Development	Introduction of a local visitor levy	(700)	The Visitor Levy (Scotland) Bill was introduced to the Scottish Parliament in May 2023. If passed, the legislation will give the Council the ability to add a tax to overnight accommodation. This would help fund localised costs from hosting visitors and enable additional public investment in tourism related infrastructure. This option would result in a saving of £700k delivered over 2026/27.	Introduction of a local visitor levy	0	0	(700)	0
Education	Redesign of the Community Learning service to deliver a statutory minimum	(1,215)	This would mean a reduction in Community Learning provision, Learning centres and the Creative Learning service. This option would result in a saving of £1,215k delivered over 2025/26.	Reduction in Community Learning Centres	0	(20)	0	0
				Redesign of Community Learning & Development service to support only statutory duties	0	(955)	0	0
				Stop Creative Learning (Non Statutory Provision)	0	(240)	0	0
Education	Removal of the school holiday programmes	(100)	This would mean the termination of the October, Easter and Summer of Play schemes. This option would result in a saving of £100k delivered over 2024/25.	Removal of the school holiday programmes	(100)	0	0	0
Education	Shorter school hours	(6,981)	If approved by Scottish Government this would mean a reduction of 2.5 hours per week in both primary and secondary schools. This option would result in a saving of £6,981k delivered over 2024/25 and 2025/26.	Reduce the provision of Primary Education from the statutory entitlement of 25 hours to 22.5 hours	(1,800)	(2,000)	0	0
				Reduce the provision of Secondary Education from the statutory entitlement of 27.5 hours to 25 hours	(1,700)	(1,481)	0	0
Education	School Asset Reconfiguration	(12,000)	School estate would not be renewed as currently approved, including stopping or delaying Hazlehead/Countesswells Secondary provision; Bucksburn/Newhills Primary provision; Grandhome Primary provision; Loirston Primary provision	School estate would not be renewed as currently approved, including stopping or delaying Hazlehead/Countesswells Secondary provision; Bucksburn/Newhills Primary provision; Grandhome Primary provision; Loirston Primary provision	(645)	(3,286)	(4,882)	(3,187)
Education	Reduction of free Early Learning Child Care provision	(7,000)	This would mean that 1140 hours provision would be retained for those on low income and would reduce the free provision to 600 hours for others, with an option to buy additional hours where there is capacity to do so. This option would require Scottish Government approval. This option would result in a saving of £7,000k delivered over 2027/28.	Reduce the universal offer of 1140 ELC hours to 600 for those on low incomes	0	0	0	(7,000)

Public Consultation - Budget Simulator				Budget Options				
Option Categorisation	Public Consultation Grouped Option Title	Public Consultation Saving Figure £'000	Consequences	Budget Options	2024/25 Indicative budget saving £'000	2025/26 Indicative budget saving £'000	2026/27 Indicative budget saving £'000	2027/28 Indicative budget saving £'000
Education	Removal of all free school transport	(2,185)	This would mean that pupils attending these schools would no longer receive free bus travel. This option would result in a saving of £2,185 delivered over 2027/28.	Remove Discretionary ASN School Transport	(235)	0	0	0
				Remove RC School Transport	0	0	(180)	0
				Remove all further school transport	0	0	(1,770)	0
Education	Stop supplementary free catering provision in Primary Schools, outside of Universal and statutory free school meals	(900)	This would mean closing Primary and Secondary school kitchens and, as an alternative providing supermarket vouchers to those children & young people who have a statutory entitlement to free school meals. It would also mean removing free breakfast provision, fruit and milk in schools where this is currently provided. This option would result in a saving of £900K delivered in 2024/25.	Cease supplementary free catering provision in Primary Schools, outside of Universal and statutory free school meals	(200)	0	0	0
				Cease all Primary and Secondary meal provision	(700)	0	0	0
Education	Cease school crossing patrol provision	(85)	This would either remove all School Crossing Patrollers provided by the Council (option a) or retain only those who provide service at crossing points where there are no light controlled or zebra crossings in place.	Cease all School Crossing Patrol provision	(85)	0	0	0
Education	Reduction to Music Service	(689)	This would potentially mean a reduction in the level of service delivered by the Music Service. This option would result in a saving of £689k delivered over 2024/25 and 2025/26.	Reduce level of delivery from the Music Service to half current level	(459)	(230)	0	0
Education	Reduce level of cleaning in school buildings	(600)	This would reduce the cleaning hours in all schools. This option would result in a saving of £600k delivered in 2027/28.	Review cleaning standards at school establishments.	0	0	0	(600)
Property and Building Maintenance	Cleaning in Non-School Buildings	(300)	This would reduce the cleaning hours in non school buildings including museums and galleries and office accommodation. This option would result in a saving of £300k delivered in 2027/28.	Review cleaning standards at non-school establishments	0	0	0	(300)
Property and Building Maintenance	Reduce public toilet service	(28)	This would remove the need for full time attendants, by switching to a mobile staff model. This option would result in £28k savings delivered in 2025/26	Restructure public toilet service.	0	(28)	0	0
Property and Building Maintenance	Reduce capital spend on the Property Rolling Programme	(960)	The annual expenditure on maintaining our schools, depots and other council buildings will be halved. This will result in fewer buildings, including schools, being upgraded or maintained to lower standards annually. This option would result in a saving of £960k delivered between 24/25 and 27/28.	Reduce capital spend on the Property Rolling Programme	(240)	(240)	(240)	(240)
Parks and Open Spaces	Reduce number of play areas in the city	(30)	This would reduce the number of managed play areas in the city by 25. This option would result in £30k savings delivered in 2025/26	Reduce number of play areas by a third.	250	(280)	0	0

Public Consultation - Budget Simulator				Budget Options				
Option Categorisation	Public Consultation Grouped Option Title	Public Consultation Saving Figure £'000	Consequences	Budget Options	2024/25 Indicative budget saving £'000	2025/26 Indicative budget saving £'000	2026/27 Indicative budget saving £'000	2027/28 Indicative budget saving £'000
Parks and Open Spaces	Reduce grass cutting and ground maintenance	(376)	This would reduce the frequency of grass cuts and the level of maintenance of cemeteries, open spaces, parks and gardens and countryside areas. This option would result in £376K savings delivered in 2024/25	Reduction in grass cutting and associated grounds maintenance in cemeteries.	(100)	0	0	0
				Reduction in grass cutting and associated grounds maintenance across all open spaces.	(125)	0	0	0
				Reduce maintenance in parks	(116)	0	0	0
				Reduce Countryside Rangers service	(35)	0	0	0
Parks and Open Spaces	Close down the David Welsh Winter Gardens at Duthie Park and Pets Corner at Hazlehead Park	(604)	This would reduce costs of the city's parks by closing the Winter Gardens at Duthie Park and Pets Corner at Hazelhead Park. This option would result in £604k savings delivered over 204/25 and 2025/26	Close down Winter Gardens	0	(550)	0	0
				Close Pets Corner at Hazelhead Park	(54)	0	0	0
Protective Services	Reduce environmental health and trading standards service provision	(71)	This would reduce resources for existing trading standards services (including health and safety and consumer fraud), environmental health and dog wardens. This option would result in £71k savings delivered over 2024/25 and 2025/26	Reduce environmental health and trading standards service provision	(71)	0	0	0
Roads and Public Transport	Close park and ride sites	(235)	This would close and dispose of Park & Ride sites at Bridge of Don, Craibstone and Kingswells. This option would result in savings of £235k delivered across 2024/25 and 2025/26	Close park and ride sites	(67)	(168)	0	0
Roads and Public Transport	Reduction in street lighting	(1,000)	This would reduce the number of operational street lights by 50%, meaning every second street light would be switched off. This option would result in £1M savings delivered in 2024/25	Reduce energy costs by switching off every 2nd street light or switching off all street lights	(1,000)	0	0	0
Roads and Public Transport	Reduction in roads and winter provision	(600)	This would reduce the number of roads treated with salt during weather conditions of snow and ice, along with reducing the level of response to flooding and number of pothole repairs carried out. This option would result in £600k savings delivered in 2025/26	Reduction in roads winter provision and reduced level of response to flooding and pothole repairs	0	(600)	0	0
Roads and Public Transport	Remove supported bus services	(110)	This would remove funding for the supported bus service 14, Kingswells - City Centre (Mon to Fri, all day service). This option would result in £110k savings delivered in 2024/25	Remove supported bus services	(110)	0	0	0
Roads and Public Transport	Remove bus shelters and park and ride waiting areas	(40)	This would remove all bus shelters and Park and Ride waiting areas. This option would result in £20k savings delivered in 2025/26	Close park and ride waiting rooms	(20)	0	0	0
				Remove bus shelters	250	(270)	0	0
Roads and Public Transport	Reduction in street cleaning	(250)	This would reduce the level of street sweeping. This option would result in £250k savings delivered across 2024/25 and 2025/26	Reduce street cleansing service	(220)	0	0	0
				Restructure grounds/street cleansing	(20)	(10)	0	0

Public Consultation - Budget Simulator			Budget Options					
Option Categorisation	Public Consultation Grouped Option Title	Public Consultation Saving Figure £'000	Consequences	Budget Options	2024/25 Indicative budget saving £'000	2025/26 Indicative budget saving £'000	2026/27 Indicative budget saving £'000	2027/28 Indicative budget saving £'000
Roads and Public Transport	Transport planning and delivery	(500)	This would reduce our ability to plan, attract funding for and deliver transportation initiatives across the city. This would result in £500k savings in 2027/28.	Reduce transport planning and delivery to statutory duty only	0	0	0	(500)
Roads and Public Transport	Reduce capital spend on the Roads and Vehicles Rolling Programme	(1,920)	The annual expenditure on replacing roads and pavements, and vehicles will be halved. This will result in fewer roads, pavements, street lights, being upgraded, or maintained to lower standards annually; and fewer vehicles will be purchased to transition to lower carbon alternatives. This option would result in a saving of £1,920k delivered between 24/25 and 27/28.	Reduce capital spend on the Roads and Vehicles Rolling Programme	(480)	(480)	(480)	(480)
Roads and Public Transport	Delay the Berryden Corridor – Roads Infrastructure	(1,500)	Four year delay in the construction of the Berryden Corridor roads project, connecting the Denburn to Great Northern Road. This options will result in a saving of £1,500k delivered between 2024/25 and 2027/28.	Delay the Berryden Corridor – Roads Infrastructure	(720)	(420)	(420)	60
Support and Corporate Services	Council Employee Support	(683)	This would remove a range of programmes to support Council employees including trade union facility time, employment support for care experienced young people, apprenticeships, mental health & wellbeing. This option would result in £683k savings delivered over 2024/25 and 2025/26	Stop ACC employability programmes, support for care experienced young people working in ACC and developing young workforce (apprenticeships)	0	(50)	0	0
				Remove sponsorship license to sponsor employees from outwith the UK	0	(10)	0	0
				Remove all dedicated support for staff on mental health and wellbeing	0	(43)	0	0
				Remove dedicated trade union facility time	0	(200)	0	0
				Remove financial element of the long service award	(30)	0	0	0
				Reduction to statutory training and mandatory e-learning only and only support statutory equalities work	(200)	(150)	0	0
Support and Corporate Services	Changes to organisational design	(5,000)	This would change the organisational design of the Council with a view to reduce operational costs. This would include negotiating with trade unions in any appropriate areas. This option would result in £5m savings delivered over 2024/25 and 2025/26	Changes to organisational design to reduce operating costs	(3,000)	(2,000)	0	0
Support and Corporate Services	Customer Enquiries	(370)	This would reduce the resources dedicated to responding to customer including complaints, Freedom of Information requests and elected member enquiries . This option would result in £370k savings delivered in 2025/26	Reduce central team and devolve to services the response to access to information requests, including Freedom of Information and Subject Access requests	0	(140)	0	0
				Reduce central team and devolve handling of complaints to services	0	(135)	0	0
				No central support for elected member enquiries, comments or compliments (non statutory requirements)	0	(95)	0	0

Public Consultation - Budget Simulator				Budget Options				
Option Categorisation	Public Consultation Grouped Option Title	Public Consultation Saving Figure £'000	Consequences	Budget Options	2024/25 Indicative budget saving £'000	2025/26 Indicative budget saving £'000	2026/27 Indicative budget saving £'000	2027/28 Indicative budget saving £'000
Support and Corporate Services	Council Headquarters Reception	(55)	This would remove security from Marischal College and the reception from the Town House. This option would result in £55k savings delivered over 2024/25 and 2025/26	Removal of town house reception service / multi tasking service	0	(23)	0	0
				Stop contract for security guards at Marischal College and Town House	(32)	0	0	0
Support and Corporate Services	Reduce council communications	(480)	This would stop all non-statutory communication and promotion activity including event promotion, service availability, social media, web-casting Council meetings. This option would result in £480k savings delivered over 2024/25 and 2025/26	Stop all external communications except public notices as required by legislation	0	(225)	(225)	0
				Cease webcasting of meetings	0	0	0	(30)
Support and Corporate Services	Elected Member and Senior Management Support	(300)	This would remove administrative support for Councillors and senior managers . This option would result in £300k savings delivered in 2025/26	Remove administrative support for Councillors and senior managers	0	(300)	0	0
Waste Collection and Disposal	Closure of recycling centres	(700)	This would see the closure of all household waste recycling centres in the City with the exception of Hazelhead. This option would result in £700K savings delivered over 2024/25 and 2025/26	Closure of all Household Waste & Recycling Centres except Hazlehead	(250)	(250)	0	0
				Mothball the plan for the new Bridge of Don Recycling Centre	0	(200)	0	0
Waste Collection and Disposal	Changes to waste collection	(150)	This would reduce the collection of general waste and recylate bins to every 3 weeks (the collection of garden waste brown bins would remain every 2 weeks). This option would result in £150k savings delivered in 2025/26.	Move collections to 3 weekly (recycling and waste, brown bins remain at 2 weekly).	0	(150)	0	0
		(64,257)		Sub-total from Officer Options	(16,789)	(19,154)	(11,437)	(16,876)
						(64,257)		

Public Consultation - Budget Simulator				Budget Options				
Option Categorisation	Public Consultation Grouped Option Title	Public Consultation Saving Figure £'000	Consequences	Budget Options	2024/25 Indicative budget saving £'000	2025/26 Indicative budget saving £'000	2026/27 Indicative budget saving £'000	2027/28 Indicative budget saving £'000
Council Tax	Increase to Council Tax		Additional income generated to support Council services	Increase to Council Tax (Officer working assumption - 24/25 = 8%, 25/26 = 7%, 26/27 = 6%, 27/28 = 5% increase before First Minister announcement on Council tax freeze. Option will be revised following Local Government financial settlement for 2024/25 - due after 19 December 2023).	(11,033)	(10,136)	(9,123)	(7,982)
Fees and Charges	On & Off Street Car Parking Charges		Additional income generated to support Council services	On & Off Street Car Parking Charges (Officer working assumption - 10% increase)	(269)	(296)	(326)	(359)
Fees and Charges	Cremation Fees & Burial Fees		Additional income generated to support Council services	Cremation Fees & Burial Fees (Officer working assumption - 5% increase)	(97)	(104)	(111)	(120)
Fees and Charges	Garden Waste Permit Charges		Additional income generated to support Council services	Garden Waste Permit Charges (Officer working assumption - price restructuring / increase - first permit to £50)	(376)	(364)	(163)	(163)
Fees and Charges	Parking Permit Charges		Additional income generated to support Council services	Parking Permit Charges (Officer working assumption - 10% increase)	(235)	(258)	(284)	(315)
Fees and Charges	All other Fees & Charges within the discretion of the Council		Additional income generated to support Council services	All other Fees & Charges within the discretion of the Council (Officer working assumption - 5% to 10% increase)	(393)	(244)	(267)	(291)
Grand total from Officer Options					(29,192)	(30,556)	(21,711)	(26,106)
					(107,566)			

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Council
DATE	13 December 2023
EXEMPT	No
CONFIDENTIAL	No
REPORT TITLE	Housing Revenue Account Budget 2024/25
REPORT NUMBER	RES/23/385
DIRECTOR	Steven Whyte
CHIEF OFFICER	Jonathan Belford
REPORT AUTHOR	Helen Sherrit
TERMS OF REFERENCE	2

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide elected members with information to enable the Council to approve a revenue and capital budget for 2024/25, including setting of the rents and other charges on the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) for the financial year.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Council:

- 2.1 Approve the budget as attached in Appendix 1, page 2, of this report;
- 2.2 Approve the setting of the weekly unrebated rents for municipal houses in Appendix 1, page 3 of this report, to take effect from Monday 1st April 2024;
- 2.3 Approve the level of revenue contribution to the Housing Capital budget for 2024/25 as well as note the provisional contribution for the subsequent four financial years as detailed in Appendix 1, pages 16 to 18;
- 2.4 Agree to maintain the working balances at 10% to meet future operational requirements and risks, noting that if the Housing Revenue Account records a deficit and has no reserves then the Council's General Fund must make a contribution to balance the Account;
- 2.5 Approve the level of miscellaneous rents and service charges, including Heat with Rent and the General Fund Support Services Charges as detailed in Appendix 1, pages 13 to 14, to take effect from Monday 1st April 2024;
- 2.6 Approve, based on a rental increase of 8.8% the Base Capital Programme for the financial year 2024/25 Appendix 1, pages 16 to 18;
- 2.7 Note the indicative level of the Base Capital Programme for the financial years 2025/26 to 2028/29 Appendix 1, pages 16 to 18;

- 2.8 Note that the long term Council house rent policy ran out on 31st March 2023, consultation was undertaken on a one year rent increase in 2024/25, and therefore instruct the Chief Officer – Early Intervention and Community Empowerment to undertake a similar consultation for inclusion in the 2025/26 budget process and consider if there is any benefit in a longer term Council house rent policy;
- 2.9 Note the inclusion of the tiered trend analysis of the Housing Revenue Account Budget 2024/25, page 4 in Appendix 1, and the current actions to move spend from Tier 2 Early Intervention to Tier 1 Prevention;
- 2.10 Approve the creation of a £500k Rent Assistance Fund pilot, pages 11 to 12 in Appendix 1, and instruct the Chief Officer – Early Intervention and Community Empowerment in consultation with the Chief Officer – Finance to define the proposed criteria and how such a fund would be managed to be reported to the Communities, Housing and Public Protection Committee on 28th March 2024;
- 2.11 Instruct the Chief Officer – Early Intervention and Community Empowerment, in consultation with the Chief Officer – Finance to investigate a potential pilot to reduce the rent of properties which have been void for 12 months, reporting back to the 2025/26 budget process;
- 2.12 Instruct the Chief Officer – Corporate Landlord, in consultation with the Chief Officer – Finance and the Chief Officer – Early intervention and Community Empowerment, to undertake a review of the rental differentiations per property type, including any premium that may be applied to properties with high energy efficiency levels reporting the outcome to a future meeting of the Communities Housing and Public Protection Committee and thereafter as part of the 2025/26 budget process; and
- 2.14 Delegates Authority to the Chief Officer Corporate Landlord in consultation with the Officer – Finance, Chief Officer Capital and the Chief Officer – Early Intervention and Community Empowerment to vire monies from the Housing Capital Plan to support any works that may be required for RAAC interventions across the estate, retrospectively reporting any actions to the next available meeting of the Communities Housing and Public Protection Committee.

3. CURRENT SITUATION

Projected Out-turn 2023/24

- 3.1 In looking at the position for the next financial year it is useful to put into context the financial estimates for the current financial year.
- 3.2 The overall HRA budget is balanced however there are several areas of pressure. These are the increases being experienced in repairs and maintenance from the cost of materials, pay awards, utilities, and housing voids. The higher costs in these areas will be offset by a reduced contribution to Capital from Current Revenue (CFCR), and reduced capital financing costs, this is not sustainable and this is why the tenants were consulted on a 8.8% rental increase for 2024/25.

Institutional Framework

- 3.3 The Council is required to give its tenants 28 days' notice of any change in the level of rent. With the decision on rent levels being taken on 13 December 2023, taking account of the various system amendments required, the change in rent levels will start on 1 April 2024.
- 3.4 Rent consultation was carried out in September 2023 with a closing date of 28 October 2023 for responses. Tenants were asked two questions: What would you prefer to increase rent by? 6.3% or 8.8%? There was a response rate of approximately 10%, with 40% voting for 8.8% and 60% 6.3%, therefore not a clear no to the higher increase to sustain existing services. Further details are included in Appendix 1, Page 7.
- 3.5 It was agreed this year not to consult on a longer term rent policy due to the economic uncertainty and the ongoing discussions on pay awards but this may be considered for the 2025/26 budget process if there is more financial stability.
- 3.6 The setting of the rent has been considered at the Full Council meeting in March since 2018. Prior to 2018, the decision on these specific incomes were considered at Council meeting in December of each year, which enabled officers to carry out a well-planned, carefully managed, low risk transition to the new rent charges which then took effect from April of the following financial year.
- 3.7 It was therefore agreed to bring forward future annual rent increase decisions from March Full Council meetings to December. This approach would ensure that we are line with other services, internally and externally, in setting rents at the beginning of financial year in April and reduces the risk of potential failures in the system. It will also ensure that we are maximising our rental income and removing potential losses to the HRA.
- 3.8 Schedule 15 of the Housing (Scotland) Act 1987 requires expenditure in the following main areas to be charged to the HRA:
- Capital Financing Costs in respect of monies borrowed for the purpose of providing and improving the Council's housing stock;

- Management, administration and maintenance of the Council’s housing stock; and
- Other expenditure such as loss of rents for vacant periods, insurance, communal lighting and heating, cleaning and security.

3.9 Items of income that must be credited to the HRA are:

- Council house rents;
- Other income attributable to the HRA. For example, income recovered from tenants for heating, interest on revenue balances and, when available, transfers from working balances generated by the HRA in previous years.

3.10 In the absence of any central or local authority financial support for the HRA, the HRA is regarded as “ring-fenced”. In addition, consideration of the level of capital to be financed from CFCR within the HRA budget will have an impact on the Housing Capital Budget. This report, therefore, whilst indicating a proposed HRA Budget, also provides information on the Capital Budget.

Summary 5 Year Position

In summary the main elements of the HRA budget for the next five years -

3.11 For 8.8% rent increase in 24/25, then 25/26 onwards 3%

HRA Summary	Budget 24/25 £'000	Budget 25/26 £'000	Budget 26/27 £'000	Budget 27/28 £'000	Budget 28/29 £'000
Housing Staff Management & Operations	15,852	16,161	16,476	16,798	17,126
Property Planned & Response Maintenance	41,040	43,092	45,247	47,509	49,884
Other Operational Costs (Grounds/Cleaning etc)	15,350	15,840	16,349	16,878	17,427
Cost of Repaying Borrowing	20,767	23,830	26,155	28,652	40,259
Loss of Rent – Voids and Bad Debt	13,063	13,445	13,839	14,244	13,063
Total	106,072	112,368	118,066	124,080	137,759
This enables the following to be made -					
Contribution to Capital Investment (CFCR)	9,048	9,506	5,690	1,561	
HRA Deficit					11,325

For 6.3% rent increase in 24/25, then 25/26 onwards 3%

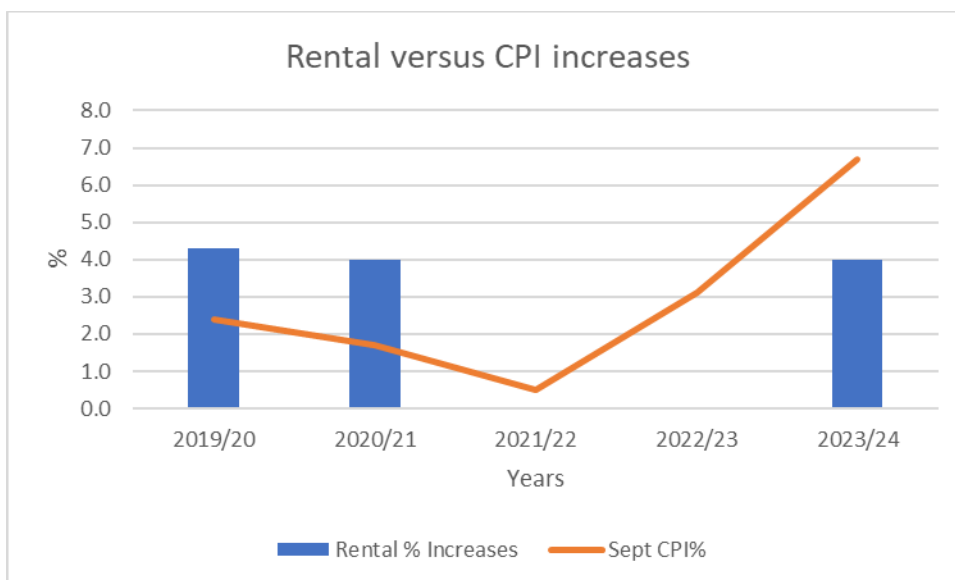
HRA Summary	Budget 24/25 £'000	Budget 25/26 £'000	Budget 26/27 £'000	Budget 27/28 £'000	Budget 28/29 £'000
Housing Staff Management & Operations	15,852	16,161	16,476	16,798	17,126
Property Planned & Response Maintenance	41,040	43,092	45,247	47,509	49,884
Other Operational Costs (Grounds/Cleaning etc)	15,350	15,840	16,349	16,878	17,427
Cost of Repaying Borrowing	20,767	23,830	26,155	28,652	40,259
Loss of Rent – Voids and Bad Debt	13,063	13,445	13,839	14,244	14,661
Total	106,072	112,368	118,066	124,080	139,357
This enables the following to be made -					
Contribution to Capital Investment (CFCR)	6,798	7,192	3,308	0	0
HRA Deficit				390	13,847

As you will see the main impact of increasing rent by 6.3% is the reduction in the CFCR for 2024/25.

The emerging issue from both rental increases is the financial sustainability of the HRA, looking beyond 2027/28 the income will be fully utilised servicing the debt. If a deficit was to occur there is no funding available from other sources, therefore costs will have to be reduced. This could include the staff costs for the management of properties, repairs to properties, life cycle extended etc. This could lead to the requirement for above inflation rent increases being more likely.

Underlying Strategy

- 3.12 Based on the Council policy the budgeted figures have assumed a Council house rent increase of 8.8% for 2024/25 and then revert back to 3% which is in line with the HRA Business Plan.
- 3.13 The 30-year HRA Business Plan assumes RPI of 2% plus 1%.
- 3.14 The graph below shows the rental increases for each year from 2019-20 compared to the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for each September in the year before. This shows from 2021-22 that rental increases were not keeping pace with CPI, in 2023-24 a rental increase of 4% compared to CPI in September 2022 of 10.1%. CPI in September 2023 is 6.7%.



Housing Market Overview

Local Housing Strategy

- 3.15 The Aberdeen City Local Housing Strategy (LHS) 2018-2023 provides the strategic direction to respond to housing need and demand and informs the future investment in housing and housing related services across the city. The LHS identified an affordable housing target of 342 homes per year in 2018/19 and 2019/20 and 385 per year in 2020/21, 2021/22 and 2022/23. This is in the process of being updated for 2024 and will be reported to the Communities, Housing and Public Protection Committee in due course.
- 3.16 Layered on top of this is the underlying demand for Council rented properties at the end of November 2023 the total waiting list is approximately 6,309 (of which 498 are homeless households) these are people who do not currently have a tenancy agreement with the Council and therefore represent an underlying demand for new housing within the city.

Rental Market

- 3.17 Average private rents in Aberdeen city stand at £832 per month, up 7.8% year on year at quarter 3 in 2023 however in 10 years the rent has fallen by 17%. Within a month 65% of properties are let.
- 3.18 In 1 bedroomed properties the rent has increased by 10.7% and in 4 bedroomed properties the rent has increased by 0.7% year on year.
- 3.19 The current demand for Council housing is borne out by the waiting list which as of November 2023 has 6,309 requests for a council tenancy. Therefore, this is still an option for many, and demand is the highest for 1 bedroomed properties

Housing Capital Plan - New Build Council housing

- 3.20 Reports on the progress of both Council led and Developer led projects, are regularly submitted to the Finance & Resources Committee, the latest summary is provided in Appendix 1, Page 19.

Ongoing Capital Expenditure

- 3.21 The draft budget for 2024/25 (and the subsequent four financial years) is attached as Appendix 1. This shows net expenditure of £123 million financed by £96 million of borrowing along with £9 million by way of a revenue contribution and Government Funding/Other Income of £18 million.
- 3.22 This capital budget reflects and includes a rental increase of 8.8%. The details of the potential projects to be included in this programme are contained in Appendix 1, pages 16 to 18.
- 3.23 Included within the programme over the next five years is the continuing delivery of both council led and developer led new Council homes.

Reserves & Risk

- 3.24 The continuing cost of living crisis is having an impact on debt levels within the HRA, which has followed on from the impact of COVID-19 resulting in debt not reducing to a significant increase during 2022/23. The Chief Officer - Finance must be confident that the level of working balances is adequate to meet any unforeseen contingencies during the financial year, particularly as it is difficult to predict the impact of inflation on supplies and services for repairs and maintenance.
- 3.25 Based on projected income and expenditure for 2023/24, the opening figure for 2024/25 should be approximately £13.628 million as detailed below:

Movement in Working Balances	£'000	
Working balance as at 1 April 2023		15,715
Less: Earmarked sums (2022/23)		
Housing Repairs	(2,278)	
House Sales – Non RTB	(309)	(2,587)
Projected Uncommitted Working Balances 1 April 2023		13,128
23/24 Contribution to working balance		500
Projected Uncommitted Working Balances 1 April 2024		13,628
24/25 Contribution to working balance		500
Projected Uncommitted Working Balances 1 April 2025		14,128

- 3.26 It is proposed the Council continues to work towards increasing the working balance to over 10% over the next year as demonstrated in the table above.

From the HRA guidance issued in 2014 “Under paragraph 9(2) of Schedule 15 to the 1987 Act, if a HRA deficit arises in any one year, the local authority must make a contribution to make good the deficit from the General Fund. Scottish Ministers consent is not required for this contribution. Prudent practice is for the local authority to hold HRA reserves (either as a specific reserve or an earmarked part of the General Fund reserves). HRA reserves are the result of years where the HRA income exceeds the HRA expenditure, i.e. a surplus

rather than a deficit. These surpluses (reserves) will therefore be available to apply to the HRA in any year when a deficit arises negating the need for the General Fund contribution.”

Prudential Code

- 3.27 Councils are required by Regulation to have regard to the Prudential Code when carrying out their duties under Part 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 2003.
- 3.28 In setting a capital programme, members will be aware that under the Prudential Code, the level of capital investment is determined at a local authority level. The base programme for consideration is £123 million. This is attached in Appendix 1 at pages 16 to 18.
- 3.29 The fundamental objective, in the consideration of the affordability of the Council’s capital programme, is to ensure that the total capital investment of the authority remains within sustainable limits and in particular to consider the impact on the “bottom line”.
- 3.30 The Council’s Prudential Indicators will be included within the General Fund Budget report on 6th March 2024.

Business Plan

- 3.31 The Overall HRA Business Plan was approved at City Growth & Resources Committee on 18 September 2018 and set out the Council’s plans for managing and maintaining the housing stock of over 22,772 rented properties held in the Housing Revenue Account (HRA).
- 3.32 It also addressed how the fund will be managed to ensure maximum value is achieved throughout the projected 30-year cycle. Its fundamental purpose is therefore to demonstrate and ensure the efficient use of the Council’s housing assets and rental income. The Business Plan is designed to set out the strategic goals of the Council’s Housing Service and measure progress toward achieving these goals and provides a realistic appraisal of how these strategic goals will be achieved within the limitations of available funding and the predicted economic climate.

3.33 Impact of cost pressures 2023/24 and 2024/25 onwards

The HRA is coming under pressure from the following and this is why we are looking to take a cost of service approach to rent setting and not an inflation plus -

- Pay awards.
- Rent freeze in 21/22 & 22/23 resulting in a loss of £360m (in cash terms) over the 30 years. (Appendix 1, Page 9, shows we were one of the few Local Authorities who implemented a rent freeze for two years)
- Level of spend on voids not reducing due to the high turnover of properties.
- Spend on Repairs & Maintenance increasing year on year, some of this can be attributed to inflation and pay award.

- Spend on Management & Administration increasing, some of this is due to the pay award but also reflects higher level of recharges from General Fund which year on year have been increasing.
- Increasing level of debt charges due to New Build Programme, this could be further stretched by an improvement programme for Multi Storeys and RAAC.
- Funding solutions to address the need to achieve / contribute to net zero for which no grant funding has been identified.

It should be noted that in accordance with the Housing (Scotland) Act 1987, section 210 (3) "In determining standard rents to which their housing revenue account relates, a local authority shall take no account of the personal circumstances of the tenants".

3.34 **Voids**

As of 10th October 2023, 1,974 properties are classed as 'Void', meaning that they are not currently occupied and are in the process of being returned to let. Void Properties are creating a cost pressure in the HRA budget, anticipated out-turn in 2023/24 of £6.9m compared to a budget of £3.3m.

- 3.35 To address the loss of income from the voids it is proposed that the Chief Officer – Early Intervention and Community Empowerment, in consultation with the Chief Officer – Finance, investigate the feasibility of a potential pilot to reduce the rent of properties which have been void for 12 months. In October a total of 236 voids have been void for 6 months or longer on a weekly basis this is costing £21k on annual basis £1m. If we were to give a 30% reduction in rents on these properties this would lead to a weekly income of £15k annually £720k, it would not be realistic to anticipate all properties would be let at this rent however if 50% were let this would generate £360k of income.

3.36 **Choice Based Letting**

In 2023/24 the Council introduced Choice Based Letting, which allows tenants to make an informed decision about where they would like to live by bidding (registering interest) on our available properties online.

Available homes are advertised on our website each week (called a bidding cycle).

Over 9 weekly bidding cycles have occurred from 27 June to 21 August 2023. there has been an average of 33 properties per week available for applicants to bid on. The 36 new build homes at Cloverhill have also been advertised via Choice Based Letting. To ensure fairness and to prevent applicants having to place multiple bids, only one advert is made per property type/floor level. Therefore only 12 adverts were made for the 36 homes.

Over this period there were 21,641 bids for 304 properties, there have been a total of 1061 applicants bidding online. Every property advertised to date has received bids, with the highest being 243 bids for one property in Linksfield and the lowest was 5 bids for a property in Balnagask.

The early indication is that applicants placing bids themselves are less likely to have a bid withdrawn or to refuse their offer.

3.37 Review of rents for new build properties

Currently the rental on the new build properties are set at the same level as the existing stock and there are a limited number of property types with rental differentials. It is proposed that the Chief Officer – Corporate Landlord, in consultation with the Chief Officer – Finance and the Chief Officer – Early intervention and Community Empowerment, to undertake a review of the rental differentiations per property type, including any premium that may be applied to properties with high energy efficiency levels reporting the outcome to a future meeting of the Communities Housing and Public Protection Committee and thereafter as part of the 2025/26 budget process.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Setting the budget for the HRA enables the housing stock to be managed in an effective and responsible way. The income supports in full the payment of ongoing costs of providing social housing in Aberdeen and incorporated costs of voids, debt charges, rent arrears as well as meeting the costs of repairing and maintaining the housing stock.
- 4.2 Given that the purpose of this report is to set the HRA budget for 2024/25 the financial implications are contained within the report and the attached Appendix.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The Housing (Scotland) Act 1987 requires local authorities to maintain a Housing Revenue Account.
- 5.2 The Housing (Scotland) Act 2001 requires local authorities to consult on proposed rent increases.
- 5.3 Aberdeen City Council must comply with the Equality Act 2010 by giving due regard to the needs of the public sector equality duty. An Integrated Impact Assessment has been prepared to assess the impact of the proposed rent increases on persons with relevant protected characteristics.

6. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The budget proposed indicates several areas where energy improvements are recommended, or monies set aside to identify sustainable energy solution in the future.

7. RISK

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

Category	Risks	Primary Controls/Control Actions to achieve Target Risk Level	*Target Risk Level (L, M or H) *taking into account controls/control actions	*Does Target Risk Level Match Appetite Set?
Strategic Risk	<p>Management of the Housing Revenue Account not achieving intended strategic objectives.</p> <p>Audit, Risk & Scrutiny Committee on 23 March 23 refreshed the Risk Appetite Statement. The RAS sets out how the Council will balance its risks and opportunities in pursuit of delivering the outcomes set out within the Local Outcome Improvement Plan and associated strategies.</p>	<p>Through the Housing Revenue Account Business Plan</p> <p>The recommendations and risk assessment carried out are consistent with the Council's RAS. Should Council be minded departing from the recommendations, it is important in doing so that the Council considers the potential impacts across the organisation and on the Council's pursuit of strategic outcomes.</p>	<p>L</p> <p>M</p>	Yes
Compliance	Non-compliance with Housing Revenue Account Guidance.	Review process undertaken as part of budget process	L	Yes
Operational	Housing Revenue Account should be effective in enabling the	Ensure Best Value is achieved for the 22,772 tenancies.	L	Yes

	most efficient method to provide housing to the 22,772 tenancies and maximising the efficiency of the account to provide Best Value.			
Financial	<p>Every organisation has to manage the financial risks inherent in the operation of large and complex budgets.</p> <p>In relation to capital projects there is a risk that following the procurement process tendered costs will vary from that assumed at the time of project approval.</p>	<p>These risks are minimised by the regular review of financial information by services and corporately by Elected Members.</p> <p>Quantification and review of indicative projects costs by suitable qualified staff or external body, where appropriate.</p>	H M	Yes
Reputational	The reputational risks to the Council are minimised by the regular review of financial information by CMT, the Performance Board and Elected members	All staff and Elected Members advised.	L	Yes

	throughout the Financial year.			
Environment / Climate	The budget proposed indicates a number of areas where energy improvements are recommended, or monies set aside to identify sustainable energy solution in the future. Not to proceed with this would create risks.	Risks minimised if report recommendations are approved	M	Yes

8. OUTCOMES

<u>COUNCIL DELIVERY PLAN 2024-2025</u>	
	Impact of Report
Aberdeen City Council Policy Statement	Housing Revenue Account should be effective in enabling the most efficient method to provide housing to the 22,772 tenancies and maximising the efficiency of the account to provide Best Value.
<u>Aberdeen City Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2016-26</u>	
Prosperous Economy Stretch Outcomes	The purchasing power of the HRA creates a positive impact on the economy.
Prosperous People Stretch Outcomes	Recognising that good quality Housing is a key driver of Public Health and can affect the wellbeing of tenants in all areas of life including educational attainment, employment, and physical and mental health.
Prosperous Place Stretch Outcomes	A core aspect of the structure of the Early Intervention and Community Empowerment structure and culture is community sustainability, and the management of the Housing Revenue Account, is important in this context.

Regional and City Strategies	The HRA is sustainable through the HRA business plan this delivers the sustainability of the 22,772 tenancies.
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9. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Assessment	Outcome
Integrated Impact Assessment	Required – In the process of being completed.
Data Protection Impact Assessment	Not required.
Other	Not required.

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Scottish Housing Network – network indicators 2022-23 and benchmarking from regulators data set 2022-23

Citylets Quarterly report Q3 2023 – Aberdeen

11. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Draft Housing Revenue Account 2024/25 - 2028/29 Budget

12. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

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ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

APPENDIX 1

HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT

Rental increase

The analysis below shows the original budget for 23/24, the forecast budget for 24/25 presented in the March 23/24 budget papers and the revised budget forecast for 24/25 starting from 22/23 actual and then taking into account known potential increases. As you can see from the revised forecast there is a uplift in costs of 8.8%, therefore to maintain current service standards rent would need to increase by this percentage.

HRA Summary	Budget 23/24 £'000	Forecast 24/25 £'000	Revised Forecast 24/25 £'000	Reasons for Uplift & Revision
Housing Staff Management & Operations	14,802	15,091	15,852	Pay assumption
Property Planned & Response Maintenance	33,008	34,659	41,040	Pay & Price inflation
Other Operational Costs (Grounds/Cleaning etc)	17,183	17,574	15,350	Pay assumption
Cost of Repaying Borrowing	16,663	20,980	20,767	
Loss of Rent – Voids and Bad Debt	9,131	9,401	13,063	No decrease in voids and bad debt
Total	90,787	97,705	106,072	8.8% uplift
This enables the following to be made -				
Contribution to Capital Investment (CFCR)	10,937	8,183	9,048	CFCR retained for capital investment
Surplus	500	500	500	Contribution to the working balance

Below is the main assumptions in the 2024/25 budget -

Assumptions	% uplift	Reason
Repairs and Maintenance	8	Pay and material increases
Maintenance of Grounds	3	Pay increase
Cleaning Services	3	Pay increase
Utilities	5	Anticipated increase
Admin and Management	3	Pay increase
Voids	8.8	Reflects rental increase

Below is summary details of the future 4 years of the HRA budget from 25/26 to 28/29, you will see that from 26/27 to 28/29 no CFRCR contribution is made and the HRA is in a deficit position. This assumes that the provision of services remains the same and a rent increase of 3% year on year.

HRA Summary	Budget 25/26 £'000	Budget 26/27 £'000	Budget 27/28 £'000	Budget 28/29 £'000
Housing Staff Management & Operations	16,161	16,476	16,798	17,126
Property Planned & Response Maintenance	43,092	45,247	47,509	49,884
Other Operational Costs (Grounds/Cleaning etc)	15,840	16,349	16,878	17,427
Cost of Repaying Borrowing	23,830	26,155	28,652	40,259
Loss of Rent – Voids and Bad Debt	13,445	13,839	14,244	13,063
Total	112,368	118,066	124,080	137,759
This enables the following to be made -				
Contribution to Capital Investment (CFRCR)	9,506	5,690	1,561	
Deficit				11,325

This further supports a rent increase of 8.8% in 24/25, with a push to reduce spending on repairs and maintenance and voids in future years to bring the HRA back to a balanced position.

Impact of the rent increase

Below is the proposed rent increases based on a 8.8% rental increase.

	0 Bedrooms	1 Bedroom	2 Bedrooms	3 Bedrooms	4 Bedrooms
Existing 2023/24 rent levels					
	£	£	£	£	£
Multi/flat/maisonette	67.80	80.83	87.35	93.88	100.39
Four in a block	74.32	87.35	93.87	100.40	106.91
Cottage/house	80.85	93.88	100.40	106.93	113.44
Proposed 2024/25 rent levels with 8.8% increase					
	£	£	£	£	£
Multi/flat/maisonette	73.77	87.94	95.04	102.14	109.22
Four in a block	80.86	95.04	102.13	109.24	116.32
Cottage/house	87.96	102.14	109.24	116.34	123.42

Tiered trend analysis

In the 2023/24 Budget the recommendation was to Instruct the Chief Officer – Early Intervention and Community Empowerment, in consultation with the Chief Officer – Finance, to undertake a tiered trend analysis of the Housing Revenue Account Budget for inclusion in the 2024/25 budget process, ensuring an appropriate focus is placed on prevention and early intervention when investing tenant funds.

Below is a summary of HRA Budget for 2024/25 tiered trend analysis –

HRA Budget 2024/25	Tiers		
	1	2	3
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Housing Staff Management & Operations	4,610	9,546	1,696
Property Planned & Response Maintenance	8,208	32,832	-
Other Operational Costs (Grounds/Cleaning etc)	10,963	2,469	1,918
Cost of Repaying Borrowing	20,767	-	-
Loss of Rent – Voids and Bad Debt	-	65	13,192
Total	44,547	44,913	16,805

Summary of the tiers

1 – Prevention -Taking action to prevent the occurrence of harm through universal measures

2 - Early intervention - Interventions that ward off the initial onset of harm and create empowered resilient communities and staff (human demand) Intervening before further harm takes place in a way that avoids the later costs in both human and financial terms of handling the consequences of that harm (resource demand)

3 - Response "Significant harm has occurred or is assessed as being imminent, significant resource is required to provide specialist and / or intensive support to reduce harm and demand.

During 2024/25 the aim is to move spend in premises costs from tier 2 to 1, initial work has started through the Planned Maintenance pilot in Lang Stracht agreed at Communities Housing and Infrastructure Committee on 5 September 2023 which once rolled out should allow this to be achieved.

There is work currently being undertaken and future projects which will decrease the spend in tier 3 such as -

Additional external contractors assisting with the work to help clear the backlog of voids.

Introduction in 2023/24 of Choice Based Letting detailed in 3.36 in the covering report should reduce admin time on refusals and therefore allow staff to focus on tenant sustainability.

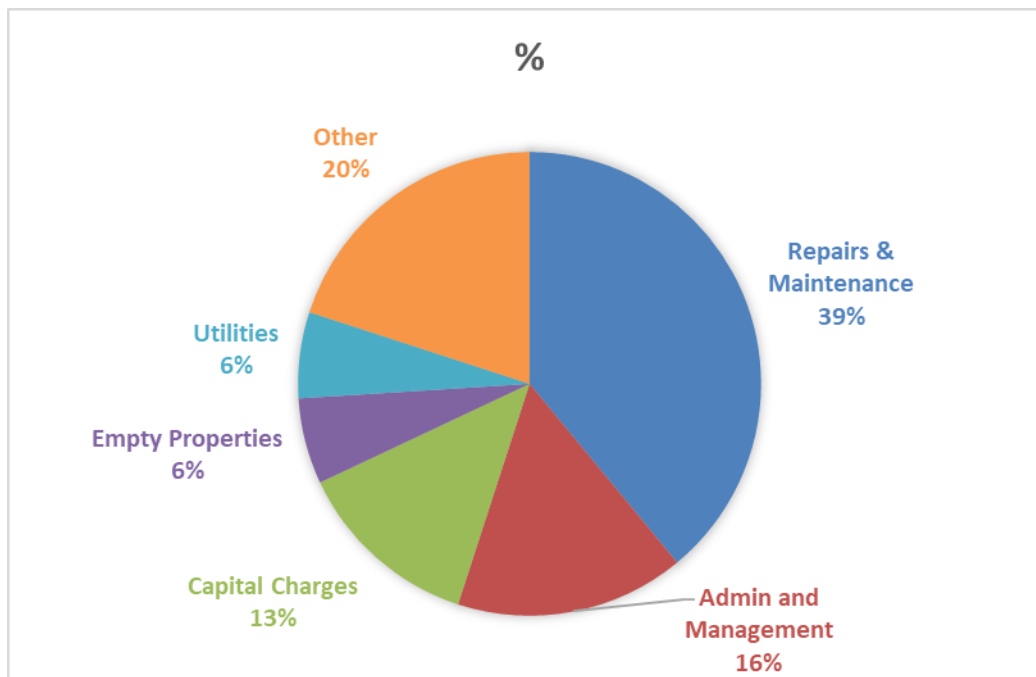
The potential pilot to reduce the rent of properties which have been void for 12 months which would also reduce the loss of rent on voids.

The introduction of the pilot Rent Assistance Fund at page 11 in this appendix, could reduce bad debt by the increased engagement with the Financial Inclusion Team who would ensure the most vulnerable tenants are claiming the benefits they are entitled to, therefore maximising their income.

Reduction in spend in tier 3 would reduce the overall cost of the HRA, which would ensure the financial sustainability in the future and avoid above inflation rent increases.

Where we spend the money

We keep all of the income and expenditure for our council houses in a separate account, called the Housing Revenue Account (HRA). In 2022/23 the HRA spent £92m, below you will see the main areas of spend – Repairs and Maintenance £36m 39%, Admin and Management £14m 16% and Capital Charges £12m 13%.



Repair & Maintenance	Ongoing maintenance costs of properties
Admin & Management	Staff costs including salary, national insurance and pension
Capital Charges	HRA borrowing costs for the spend on new build and capital programme.
Empty Properties	When a property is empty we can't charge rent this is the cost.
Utilities	The vast majority of this cost is covered by heat with rent charges, the balance is for the heating of communal areas.
Other	Includes grass cutting around your homes, pest control, cleaning.

Rent Policy

Current Rent Policy is 4% this ends in 31 March 24, only 2 years 20/21 & 23/24 has the 4% been applied, 0% in 21/22 & 22/23.

It is not recommend fixing the rent policy for 4 or 3 years due to the uncertainty with pay and supplies/services inflation. However, this could be reviewed next financial year if there is stability.

We must consult on a rent policy for 24/25 as per the Housing (Scotland) Act 2001 below:

- S.25(4) states:

Where the landlord under a Scottish secure tenancy proposes to increase the rents or any other charges payable by all, or any class of, its tenants it must, before giving notice under subsection (1)—

- (a) consult those of its tenants who would be affected by the proposal, and
- (b) have regard to the views expressed by those consulted.

In 2023/24 the majority of local authorities did not have a fixed rent policy. The main restriction on setting rent in 23/24 was the COSLA commitment to restrict rental increases to an average of less than £5 per week, this has not been extended into 24/25.

Programme for Government set out a Bill which will introduce a framework for delivering long term rent controls, the Minister for Housing has made it clear that this will apply to the private rented sector only. He also states “I am acutely aware of the fine balance between affordability and investment in the social sector, and the clear need to set rents at a level that ensures essential work can continue in relation to new build developments, improvement programmes and work towards energy efficiency and carbon neutral targets.”

This year we are looking at a cost of service approach to rent setting and not inflation plus in order to allow us to continue with essential work and continue to provide the current level of services.

Tenant Consultation

A full consultation process for rent setting for 2024/25 was agreed in September 2023. This process involved providing tenants with a rent consultation, response questionnaire reply paid envelope and information on the option to complete online via Citizen space on the Council’s website. The consultation was carried out in September with a closing date of 28 October for responses. Detailed results of the consultation are shown below.

Question -

What would you prefer to increase rent by?

6.3% or 8.8%

A rental increase of 6.3% would result in a reduced service that could impact on areas including grounds maintenance. For example, for a multi/flat/maisonette with 1 bedroom, this would be an increase from £80.33 to £85.92.

A rental increase of 8.8% would maintain services as they are now, which includes the work that is done, such as building new homes, fitting new kitchens and bathrooms, and ongoing repairs and maintenance. For example, for a multi/flat/maisonette with 1 bedroom, this would be an increase from £80.33 to £87.94.

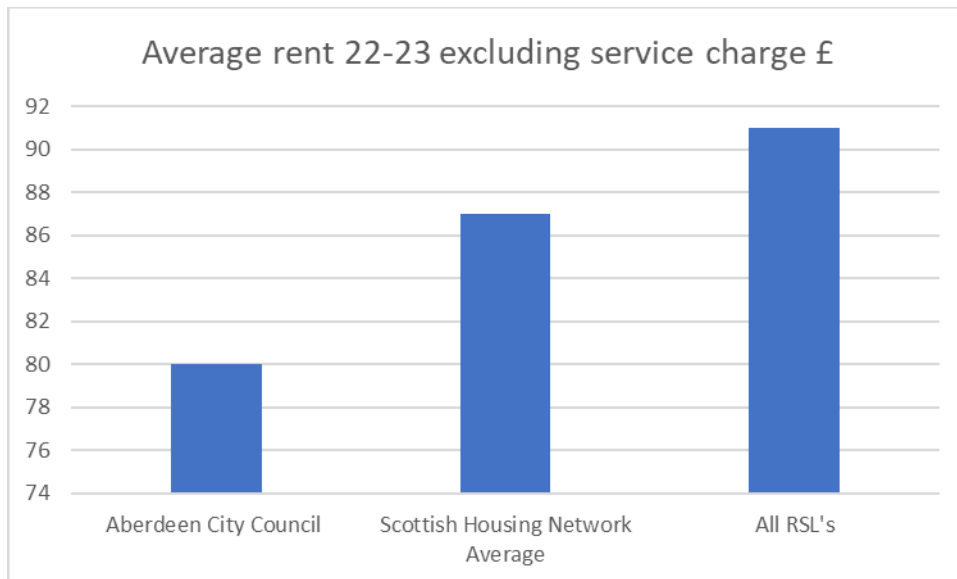
Results of Tenant Consultation			
	6.30%	8.80%	Total
Online	522	235	757
Postal	670	582	1,252
Total	1,192	817	2,009
%	59.33	40.67	100.00
Consultations sent out			19,968
% Response			10.06

Although 2,009 (10.06%) response rate is low this is not unusual. In 22/23 Edinburgh City Council reported 1,036 responses to their consultation and Fife Council 1,170 responses. Both Councils are in our peer group as they have a similar level of stock.

This response is not a definite no to increasing rent to 8.8% and maintaining the existing level of services.

Affordability

How does Aberdeen City Council compare with the RSLs



Although this information is taken from 2022-23, if the 4% rental increase for 2023/24 was added to the above figure this would give ACC an average rent of £83.20, if a further 8.8% was applied this would equate to an average of £90.52 which would equate to the average rent for a RSL in 2022-23. RSLs who operate in Grampian did increase their rents in 2023/24 ranging from a 4% to 6% increases.

Source Annual network indicators from the Scottish Housing Network

Comparison with other Local Authorities

The table below shows the % rental increase for each of the years for each local authority, last year none opted for a rent freeze and only three others had a rent freeze in 21/22 and 22/23 – City of Edinburgh, East Lothian and Mid Lothian Councils.

Year and change	21/22	22/23	23/24
Local Authority	%	%	%
Aberdeen City Council	0	0	4
Aberdeenshire Council	2.8	1.5	2.5
Angus Council	2	1	4.1
City of Edinburgh Council	0	0	3
Clackmannanshire Council	0	3.1	3
Dundee City Council	1.5	1.5	3
East Ayrshire Council	1.5	1.5	4
East Dunbartonshire Council	0.5	2.5	4.2
East Lothian Council	0	0	5
East Renfrewshire Council	1	1	5
Falkirk Council	2	2	2
Fife Council	1.5	2.5	5
Midlothian Council	0	0	4.8
North Ayrshire Council	1.9	2.5	6.42
North Lanarkshire Council	5	3	5
Orkney Islands Council	2	2	3
Perth & Kinross Council	1	3	2.2
Renfrewshire Council	1.5	2	5.5
Shetland Islands Council	1	0	4.5
South Ayrshire Council	1.5	1.5	1.5
South Lanarkshire Council	2.2	2.2	3.5
Stirling Council	1.3	1.1	2.9
The Highland Council	2	1	4
The Moray Council	3	1.5	3.5
West Dunbartonshire Council	1.5	2	5
West Lothian Council	3	3	3.5

Local Authorities- Average rent 22/23 excluding Service Charges					
	£	£			
	52 Week Basis	48 Week basis			
Aberdeenshire Council	90.48	98.02			
East Renfrewshire Council	88.15	95.50			
Orkney Islands Council	85.62	92.76			
Shetland Islands Council	82.61	89.49			
West Lothian Council	81.82	88.64			
Midlothian Council	81.47	88.26			
Aberdeen City Council	79.74	86.39			
South Ayrshire Council	79.31	85.92			
Fife Council	78.76	85.32			
North Ayrshire Council	77.79	84.27			
Clackmannanshire Council	77.45	83.90			
East Ayrshire Council	76.72	83.11			
South Lanarkshire Council	76.66	83.05			
Perth & Kinross Council	73.99	80.16			
The Highland Council	73.79	79.94			
North Lanarkshire Council	73.77	79.92			
Angus Council	73.48	79.60			
Moray Council	65.13	70.56			
The above rents are those detailed which do not include the Service Charges					
ACC's Average rent position as at 22/23 is not the highest, with all local authorities increasing their rent in 2023/24.					
Currently only 22/23 figures are available.					
This does not include all the LA's only those included on the Scottish Housing Network website					

Rent Assistance Fund

We would like to establish a £500k Rent Assistance Fund pilot to support tenants who are least able to afford the rent increase, to be funded from the existing Bad Debt provision budget.

This Fund would be aimed at providing support through critical debt relief to our current secure tenants in rent arrears who are currently experiencing financial hardship. The fund would be administered by a panel of Council officers, making decisions on applications for financial assistance based on a strict set of criteria and where all other avenues have been exhausted. The criteria and how such a fund would be managed would be presented to the Communities, Housing and Public Protection Committee on 28th March 2024.

Benefits to the tenants would be support to 'vulnerable' tenants to reduce debt levels & to better sustain their tenancies. Help tenants & families being financially "squeezed" by Welfare Reform and the cost of living crisis. SOLACE Housing Pressures report of June 2023 states that "The roll out of Universal Credit has been singled out as the reason for increased social sector rent arrears and figures from the Scottish Federation of Housing Associations (SFHA) show that the average level of rent arrears for tenants on UC is higher than for those tenants not on UC."

The fund could help build trust and better relationships with tenants in need. Bring more meaningful tenant engagement around arrears repayment. Reduce our need for legal actions, subsequent evictions & resulting homelessness, promote earlier intervention.

Many other Local Authorities already have established Rent Assistance Funds, North Lanarkshire, Fife, Edinburgh City, Perth & Kinross, Falkirk Councils to name a few. Not all Local Authorities state the level of funding available within such a fund however North Lanarkshire have a £1M, Edinburgh City £683K and Fife £1m in such Funds available for tenants.

North Lanarkshire have provided us with the following information regarding their Rent Assistance Fund, explaining the number of applicants and the benefits.

North Lanarkshire Council - Rent Assistance Fund

2022/23 - £497,990 - 515 applications approved, average award £967.

2023/24 - £1 million – 1085 applications approved to date, average award £922.

This funding is available for tenants that are in arrears who have experienced/are experiencing financial difficulties due to the increase in the cost of living. A maximum payment of £2,250 can be awarded. This funding is not re-payable, but if the tenant fails to maintain rent payments going forward, then the funding will be removed. This funding has encouraged tenants to engage with the Rents Team. Our Housing Advisors within the Rents Team have been proactively contacting tenants to establish if they qualify for this funding. The funding has also been advertised on social media and awareness raised also through word of mouth. We have found that tenants are very appreciative of the award of funding regardless of it being a smaller amount or full award, as the amount of the award

they are receiving is alleviating some of the financial pressure on them and relates to their own financial situation.

Benefits of this funding are as follows:-

- Ongoing engagement with tenants and payment arrangements being maintained. To date only 4 awards of funding have been removed from this year's allocation of funding due to rent accounts not being maintained, so YTD 99.63% engagement and compliance.
- From this year's allocation of funding just over 30 evictions have been prevented. We have worked with the tenant, and they have contributed towards reducing the balance outstanding on their rent account and the award of funding will reduce/clear the remaining balance to prevent the eviction from going ahead.
- Cases which have been enrolled at Court are being dismissed when the court date comes around. By working with the tenant and encouraging them to complete time to pay form and maintaining payment arrangement up to court date, by awarding funding this is clearing/reducing remaining balance giving tenant the opportunity to sustain tenancy.
- Sisted cases are being re-enrolled at court and action dismissed due to balances being cleared which is giving the tenant the opportunity to sustain their tenancy
- When an application form is completed, a full financial assessment is completed. This has allowed our Income Maximisers/Sustainability Officers to maximise tenants' income. Examples of this is many tenants with children who are in receipt of Universal Credit not yet claiming the Scottish Child Payment or tenants with medical conditions who are not claiming benefits such as Adult Disability Payment. The team of Income Maximisers/Sustainability Officers are based within the Rents Team and last year generated £15 million of additional income for tenants.

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL				
HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT				
Miscellaneous Rents				
2024/2025				
	Current	Proposed	Increase	Percentage
	Rental	Rental	Per Week	Increase
	£	£	£	%
Miscellaneous Increases - HRA				
Garages	12.65	13.75	1.10	8.70%
Denburn and West North Street Spaces	5.80	6.30	0.50	8.62%
Denburn and West North Street Spaces	21.00	22.75	1.75	8.33%
Garages Sites	4.95	5.35	0.40	8.08%
Car Ports	5.40	5.85	0.45	8.33%
Car Parking Spaces - Local	4.55	4.95	0.40	8.79%
Car Parking Spaces - Non Local	21.00	22.75	1.75	8.33%
Window Cleaning	0.95	1.00	0.05	5.26%
Meals at Denmore & Kingswood	43.00	46.50	3.50	8.14%
Guest Rooms	10&15	12&18	2 &3	20.00%
House Garden Scheme (annual)	83.00	90.00	7.00	8.43%
General Fund charges - Support Services				
Provision of temporary accommodation as per legislative duty	94	95	1	1.06%
Service Charge for Hostel - West North Street	773	810	37	4.79%
Service charge for supported flats	48	53	5	10.42%

The above proposed prices for 2024/25 have been increased broadly in line with the proposed 8.8% rent increase. The exception is the Guest Rooms these have not been increased for a number of years.

Included this year is the General Fund Charges for Support Services, although these are not HRA charges they are linked to the rent setting, by setting these charges in December it will allow the relevant systems to be updated and tenants to be updated prior to 1 April 23. These charges are based on actual costs and forecasts for pay awards.

Heat with Rent calculations for 2024/25

A review of consumption and costs is required each year. As Heat with Rent is not available to all tenants, therefore not rent pooled the cost must be recovered by the charge. The increased energy costs continue to result in a cost pressure in 2023/24.

This year the consumption has been taken for the last three years to even out any potential peaks and troughs. A reduction has been made for communal areas.

Heat with Rent provides a number of benefits to the tenants principally the charge is the same every week therefore no unexpected large bills in cold winters and the 5% VAT charge is not passed onto the tenants.

From 1 July 2023, households without a pre-payment meter no longer receive an Energy Price Guarantee discount on their gas and electricity bills. This is because the Ofgem price cap is lower than the Energy Price Guarantee level, meaning households will pay rates capped by the price cap.

For the period of October to December 2023, the Ofgem price cap has been set at £1,834 for a typical household per year. This represented a further fall in the cost of mains gas and electricity from the previous period, which stood at £2.074 for the period of July to September 2023.

The Energy Price Guarantee will remain in place as a safety net until the end of March 2024 should energy prices increase above £3,000 per year.

As you can see below the annual charge for heat with rent on all heat sources is well below these averages.

We are proposing a reduction in the Heat with Rent charges for 2024/25, based on the estimated costs for all energy sources, this will be subject to change and amendment to these charges will be reflected in the 2025/26 calculation.

Heat with Rent – 48 week basis			
	Previous	Proposed	Annual Charge
	£	£	£
Gas Heated Properties			
Bedsits	13.29	11.64	638
1 bed roomed flats	15.32	13.41	735
2 bed roomed flats	17.42	15.25	836
3 bed roomed flats	19.45	17.03	934
Electrically Heated Properties			
Bedsits	14.53	12.81	697
1 bed roomed flats	16.44	14.49	789
2 bed roomed flats	18.49	16.30	888
3 bed roomed flats	20.40	17.98	979
CHP Properties			
All 1 Bed roomed Properties	15.75	13.61	756
All 2 Bed roomed Properties	17.80	15.38	854

Housing Capital 24/25 onwards

Our investment plan is shaped by the following key factors:

- Council commitments, statutory compliance and government targets
- lifecycle and health and safety – maintenance and improvements to keep our homes safe and continue meeting the Scottish Housing Quality Standard (SHQS).

We are working towards a more robust programme of planned maintenance works to increase the overall quality of the estate. Also currently consulting with tenants on the future of the city centre multi-Storey blocks.

The level of spillage has been set at 27% to allow flexibility in the programme.

It is proposed a revised policy on the revised eligibility criteria for Buying Back former Council Houses will be presented to the Policy Group at the next appropriate opportunity, this will look at restricting the eligibility and therefore reduce the spend on this area of the capital programme.

Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC)

In response to the prospect to RAAC being used in housing surveys have been ongoing across the housing estate with an initial focus on flat roof properties.. To date we have identified circa 360 properties, which are the responsibility of the HRA, within the Balnagask area, that have RAAC construction panels within the roofs. An action plan is being developed in relation to these properties, although the cost implications and options are still being developed.

Surveys across the remainder of the estate are well advanced and have not yet identified any other areas of concern. It is anticipated these will be concluded in early 2024. The Report recommendations give a delegation to officers to vire capital spend between projects should urgent spend be required on RAAC affected properties. (further information –

<https://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/services/housing/raac-council-housing>)

Housing Capital Budget 2024/25 to 2028/29					
	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29
PROJECT	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
SCOTTISH HOUSING QUALITY STANDARDS					
1 Compliant with the tolerable standard					
1.1 Major Repairs-					
Pitch Roof Replacement (Flats, Houses and Cottages)	3,922	7,662	6,986	7,480	6,599
	3,922	7,662	6,986	7,480	6,599
2 Free from Serious Disrepair					
2.1 <u>Primary Building Elements</u>					
Structural Repairs Multi Storey	3,289	3,930	4,225	4542	976
City Centre Multi Storey Proposals	500	100	100	100	100
Structural Repairs General Housing	1,750	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500
<u>Secondary Building Elements</u>					
2.2 Upgrading of Flat Roofs General	1,674	1,700	1,926	1,667	124
Upgrading of Flat Roofs General Cottages	1,884	168	626	34	38
2.3 Upgrade Flat Roofs Multi Storey	1,129	1,213	1,304	935	2,010
2.6 Window Replacement Houses	4,118	2,917	9,218	6,462	14,725
Window Replacement Flats	7,962	9,902	5,428	8,912	16,293
Window Replacement General – Communal	454	500	560	400	495
Window Replacement - Rosemount Square (flats and communals)	2,800	-	-	-	-
2.7 Window Replacement-Multi Storey (Communal)	-	75	81	60	129
Window Replacement-Multi Storey (Flats)	-	2,345	2,880	2,635	5,814
	25,560	25,350	28,848	28,247	43,204
3 Energy Efficient					
<u>Effective insulation</u>					
3.1 Cavity Wall Insulation	250	300	400	500	500
3.2 General Houses Loft Insulation	728	787	565	610	0
<u>Efficient Heating</u>					
3.3 Heating Systems Replacement	6,670	6,367	6,685	6,466	6,952
Heating option appraisal	0	0	0	0	0
Torry Heat Network	4,000	-	-	-	-
3.6 Energy Efficiency Sheltered	640	690	740	800	860
<u>Additional Energy Efficiency measures</u>					
3.7 SCARF	35	35	35	35	35
3.8 Solid Wall Insulation	3,280	3,000	3,240	3,340	3,340
	15,603	11,179	11,665	11,751	11,687

Housing Capital Budget 2024/25 to 2028/29					
	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29
PROJECT	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Modern Facilities & Services					
<u>Bathroom and Kitchen Condition</u>					
4.1 Modernisation Programme – Bathroom	4,152	3,676	2,456	2,310	3,792
Modernisation Programme – Kitchen	12,060	17,340	14,172	15,967	18,559
	16,212	21,016	16,628	18,277	22,351
5 Healthy, Safe & Secure					
<u>Safe</u>					
5.3 Rewiring	1,130	1,171	262	2,474	7,651
5.4 Lift Replacement Multi Storey/Major Blocks	1,440	1,935	2,080	2,235	-
5.5 Smoke Detectors – Common Areas Major Blocks	255	274	295	316	397
5.6 Services					
Cyclical maintenance/replacement of the following services	812	50	50	50	50
<u>Secure</u>					
5.11 Door Entry Systems	109	45	48	42	17
5.12 Replace Door Entry Systems - Major Blocks	522	481	603	740	795
5.13 Other Initiatives FD 60 Doors	2,317	914	980	261	2,055
	6,585	4,870	4,318	6,118	10,965
NON SCOTTISH HOUSING QUALITY STANDARDS					
6 Community Plan & LOIP					
6.2 Community Initiatives	250	250	250	250	250
6.7 Adaptations Disabled	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
6.8 Special Initiatives/Barrier Free Housing	300	150	150	150	150
6.9 Housing For Varying Needs- Amenity/Adaptations	150	150	150	150	150
6.1 Housing For Varying Needs- Extra Care/Adaptations	200	200	200	150	150
6.11 Roads/Paths	200	200	150	150	150
6.17 New Build/Formal Council House Buy Back	64,666	61,495	41,538	13,771	2,000
6.18 Clinterty	0	0	0	0	0
6.19 206 Union Street	3,000	700	0	0	0
6.20 Defibrillators	125	0	0	0	0
	69,891	64,145	43,438	15,621	3,850

Housing Capital Budget 2024/25 to 2028/29					
	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29
PROJECT	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
8 Service Expenditure					
8.1 Other Departmental Fees	8,720	7,967	7,439	7,812	13,954
	8,720	7,967	7,439	7,812	13,954
Gross Programme	146,493	142,189	119,322	95,306	112,610
Less 27% Slippage	(23,443)	(22,597)	(21,542)	(22,554)	(38,505)
Net Programme	123,050	119,592	97,780	72,752	74,105
Financed by:-					
Borrowing	(96,423)	(96,959)	(91,590)	(70,691)	(73,605)
Other income eg Grants, Affordable Homes Reserve	(17,579)	(13,127)	(500)	(500)	(500)
CFCR	(9,048)	(9,506)	(5,690)	(1,561)	0
Total Funding	(123,050)	(119,592)	(97,780)	(72,752)	(74,105)

New Housing Investment Programme

The new build programme covers the development of new properties on Council owned land at Summerhill, Craighill, Kincorth, Tillydrone and Kaimhill in addition to contracting on developer led schemes at Auchmill Road, Cloverhill – Bridge of Don, Grandhome and Wellheads – Dyce. Longer term projects have also been advanced on a number of sites in Aberdeen. This programme is further supplemented by an ambitious council house buy-back scheme.

Sites at Auchmill and Wellheads – Dyce are now complete.

Council Led new housing sites, works continue to progress at the Summerhill, Kaimhill and Tillydrone projects and works have been suspended at Craighill and Kincorth.

The two remaining projects at Craighill and Kincorth are at a stage where the enabling works for both projects are complete. There is an ongoing high level value engineering exercise being carried out by the design team to consider a number of options on both sites, to try and deliver a more cost effective capital cost for each project.

The design works include, but are not limited to, reviewing external finishes, reducing storey heights from four storeys to three storeys on the blocks of flats. Consideration will also be given to see what cost benefits can be derived by amending the Gold Standard, either as a whole, or in part, while still retaining the majority of the benefits of the Gold standard. However it should be noted this piece of work excludes any reduction in any environmental and heat in use standards as these are seen as critical strategically going forward.

Consideration is also being given to phasing the sites over a longer period to reduce the short term impact on the capital budget by spreading costs over a two or three year period, with budget costs for these different options being prepared. The proposed changes to the designs remain ongoing.

Design works are progressing with the intention of lodging revised planning applications Quarter 4 2023 with planning consent secured Quarter 2 and seeking new tender prices from contractors in Quarter 1 2024. A new PQQ notice has been lodged.

The outcome of this action will be reported to the next appropriate committee.

Summerhill New Build Housing

Five of the blocks at Summerhill have now been handed over with three remaining to follow. Block 6 was planned to be handed over in May 2023 however this was delayed until later in the summer but has been completed with Block 8 in Winter 2023 and the final block, Block 7, due to be handed over in Spring 2024.

Cloverhill New Build Housing

The project continues to progress well on site and the first phase of 36 No. units were handed over on 1 August 2023 with a number of other phases to be handed over between then and 2026. Three commercial units were also handed over and discussions are underway with potential Tenants.

The next phase of 31 units were handed over in September 2023. Further phases will be handed over in 2024.

Clinterty Travellers Site

Works commenced in October 2022 to upgrade the Gypsy Traveller site at Clinterty with a budget of £6.5m, which is circa 50% funded by the Scottish Government. The Contractor for the works is the Council's Building Services. The works are now nearing completion following delays with utilities.

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Council
DATE	13 December 2023
EXEMPT	No
CONFIDENTIAL	No
REPORT TITLE	Aberdeen Planning Guidance - Energy Transition Zone Draft Masterplan Consultation responses
REPORT NUMBER	COM/23/382
DIRECTOR	Gale Beattie
CHIEF OFFICER	David Dunne
REPORT AUTHOR	Laura Robertson
TERMS OF REFERENCE	21

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report presents an updated Energy Transition Zone Masterplan, taking into account the findings of the eight week public consultation, and seeks agreement on the document becoming Aberdeen Planning Guidance to support the Aberdeen Local Development Plan 2023.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That Council:

- 2.1 Note the consultation responses received, and agree the changes proposed by officers to the Draft Energy Transition Zone Masterplan (Appendix 2).
- 2.2 Agree the content of the Energy Transition Zone Masterplan 2023, as amended, (Appendix 1) as non-statutory Aberdeen Planning Guidance to support the Aberdeen Local Development Plan 2023.

3. CURRENT SITUATION

- 3.1 The Aberdeen Local Development Plan (ALDP) 2023 was adopted on 16 June 2023. The ALDP 2023 contains Policy B5 - Energy Transition Zone, which identifies three areas of land allocated as OP56 (St Fittick's Park), OP61 (Doonies) and OP62 (Bay of Nigg / Gregness). The ALDP 2023 sets out that OP56 and OP61 will support renewable energy transition related industries in association with Aberdeen South Harbour, while OP62 largely relates to the Aberdeen South Harbour expansion. The ALDP 2023 also highlights the need for a joint Masterplan for all three of the sites. This is what the Energy Transition Zone (ETZ) Masterplan seeks to do, with the intention of becoming adopted by Aberdeen City Council as non-statutory Aberdeen Planning Guidance (APG). If adopted as APG, the Masterplan will be used by the Planning Authority in assessing any development proposals on the aforementioned sites. The ETZ Masterplan has been prepared by a consultant team on behalf of ETZ Ltd.

- 3.2 On 29 June 2023, the Draft ETZ Masterplan was reported to the Planning Development Management Committee to seek agreement for officers to carry out public consultation on the document.

The Committee agreed to:

- Endorse the content of the Draft Energy Transition Zone (ETZ) Masterplan;
- Instruct the Chief Officer – Strategic Place Planning to, subject to any minor drafting changes, publish the Draft ETZ Masterplan for an eight week period instead of six weeks of non statutory public consultation;
- Instruct the Chief Officer – Strategic Place Planning to report the outcomes of the public consultation and any proposed revisions to the Draft ETZ Masterplan to a subsequent Planning Development Management Committee within the next six months.

- 3.3 At Planning Development Management Committee on 21 September 2023, the following resolution of Full Council, of 11 September 2023, was submitted for consideration:

“To recommend to the Planning Development Management Committee that any future reports of the Energy Transition Zone (ETZ) Masterplan be reported to the earliest appropriate meeting of Full Council.”

Committee resolved, following a division, to approve the resolution, and therefore agreed that any future reports on the ETZ Masterplan be reported to the earliest appropriate meeting of Full Council, hence the purpose of this report.

- 3.4 Appendix 1 contains the updated Energy Transition Zone Masterplan in a ‘red text edit’ version, whereby suggested changes to the previously considered document are highlighted in red for ease of reference. This red text, if the content is agreed, would be altered to black for final publication. A summary of the representations received, officers’ responses to these representations, and details of any resulting action as a result of the consultation are contained in Appendix 2. Appendix 3 is the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA). Due their volume, full, un-summarised copies of representations are available in the members’ share point site.

Background and the Draft Masterplan

- 3.5 The ETZ Masterplan (Appendix 1) has been prepared in accordance with the Council’s ‘Aberdeen Placemaking Process’ Aberdeen Planning Guidance (formerly the ‘Masterplanning Process’). The format and the content of the document is as follows:

- Explains the strategic context and need;
- Identifies the engagement and consultation that has taken place;
- Looks at the study area and identifies land ownership, policy, existing communities and social demographics, environmental, biodiversity and landscape, landscape character, flood risk, cultural heritage, infrastructure,

- development infrastructure and community infrastructure and local development considerations;
- Splits the document into campuses – Community and Energy Coast, Marine Gateway, Hydrogen Campus, Offshore Wind Campus, Innovation Campus, Skills Campus; and
- Finally, it considers supporting infrastructure and Masterplan delivery.

3.6 Further detail on the background to the Draft Masterplan was provided within the report to the Planning Development Management Committee of 29th June 2023 and can be found via this link: [PLA.23.210 PDMC report](#)

Consultation Process

3.7 Consultation on the ETZ Masterplan has been undertaken by ETZ Ltd and their consultants on development of the document (and the subsequent Planning Applications), and by officers as part of the instruction by the Planning Development Management Committee to consult publicly on the content of the Draft Masterplan.

Consultation on ETZ Masterplan carried out by Ironside Farrar on behalf of ETZ Ltd

3.8 During the preparation of the Masterplan, ETZ Ltd and Ironside Farrar carried out stakeholder engagement over a number of months. Details of these events, including feedback and amendments, are set out within the 'Engagement & Consultation' section of the Masterplan (Appendix 1, pages 7 to 16). Specific engagement included:

- Meeting with Torry Partnership and site walkover November 2021;
- Public exhibition, December 2021;
- Meeting with local GPs, February 2022;
- Site walk about with members of the local community, April 2022;
- Cove Community Council meeting and public exhibition, May 2022;
- Public exhibition, November 2022;
- Meeting with Lochside Academy teachers, August 2023, to consider future engagement opportunities;

A communications officer has also been appointed by ETZ Ltd to allow engagement to continue throughout the planning process.

3.9 Further to the consultation on the ETZ Masterplan, ETZ Ltd and Ironside Farrar also undertook pre-application public consultation prior to submitting an application for Planning Permission in Principle to the Planning Authority (validated on 1 November 2023). This consultation involved:

- Event 1, held on 29 June 2023 at Torry United Free Church that 42 people attended. Although principally relating to the planning application, the event also included an update on the Masterplan process with a link to view the Draft Document and information on how comment could be provided to the Council's period of public consultation (discussed further below);
- Event 2, held on 3rd August 2023 also at the Torry United Free Church;

Both events were advertised by ETZ Ltd and Ironside Farrar through a flyer drop to local households in the Torry, Balnagask and Cove areas (c. 9,000 households in total). The event was also publicised via email to all those who had attended previous Masterplan consultation events and left their contact details, as well as to a range of local community groups.

Draft Energy Transition Zone Masterplan Consultation by Aberdeen City Council Planning Authority

- 3.10 Following the instructions from Planning Development Management Committee on 29 June 2023, the Planning Authority undertook public consultation on the Draft ETZ Masterplan for eight weeks from 5 July 2023 until 30 August 2023. The eight week period reflected the consultation being undertaken over the summer holiday period. A half page, coloured newspaper article was published in the Evening Express on 5 July 2023 advertising the consultation, setting out where to find the material online and how comments could be submitted, including online, by email and letter.
- 3.11 The Draft Masterplan was publicly available and advertised as follows:
- Paper copies of the document were available in 9 locations during their opening hours - Marischal College (main reception), Torry Library, Torry Medical Centre, Tullos Swimming Pool (reception), Kincorth Library, Cove Library, Cove Bay Medical Centre, North East Scotland College Altens Campus (reception) and Old Torry Community Centre.
 - The document was published on Aberdeen City Council's 'Consultation Hub -' <https://consultation.aberdeencity.gov.uk/>.
 - A notification email was issued to internal and external statutory consultees, including Community Councils, on 5 July 2023 to advise them of the consultation, with a reminder email sent on 9 August 2023.
 - The lead planning officer's email address was made available to consultees to allow direct correspondence to be submitted and for any queries on the Masterplan or consultation process to be answered.
- 3.12 A total of 641 responses were received during the consultation period. These can be broken down into 251 responses received online via the consultation hub (Citizen Space), 388 received by email and two by post. In analysing responses made via the online consultation hub we can tell that 112 of response made through the Citizen Space were local to the area and 81 were local to the wider Aberdeen area. Those that responded by email and post did not necessarily provide this information but those that did included a large number of AB postcodes.
- 3.13 The table below sets out a summary of the responses received on the Draft ETZ Masterplan, and responses by Officers to the points made. A more detailed summary is provided in Appendix 2:

Comment Received	Officer Response
<p>Support the ETZ and its objectives and the move towards energy transition and away from oil and gas. Welcome working towards ensuring the achievement of Net Zero and climate change goals is key and ensure Aberdeen and the North East's position as the North Sea energy hub.</p>	<p>Comments noted</p>
<p>Impacts on essential road network during and post completion, including Coast Road, to ensure no further impact on residents. Some roads already difficult at peak times.</p> <p>Will cause traffic congestions, access and safety problems for residents and coast path users</p>	<p>This level of detail is not required at Masterplanning stage. An assessment of traffic and transport impacts and other relevant studies will be required as part of planning applications as they come forward.</p> <p>The requirement for such studies is identified within the Masterplan on page 167.</p> <p>Each campus has a section on Transport and Connectivity shown the importance of this issue (p84, p108, p122, p132 and p144). Furthermore p 152 – 154 relates specifically to road infrastructure and how the ETZ relates to other existing and committed projects including the Aberdeen South Harbour Link Road.</p>
<p>Adversely affects those with disabilities, including the proposed alternative open space at Tullos hill.</p> <p>Will adversely affect the needs of people with disabilities due to the loss and diminution of quality of accessible and inclusive existing pathways in the park.</p>	<p>The proposal includes improved access through St Fittick's Park to Tullos Hill. It is noted that the bridge will be removed but this is a consequence of a separate project to electrify the main east coast rail line and upgrade the Coast Road and is consequently under the control of Network Rail. Careful consideration will be given to allowing improved access for all, through the assessment of planning applications.</p> <p>Further path networks and improvements are shown for each area but in particular on the Marine Gateway. Though part of the site will be developed, there will be an extensive path network still available.</p>
<p>Will negatively impact on environmental health due to increased levels of air, noise and light pollution and impact on health and wellbeing.</p>	<p>Assessments will be required with planning applications that will take into consideration air quality, odours, and a health impact assessment. The specific final uses of the different areas are unknown so cannot be assessed at this time.</p>

Comment Received	Officer Response
<p>Results in loss of public amenities, green space and recreation ground.</p> <p>Will negatively impact the environment, realignment of the Tullos burn, children play provision, loss of wildlife etc.</p>	<p>At the centre of the ETZ masterplan is the consideration of environment, biodiversity and landscape. The community and energy coast considers the East Tullos Burn and wetlands (p59 and 60). St Fittick's park and the projects that will be brought forward in this area, to the benefit of the community are shown on pages 61-64. Biodiversity protection and enhancement are also considered on pages 65-66 with suggested improvements including pollinator coast, habitat management and development landscaping.</p> <p>It is acknowledged that around 1/3 of the site will be built on and alterations will be made to the burn at its easterly end but a number of further studies and assessments, including an EIA and flood risk assessment are required as part of ongoing planning processes and will be fully assessed and considered through this route.</p> <p>The Masterplan sets principles and parameters that will be taken forward with any planning applications. The environment, connectivity and community benefits, including a extended play park, pump park and parklets identified as part of the marine gateway are all embedded within the document highlighting their importance and requirement to be further considered.</p> <p>Furthermore, ACC carried out a Habitat Regulation Appraisal which considers the masterplan proposals against the Special Areas of Conservation and identified the mitigation required to avoid adverse impact on the designated sites and their qualifying species interests. These will be added to the Masterplan, as an appendix for clarity and the HRA made available for the Councils website.</p>
<p>Suggest development of Brownfield land in Altens and Tullos instead.</p>	<p>The ETZ will use vacant and redundant buildings and sites within industrial areas as well as the allocated greenfield land. Throughout, the masterplan states that brownfield land will be utilised. Examples within the masterplan are evident in the Innovation and Skills Campuses.</p>
<p>Lack of community consultation or listening to what the community want.</p>	<p>Community engagement was carried out by the design team as set out on pages 7-16 of the Masterplan (and summarised within this report). The main concerns raised by the community during consultation related to the allocation of the</p>

Comment Received	Officer Response
	<p>sites at St Fittick's and Doonies rather than community requirements or benefits.</p> <p>The allocation of the site is not for this Masterplan to consider, this was carried out via the Local Development Plan process (see paragraphs 3.15 and 3.16 below for explanation).</p>
<p>Masterplan does not fully acknowledge the impact on the park in terms of loss of amenity, including impact of lighting, loss of views and fences etc.</p>	<p>Detailed design and further assessments submitted with planning applications will consider the potential impact of elements such as light. This document sets out parameters and a framework for detailed proposals, but the design detail will be determined through the planning application process.</p>
<p>The masterplan should clearly show development constraints.</p>	<p>The site constraints are shown on plans from page 31 to 34 including flood risk and cultural heritage. There is also text throughout the document which considers opportunities and constraints of all campuses and areas, including p78 which talks about below ground Scottish Water infrastructure. This said the below ground infrastructure should be shown on a constraints plan along with any other similar constraints, making the document more useable. This has been updated in the Masterplan (also on page 78).</p>
<p>Concern with the height of the buildings.</p>	<p>The Masterplan sets parameters for development. Detail of building heights will be set out in subsequent planning applications, via studies such as Landscape and Visual Impact Assessments.</p>
<p>Concern with lack of information about uses.</p>	<p>At this time the end user is not known for the area. It is entirely appropriate for a Masterplan to provide this level of detail. The Masterplan sets principles and parameters that will be taken forward with any planning applications.</p>
<p>Insufficient compensatory replacement planting.</p>	<p>The Masterplan illustrates the location and area of landscaping that will be removed and replaced. Replacement planting will include native species and will extend woodland cover, particularly within the Tullos Wood.</p> <p>A section has also been added to the Masterplan stating: "development proposals must increase tree and woodland cover, and where tree removal takes place replacement planting will be required to ensure an overall <u>net gain</u> in tree cover."</p>

Comment Received	Officer Response
Concern with impact on health in particular given Torry is a deprived area and that no Health Impact Assessment has been undertaken or requested.	A Health Impact Assessment will be provided as part of the planning application process.
Opportunity to enhance active travel in the area.	Such opportunities are included in the Masterplan and will be developed further as part of the planning application process. One of the Masterplan's strategic objectives is to deliver a green network for walking, cycling and enhanced community facilities.
Inconsistent and contrary to National and local planning policy, including Scottish Government policy to prioritise peoples' wellbeing and nature recovery.	The Masterplan relates to land allocated in the ALDP for an ETZ. Throughout the document national, regional and local policies have been considered and assessed. The masterplan looks at policy topics such as improvements to biodiversity, active travel, health and wellbeing, historic environment, safety, reuse of brownfield land, job opportunities and upskilling, and at the forefront of the ETZ, the move to net zero and climate mitigation and adaptation.
Concern with these industrial uses in close proximity to housing.	Assessments will be required with planning applications that will take into consideration air quality, odours, and a health impact assessment. The specific final uses of the different areas are unknown so cannot be assessed at this time.
Document is too high level, should not just be speculative development at St Fitticks.	The Masterplan sets principles and parameters that will be taken forward with any planning applications. Its objectives are to provide a series of strategic design and development principles to guide the most appropriate forms of development and uses for the area in accordance with the allocation. The design detail for each area will be determined through the planning application process.
Object to development of St Fittick's Park (OP56), loss of wildlife, amenity, biodiversity, loss of only greenspace left in Torry, impact on mental health, loss of wetland.	<p>The Masterplan relates to land allocated in the ALDP for an ETZ. The masterplan has identified the developable area within the site, which equates to around 1/3 of it. The Masterplan also clearly sets out projects (p64-66) as well as proposals and opportunities with the area (p73-98), including pollinator coast, local species planting, habitat management, and as identified by SEPA the need to improve water quality of the burn (p59 and 60).</p> <p>The document sets out on page 167 the further assessments that are required for planning applications including an EIA.</p>

Comment Received	Officer Response
	Furthermore, ACC carried out a Habitat Regulation Appraisal which considers the Masterplan proposals against the Special Areas of Conservation and identified the mitigation required to avoid adverse impact on the designated sites and their qualifying species interests. These will be added to the Masterplan for clarity and the HRA available for the Councils website.
Require all the relevant assessments to take place.	Noted, the Masterplan identifies a number of assessments as part of the planning application process.
Identify mitigation requirements more clearly.	The masterplan sets out phasing of applications and linked Strategic Mitigation & Compensation Measures (identified through Masterplan) on pages 158-172 of the draft Masterplan. It also states that planning obligations will be agreed with ACC through planning application assessment and as such will be secured through planning conditions and/or a legal agreement.
Some technical points and wording changes.	These have been addressed by the proposed updates to the Masterplan.
Development will impact on St Fittick's Church.	The impact on St Fitticks Church and Graveyard has been considered. Additional surveys and assessments will be required to ensure no physical damage is caused during development the setting of the church was altered a number of years ago. Historic Environment Scotland (HES) and the Council's archaeologist have been involved throughout the process. Further assessments and consultation with HES will be required as part of the planning process.

3.14 Of the emails received to the consultation, 365 were a duplicated standard response, requesting the removal of Opportunity Site 56 St Fittick's Park from the ETZ and that the draft Masterplan be amended accordingly. There have also been a number of representations requesting that Doonies (OP61) not be built on. In response to this point it is a matter of the principle of development on allocated ALDP 2023 sites:

3.15 Proposals for an ETZ at St Fittick's Park and Doonies first emerged in the Proposed Local Development Plan 2020 (PLDP) which was approved at Full Council on 2 March 2020. A public consultation was held on the PLDP from 20 May 2020 to 31 August 2020. The Council received 220 representations on the ETZ proposals at St Fittick's Park and Doonies. These were considered by independent reporters at an Examination who issued a Report into the Examination in September 2022. The Report recommended a number of additional requirements for a Joint Masterplan for Aberdeen South Harbour and the Energy Transition Zones. Importantly however, the Report recommended retaining the proposals for Energy Transition Zones at OP56 St Fittick's Park

and OP61 Doonies/Gregness. The Council accepted all the Reporter's recommendations in December 2022 and the ALDP 2023 was formally adopted on 19th June 2023.

- 3.16 The principle of developing OP56 St Fittick's Park and OP61 Doonies for energy transition uses has therefore been accepted in the adopted ALDP 2023. However, the ALDP 2023 also requires a joint Masterplan for OP56 St Fittick's Park, OP61 Doonies and OP62 Aberdeen South Harbour and outlines some of the issues that need to be considered within the Masterplan. It is this Masterplan which is subject to the current consultation. If the Masterplan is approved, any development of the sites would then require planning consent. This will require planning applications which in turn will be open for further public scrutiny and comment.

Health Impact Assessment

- 3.17 There is currently no national or local guidance that sets out at what stage in the planning process, or by whom, a Health Impact Assessment should be carried out. In this case a Health Impact Assessment is required and has been requested by the Planning Authority to be considered as part of the planning application process.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report. The cost of preparing the ETZ Masterplan document has been met by ETZ Ltd and produced by Ironside Farrar on their behalf.
- 4.2 The Masterplan will front-load any planning issues and ultimately benefit future officer involvement and time in evaluating forthcoming planning applications should the final document go on to be adopted as non-statutory Aberdeen Planning Guidance.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 As a major landowner, proposals for the development of land and assets owned by Aberdeen City Council will, where applicable, be subject to assessment in line with the principles and standards set out in the Masterplan document.

6. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The Strategic Environmental Assessment carried out as part of the Aberdeen Local Development Plan preparation included the allocation of sites OP56, 61 and 62. Any future planning applications would be subject to an EIA screening process under the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017.
- 6.2 The Masterplan document is subject to Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA), in accordance with Conservation (Natural Habitats, & c.) Regulations 1994, the European Commission's Habitats Directive (Directive 92/43/EEC) (Natura 2000), and Birds Directive (79/409/EEC) respectively. In the light of the HRA, it is considered that the proposal will not adversely affect the integrity of any of

the protected sites or their qualifying interests, and that the conservation objectives will be met during and after construction as well as following implementation and delivery of the required mitigation measures. The Masterplan document has been updated to include the mitigations outlined in section 6b of the HRA.

6.3 As is standard process with HRA, it should be revisited through project level HRA once planning applications come forward to deliver the masterplan. A full Environmental Impact Assessment for the Planning Permission in Principle application for the ETZ proposals will also be required.

7. RISK

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

Category	Risks	Primary Controls/Control Actions to achieve Target Risk Level	*Target Risk Level (L, M or H) *taking into account controls/control actions	*Does Target Risk Level Match Appetite Set?
Strategic Risk	Not having an up-to-date Masterplan could result in longer timescales to manage and process planning applications for the area and affect the planning authority's obligation to determine applications within a set time period.	The document provides advice on what is required for the planning application process and land use requirements as well as any improvements and mitigation.	L	Yes
Compliance	These sites are allocated in the adopted Aberdeen Local Development Plan 2023. Not having an up-to-date Masterplan could result in longer timescales to manage and process planning applications for the area and affect the planning authority's obligation to determine applications within a	The document provides advice on what is required for the planning application process and land use requirements as well as any improvements and mitigation.	L	Yes

	set time period. It could also lead to inconsistent advice.			
Operational	By not providing guidance through an agreed Masterplan, officers could, over time, provide inconsistent advice.	The document provides clarity, consistency and certainly in terms of principles and site aspirations.	L	Yes
Financial	Not having guidance could lead to uncertainty at planning application stage, potentially leading to more staff time spent processing applications and a greater number of planning application appeals.	The document provides clarity, consistency and certainly in terms of what is required as part of the planning application process. It also identifies where mitigation and improvements are required and sets guidelines and principles for the whole area to ensure consistency and development	L	Yes
Reputational	Not considering guidance on a project that ACC own land within and is identified for development within the adopted Local Development Plan.	The Masterplan process is in place to inform the production of such documents as identified in the LDP.	L	Yes
Environment / Climate	Ensures that the Net Zero Route map is considered in the design of proposals. Noted that the environment of these areas will be altered.	The Masterplan document notes that proposals must consider energy use and emissions. It is also noted that the sites went through the necessary SEA process during consideration of the LDP and an	L	Yes

		HRA has been carried out. There is also the opportunity within the Masterplan to identify areas to help deliver biodiversity net gain.		
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8. OUTCOMES

<u>COUNCIL DELIVERY PLAN 2023-2024</u>	
	Impact of Report
Aberdeen City Council Policy Statement <u>Working in Partnership for Aberdeen</u>	<p>The proposal within this report support the delivery of the following aspects of the policy statement: -</p> <p>A Prosperous City – Work with partners to stimulate sustainable economic development, including a managed transition to a carbon neutral economy and work in partnership with the academic, business and other relevant sectors to ensure the long-term future of the energy industry.</p> <p>Building a Greener and Sustainable City- Work with partners to deliver a just transition to net zero and plan to make Aberdeen a net-zero city by no later than 2037, and earlier if that is possible.</p>
<u>Aberdeen City Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2016-26</u>	
Prosperous Economy Stretch Outcomes	The ETZ Masterplan states it “provides the basis for future development of energy transition industries, skills, innovation and investment in high-value manufacturing. It also focuses on the delivery of wider benefits in terms of job-creation, place-making, and the local environment.” thereby supporting a ready supply of employment land which would result in job creation (Key Driver 2.1, 2.2).
Prosperous People Stretch Outcomes	The Masterplan seeks to include and improve green spaces to support health and well-being of all ages (Key Driver 11.3).
Prosperous Place Stretch Outcomes	Supports outcome 13 by aiming to create a globally recognised green energy cluster contributing to progress on the Net Zero Routemap.

Regional and City Strategies <u>City Strategies and Strategic Plans</u>	Aberdeen Local Development Plan 2023 Supports the Aberdeen Local Development Plan 2023 by ensuring implementation of its allocated sites and policies forming the Energy Transition Zone. Net Zero Aberdeen Routemap Confirms that a just energy transition is a vital priority. The ETZ Masterplan supports the Net Zero Aberdeen Routemap through the proposal of retrofitting and reuse of brownfield land and buildings as well as providing opportunities for net zero development and specialist co-located port activity. It also contributes to the Net Zero theme strategies of mobility, buildings and heat, circular economy, energy supply, our natural environment and empowerment.
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9. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Assessment	Outcome
Integrated Impact Assessment	Completed
Data Protection Impact Assessment	Not Required
Other	Not Required

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 10.1 Aberdeen Local Development Plan 2023. - <https://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/services/planning-and-building-standards/local-development-plan/aberdeen-local-development-plan>
- 10.2 Due their volume, full un-summarised copies of representations are available in on the Members' sharepoint

11. APPENDICES

- 11.1 Appendix 1 – Draft Energy Transition Zone Masterplan.
- 11.2 Appendix 2- Summary of representations and officers' recommendations.
- 11.3 Appendix 3 - Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)

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Energy Transition Zone Masterplan Document

Final Submission Draft | V09

IronsideFarrar

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Executive Summary

Aberdeen and North East Scotland has a proud reputation as a thriving global hub for the oil & gas industry – driving job creation and growth across the region for decades. It is critical to the future sustainability of the region’s economy to diversify its established knowledge, skills, and infrastructure and be a key driver of energy transition toward meeting net zero targets. To enable and accelerate this, ETZ Ltd is advancing a targeted programme of investment and development to create a new globally recognised green energy cluster in Aberdeen.

The Energy Transition Zone Masterplan has been prepared to provide a spatial framework for Local Development Plan allocated sites around Aberdeen South Harbour, as well as wider areas of brownfield land, green and open space, and communities in Torry and Cove.

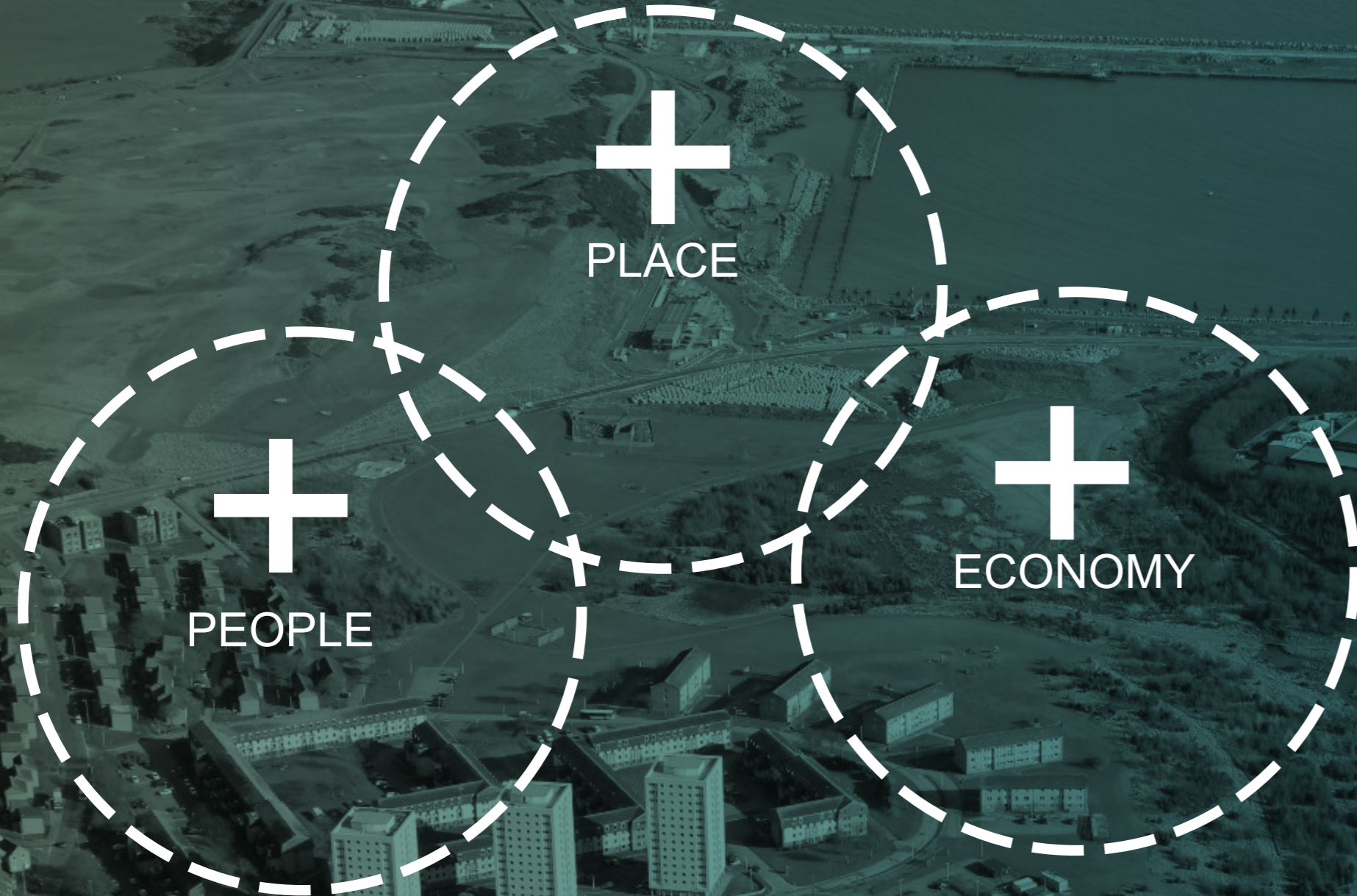
It provides the basis for future development of energy transition industries, skills, innovation and investment in high-value manufacturing. It also focuses on the delivery of wider benefits in terms of job-creation, place-making, and the local environment. It has been prepared in consultation with a wide range of statutory and non-statutory stakeholders and following an extensive period of local engagement including three community consultation events held in Torry.

The Masterplan is structured around the development of a specialist campus model:

- **Community & Energy Coast** – a programme of investment in local greenspace, biodiversity, and community infrastructures to deliver tangible local benefits across the area.
- **Marine Gateway** – a hub of high-value manufacturing and port-integrated activity forming a catalyst for wider investment across ETZ – sited at Aberdeen South Harbour and a reduced development area within the OP56 Opportunity Site at St Fittick’s.
- **Hydrogen Campus** – a specialist Campus for manufacturing, R&D, and test & demonstration of hydrogen technologies, strengthening Aberdeen’s position as a sector leader – sited at the OP61 Opportunity Site (Doonies) and adjacent brownfield land for future expansion.
- **Offshore Wind Campus** – a cluster of manufacturing, supply-chain, R&D, and test & demonstration activity for offshore wind and wider energy transition uses – sited in Altens.
- **Innovation Campus** – a purpose-developed mix of flexible industrial and commercial units for innovative start-up and growing energy transition businesses – sited in Altens.
- **Skills Campus** – a new net zero education & training facility to accelerate the next generation of energy skills and knowledge and support delivery of ETZ Jobs & Skills Plan – sited in Altens.

Informed by the process of engagement, detailed review of local context, and in alignment with LDP and NPF4 priorities, the masterplan provides guidance for sustainable development and place-making across these sites. Its key outcomes and conclusions include:

- Development should maximise the potential of Aberdeen South Harbour to support energy transition – with limited land adjacent to the Harbour safeguarded for specialist activity with specific co-location requirements.
- While still enabling sites for high-value manufacturing, development within St Fittick’s Park should minimise greenspace land-take and retain the East Tullos Burn, with a reduced developable area representing just over half of the area allocated in the Park within Opportunity Sites OP56 and OP62.
- Opportunities to redevelop brownfield land as part of an integrated cluster should be maximised – applying Circular Economy principles to develop sites suitable for a range of energy transition activities.
- The environmental mitigation hierarchy should be followed across all development - seeking to avoid, minimise, mitigate and compensate environmental impacts.
- Opportunities for strategic environmental and place-making measures have been identified across the masterplan, including enhancement of East Tullos Burn, local greenspace, biodiversity, and active travel. These should be coordinated through further detailed planning and developed with local stakeholders to support a more inclusive, resilient and successful place.



01 Introduction

Aberdeen and North East Scotland has been home to a globally recognised energy industry for over 50 years. The region has experienced significant growth and developed a world-renowned ecosystem of innovation, skills, and infrastructure. There is now a clear imperative to de-carbonise the economy and achieve net zero by 2045 and, with its existing expertise and proximity to planned offshore renewables in the North Sea, Aberdeen has a key role in enabling the transition away from fossil fuels and towards a low carbon future.

Energy Transition Zone Masterplan

The Aberdeen City Council (ACC) Local Development Plan (LDP) has identified land around Aberdeen South Harbour for development of the Energy Transition Zone, including land within Opportunity Sites at St Fittick’s Park (OP56), Bay of Nigg (OP62) and Doonies (OP61).

The sites contain a range of environmental and infrastructure assets, and the LDP recognises that potentially significant opportunities exist in the area for net zero development and specialist port co-located activity.

The LDP requires that a comprehensive masterplan should be prepared to ensure a coordinated approach to development of an Energy Transition Zone across the LDP Opportunity Sites. It requires a joint masterplan to consider the extent of developable and undevelopable areas, mitigation measures for potential impacts on habitats & biodiversity, greenspace, and local access & recreation, and options for use of the wastewater treatment plant. The LDP notes that Opportunities Sites OP56 and OP61 will support renewable energy transition related industries in association with Aberdeen South Harbour, while OP62 relates to the Aberdeen Harbour expansion. Specifically, the LDP requires for OP56 that: *“Any development at this site must have a functional association with the South Harbour which precludes it being located elsewhere”*.

The Masterplan has been prepared to ensure development across this area is properly planned in accordance with the LDP – as well as incorporating wider brownfield industrial land at Altens and East Tullos which can form part of an integrated cluster focused on delivering net-zero. It seeks to ensure development provides opportunities for high value renewables activity, new investment, growth and jobs, as well as promoting and enhancing the green and blue infrastructures across the area that collectively will accelerate the transition to net zero and deliver a range of benefits for local communities.

It has been developed through iterative design development and technical review, in parallel with detailed engagement with statutory bodies, stakeholders and local communities. This has shaped a place-based framework to guide development, support investment into identified Opportunity Sites as well as brownfield industrial land, deliver enhancement to local community infrastructures, greenspaces, and biodiversity, and strength both active travel and wider connectivity across the area.

ETZ VISION: *By 2030 we will have designed and built in phases a unique Energy Transition Zone adjacent to the new harbour development at Aberdeen South Harbour. It will be a **leading-edge catalyst** for innovation and **high value manufacturing**, and a **centre of excellence** for offshore renewables, large scale production of hydrogen and CO2 storage.*

*Through the success of the ETZ, the region and the **energy supply chain** will become a **global leader in energy transition**, and a net exporter of **product, services, technologies, and skills.***

*This purpose-built **net zero green space**, connected to the coastline, will provide future Energy Transition organisations and the **local community** with amenities, job opportunities, **a strong blue-green network** supporting a long term business environmentally sustainable business cluster; harnessing the region's natural resources and existing skills base to **maximise the future value potential** from Energy Transition developments for future generations."*

1.1 ETZ Vision & Objectives

ETZ Ltd was established in 2021, as a private sector led and not-for-profit company, with the purpose of repositioning the North East of Scotland as a globally recognised integrated energy cluster focused on the delivery of net zero. It is funded by the UK and Scottish Governments and Opportunity North-East, with a clear purpose and commercial focus. All financial benefit from the use of public sector funding or future funds will be re-invested into common interests for development of energy transition activities.

ETZ Ltd are advancing a place based transformational programme, developed to create a new globally recognised integrated energy cluster with a spatial focus around the new Aberdeen South Harbour, Altens and East Tullos Industrial Estates, together with wider programmes for innovation, skills and supply-chain development and research and development with industry and academic partners.

To deliver the vision and ambition for the region, ETZ Ltd will work collaboratively with Scottish Enterprise (SE), Aberdeen City Council (ACC) and Port of Aberdeen (PoA) and industry stakeholders across the UK to deliver activity that will drive the green economic recovery and create a solid foundation for an integrated energy cluster focused on the delivery of net zero.

The masterplan seeks to articulate the ETZ Ltd vision and objectives into a spatial framework that supports development of the Local Development Plan allocated Opportunity Sites (OP56 / 61 / 62) and wider brownfield assets. This will accelerate energy transition, attract investment in high-value manufacturing for net zero technologies, and deliver wider benefits in terms of job-creation, place-making, and the local environment.

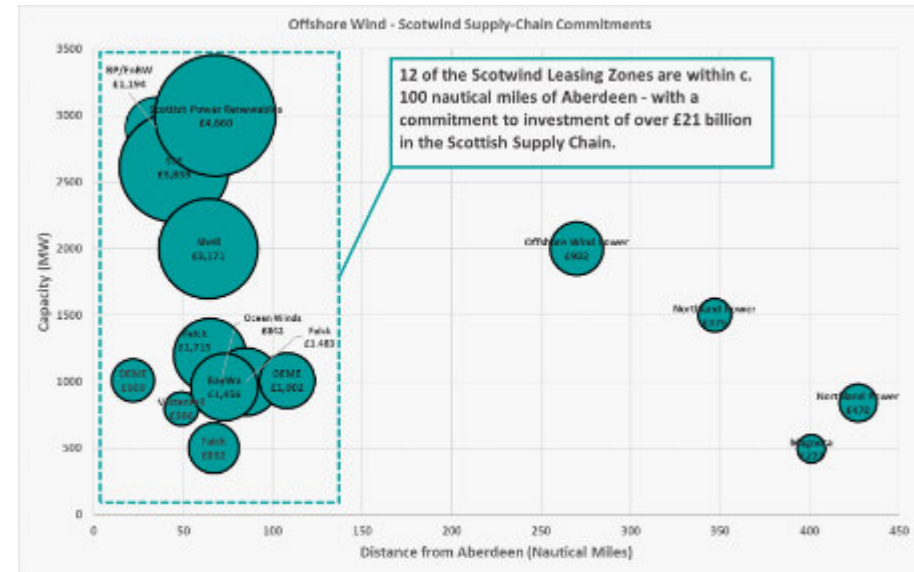
The strategic objectives for the ETZ are set out below:

- Attract and maximise inward investment, retain existing investors and help ensure the region becomes a focal point for energy transition in the UK and Europe, promoting and harnessing our local natural resources and existing skills and expertise to create a sustainable low carbon and integrated energy cluster.
- Assemble the land for the core staging areas to support the offshore wind potential and related UK supply chain content from the ScotWind licensing round and hydrogen production and the supporting infrastructure to leverage the Aberdeen South Harbour new facility.
- Develop an Energy Coast to deliver a green network for walking, cycling and enhanced community amenities, linking the ETZ with the coast and the city
- Stimulate research, development and innovation through to commercialisation and scale; creating and enabling energy transition opportunities and international export potential in the short (2020-25) and medium term (2025-35) to support commercialisation of green hydrogen and floating wind; high-value manufacturing related to the offshore wind and hydrogen; digital solutions and business innovation and incubation related to low carbon energy including Carbon Capture Utilisation & Storage (CCUS).
- Design and deliver a jobs and skills programme to support inclusive employment opportunities by reskilling and upskilling people to establish a new long-term sustainable industry base with international export potential. This will unlock exciting careers and job opportunities for future generations across the community by involving those areas in the immediate vicinity of the zone.

Fundamental to the vision for the Energy Transition Zone is creating and retaining sustainable energy jobs in Aberdeen and wider North East Scotland Region. The region is currently home to around 45,000 energy jobs (over half of Scotland's total) and the capability, knowledge and skills of this workforce will play a critical role in the transformation of the energy sector and delivery of net zero. As the economy seeks to de-carbonise and transition towards renewable energy, there is a clear opportunity and need to transition these roles into new sectors and activities such as offshore wind, hydrogen, carbon capture, utilisation & storage. The globally integrated energy cluster at ETZ will play a significant role in this process supporting long-term economic benefits in the form of inclusive job creation, safeguarding existing employment, as well as attracting inward investment, and supporting local community benefits. It is anticipated that the full delivery of the ETZ will lead to creation of c. 2,500 full-time equivalent jobs (gross) at its peak, as well as securing and catalysing c. 10,000 further energy transition related jobs across the region.

To support inclusive job creation, ETZ Ltd is developing a Jobs & Skills Plan in collaboration with Aberdeen City Council, Skills Development Scotland and NESAs (National Energy Skills Accelerator). The Plan will complement development and investment proposals guided by the Masterplan, and support delivery of training facilities and programmes within the Zone to position the North East as a world class region for skills development and training in support of energy transition.

In summary, the Energy Transition Zone will contribute significantly to the Inclusive Growth agenda. Direct investment in new education and training facilities will help advance the understanding and equality of opportunities in the energy sector and support the development of skills required to succeed. It will support a transition to high quality, well-paid, and sustained employment and facilitate the provision of a highly skilled workforce.



ScotWind leasing zones & supply-chain commitments. The bubble represents the relative size of each leasing zones' committed investment into the Scottish Supply Chain with the developer and exact figure noted inside (£M). The majority of offshore wind leasing zones including the largest proposed developments, are all within c.100 nautical miles of Aberdeen.

1.2 Strategic Context & Need

Aberdeen and North East Scotland has been a thriving global hub for the oil & gas industry driving growth across the region and supporting the UK's economic and energy security for over 50 years. It is a centre of excellence for offshore engineering, especially around service support and sub-sea operations.

In order for Aberdeen and the North East to be a leading player in the transition to net zero, and to leverage its established knowledge and expertise, there must be investment now in the development of the skills, infrastructure and innovation capacity that will support and service renewable energy needs. It is critical to the future sustainability, to jobs and economic prosperity of the region's economy.

This strategic need has been recognised and embedded within policy at local and national government levels – which support the safeguarding and coordination of key development sites and infrastructures around Aberdeen South Harbour and nearby greenfield and brownfield sites for energy transition.

- **NPF4** sets out an integrated strategy to bring together within the Planning Framework the governments priorities to achieve sustainable development. The framework defines a national spatial strategy to support the development of sustainable places, liveable places and productive places.

Aberdeen Harbour is designated as a 'National Development' – recognising the potential of the South Harbour as a cluster of port accessible offshore renewable energy research, manufacturing and support services.

- **The LDP designates specific Opportunity Sites (OP56/61) around the Harbour for an Energy Transition Zone and applies a presumption in favour of development for renewable energy related development within these areas.**

- **Scottish Government Policy** including National Strategy for Economic Transformation (2022), Draft Energy Strategy and Just Transition Plan (2023), Offshore Wind Policy Statement (2020), and Hydrogen Policy Statement (2020) all support development of ETZ (and projects therein) to accelerate Scotland's transition to net zero, deliver jobs, innovation and skills development, and strengthen the North East's position as a leading hub for renewables.

ScotWind Offshore Renewables

Crown Estate Scotland's ScotWind leasing round was completed in January 2022 and was the first round of seabed leasing in Scottish waters for over a decade. This has initiated a major new tranche of offshore wind development that will be central to achieving Scotland's net zero ambitions. It sets out seabed option agreements for 20 offshore wind farms, with a total potential capacity of up to 28 GW. 12 of the ScotWind sites, with a combined potential capacity of 17 GW (60% of current ScotWind Licences), are situated within c. 100 nautical miles of Aberdeen, making it a natural hub for the sector.

Collectively the developers of these sites are committed to supply-chain investment of £21 Billion into Scotland's supply chain, across development, manufacturing, installation, and operational phases. The Scottish Government has recognised there is an urgent need to develop the manufacturing and supply-chain capacity within Scotland to meet this demand, and to ensure the full extent of economic, environmental and social benefits of offshore wind are realised.

Scottish Offshore Wind Energy Council's (SOWEC) Strategic Investment Assessment (2021) reflects this, highlighting that: "without access to sufficient high quality port space, Scotland cannot hope to attract critical activities like manufacturing". It recommends stronger collaboration between Ports, industry, and the public sector to bring forward investment and grow capacity, so that Scotland is attractive as a location for manufacturing and fabrication, and so that Scottish expertise in subsea engineering can transition effectively from oil and gas to offshore wind.

In modelling options for growing Scottish and UK content in the offshore wind supply chain, SOWEC's analysis estimates that up to 15 new manufacturing facilities will be required in the UK and up to 6 of these in Scotland. Particular priorities for Scotland were manufacture of: turbine towers, floating foundations, jacket foundations, substation platforms, and sub-station foundations. In each of these cases, facilities need to be located in close proximity to a Port to allow for importing of raw materials (e.g. steel) and the mobilisation and export of finished products due to their size and inability to transport by road.

In addition to those items listed, there is significant investment interest around manufacture of large component parts such as landing platforms or transition pieces, and other elements of the offshore supply chains such as anchors and cables which can also support energy transition activities in the de-carbonisation of the oil & gas sector.

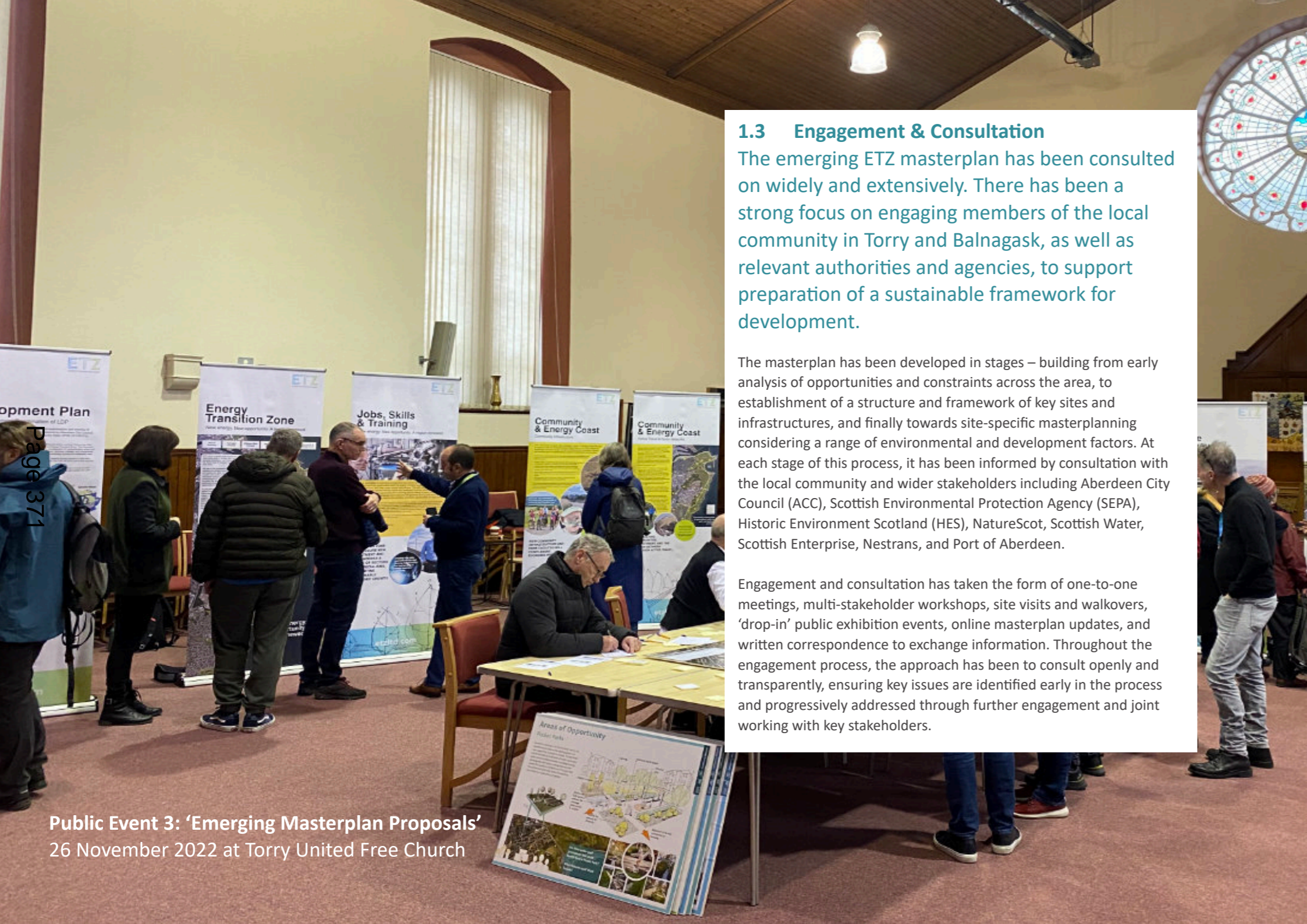
Green Hydrogen

Hydrogen is also rapidly emerging as central to the future net zero economy. Aberdeen and North East Scotland has already emerged as a leading hub of hydrogen activity, with current and planned projects expected to generate 200 MW+ by 2025-27, and potential for up to 1GW of production by 2030-32. The city's wealth of experience in the oil & gas sector is capable of being re-utilised for hydrogen-based activity, with identified potential for up to 29,000 jobs in the sector by 2040. There is already significant interest and planned activity in the Zone to support hydrogen production, distribution, and use – including BP, ERM Dolphyn, and Vattenfall among others who are seeking to base leading edge technologies and projects within Aberdeen.

Energy Transition Manufacturing & Supply Chain

Within sectors like offshore wind and hydrogen, energy transition will require the progressive development and commercialisation of new technologies. This will involve the reorganisation of existing manufacturing capacity together with new manufacturing activities and all associated supply-chains. For offshore wind this can involve specialist fabrication of moorings, semi-submersible, tension and other sub-sea structures, power electronics and cables, turbine components, mono-piles and transition pieces. The rapid growth of hydrogen as a green fuel presents opportunities for the manufacture of electrolysers and associated components, hydrogen fuel cells, and specialist equipment for distribution and storage. Aberdeen is ideally positioned to attract significant investment as a manufacture, supply-chain and service hub for offshore wind, hydrogen and the wider renewables sectors, both in terms of geography and existing knowledge and skills-base.

To maximise this transformational economic opportunity, it requires early, catalytic investment into land and infrastructure. This is especially critical for land which can integrate with the port and accommodate the specialised high-value manufacturing processes associated with offshore renewables. Offshore renewables also bring long-term opportunities in the supporting Operations & Management (O&M) activity that requires port co-location, and related services around remote sensing, technical monitoring and performance management skills. The masterplan has been informed by detailed review and input from specialist advisors working within these energy transition sectors, to establish future needs to support ScotWind and the key opportunities and areas of growth for Aberdeen. ETZ Ltd and Port of Aberdeen are working with Scottish Enterprise, Scottish Development International and Invest Aberdeen to progress inward investment inquiries linked to ScotWind delivery, including manufacturing, fabrication, service support and technology providers.



Public Event 3: 'Emerging Masterplan Proposals'
26 November 2022 at Torry United Free Church

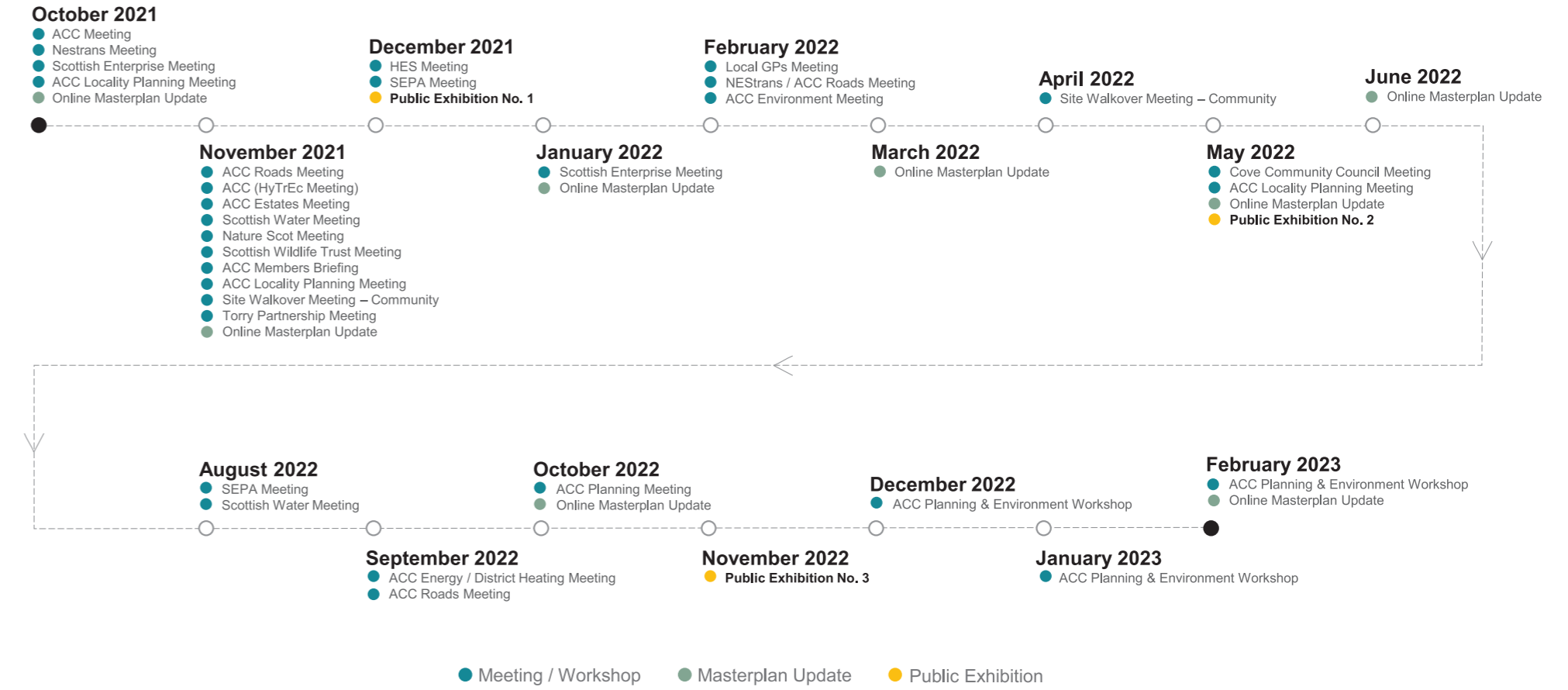
1.3 Engagement & Consultation

The emerging ETZ masterplan has been consulted on widely and extensively. There has been a strong focus on engaging members of the local community in Torry and Balnagask, as well as relevant authorities and agencies, to support preparation of a sustainable framework for development.

The masterplan has been developed in stages – building from early analysis of opportunities and constraints across the area, to establishment of a structure and framework of key sites and infrastructures, and finally towards site-specific masterplanning considering a range of environmental and development factors. At each stage of this process, it has been informed by consultation with the local community and wider stakeholders including Aberdeen City Council (ACC), Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA), Historic Environment Scotland (HES), NatureScot, Scottish Water, Scottish Enterprise, Nestrans, and Port of Aberdeen.

Engagement and consultation has taken the form of one-to-one meetings, multi-stakeholder workshops, site visits and walkovers, 'drop-in' public exhibition events, online masterplan updates, and written correspondence to exchange information. Throughout the engagement process, the approach has been to consult openly and transparently, ensuring key issues are identified early in the process and progressively addressed through further engagement and joint working with key stakeholders.

Stakeholder Engagement Timeline





Public Event 1: ‘Listening’
4 December 2021 at Torry United Free Church

Community Consultation

The local communities in Torry, Balnagask, and Cove have been and will continue to be key stakeholders and partners in the development of the Energy Transition Zone. Local people, and representative groups, have been actively engaged throughout the period of masterplan preparation, as well as through liaison with Community Planning Officers (Torry Locality Planning).

The focus of community engagement on the emerging masterplan has been through ‘drop-in’ public exhibitions – held on three occasions across 2021 and 2022 at the Torry United Free Church. For all three events, flyers were delivered to all households (5000+) within the Torry community, and advertised online through the ETZ website, social media, and via email to contacts within the ETZ mailing list. All consultation material presented at events was published online (via a dedicated consultation website) to ensure it was accessible to a wide audience, and available for local people unable to attend in person.

The ‘drop-in’ public exhibitions provided an open forum for members of the public to review the latest information on masterplan proposals. The events were attended by ETZ Ltd and their consultants and gave the opportunity for people to feedback directly on the issues most important to the community. While the exhibition events provided the focus of community engagement at key stages in the masterplan process, these were complemented through the period by a combination of:

- Online masterplan updates published to a dedicated webpage.
- One-to-one meetings and site walkovers with local representatives (Torry Partnership) and local interest groups (Friends of St Fittick’s)
- Written feedback and correspondence via a dedicated email address for the project.



Event 1: ‘Listening’

**4 December 2021 at Torry United Free Church
C. 110 Attendees**

Consultation Event 1 focused on introducing the masterplanning process and ETZ’s vision. It was a ‘listening exercise’ to hear the views of the community, build understanding of local context, and ensure key issues for planning and development could be raised at an early stage.

Event 2: ‘Exploring Opportunities’

**28 May 2022 at Torry United Free Church
C. 45 Attendees**

Consultation Event 2 sought to update the local community on the developing masterplan programme and explain the emerging response to key issues including East Tullos Burn and brownfield land. The event introduced potential areas of opportunity that the masterplan could support and enable, including active travel connections, pocket parks, enhanced access to Tullos Wood, and renewed park facilities.

Event 3: ‘Emerging Masterplan Proposals’

**26 November 2022 at Torry United Free Church
C. 110 Attendees**

Consultation Event 3 was held after publication of the Examiners Report into the Proposed ACC LDP and provided an update on the proposed Modifications to the Plan and requirements for the masterplan. Plans, graphics, and illustrations showed emerging illustrative layouts for key sites, including St Fittick’s Park and Doonies, along with identified areas of environmental mitigation and compensation. Consultation also sought further feedback on emerging proposals for investment in community infrastructure, active travel, green networks, and biodiversity within the masterplan.



Public Event 2: 'Exploring Opportunities'
28 May 2022 at Torry United Free Church



Through the engagement outlined above and in dialogue with the local community a wide range of issues and perspectives were raised, with a particularly strong interest in the allocated Opportunity Sites at St Fittick's Park and Bay of Nigg (OP56 and OP62), and the potential for resultant impacts on access to greenspace, biodiversity, and local environmental quality. The key issues and themes of feedback that emerged across the community consultation are summarised below:

Land Use & Economy

- Recognition and support for the principle of energy transition in Aberdeen, reducing reliance on oil & gas and transferring skills to the green economy.
- Brownfield land should be prioritised for development over greenfield sites, making the most of existing land within Altens and East Tullos.
- Interest in what type of energy transition users, sectors and activities would locate on identified Opportunity Sites, and if there was demand or need for these in Aberdeen.
- Doonies Farm has been on the current site for many years, and some felt it should be protected by the City Council rather than allocated for energy transition use.
- Clarity sought on how economic development within ETZ would deliver opportunities for local people in terms of jobs, skills, training.

Parks & Greenspace

- There was significant concern around the loss of a portion of St Fittick's Park, which is highly valued by the community in Torry as its main green and open space.
- Uncertainty as to how much of the park may be temporarily used and restored, or developed, either by ETZ or by Port of Aberdeen as part of their construction of the South Harbour.
- Concern around the potential impacts on local health & well-being (including mental health) as a result of the loss of greenspace.

Local Environment

- East Tullos Burn was significantly enhanced in 2014 through a SEPA / ACC / Community partnership project, creating new wetlands which add to the quality of the park, as well as providing local biodiversity and drainage benefits. Strong views the Burn should be retained as a key local asset.
- Development at St Fittick's Park is close to residential properties within Torry, and there was concern around potential for impacts on local amenity, including from noisy port-related activities.
- Potential impacts from construction must be carefully managed given the sensitivity of the local environment and proximity to communities.
- There has been previous development in the area, including Ness Energy-from-Waste Facility (East Tullos) and Aberdeen South Harbour (Bay of Nigg) and the cumulative impact of development on the local environment must be considered.

Access & Connectivity

- The programme for delivery of improvements to the Coast Road must be coordinated and aligned with delivery of major development, including South Harbour, to ensure sufficient capacity within the road network.
- In particular, the potential for construction and operational traffic from either South Harbour or ETZ Development routing through Torry (Victoria Road) was raised as a significant concern.
- Recognition that local access and connectivity to the Green Network in South Aberdeen, including Tullos Wood and Balnagask-Cove Coast, could be improved.

Decision Making and Local Influence

- Some in the community felt that local voices have not been heard or listened to in previous decision making around other developments, including Ness Energy-from-Waste and Aberdeen South Harbour.
- There was some mistrust within the community of local institutions and organisations, in particular around how local benefits and committed actions and mitigations have been delivered from development.



Public Event 3: 'Emerging Masterplan Proposals'
26 November 2022 at Torry United Free Church

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In addition to public consultation undertaken through 'drop-in' exhibition events open to the public, local representative groups and bodies have been engaged and fed-back into the masterplan process. This has included attendance at the exhibition events, one-to-one meetings with ETZ Ltd and consultants, informal site visits, and written feedback. Specific groups and local bodies that have been engaged and the key issues arising from discussion and feedback are summarised below:

Organisation	Key Interests and Areas of Discussion
Torry Partnership & Aberdeen South Locality Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All areas of activity and development that impact on local communities with specific concerns around any loss of greenspace and impacts on local amenity. Nature and scale of proposed land uses and activities within ETZ. Traffic and transport impacts – Coast Road delivery programme and impacts on local road network within Torry.
Cove & Altens Community Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All areas of activity and development that impact on local communities with specific concerns around any loss of greenspace and impacts on local amenity. Traffic and transport impacts – Coast Road delivery programme.
Torry GP Practice & Health Practitioners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential for development proposals and loss of greenspace to impact on health outcomes in an area of significant deprivation / health and well-being issues.
Friends of St Fittick's Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impacts of development on St Fittick's Park as a key community asset, particularly around local amenity, biodiversity, and health and well-being. Protection of local environmental features – including East Tullos Burn and associated habitats.
Local Representatives & Community Leaders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impacts of development on St Fittick's Park including local amenity, biodiversity, health and well-being.

Statutory Bodies & Agencies

In parallel with the programme of consultation at the local community level, engagement has been ongoing with statutory agencies and organisations to identify areas of sensitivity, shape emerging proposals, and ensure a framework for development that is sustainable. The following bodies have been engaged through a series of meetings and workshops across the period of masterplan preparation.

Organisation	Key Interests and Areas of Discussion
NatureScot	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approach to protecting local environmental, particularly designated assets (SSSI, Geological Conservation Review, Local Nature Reserves). Local landscape character and environment & place assets. Impacts on local greenspace and biodiversity / habitats (St Fittick's Park).
HES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Setting of local heritage assets, in particular St Fittick's Church (Scheduled Monument). Opportunities for enhancement and appreciation of Tullos Hill Cairns (Scheduled Monuments).
SEPA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintaining hydrological and ecological function of East Tullos Burn, including wetlands within St Fittick's Park. Opportunities for environmental enhancement and improvement of water quality, drainage functions.
Scottish Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protection of Scottish Water assets & infrastructure serving Nigg Waste-Water Treatment Works. Potential service diversion requirements to facilitate / enable development.
Nestrans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional Transport Strategy Development of Regional Transport initiatives addressing all modes (active travel / Public transport/marine/rail/road). Freight requirements and intersection of marine/rail/road modes within masterplan. Coast Road Assessments and coordination of delivery across the area between parties.



Public Event 3: 'Emerging Masterplan Proposals'
26 November 2022 at Torry United Free Church

Direct engagement on the emerging masterplan has been undertaken with Port of Aberdeen to coordinate development programmes, operational needs, and to ensure a strong combined proposition for inward investment. Engagement and project review has also been undertaken at regular intervals with Scottish Enterprise and Nestrans to gather feedback on emerging proposals and share information.

More broadly, ETZ Ltd have undertaken significant engagement with operators, sector specialists, and industry bodies within the masterplan area and across Aberdeen to guide the masterplan process. This has included ongoing dialogue with landowners in Altens and East Tullos, oil & gas operators, offshore wind suppliers and developers, hydrogen production / technology companies, and industry bodies such as Net Zero Technology Centre.

Aberdeen City Council

Detailed engagement has been ongoing with Aberdeen City Council across the period of masterplan preparation. This has sought to ensure coordination with Council-led works programmes and initiatives relevant to development in the area (e.g. Hydrogen Hub, Coast Road upgrade), land & property issues, and organisation of consultation activity around Local Elections (May 2022) and the process of LDP preparation.

Specific engagement with the Council as Local Planning Authority in relation to the Masterplan development has taken place post publication of the Independent Examiners Report **into the LDP (in September 2022)** and agreement of the findings and proposed modifications by the City Council. It has included a series of workshop meetings with officers from across Council service areas.

Engagement Summary

The consultation and engagement processes outlined above have been integral to the process of preparing the masterplan, and have directly informed the approach to development, environmental mitigations, and place-based interventions across the area. Across the various modes of consultation and from the range of perspectives heard, it has clearly emerged that the Opportunity Site at St Fittick's Park represents the confluence of key masterplan issues, with co-location to the port presenting a unique opportunity for high-value energy transition activity, balanced against the existing greenspace and biodiversity within the park.

Council Service Area / Team	Key Interests and Areas of Discussion
ACC Planning & Design Officers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design and development management principles for masterplanning. • Land use and planning policy requirements (Local Development Plan and NPF4). • ACC Masterplanning Process. • Planning for 'Successful Places'.
ACC Roads & Transport Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • External Transportation Links to ASH (Coast Road) – design, timescales, and coordination. • Masterplan road and connectivity options – including potential road re-alignments. • Traffic / transport impacts.
ACC Environment, Landscape & Biodiversity Officers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental mitigation hierarchy – avoiding, minimising, mitigating impact on key environmental assets (incl. East Tullos Burn, local biodiversity / habitats / wildlife, woodland). • Local landscape character areas. • Integration of existing Green Network and opportunities for enhancements. • Approach to environmental assessment across key sites.
ACC Archaeology & Historic Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approach to mitigating impacts on the setting of local heritage assets, in particular St Fittick's Church (Scheduled Monument).
ACC Estates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Property and ownership arrangements across the masterplan area. • ACC held land and property assets.
ACC Capital Projects & Energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local green energy opportunities arising from future ETZ development. • Potential for District Heating Network connections and future hydrogen integration.

The masterplan has therefore sought to provide a sustainable framework for development that fully realises the area's potential to lead the City's energy transition, while protecting the most important environmental assets and comprehensively mitigating impacts and enabling wide-ranging benefits that are accessible to local people. It has adopted a place-based approach – integrating the delivery of economic, social, and environmental infrastructures across the area into a single framework.

Beyond the submission of the masterplan, there is an ongoing commitment from ETZ to work in partnership with the local community and stakeholders to ensure local issues, along with wider considerations around social, environmental and economic imperatives are positively addressed as the masterplan progresses and through future development planning processes. This will also ensure that mitigation and compensatory measures are planned and developed to align with community priorities through a partnership working approach.





02 Place Context & Strategy

The masterplan is developed from a detailed understanding of existing local assets, context and character across Torry, Balnagask, Cove, Altens, and East Tullos. It seeks to establish a framework for energy transition development that will positively enhance this area through design quality, job-creation, active travel connections and integration, and environmental investment across the area and in surrounding communities.



Masterplan Study Area

While development will be principally focused towards LDP allocated 'Opportunity Sites' and designated 'Business & Industry' Land, the place-based approach to masterplanning has involved consideration of a wider area. This includes the communities of Torry & Balnagask and Cove, green and open spaces connecting these including Tullos Hill and the Coast, existing brownfield land in East Tullos & Altens, and associated transport and services infrastructure that serve these areas.

The masterplan seeks to identify where and how ETZ development can be delivered across this area in a form that is sustainable, as well as integrating and enabling wider initiatives that can effect positive change in the area delivering a broad range of social, environmental and economic outcomes and benefits.

Land Ownership

Within the masterplan area there are a range of land ownerships and development interests. All land within St Fittick's Park and on the coastal strip encompassing land at Girdleness, Gregness, Doonies is in the ownership of Aberdeen City Council.

The Port of Aberdeen have current lease and ownership interests on land associated with their development of the South Harbour around Nigg Bay, including land within St Fittick's Park and at Gregness which are currently being used for construction compounds and storage.

Within the industrial estates of Altens and East Tullos there is a mix of private ownership interests, reflecting their commercial nature and development pattern. The City Council own the ground lease to a number of sites within East Tullos on Greenwell Road and Greenbank Crescent.

ETZ Ltd has acquired three brownfield sites within the Masterplan area, all on Hareness Road. These are the Former Richard Irvin House, Former Muller Dairy Site, and the 6-acre brownfield site of former Trafalgar House. These will be refurbished, extended, and developed to the highest feasible energy performance standards, and will provide key hubs of activity within the Masterplan to be operated by ETZ Ltd and partners (specific detail is provided within Section 4).

ETZ Ltd do not otherwise own land within the masterplan area but have a purpose and remit to facilitate development and investment, collaborating with the City Council and wider partners (including private sector landlords), to form a new globally recognised integrated energy cluster providing new jobs and wider benefits for the city and region. Across the area they will seek to create developable sites, accelerate enabling infrastructure and site servicing works, and lead the development and delivery of wider environmental and community infrastructure projects.



Figure 3. Summary ACC Estates Plan showing areas of land owned by Aberdeen City Council – including land at St Fittick's Park, Nigg Bay, Tullos Wood, and within East Tullos Industrial Estate. (Nb. Plan is illustrative and may not reflect exact title boundaries or lease agreements within areas of ACC ownership)

2.1 Place Context: Planning & Policy

The place-based approach to masterplanning is a direct response to policy priorities at both national and local levels, where there is a clear policy drive for planning and development to deliver positive outcomes for Place, Inclusive Growth, Health & Well-being, Just Transition and Net Zero.

The Scottish Government has established a nationwide target of reaching net zero emissions by 2045, among the most ambitious carbon reduction programmes in the world. Meeting ambitious net zero targets will require a rapid transformation across all sectors of the economy and society, coupled with large-scale development and deployment of renewable energy technologies. Recognising the scale of transformation and change that will be involved, the Scottish Government have prioritised ‘Just Transition’ to ensure that the journey to net zero is fair for everyone, with opportunities for people to participate in and benefit from the investment, development and innovation that will drive energy transition.

Linked to Place Principle and net zero priorities, the delivery of ‘20-minute neighbourhoods’ is now Scottish Government policy embedded in the NPF4 and Programme for Government 2020-21.

The recently adopted **National Planning Framework 4** (NPF4) embeds all the above Scottish Government priorities in its approach to planning and development. Priorities for the ‘North-East’ are identified as: transition to net zero, improving local liveability, regenerating coastal communities, and decarbonising connectivity.

NPF4 forms part of the Development Plan, alongside the Local Development Plan, and future planning applications within ETZ must therefore demonstrate compliance with specific policy requirements and priorities around:

- **Sustainable Places** (Climate Mitigation & Adaptation, Biodiversity, Natural Places, Forestry, Woodland and Trees, Historic Assets and Places, Coastal Development, Energy, Zero Waste, Sustainable Transport).
- **Liveable Places** (Design Quality & Place, Local Living & 20-Minute Neighbourhoods, Infrastructure First, Heating & Cooling, Blue & Green Infrastructure, Flood Risk & Water Management, Health & Safety).
- **Productive Places** (Community Wealth Building, Business & Industry).

The NPF4 also defines the six qualities of ‘Successful Places’ which all development should seek to support and deliver, and which the masterplan has incorporated and sought to positively address. These are:

- **Healthy** – Supporting the prioritisation of women’s safety and improving physical and mental health.
- **Pleasant** – Supporting attractive natural and built spaces.
- **Connected** – Supporting well connected networks that make moving around easy and reduce car dependency.
- **Distinctive** – Supporting attention to detail of local architectural styles and natural landscapes to be interpreted, literally or creatively, into designs to reinforce identity.
- **Sustainable** – Supporting the efficient use of resources that will allow people to live, play, work and stay in their area, ensuring climate resilience, and integrating nature positive, biodiversity solutions.
- **Adaptable** – Supporting commitment to investing in the long-term value of buildings, streets and spaces by allowing for flexibility so that they can be changed quickly to accommodate different uses as well as maintained over time.

Of direct relevance to ETZ and aligned with the LDP it identifies Aberdeen Harbour as a National Development (No.14). Land outwith the Harbour is not included in the National Development, though there is support for reorganisation of land use around the Harbour in line with the spatial strategy of the LDP, and optimisation of the Harbour to support net zero and stimulate economic investment. NPF4 states that: “the South Harbour can act as a cluster of port accessible offshore renewable energy research, manufacturing and support services”.

The Scottish Government’s **National Strategy for Economic Transformation** was published in March 2022 and also recognises the significant economic potential of energy transition, where Scotland has potential first-mover advantage and ability to become a world-leader in renewable energy, hydrogen economy, and wider industrial de-carbonisation.

The Scottish Government has also recently published its **Draft Energy Strategy and Just Transition Plan** (January 2023) for consultation. The Plan sets out measures to deliver a fair and secure zero-carbon energy system for Scotland, further accelerating the transition from oil & gas and maximising the potential of renewable energy to meet energy needs in a secure and affordable way that supports new economic opportunities. The Plan reinforces and strengthens Scotland’s ambitious renewable energy and de-carbonisation targets and seeks a Just Transition by maintaining or increasing employment in Scotland’s energy production sector and maximising the use of Scottish manufactured components in the energy transition, ensuring high-value technology innovation.

The Energy Transition Zone is highlighted within the Plan as a future focal point and catalyst for high-value manufacturing, research, development, testing and deployment with significant opportunities in offshore wind, hydrogen, and carbon capture storage.



Local Development Plan Policy for Energy Transition

The Local Development Plan (LDP) was adopted by Aberdeen City Council in June 2023, replacing the previous 2017 LDP. Preparation of the Plan began in 2018 and has been progressed through extensive public consultation, representations from a wide range of stakeholders, and an Independent Examination which concluded in September 2022.

At the conclusion of the Examination, the Reporters recommended Modifications to the Plan to require additional detail around environmental protection measures within the ETZ, which were subsequently incorporated by ACC and approved at a Full Council meeting in December 2022. Following notification of the Council’s intention to adopt the Plan, further minor modifications were directed by Scottish Ministers in May 2023 to take account of NPF4 adoption.

The LDP forms the primary planning policy context for the Masterplan and is part of the Development Plan against which future development proposals will be assessed and determined.

The LDP identified Opportunity Sites and Policies to support development of an Energy Transition Zone. The Policies recognise that the construction of Aberdeen South Harbour creates the opportunity to accommodate location specific energy transition developments that capitalise on supporting the rapid delivery of offshore developments. Specific LDP policy requirements are considered and addressed in detail within Section 4, but key extracts are summarised below and shown on the LDP Proposals Map:

OP56 (St Fittick’s Park)

“The site, along with OP61, will support renewable energy transition related industries in association with Aberdeen South Harbour. Any development at this site must have a functional association with the South Harbour which precludes it being located elsewhere”.

OP61 (Doonies)

“This area, along with OP56, will support renewable energy transition related industries in association with Aberdeen South Harbour.

OP62 (Bay of Nigg)

“Aberdeen Harbour expansion in accordance with Bay of Nigg Development Framework”.

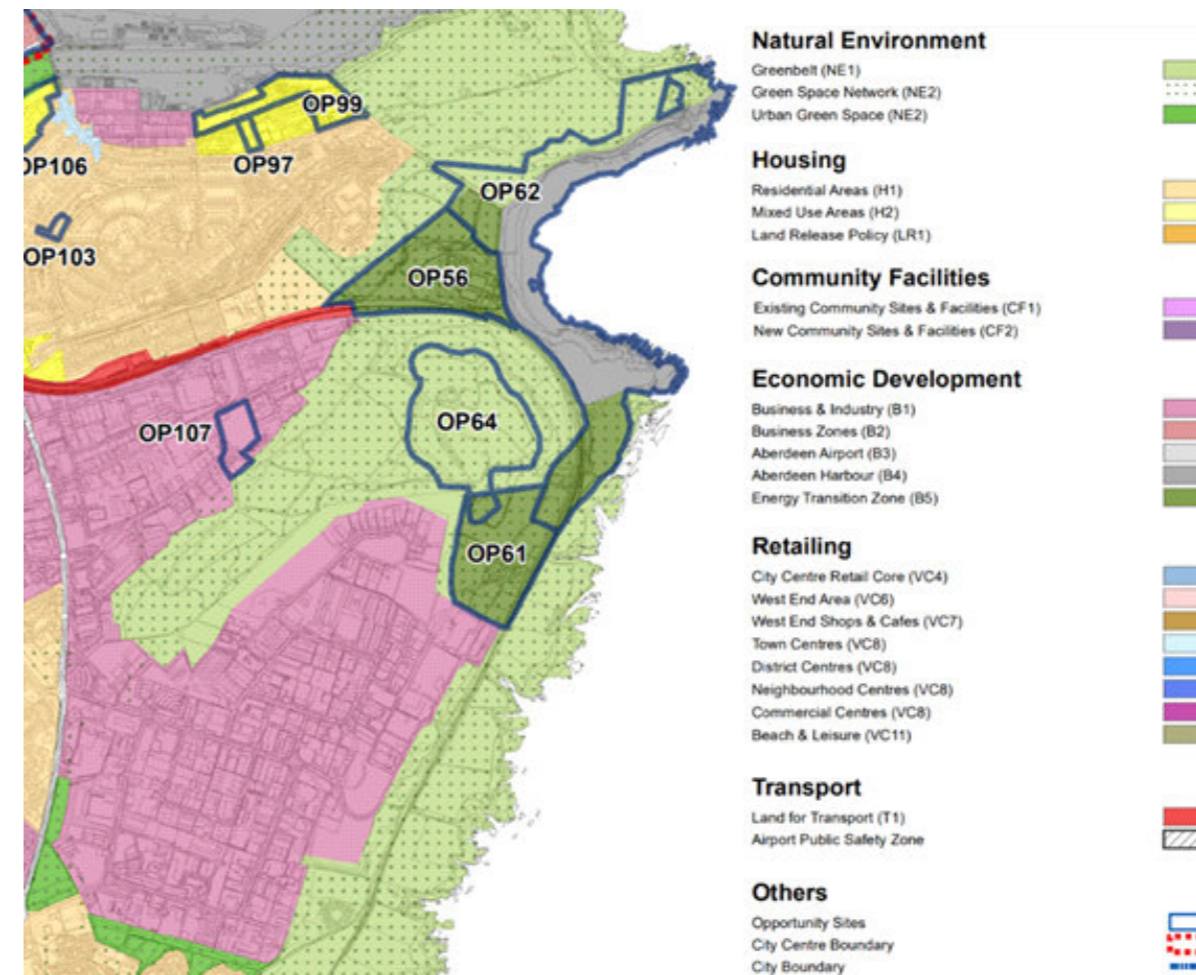
The Local Development Plan requires a joint masterplan for Opportunity Sites OP56, OP61, and OP62 and that this specifically considers the following matters:

- The extent of developable areas within B5 Energy Transition Zone zoning.
- Areas which should remain undeveloped and the extent of any buffer zones.
- Mitigation measures to ensure the continued viability of linear habitats including the East Tullos Burn, recreation and Core Path network.
- Options for the use of the waste-water treatment plant.
- Measures to avoid, minimise, mitigate, and compensate potential impacts on biodiversity / greenspace that will ensure at least no net loss of biodiversity across the masterplan area.

Complementing the Opportunity Site designations, Policy B5 of the LDP (‘Energy Transition Zone’) relates to land areas within OP56, OP61 and part OP62, and provides a presumption in favour of development, production, assembly, storage and/or distribution of infrastructure required to support renewable energy related industries including offshore wind, tidal, hydrogen, and solar.

The masterplan has been developed to incorporate these Opportunity Sites and wider surrounding areas. It forms a comprehensive framework that considers and addresses the specific requirements outlined in the LDP, along with wider opportunities for positive place-shaping and environmental enhancement.

The Bay of Nigg Development Framework was adopted (2016) as proposals for Aberdeen Harbour expansion were developed, to plan for necessary infrastructure and how to maximise impacts of investment for business and communities. The Bay of Nigg Development Framework pre-dates the current planning policy context (LDP and NPF4) as well as wider acceleration of Scotland’s transition net zero (Climate Change Plan and Draft Energy Strategy & Just Transition Plan) and the significantly increased scale of offshore renewables ambition (ScotWind Leasing Round). The purpose of this ETZ Masterplan is in-part to provide a refreshed and renewed plan for development across the area, reflecting this focus on energy transition.



The Local Development Plan

ETZ sits at the centre of overlapping agendas around Place, Net Zero, Just Transition, Health & Well-being, and Inclusive Growth. The Masterplan promotes a balanced approach based on sustainable place making that includes the following:

- A masterplan area that incorporates and considers all aspects of Place within the communities of Torry, Balnagask and Cove and how ETZ can contribute meaningfully to improvement for these communities.
- Working closely with the local community and other stakeholders through a programme of consultation and engagement to provide direct input and shape the Masterplan outcomes.
- A framework for delivery of energy transition development and infrastructure that addresses national priorities, whilst ensuring opportunities for local employment, inclusive skills development, and spin-off community benefits are embedded.
- Supporting local liveability and 20-minute neighbourhoods through mixed-use development and greenspace enhancement that is accessible through active travel and complementary to wider service and place-shaping improvements in the area.

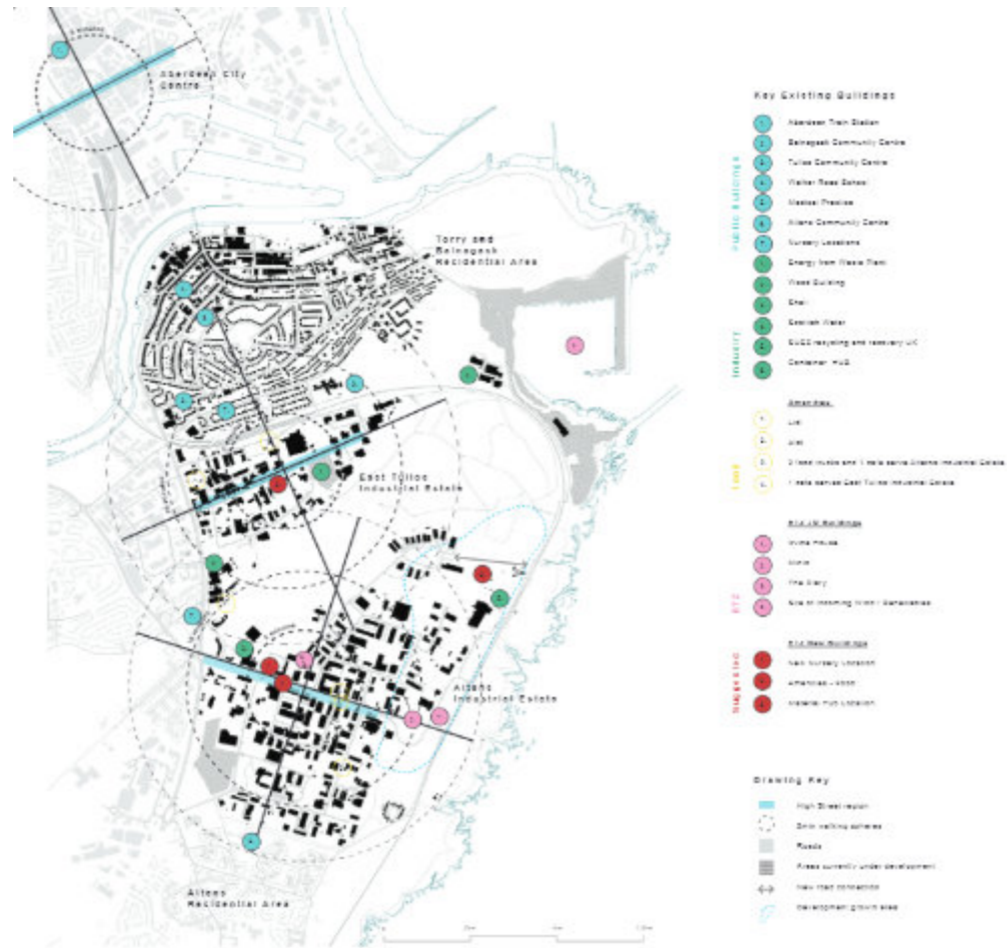
2.2 Place Context: Community & Social

The area of Torry (population of around 10,500) with Cove (population of around 8170) sit north and south of the masterplan area with the two communities having different place profiles and qualities.

Historical Context

The urban form of Torry and surrounding areas emerged through growth of Aberdeen in the late 19th century. After construction of the Victoria Bridge new municipal housing was developed in the area, particularly from the mid-20th century onwards, including as a planned ‘Garden Suburb’ with new housing and estates such as at Tullos Circle. Around the same time, areas of former agricultural land at East Tullos and Altens began to be developed into commercial use, which continued to accelerate through oil & gas growth of the 1970’s and 1980’s into the industrial estates that exist today.

Through the recent development of the Aberdeen South Harbour the capacity and character of the masterplan area has changed significantly, in particular around the Balnagask-Cove Coast and St Fittick’s Park. The Energy Transition Zone along with other infrastructure (Ness Energy-from-Waste, Aberdeen South Harbour Transportation Links) will evolve this further. It must be developed sensitively and with an integrated approach that supports place-based investment and delivers wider benefits around the Green Network, active travel connectivity, and enhanced local biodiversity.



Circular Economy Study (Collective Architecture)
Integrating facilities, buildings and community assets across the Zone.

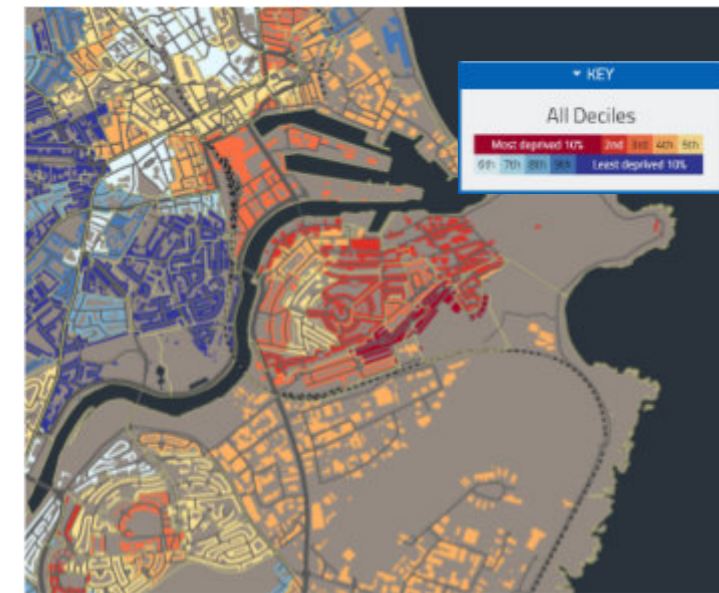
Torry Neighbourhood

The neighbourhood of Torry is in close proximity of identified Opportunity Sites at St Fittick’s Park and Bay of Nigg. It is a community that has experienced a range of deprivation across indices of employment, housing, health, household income, education and crime. As identified through Locality Planning, communities within Torry feel unsupported with and wish to see improvement across many of the characteristics within the Place Standard Toolkit. The topic areas with the greatest positivity are around natural space, play and recreation, facilities and amenities, which the Opportunity Site allocations indicates may change and be at risk.

Through engagement, communities have expressed that the development of Aberdeen South Harbour, Ness Energy from Waste facility, Former Ness landfill, and Nigg Bay Waste Water Treatment Works (WWTW), along with limited investment in housing stock combine to negatively impact on local place quality and community health and well-being.

Health professionals within the community (GP Practice) have raised concerns around health and well-being associated with loss of greenspace and its impact on mental and physical health. The housing stock in Torry is mainly flatted, and many homes have limited outdoor or garden space. Access to public greenspace for passive and active recreation, contact with nature, and outdoor activity is therefore considered to be an important health measure.

Within Torry there is an engaged and active network of community groups and initiatives. The Locality Plan (2017-2027) estimates there are 150 community activities taking place every week with about 1,500 participants – including Torry Dancers, Community Garden, Torry Youth Action Group, Torry Recovery Group, Big Noise Torry (After School Music Club), and ongoing activities at Old Torry Community Centre (Tai Chi, Yoga, Fitness Classes, Dancing).



Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD)

Cove Neighbourhood

The Cove neighbourhood is a popular residential location owing to its village-like status. It is a quiet suburb at the southern edge of Aberdeen City. It suffers significantly less deprivation than Torry. Operating as a smaller nuclear settlement with positive place attributes the index of deprivation records geographic access as the most significant area of disadvantage for some parts of the neighbourhood. Primary issues for Cove relate to the impacts on transport, place and environmental quality from any future development.

2.3 Place Context: Environment and Biodiversity & Landscape

The masterplan area contains a range of environmental and local biodiversity features, including locally designated sites and areas well used by local communities and which contribute to place quality and health & well-being.

There is a mix of open, semi-natural greenspaces and more defined urban parks that provide a range of habitats and biodiversity. The area has undergone significant change over the past decade, affecting the balance between urban, industrial and greenspace character and local amenity. Improvements have included investment in the East Tullos Burn and wetlands, and planting in St Fittick's Park, but the area has also been characterised by significant development of industrial and energy infrastructure through Aberdeen South Harbour and the prominent Energy from Waste facility in East Tullos.

Greenspaces are typically diverse and provide a range of habitat and biodiversity – particularly within St Fittick's Park, Tullos Wood, and on the Balnagask-Cove Coast. A Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) is located to the south of Nigg Bay (designated for its quaternary geology and geomorphology).

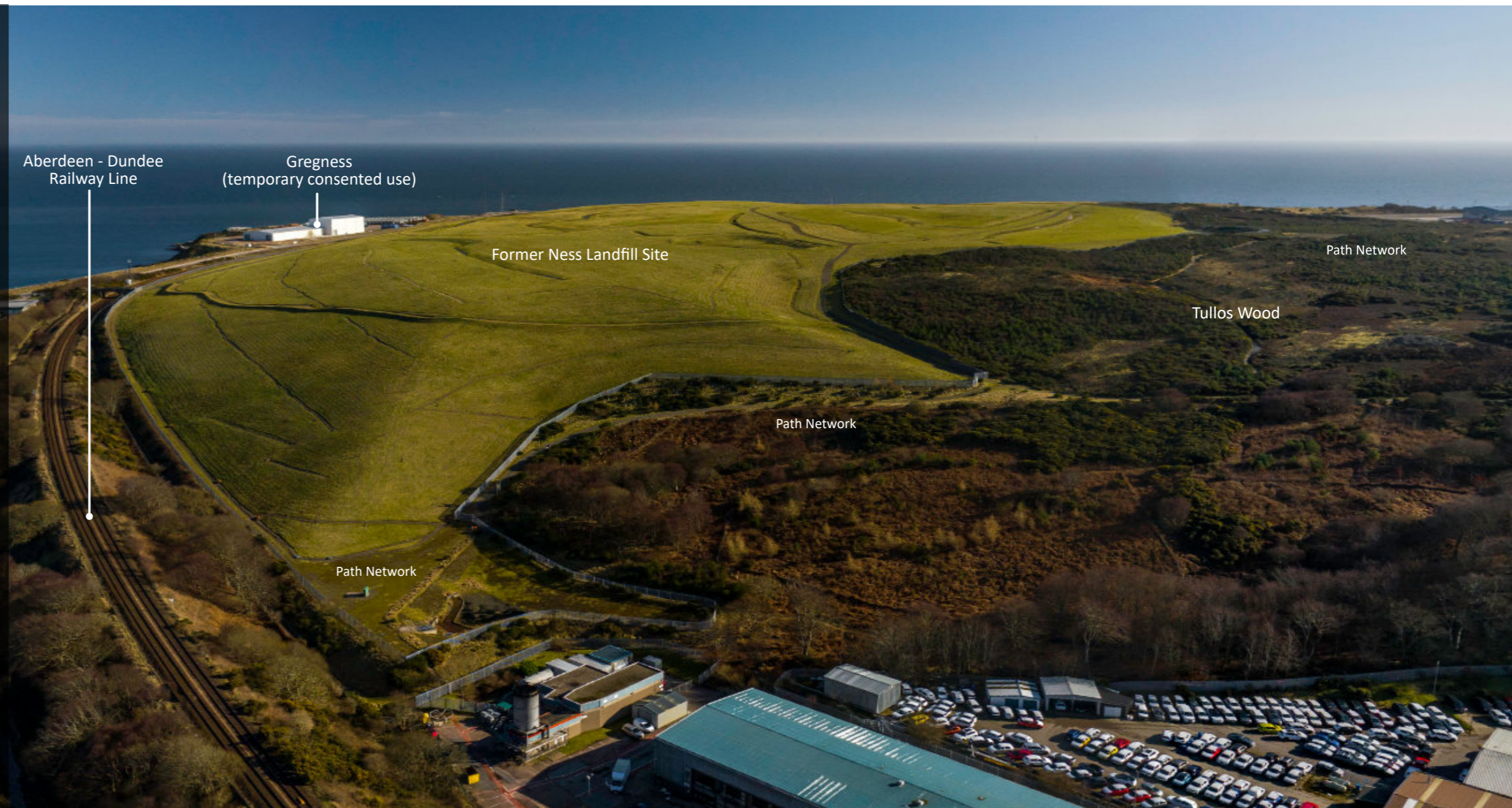
In addition to those core greenspace and landscape assets the area includes:

- **Walker Park** - sited next to Girdleness Lighthouse and has recently been utilised as a temporary construction site associated with Aberdeen South Harbour. It is to be reinstated upon completion of the Harbour and will be re-integrated into the Green Network.
- **Balnagask Golf Course** - occupies the Greyhope Bay headland and while operational as an 18-hole course remains publicly accessible and is a popular location for dog-walking and local recreation. The Masterplan does not propose any development of the Golf Course.
- **Former Ness Landfill** – situated to the west of the railway as it curves toward Aberdeen, the former landfill is not publicly accessible but is maintained as an open grassland by the City Council. Proposals for a solar farm on the site have been submitted and there is potential for complementary grassland management for biodiversity to be delivered through development.

Tullos Hill is designated as a Local Nature Conservation Site and includes a mix of habitats including broadleaved woodland, neutral grassland, scrub woodland, bracken, acid grassland, dry heath, and small patches of lowland birch woodland and wet heath. Species of bullfinch, red-backed shrike, Eurasian tree sparrow have been recorded on the site. A roe deer population on Tullos Hill has previously been identified and is actively managed by the City Council to encourage natural regeneration.

- At its north-western edge the LNCS includes areas of Ancient Woodland (NatureScot) and upland birchwood included within the Native Woodland Survey of Scotland
- A programme of Tree Planting was undertaken in 2012 as part of the city-wide 'Tree for Every Citizen' initiative, predominantly focused on areas of acid grassland. The existing path network connects key vantage points and historic burial cairns on the hill but is poorly connected to communities.
- Areas within the LNCS include landfill sites (landfill ceased in 2001) restored to grassland including the former Ness Landfill to the north which is not publicly accessible.
- Tullos Hill also contains a grouping of well preserved pre-historic burial Cairns – Tullos Cairn, Baron's Cairn, Cat Cairn, and Crab's Cairn all of which probably date from 2nd Millennium BC. They are all designated by HES as Scheduled Monuments.

Tullos Hill





The **Balnagask to Cove Coastline** is also designated as a Local Nature Conservation Site, including the cliffs, caves, and beaches along the stretch of rugged and largely undeveloped coast. Habitats include coastal and neutral grasslands, European dry heath and coastal heath and areas of gorse scrub. As a result, there are numerous coastal plants and associated insects and invertebrates, and the site attracts a variety of coastal birds. There is also geological interest with andalusite in regionally metamorphosed magmatic rocks and areas of Nigg Bay towards the north of the site are designated as a geological SSSI.

- The Core Path (No. 78) connects and provides accessibility across the coastal greenspace, tracking the cliff-top ridge. It is well-used primarily as a walking route, connecting into local routes within Altens, Torry, and Cove.
- The coastal fringe to east of the railway is part of agricultural grazing operated by Doonies Rare Animals Farm. Coastal exposure and agricultural management limit current ecological status with the area managed as a productive grazing sward.

The Balnagask to Cove Coastline

St Fittick's Park forms an important element of the City's Greenspace Network and is a valued local greenspace and biodiversity asset that is readily accessible to local people. Habitats within the park include mixed woodland plantations, amenity grassland, and ponds, marshy grasslands and swamp areas formed as a result of the East Tullos Burn (ETB) improvement project delivered in 2014 in a partnership between ACC/SEPA and the local community.

The ETB Improvement Project involved 're-meandering' of the burn to create a new wetland habitat, and to provide greater biological treatment of pollutant / contaminants within surface water run-off through reed planting. The Burn still contains relatively high levels of pollution due to surface water run-off from East Tullos Industrial Estate, and potentially leachate from the former Ness Landfill site.

The Burn provides an important local drainage and hydrological function and has enhanced the biodiversity of the park creating a high-quality wet grassland habitat. The habitats attract a number of breeding bird species including red and amber listed species, a range of invertebrates including recordings of nationally threatened species, and mammal species.

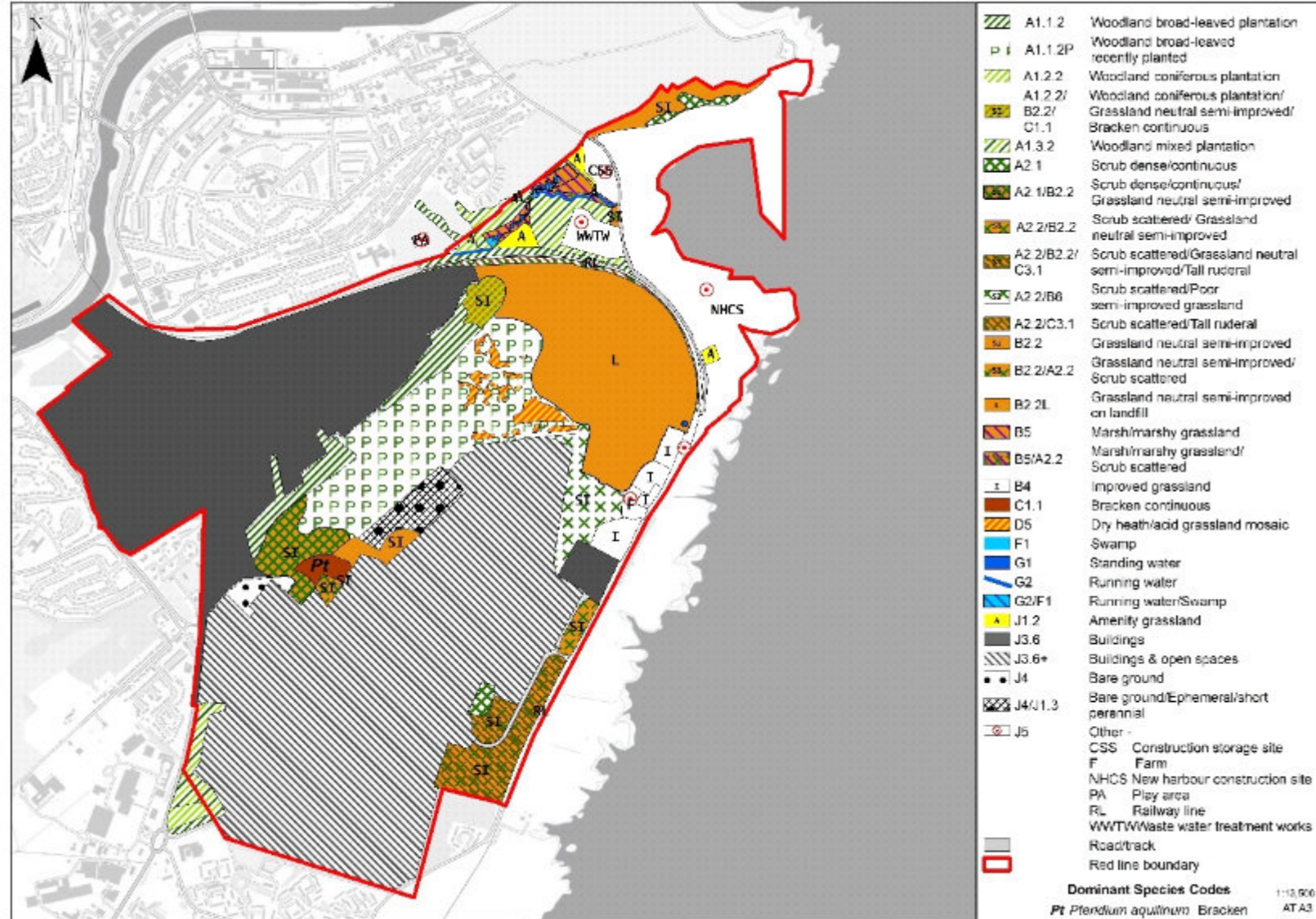
Complementing the enhancement works to the East Tullos Burn and wetlands are mixed plantation woodland has been introduced to the park since 2006 on an ongoing basis with involvement from the local community. Woodland adds to the biodiversity and range of habitat within the park whilst also providing a level of screening to the Waste-Water Treatment Works.

Grassland and wildflower meadows within the park provides additional amenity. Open grasslands provide space for recreation, and there is a network of paths and informal routes well-used by the local community. Core Path 108 crosses the park, connecting Torry community to Nigg Bay and the Balnagask-Cove Coast.

The Scheduled Monument of St Fittick's Church is also situated within St Fittick's Park (at its northern edge), adding to the character and amenity of the greenspace.



St Fittick's Park



Overview Plan from Phase 1 Habitat Survey. The area contains a mix of grassland and woodland habitats, and the wetland habitats associated with East Tullos Burn in St Fittick's Park.

Landscape Character

The area includes a mixture of landscape character types from a rugged coastal strip to wooded semi-rural hill and from the urban residential area of Torry/Balnagask to industrial estates at East Tullos and Altens. Landscape character and capacity can be referenced to the NatureScot Landscape Character Types (LCT's) that include:

- Cliffs and Rocky Coast – Aberdeen LCT covers the coastal strip between the Dee and Cove Bay and includes **Balnagask Golf Course**, Girdle Ness, St Fittick's Park, Nigg Bay and, to the south, the coastal strip lying mainly east of the railway.
- Low Hills – Aberdeen LCT covers the ridge of Tullos Hill south of the railway loop, lying between Tullos and Altens Industrial Estates. This is the southernmost of several hills on the periphery of Aberdeen which form prominent landmarks seen across the city.



Cliffs and Rocky Coast



Tullos Hill

Flood Risk

SEPA Flood Risk Mapping indicates instances across the masterplan area where there is surface water flood risk, including within St Fittick's Park associated with the drainage and hydrological function of the East Tullos Burn. Elsewhere across the masterplan area there are pockets of identified surface water flood risk within East Tullos Industrial Estate, and on the Coast Road around its junction with Hareness Road and at the SUEZ Recycling Centre. Future development proposals will need to be informed by Flood Risk Assessment and Drainage Assessment to fully consider implications on local flood risk and water environment.

SEPA Mapping does not identify risk from river or coastal flooding (including future scenarios), which is limited to those areas around the River Dee.

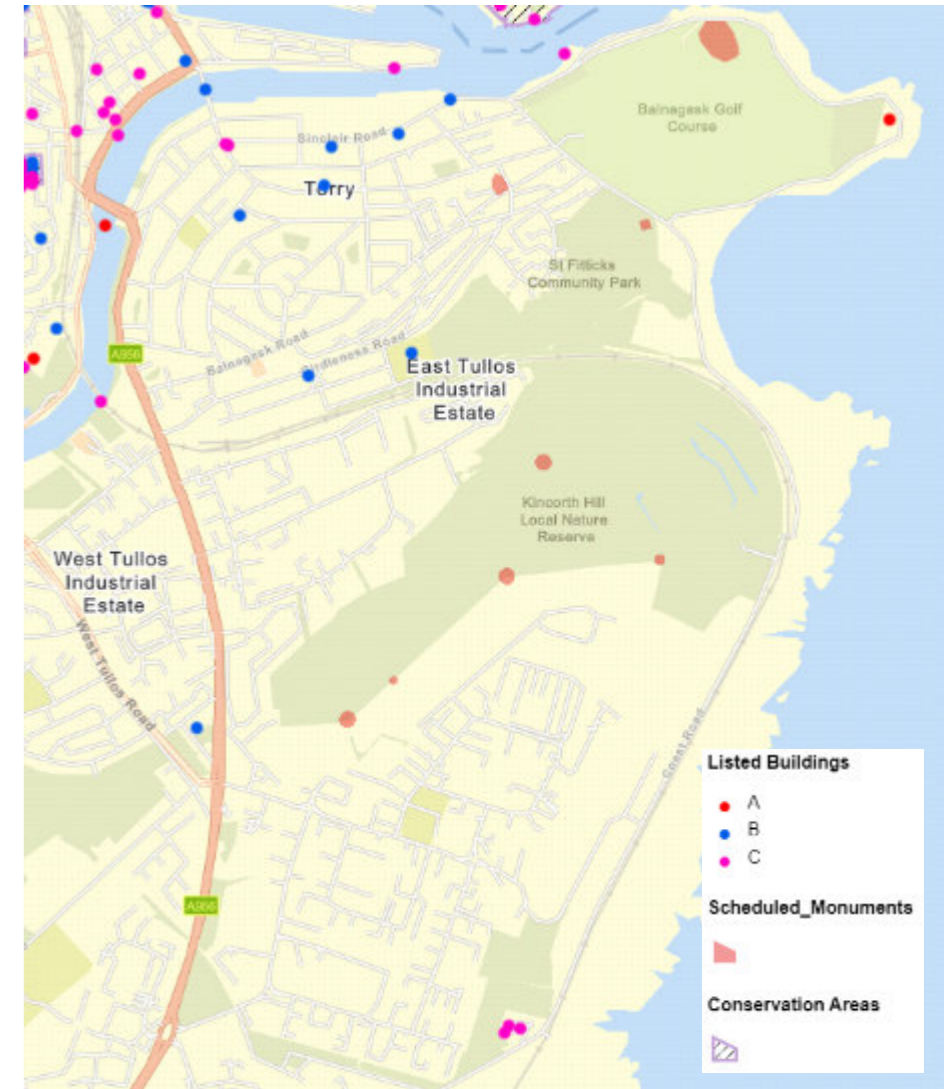


Figure 8. SEPA Flood Risk Mapping. Purple shading indicates areas currently at risk from surface water flooding. Future Flood Risk Assessment must consider potential impacts of development on local flood risk and any necessary mitigation measures.

Cultural Heritage

Associated with the historic development of Torry there are a number of important cultural heritage assets within the area. The Masterplan seeks to preserve and positively incorporate these assets.

- Torry & Cove settlements including a varied assemblage of Listed Buildings (Category A/B/C Listed) including Girdleness Lighthouse & east/West Leading Lighthouses, Smoke House, Church Buildings, cottages, historic tenements and architectural structures.
- St Fittick's Church (Scheduled Monument) – situated at the northern edge of St Fittick's Park it comprises the remains of a former parish church founded between 1189 and 1199. It was reconstructed and enlarged in the 18th century, but parts of the walls are 13th century. The setting and surrounding context of the Church has changed significantly in recent years following the development of Aberdeen South Harbour and associated infrastructure.
- Torry Battery (Scheduled Monument) – situated to the north of Balnagask Golf Course and overlooking Aberdeen Harbour entrance, the Battery was built in 1860. The remains comprise the perimeter wall, gateway and guardhouse, gun mounts and footings of some interior buildings.
- Girdleness Lighthouse (Category A Listed) – built in 1833 to aid navigation to Aberdeen Harbour and the River Dee.
- Tullos Hill – Tullos and Doonies Hill has a rich history with around 200 historic and archaeological features, including Barons, Cat, Crabs and Tullos Cairns – four Bronze-Age burial cairns that are Scheduled Monuments.



Cultural Heritage Designations (HES Designations Map Search)

2.4 Place Context: Infrastructure & Development

Infrastructure including travel, employment, education, recreation and health are all additional element of place that sit alongside the cultural and environmental aspects of place.

Regional Transport Strategy

Aberdeen City Council, Nestrans and regional partners are within the Regional Transport Strategy advancing a range of studies to set out the strategic needs 2020-240 building on the completion of the AWPR and other planned investments. Key elements of this relevant to ETZ include proposals associated with:

- A952 Wellington Road Corridor.
Key corridor facilitating Energy Transition Zone, South Harbour and community linkages.
- Craiginches Railfreight Facility.
Key rail freight opportunity site to south of City, part of ETZ masterplan area, adjacent to South Harbour.
- Regional Hydrogen Fuelling Facilities.
Expanding the network of hydrogen refuellers is key to the region’s hydrogen ambitions.
- Transport Mobility Hubs.
Key to enabling a move to decarbonised and integrated transport system.

Transport Connectivity & Movement

Active travel choices within the area are relatively limited. Routes are primarily on-road that connect Aberdeen City Centre to Torry/ Cove/Kincorth via Wellington Road or Victoria Road and the Coast Road. An off-road cycle route for sections of NCR1 has recently been delivered through the Aberdeen South Harbour project – running parallel to the East Coast Main Line. Public transport routes similarly follow the same city arterials Wellington Road (Services 3/3A/3B) with circular services in Torry (Services 12 /15).

Leisure and recreational access are provided by the Coastal Path (NCR1 / CP 78), National Cycle Route (NCR1), local path networks (Torry (CP108/104) /Girdleness (CP78)/ Tullos Wood (CP103) /Coastal Path (CP78) and connections to Kincorth Hill (CP79/103) and Cove Bay (CP78/95/83/81). Gradient, path quality and connections make many of these routes less than fully accessible.



Aberdeen City Council Core Paths

The primary transport corridors for South Aberdeen comprise the A96 (Wellington Road) and the Coast Road together with the Aberdeen-Edinburgh Rail Line which runs from Aberdeen to the southern edge of Bay of Nigg and along the coast.

Proposals are being coordinated through ACC Roads and Nestrans for upgrading to the existing strategic road network, including development of the External Transportation Links to Aberdeen Harbour project (Wellington Road to ASH) to secure improved access to Aberdeen South Harbour. This will include upgrade to the Coast Road to provide additional capacity, a new bridge crossing to replace the existing signalise one-way crossing of the East-Coast Main Line, and active travel provision. ACC Roads Team and Nestrans are currently advancing the Coast Road design to DMRB Stage 2/3. Subject to ongoing design development and approvals, it is understood that the current programme provides for completion in 2026/27.

In parallel, ACC Roads and Nestrans have undertaken early options appraisal and consultation on future travel options for Wellington Road (Wellington Road Multi-Modal Corridor Study, 2021). This seeks to enhance its function as a key multi-modal corridor serving South Aberdeen and strategic development within the Energy Transition Zone and Aberdeen South Harbour. The potential for signalisation of the Hareness Road – Wellington Road Junction (currently a roundabout) has been identified as a potential option, along with additional crossings, bus lanes and active travel infrastructure. The projects are subject to further detailed feasibility, design appraisal, and costing, together with the development of a Scottish Transport Appraisal Guidance (STAG) Report and further work to define the project elements, scope and programme.

The ongoing multi-modal corridor study work by ACC has identified the opportunity for significant enhancement of active travel infrastructure along the Wellington Road corridor, along with bus priority measures. The corridor could also potentially accommodate an Aberdeen Rapid Transit service linking the City Centre to Cove, and onwards to Portlethen. These measures would significantly enhance accessibility for the ETZ masterplan area for active travel and public transport users when implemented, although works are not currently committed. Wider active travel route development in the area (including Craigs Shaw Drive proposal) will broaden accessibility to the ETZ area.



Strava 'Heatmap' showing most frequently used pedestrian and cycle routes across the area (by Strava App users). This illustrates the strong movement corridor along the coast. Connections from St Fittick's to Walker Park and Girdleness Lighthouse, as well as around Gregness, have been interrupted during construction of the South Harbour. There are relatively weak connections between Torry and Tullos Wood.

Aberdeen South Harbour

The development of Aberdeen South Harbour provides strategic marine infrastructure and is one of the key catalysts for the Energy Transition Zone. It commenced initial operations in Q4 2022 and became fully operational in 2023.

The £420million infrastructure development, transforms the marine capacity of the Port of Aberdeen through the creation of over 1,400 metres of deep-water quay and over 125,000 m² of quayside laydown area.

The South Harbour creates a deep-water multi-use facility capable of offering facilities for a range of port and logistic operations. This includes supporting Port of Aberdeen's existing customer base as well as major new opportunities associated with the pipeline of offshore wind activity through ScotWind, with developers actively seeking deep-water port capacity required for deployment.

Aberdeen Airport

The Masterplan area is within 15km of the Aberdeen Airport, and therefore within its 'Aerodrome Safeguarding' area. Future proposed development within the masterplan area will therefore undergo the safeguarding process, including consultation with Aberdeen International Airport, to ensure that there is no adverse impact on aircraft safety. This will include consideration of matters such as building height, external lighting, landscaping, bird hazard management, and impact on communication and navigation equipment.

Rail Infrastructure

The Craiginches freight yards are situated within East Tullos, including a bulk handling facility to the north of railway (accessed from Girdleness Road) and a freight yard to the south on Greenwell Road. The freight yards have limited capacity and currently handle inter-modal container traffic and bulk cargoes primarily concrete.

Opportunities for electrification of the Dundee-Aberdeen rail line are being progressed by Network Rail but are yet to be detailed in full. An EIA Screening was undertaken in 2022 (22/0591/ESC) highlighting works likely to include Overhead Line Equipment, modification to existing bridge structures including potential demolition of bridge access to Ness Landfill (adjacent to Waste Water Treatment Works).

The freight yards at Craiginches offer opportunity to enhanced railfreight capacity for the region. A detailed Railfreight Feasibility Study is currently being advanced by Nestrans to assess the opportunity for expansion of rail freight and modal shift from road to rail / freight servicing. Nestrans are looking to develop a regional infrastructure to support the sustainable movement of freight (marine/rail) and identify areas of opportunity associated with decarbonising rail and connecting Craiginches to nearby hydrogen fuelling facilities.



Rail Infrastructure

Employment Land & Local Infrastructure

East Tullos and Altens industrial estates developed in the 1970's and comprise a diverse mix of industrial, service and distribution users (Class 4 /5 /6) together with research and educational institutions. There are significant voids and under-developed plots and buildings within each of the estates. Land ownership is fragmented with a combination of freehold/leasehold properties.

A large proportion of the available stock is towards the end of its beneficial life and now no longer suits occupiers' needs, especially as tenants seek more energy efficient buildings. Industrial occupiers continue to seek good quality modern industrial space but there is limited new build stock on the market requiring more advanced and speculative development to address shortage. However, build costs and market uncertainty creates a challenging property investment market.

There continues to be a need to extensively refurbish and repurpose buildings and provide industrial space aligned to industry needs.



East Tullos Industrial Estate

• Altens Industrial Estate

Large industrial estate with accommodation ranging from modern office 'HQ' buildings to dilapidated industrial units. It remains well occupied with a high number of energy (oil & gas/renewable) companies with available capacity and well positioned to support energy transition and create new jobs. Through undeveloped plots and poorer quality and vacant buildings, there is potentially significant areas of brownfield land within Altens suitable for development and renewal, including land on Hareness Road and Peterseat Drive.

• East Tullos Industrial Estate

East Tullos has a more diverse user base than Altens, including retail, car showrooms, scrap metal processing, and the newly developed Ness Energy-from-Waste facility. Beyond the higher-value Wellington Road frontage, there are a number of lower quality buildings within the estate and a number of properties are vacant or on interim and short-term lettings. There has been little renewal or investment over recent years (aside from NESS EfW).

Significant opportunity exists to promote brownfield land development and secure further regenerate of the Altens and East Tullos Estates. Integrating both sites into the Energy Transition Zone and will support a diverse cluster of economic activity with on-site training and skills facilities.



Altens Industrial Estate

Net Zero & Energy Infrastructure

Within the masterplan area there has been recent development of energy and utilities infrastructure with the potential to positively complement future ETZ development.

Ness Energy-from-Waste facility

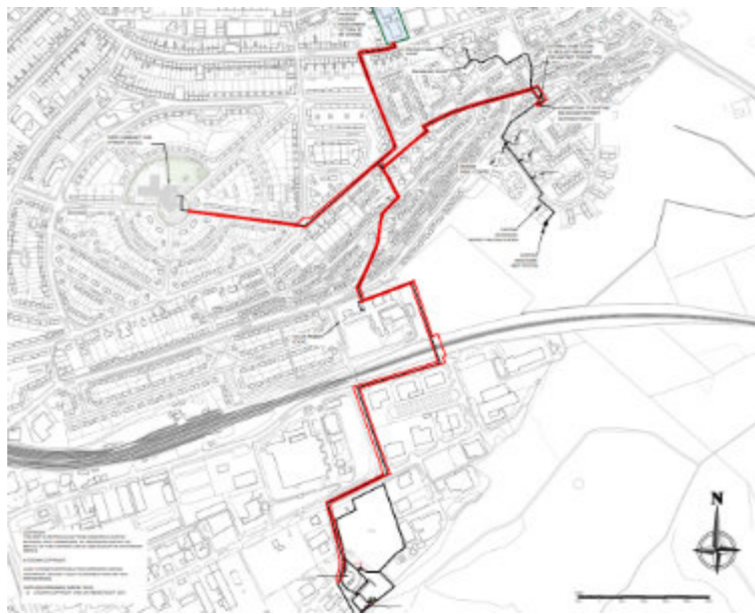
Developed on the former gas holder site in East Tullos, and commenced operations in Spring 2023. It incinerates non-recyclable waste from Aberdeen, Aberdeenshire and Moray Council areas and operates as a CHP plant, with electricity generated sold back to the National Grid.



Ness Energy from Waste Facility

District Heating Network

Linked to the Energy-from Waste Facility Aberdeen City Council are developing a District Heating Network. The development involves up to 2,500m of underground pipework / ductwork / cabling to distribute heat to local housing and community buildings including: Tullos Primary School and community pool, Torry Community Hub, Balnagask Social Work office, and dwellings within Torry. Planning permission (211700/DPP) was granted in 2022 and the first customers are anticipated to be connected in 2023. The proposals would integrate with the existing 'HEATNET' district heating system (installed 2020) that supplies heat from gas boilers to Grampian, Brimmond, Morven Court, Deeside Family Centre, Balnagask House and Provost Hogg sheltered housing.



District Heating Network

Nigg Waste Water Treatment Works (WWTW)

Nigg WWTW was constructed in 2002, at the eastern edge of St Fittick's Park. It processes waste-water from the majority of homes and businesses in Aberdeen – serving a population equivalent of roughly 250,000. Sub-terrain infrastructure (rising mains, combined sewer overflows, outfalls, surface water drains) associated with the WWTW sits beneath St Fittick's Park and at Gregness and are considered in detail in site-specific masterplanning.

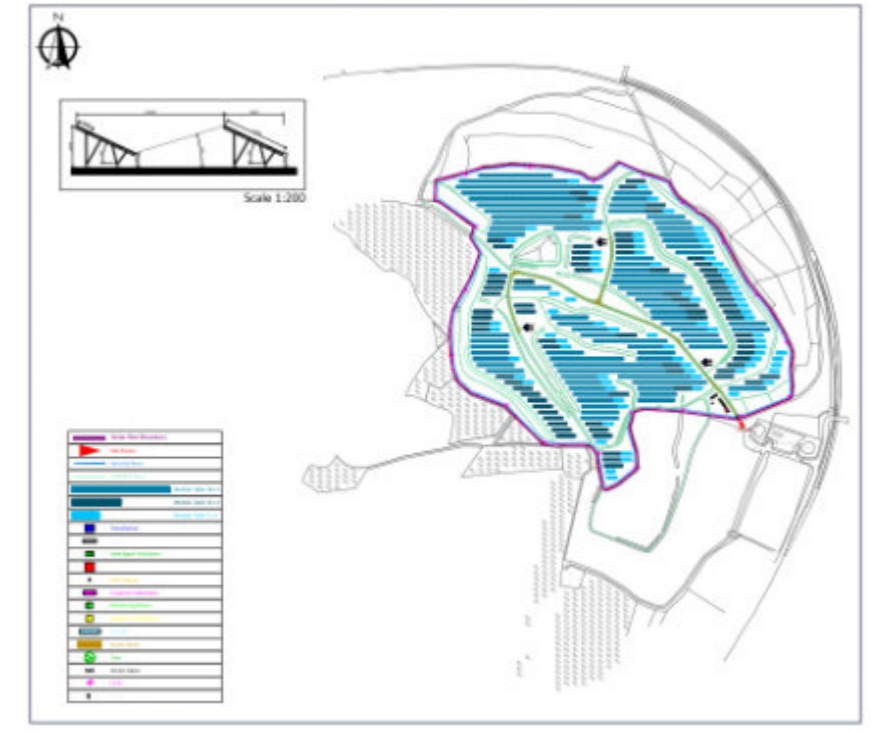


Nigg Waste Water Treatment Works

Solar Farm & Hydrogen Hub

bp Aberdeen Hydrogen Energy Ltd (a joint venture between bp and Aberdeen City Council) are progressing proposals for a Solar Farm on the site of former Ness Landfill to connect to and enable production of green hydrogen at a 'Hydrogen Hub' re-fuelling facility. A planning application (230299/DPP) was approved in June 2023.

The Hydrogen Hub is to be located on brownfield land at Hareness Road (on the eastern edge of Altens Industrial Estate), connected to the Solar Farm via a below-ground cable. It is anticipated this will utilise ground-mounted photovoltaic panels and have potential for 8MW of green electricity generation. Subject to consents, construction is expected to start during 2023 with hydrogen production beginning by the end of 2024.



Solar Farm & Energy Hub



Wetland habitats to be developed and enhanced for amenity & biodiversity benefit



Active and informal greenspace important for residents without gardens



Retained St Fittick's Park areas upgraded in consultation with local communities



Improving water quality will support biodiversity

2.5 Place Context: Community Infrastructure & Local Development

The Aberdeen South Locality Planning Partnership identifies Torry as a priority neighbourhood and provides a partnership forum to plan and deliver improved outcomes across the area. The Torry Partnership has developed a plan aligned with the city-wide Local Outcome Improvement Plan to tackle issues which are of most importance to the local community.

The South Aberdeen Locality Planning Partnership in developing the Locality Plan engaged closely with local communities. Workshops have promoted broad based participation and used the Place Standard to explore local needs and to develop an Action Plan.

The key priorities for the Torry Partnership are summarised below. Development of the ETZ has the potential to support and accelerate delivery of these priorities, especially around employment opportunities, skills & training, and positively shaping place.

SOUTH ABERDEEN LOCALITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP KEY PRIORITIES:

Economy

- Improving and creating employment opportunities, developing skills, training and support for young people and businesses.
- Reduce number of people living in poverty. Address food poverty and fuel poverty by identifying and using local assets.

People

- Support children and young people to achieve maximum potential
- Focus on early intervention, prevention and re-enablement actions reduce inequalities and improve physical / mental well-being outcomes

Place

- Identify and maximise use of green space; Community food growing and community garden access (inter-generational community gardens)

The Torry Partnership Locality Plan (Aberdeen City – South) Identified Community Priorities.



Wetland management to include control of overgrown species



Developing a new boardwalk to provide close contact with nature



Upgraded paths and path networks to extend access



Retaining and enhancing waymarking and local place features

A programme of investment and regeneration includes a number of active projects currently identified by the community which are either being advanced or for which funding is sought. They include:

Torry Community Hub

Development on the site of the former Torry Academy to include a Primary School (434 pupils), Early Years Provision (100 pupils), Community Hub, Café, Library, sports pitches, Community Space, and access to a range of services. **The Hub opened in November 2023.**

Torry Battery & Greyhope Bay Centre

A viewing and interpretation space (overlooking Greyhope Bay) sited within Torry Battery using re-purposed shipping containers. It provides a café and community space with outdoor seating. It has a decked access walkway for dolphin spotting. The facility opened in 2022 and provides a new destination and focus for activity at Girdleness.

Torry Skate Park – Seeking Funding Support

Through ACC Locality Planning, the prospect of a proposed extension to the existing Skate Park has been explored in order to create a more ambitious and testing experience for young people including incorporation of a bowl, pool and quarter pipes.

Torry Pump Track / BMX or similar – Seeking Funding Support

ACC Locality Planning have also consulted on the potential for development of a new BMX (Pump / Cycle) Track within St Fittick’s Park, providing extended sport and recreation opportunities for young people.

Community Gardens

Within Torry there are several community gardens and areas for local food growing which are well supported and used as places for local gatherings and outdoor social activity.

- Tullos Community Garden has been supported by ACC grant funding since 2018 to regenerate an area of disused land between Tullos Place and Tullos Crescent and has continued to grow.
- St Fittick’s Edible Garden has been created at the former St Fittick’s Council Depot, providing raised planting beds for fruit & vegetables, outdoor seating and space for education, and has plans for herb garden, potting shed and greenhouse.



Torry Community Hub being developed in the heart of the community



03

ETZ Masterplan Framework

Based upon detailed review of local context the Masterplan sets out a framework for development based on core place-shaping principles and aligned to the policy requirements and priorities of the LDP and NPF4. This is expressed in specific development guidance for core sites, and proposals for community and environmental infrastructure across the masterplan area to provide sustainable place-making.

The Masterplan has been prepared in line with ACC's 'Masterplanning Process' Technical Advice Note (TAN) (2010).

It seeks to provide an integrated approach to site planning, urban design, sustainable transport, ecology, landscaping, and community involvement for a range of sites in multiple ownerships over a large area. As required by the Supplementary Guidance the Masterplan includes mapping of local context and key features, key site locations and development proposals, and a framework for landscape and biodiversity across the area. It considers in detail the issues of:

- **Context** – baseline information, planning policy, development vision and objectives, development options and feasibility.
- **Identity** – planning & design principles for successful places – buildings, open spaces & landscape, ecology & biodiversity, infrastructure & services, sustainability.
- **Connection** – accessibility by sustainable modes of transport, external links and access to services, and infrastructure impacts and requirements
- **Communication and Engagement** – Local community and representative groups / bodies, elected Members, statutory bodies and agencies across areas of transport, local environment, cultural heritage, and infrastructure.

Consultation on draft Aberdeen Planning Guidance to be adopted and sit alongside the revised Local Development Plan was undertaken between 24 February and 21 April 2023. This included a revised 'Aberdeen Placemaking Process' which will replace the 'Masterplanning Process' TAN that has informed masterplan preparation, though reflects the same key principles and requirements summarised above.

3.1 Masterplan Vision and Opportunity

The vision for the Masterplan is to support the creation of a thriving Energy Transition Zone for the benefit of local people, Aberdeen & the North East, and Scotland as a whole. It must provide a comprehensive framework for development of essential energy transition uses on core Opportunity Sites and integrate enhancements to local environment & biodiversity, community infrastructure, and active travel connectivity.

It aims to support long-term, sustainable economic growth for Aberdeen by developing a cluster of energy transition business activity with a strong focus on innovation, high-value manufacturing and supply-chain growth supporting energy transition and the delivery of new and emerging technologies.

Delivering these objectives requires a coherent long-term plan with clear focus to exploit the regions significant competitive advantages supported by multi-partnered investment to create jobs and accelerate the transition to net zero.

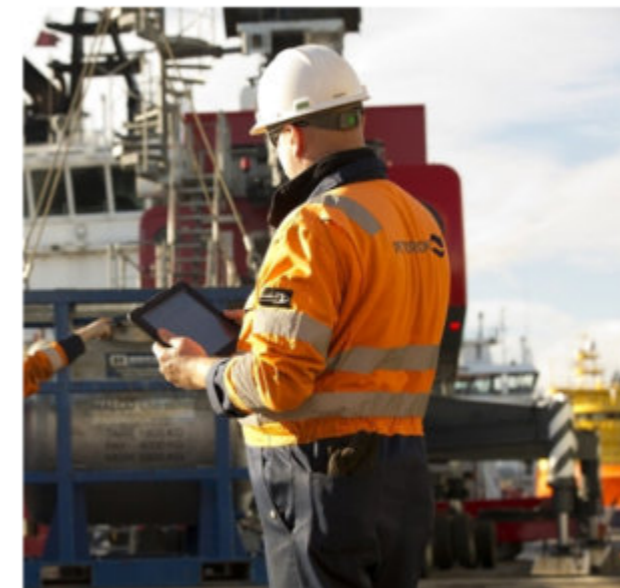
The region is an internationally recognised Centre of Excellence in Offshore Energy (Oil & Gas) and is now transitioning that expertise into Offshore Energy (Wind / Hydrogen) through innovation, inward investment and new business activity. ScotWind and the continued growth in wider renewable energy sectors will transform commercial opportunities, supporting new energy and hydrogen technologies and applications, and growing the business network that links academic/ institutional /regulatory organisations based in Aberdeen with global players, partners and operators.



Apprenticeships and Training Based Employment



Certification and Pre-Deployment Engineering Jobs



Construction & Project Management Jobs

To realise this opportunity the masterplan proposes a framework that supports investment in the core areas of energy transition where Aberdeen has the opportunity to have a leading role. The masterplan focusses on delivery of:

- Market-Ready land supply facilitating development within core sites for business growth, inward investment, new process manufacturing / services including land enabling port-centric activity for high value co-located essential users.
- Measures that address ‘whole-place needs’ and ensure development positively contributes towards delivery of ‘Successful Places’ – especially around health & wellbeing, local connectivity, attractive and distinctive spaces, and nature positive biodiversity solutions.
- Sustainable development of environment, transport and community infrastructures - including new travel connections, innovative low-carbon energy solutions, and efficient use of land, buildings and resources to support net zero targets.

3.2 Masterplan Principles

The Masterplan has defined a series of high-level principles to support sustainable place-making across different sites and contexts. These principles have been derived from local and national planning priorities, arise from key issues and opportunities identified from site analysis, and feedback from local community, consultees and key stakeholders. They establish a set of guiding principles and reference point for the development of more detailed proposals for specific sites.

1. Design & Place Quality

- 1.1 Incorporate high-quality design and landscaping – demonstrating contextual understanding that is sensitive to local qualities of place, landscape, ecology, the wider natural environment and built environment.
- 1.2 Contribute to the delivery of ‘Successful Places’ – designing for Healthy, Pleasant, Connected, Distinctive, Sustainable, and Adaptable places as defined in NPF4.
- 1.3 Provide buildings with high standard of architectural design and detailing that positively adds to the attractiveness of the built environment. Design should have consideration to siting, scale, massing, colour, orientation, details, footprint, proportions and materials to provide a strong and distinctive sense of place.
- 1.4 Positively integrate existing natural and landscape features and identify opportunities to enhance biodiversity and connect to greenspace.
- 1.5 Incorporate and reflect Just Transition principles, ensuring that local communities are able to influence and shape energy transition development and that benefits and opportunities from development are accessible to local people.

2. Environmental Protection & Enhancement

- 2.1 Follow the environmental mitigation hierarchy of avoid, minimise, mitigate, compensate, with particular regard for potential impacts to local environmental assets and the amenity of local communities.
- 2.2 Ensure no net loss of biodiversity and, in line with the mitigation hierarchy set out in Policy 3 of the NPF4, restore and enhance biodiversity within the Masterplan area, and evidence through appropriate assessment and reporting.
- 2.3 Respect local environmental constraints and designations, and identify opportunities to positively integrate existing environmental features, such as woodlands, local greenspaces, and watercourses.
- 2.4 Have regard to local context in the scale and massing of buildings and seek to minimise and/or mitigate impacts to the setting of local heritage sites and landscape character.
- 2.5 Positively enhance the local environment (including biodiversity) across all sites.



Development should positively integrate existing environmental features, such as woodlands, local greenspaces, and watercourses, and seek to enhance connections within and between elements of the Green Network.

3. Land Use Integration

- 3.1 Support delivery of designated Opportunity and Business & Employment sites for energy transition uses with a priority towards securing high-value and employment generating activity.
- 3.2 Integrate with and complement activity at Aberdeen South Harbour, optimising the potential of this critical marine infrastructure as a catalyst for energy transition across the masterplan area.
- 3.3 Safeguard limited land adjacent to the Harbour for specialist activity with specific co-location requirements
- 3.4 Maximise opportunities to redevelop brownfield land within Altens and East Tullos as part of an integrated cluster linked to Opportunity Sites and Aberdeen South Harbour.
- 3.5 Avoid development on Green Belt and Greenspace Network areas unless specifically supported by LDP policy.



Development should complement activity at Aberdeen South Harbour and optimise the potential of this critical marine infrastructure as a catalyst for energy transition.

4. Local Connectivity & Sustainable Travel

- 4.1 Be focused towards key transport and movement corridors that are accessible and have existing or future potential for multi-modal connectivity.
- 4.2 Utilise transport corridors and strategic routes on the Coast Road, Hareness Road, Southerhead Road – avoiding vehicle movements routing through residential areas.
- 4.3 Incorporate active travel connections and infrastructure to link communities, greenspace, employment sites, cultural heritage assets, and local services – supporting local living and the strengthening of 20-minute neighbourhoods.
- 4.4 Support and facilitate planned road infrastructure enhancements, including the Coast Road and Hareness Road upgrades being delivered by ACC (Aberdeen South Harbour External Transportation Links).
- 4.5 Explore opportunities for new road connections that add capacity and connectivity benefits and/or positively complement planned road infrastructure enhancements.

5. Planning for Net Zero

- 5.1 Incorporate principles of sustainable design, taking account of whole-life carbon emissions, energy and resource efficiency, and circular economy.
- 5.2 Seek to conserve and maximise the potential of existing buildings and infrastructure assets through net zero focused retrofit, upgrade, and extension/ redevelopment.
- 5.3 Incorporate flexibility in design and function, allowing for adaptive re-use of buildings and materials over their lifetime, and ‘future-proofing’ for renewable energy technologies.



3.3 Core Masterplan Elements & Enabling Infrastructures

Based on designated LDP 'Opportunity Sites', brownfield land sites, and the surrounding Green Network, the masterplan is structured around five 'Campuses' across the ETZ which will be the principal focus of development for high-value manufacturing and wider supply-chain, innovation, and skills development around energy transition.

The 'Community & Energy Coast' is the sixth core element of the masterplan – comprising a range of projects and place-based interventions to improve the quality of active travel connections across the Green Network, local greenspaces and associated habitats and biodiversity, and local community infrastructures.

Community & Energy Coast

A programme of place-based projects across the masterplan area – representing the investment in enhancing greenspace and green networks, the East Tullos Burn and associated wetlands, local biodiversity, and active travel connections. These projects seek to support and accelerate commercialisation and innovation. High-quality campus design will be suitable for attracting new high-value manufacturing opportunities and supporting supply chain companies.

Marine Gateway

A specialised cluster of activity centred around Aberdeen South Harbour and including land at St Fittick's and Gregness. It is fully equipped to service and supply offshore wind and other renewables markets with deep-water port, marine infrastructure and co-located development sites suitable for high-value manufacturing that will serve as a catalyst for wider ETZ investment.

Hydrogen Campus

The Hydrogen Campus will support the significant low carbon hydrogen production growth opportunity across the region. Green Hydrogen Test and Demonstration Facilities (GHTDF) will form the transformational anchor project to provide “on demand” hydrogen to industrial users and accelerate commercialisation and innovation. High-quality campus design will be suitable for attracting new high-value manufacturing opportunities and supporting supply chain companies.

Offshore Wind Campus

Situated on brownfield land at the eastern edge of Altens, the Offshore Wind Campus will provide a cluster of commercial, manufacturing, test & demonstration, and innovation facilities anchored by the National Floating Wind Innovation Centre (FLOWIC). The Campus will support the growth of a strong offshore wind supply chain as well as opportunities for complementary energy transition activities including a potential site for the bp Aberdeen Hydrogen Energy Ltd ‘Hydrogen Hub’.

Skills Campus

NESCol is situated at the heart of the ETZ Masterplan area and will form the centre of Skills Campus, including new development of an Advanced Manufacture Skills Hub. It will be operated in collaboration with North East Scotland College and provide a range of new training facilities for net zero to deliver the next generation of supply-chain skills & knowledge for Aberdeen.

Innovation Campus

An Energy Incubator and Skills Hub will anchor the Innovation Campus to foster supply chain community building, technology research and development, commercialisation and manufacturing, alongside targeted business support to drive entrepreneurship, innovation and growth. It will include commercial and industrial manufacturing units and space, purpose designed for innovative start-up and growing SME businesses in the energy transition supply chain.

Alongside those core elements the masterplan has considered and identified enabling infrastructures that are either being developed, or will require investment to support activity within the Energy Transition Zone:

Brownfield Land Renewal

A programme of renewal, re-purposing, and re-development of existing industrial land across Altens and East Tullos, with a focus on circular economy and energy efficiency. Maximising the potential of existing assets, enabling market-ready sites, and strengthening the Place quality of industrial estates.

Road Network Infrastructure

Development of the Coast Road with full supporting active travel measures and connections promoting enhanced connectivity including new linkages connecting brownfield land assets and long-term definition of the port boundary and buffer to St Fittick’s Park.

Rail & Freight Infrastructure- incorporating the East Coast Main Line crossing through the masterplan area and the Craiginches Rail Facility providing opportunities for low-carbon freight (potential hydrogen fuelling) integrated within the Energy Transition Zone.

Energy Infrastructure

Sustainably powering and heating buildings across the Zone through renewables and energy-saving technologies. Potential future opportunities will include incorporation of Hydrogen as a low-carbon fuel source and development of local heating networks subject to feasibility.

Utilities Infrastructure & Waste Management

Develop sustainable utility and waste management should be in-built into site development arrangements promoting a Construction & Environmental management approach on all site developments.



Core Masterplan Elements



04 ETZ Campuses

The core elements around which the Energy Transition Zone masterplan is focused are the 5 development Campuses, together with the Community & Energy Coast.

For each of these elements the masterplan sets out a vision for development, identifying potential activities and uses, and taking into account key opportunities and constraints and wider site context. Site specific development and planning guidance is provided through core design parameters and reflecting specific policy and sustainable place-making requirements. These should be followed in the future development of detailed proposals while allowing for future changes in market requirements, technologies and infrastructures which may emerge during future design development and approval stages.

The masterplan seeks to capture placemaking opportunity to ensure all development is well integrated within the specific context and qualities of each site. Across all sites, potential environmental mitigations, compensations and enhancements are identified and reflected in development and planning guidance, along with supporting place infrastructures such as active travel connections, biodiversity measures, landscape planting, and SuDS.



Projects

- Burn Channel Extension
- Water quality enhancement
- Habitat enhancement
- East Tullos boardwalk
- Invasive species control
- Park access improvements

Projects

- Park facility enhancement
 - Skate Park / Pump Track / Play
 - Community Growing
- New local parklets
- Tullos Wood Gateway
- Path improvements

Projects

- Pollinator Coast
- Compensatory Tree Planting
- Habitat Management
- Green Roof Developments

Projects

- Coastal Footpath
- Tullos Wood path network
- Coast Road Cycleway Link
- Trim Trail & Waymarking

4.1 COMMUNITY & ENERGY COAST

A key focus of the Energy Transition Zone is to build and support sustainable place through more than just economic development. As well as creating jobs and supporting skills and training, ETZ Ltd will work with partners, businesses and the community to accelerate the transition to net zero, positively shape the area, enhance biodiversity and local environmental capacity, and across the Masterplan realise opportunities to build a more sustainable, liveable and productive place in accordance with the principles of NPF4.

The Community and Energy Coast programme is a combination of projects, initiatives and measures across the masterplan area. It seeks to develop a supporting environmental and community infrastructure alongside economic and investment activity. It will involve partnership with communities, Aberdeen City Council, businesses, and third-sector organisations, focused towards realising stronger benefits at the local level and ensuring development is geared towards delivering 'Successful Places'. The programme will form the basis for ongoing community and third-sector engagement, and create opportunities for local participation and empowerment in the delivery of local development that enhances and add to local resources, capacity, assets, and place qualities.

Development Vision

Developed as a diverse programme of investment in the local environment and community – the Community & Energy Coast vision is to support a more inclusive, resilient and successful place that reflects a 'Just Transition' with strong and tangible benefits realised locally. The programme prioritises investment in local greenspaces and community infrastructure, habitats and biodiversity, green networks and active travel connections. It will connect development within ETZ and local communities to the coastline and the wider Green Network – harnessing and building on the area's natural qualities. In parallel to direct investment, ETZ Ltd will also seek to establish a Community Fund to enable community-led activity and participation.

Community & Energy Coast – Key Areas of Opportunity

The Community & Energy Coast programme looks to develop, extend, and enhance core social and environmental assets that serve local needs and priorities. In parallel to the ETZ development proposals on Opportunity Sites, the masterplan has identified the potential for investment and delivery of projects that overlap and intersect around the priorities of:

- **East Tullos Burn and Wetlands** – Protecting the Burn and wetlands and investing in their further enhancement as a thriving wetland eco-system. Enhancement can address **overgrown** species and water quality, building on the previously delivered East Tullos Burn Enhancement Project, and supporting the hydrological and ecological functions of the Burn.
- **St Fittick's Park, Greenspace & Green Networks** – *Greenspace is an important local asset, and St Fittick's Park is valued by the community in Torry. The value of greenspace is determined through a combination of quality, quantity and accessibility. The loss of quantity can be compensated for through enhancement to quality and accessibility. Investing in St Fittick's Park and access to wider facilities across the Green Network can support a higher value, more inclusive greenspace that supports wider participation and use.*
- **Local Biodiversity, Eco-systems & Landscape** – *Providing for no net loss and enhancement of biodiversity across the masterplan area, through protection of key existing habitats, creation of new habitats for priority species, management of existing habitat for biodiversity management and the development of a new landscape framework comprising blue-green infrastructures and woodland planting.*
- **Active Travel & Healthier Communities** – *Supporting new enhanced active travel routes across the masterplan area that provide contact with nature and strengthen accessibility and connections between the Green Network and communities. Providing opportunities for outdoor activity, recreation & leisure, and supporting stronger and healthier communities.*

Across these priorities the Masterplan identifies a range of potential measures and interventions to address the impacts of development, and ensure positive enhancement of local place and environment. At this masterplanning stage proposals are at concept design level – with limited project definition. Through future planning processes they will be subject to detailed feasibility, review, design development, and consultation and collaboration between ETZ Ltd, ACC (both as landowner and local planning authority), and key community and statutory stakeholders. This will assist in finalising the scope, form, and delivery of projects within the Programme – ensuring they are properly coordinated and delivered alongside economic investment, and meet the needs and priorities of the local community as established through further engagement and Locality Planning.

Community & Energy Coast



East Tullis Burn & Wetlands

East Tullis Burn & Wetlands

The East Tullis Burn and the associated wetlands within St Fittick's Park are highly-valued features of the local environment, providing eco-system services in terms of drainage & hydrology, wetland riparian habitats for wildlife, and adding to the amenity and quality of the park. These are important assets to the community and have a key role in the amenity of the St Fittick's Park greenspace.

Significant investment was made in the Burn through the 2014 East Tullis Burn Enhancement Scheme, delivered through collaboration between SEPA, the City Council, and the local community. The scheme created improvements to the biodiversity, amenity and water quality of the Burn, and 'meandered' the previously straight engineered channel to form the wetlands as they exist today.

The project is illustrative of what can be achieved in nature-based solutions and in providing blue-green infrastructure to support place-making. The masterplan recognises this and has identified retention and further enhancement of the East Tullis Burn as a priority project. Development of an East Tullis Burn 2.0 Scheme would further enhance both amenity and biodiversity, and be essential to delivering a successful and sustainable development within St Fittick's Park.

While highly successful as a project, there remain issues around water quality and management of the riparian habitats around the watercourse and within the wetlands. **Some species (typha) are overgrown and dominate the wetland habitat, closing out the open-water and hampering the function of the Burn.** There is an opportunity to continue investment in the Burn, extend its qualities as a wetland habitat, and positively manage for greater biodiversity whilst also enhancing its functional hydrology. Targeted investment in nature-based solutions can positively and pre-emptively enhance the local blue-green infrastructure, enhance amenity, add capacity and resilience, whilst also protecting and enhancing biodiversity and safeguarding natural systems.

The masterplan therefore identifies the delivery of an East Tullis Burn 2.0 Project as an opportunity to address existing issues around water quality and landscape management while enabling creation of an accessible development site within the St Fittick's Park Opportunity Site. This can ensure the Burn is retained within St Fittick's Park and can sustainably co-exist with future development, and enhance its overall function in terms of hydrology, biodiversity, and amenity.

The East Tullis Burn 2.0 Project would comprise the following elements:

- **East Tullis Channel Extension** of the Burn through local re-alignment, to the north of its current alignment, while still flowing to the existing outfall within Nigg Bay. **The re-aligned section** of the Burn would provide at least equivalent channel width / depth and recreate the 'meandering' course of the current Burn to ensure water flow is slowed and wetlands maintained, along with a corridor of native species landscape planting to provide buffer to adjacent development.
- **Water Quality Enhancement** through the introduction of management and pre-treatment of surface water run-off from East Tullis Industrial Estate which flows into the Burn. Measures would attenuate flows to improve water quality and reduce the level of contaminants within the water, enhancing the amenity of the Burn and supporting biodiversity.
- **Wetland Habitat Enhancement** through a combination of landscape management around the Burn with priority for native species, and potential utilisation of vacant land within East Tullis Industrial Estate that could provide additional wetlands complementary to water quality treatment (subject to technical feasibility and ACC Estates agreement).
- **East Tullis Boardwalk** provision to allow closer integration and access to blue-green network and closer contact with nature. Boardwalk (or other similar pathway provisions) should be designed with durable materials and to minimise future maintenance requirements.
- **Typha management programme to manage overgrown species around the watercourse and wetlands, with associated local native re-stocking.**
- **Burn and Park Access Improvements** As part of park mitigation improve blue-green network with access points to water/burn margins and signage.

Delivery of the project is to be led by ETZ Ltd, Aberdeen City Council, and the local community, seeking to build on the success of the 2014 East Tullis Burn Enhancement Scheme. SEPA will be consulted at all stages and closely involved in development of the project as regulator under The Water Environment (Controlled Activities) (Scotland) Regulations 2011.

Detailed design and feasibility must be informed by further development of baseline information around water quality, technical appraisal of existing hydrology and water flow through the burn, and review of channel length, dimensions and capacities to ensure that any amendment to these elements addresses existing issues and enhances the Burn's hydrological and biodiversity function. Further review of land ownership and surface water infrastructure arrangements within East Tullis Industrial Estate should also inform future technical feasibility and detailed design of measures to address water treatment and quality.

Specifically, the local re-alignment of a section of the Burn will be designed to reflect local topography, with preliminary review of site levels indicating there is not significant technical constraint to local re-alignment. The re-aligned section will continue to flow through the low-lying section of the park and re-connect to the same Nigg Bay outfall. Targeted earthworks will be required to form a diversion and new meandering channel which will be informed by detailed survey and modelling of contours, levels and associated water flow.

The re-alignment of the Burn would be developed in accordance with best-practice and guidance established by SEPA, informed by and forming an extension of technical design work undertaken for the 2014 East Tullis Burn Enhancement Scheme. A CAR License will be required for channel modifications and would be progressed in accordance with the Practical Guide and associated licensing requirements and specific guidance therein for engineering works.

Partners	ETZ / Local Community / Aberdeen City Council / SEPA / Scottish Water.
Lead Delivery	ETZ Ltd.
Programme	2023-2026 Implementation



St Fittick's Park, Greenspace & Green Networks

St Fittick's Park, Greenspace & Green Networks

Access to good quality open spaces is important in contributing to a greener, healthier, smarter, safer, stronger, wealthier and fairer places. The existing greenspace and green network are a significant asset across South Aberdeen, providing a wide variety of open spaces (PAN 65 typology) and with a diverse range of function and character that contribute strongly to the qualities of place around Torry and Cove. The greenspace importantly provides a range of local habitats, eco-systems, alongside its recreational function.

St Fittick's Park is valued by the local people both for its proximity, sited immediately next to the community and for its qualities as a greenspace including play facilities, skate-park, paths and trails, woodland planting, wetland habitats and wildlife, and areas of green open space suitable for a range of leisure, recreation, and outdoor activity and relaxation. Consultation and engagement have highlighted a community concern at any loss of greenspace quantity. In planning for greenspace, it is recognised that it is the quality and accessibility of greenspace that is often the most critical factor in determining whether greenspace meets the full range of local needs and delivers a broad range of inclusive benefits to local communities.

The South Aberdeen area and the Torry Community has a high quantity of greenspace (St Fittick's Park and Tullos Football Pitches / Girdleness / Walker Park / Torry Battery / Tullos Wood) and wider managed recreational greenspaces (Balnagask Golf Course) and green network links (Coastal Path / Core Paths / NCR1). Active sport (sports pitches), play (Skate Park / Play Stations / Zip Wire) health and exercise (Outdoor Gyms / Path Networks) community growing (Community Growing-Allotments) are provided for, together with a strong network of paths and informal routes allowing for walking/running and leisure and relaxation. Opportunities for innovative play and exploration are available within the park woodland and path networks.

Development proposals within the OP56 and OP62 'Opportunity Sites' will involve development of existing areas of the park, resulting in the loss of some woodland and a reduction in the quantity of greenspace. It is essential that this is appropriately mitigated and compensated for by enhancing both the quality and accessibility of the park to ensure the greenspace is as inclusive as possible and positively addresses the diverse needs of all age and user groups within the community.

Park enhancement to compensate for any reduction in quantity must include:

- Investing to enhance the function and amenity of greenspace, including greenspace close to homes with outdoor seating, small park amenity areas, and play facilities to encourage time outdoors and outdoor activity.
- Investing in facilities to encourage level of activity/participation and generate additional use. Areas identified within the South Aberdeen Locality Plan include enhancement to the Skate Park and support for a pump-track, extended community growing, and play facilities.
- Investing in improving accessibility to wider greenspace with paths/ trails and waymarking greenspaces that are difficult to access and where path connections offer low security/surveillance and restrict accessibility for those of limited mobility and in vulnerable groups.
- Investing to enhance the path/cycleway network to develop a clearer path hierarchy with primary paths connected to the NCR1 (Coastal Path/ Active Travel Routes) and local circular and exploratory walks creating an easily accessible network of routes for joggers/ dog-walkers /recreational walkers. Additional fitness/outdoor gym elements and measured routes (0.5km/ 1.km/ 3km) all help to extend participation.

Elsewhere, the masterplan has identified opportunities to more closely integrate other elements of the Green Network with communities within Torry and Cove. In particular, Tullos Wood and the Balnagask-to-Cove Coast have strong attributes as greenspaces with a mix of open space, woodland and other habitats, coastal path routes, and excellent views of the city and coast. However, currently these areas are a little more challenging to access with weaker existing connections to local community. The masterplan has identified opportunities for investment to improve their connectivity improve waymarking, add viewpoints and collectively strengthen the quality and accessibility to the Green Network across the South Aberdeen area.

In addition, St Fittick's Church (Scheduled Monument) is situated at the northern edge of St Fittick's Park, and is an important local feature in a prominent location at a 'gateway' to Aberdeen. The setting and surrounding context of the Church has changed significantly in recent years following the development of Aberdeen South Harbour and associated infrastructure, and would be further changed by development within Opportunity Sites at St Fittick's Park.



St Fittick's Park, Greenspace & Green Networks

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The St Fittick's Park and Green Network Projects would therefore comprise the following elements:

1. Park Facility Enhancements to mitigate loss of quantity of greenspace with improvements to quality and accessibility of the greenspace, extending and encouraging use across the community, improving access for those of limited mobility and providing additional facilities and reasons to get outdoors and be active. The projects tabled at the consultation that could form part of the park enhancement (to be agreed with local community/ and advanced through co-design) proposed by ETZ are as follows:

- Extension to the small skate park and /or pump track.
- Additional play facilities – particularly facilities for explorative/innovative play.
- Enhancement of opportunities for community growing.

2. Local Parklets providing enhanced park greenspace facilities within currently under-utilised spaces within Torry. To be sited with good and easy access from housing to bring park and civic space close to residents and extend the qualities of the park into the community. Importantly these smaller spaces need to be fully accessible (Older People / Young People / Carers / Neighbourhood Groups, etc), and encouraging the many residents without gardens to be active and use the outdoors. The design and locations of parklets will be confirmed through consultation and be located to offer safe access and good natural surveillance.

3. Tullos Wood Gateway to create a new entrance to the area from within East Tullos to enhance accessibility to Tullos Wood /Tullos Hill and the wider Green Network from Torry. As noted above, existing routes to access the area are limited, and will be further reduced by the Network Rail's planned demolition of the footbridge access crossing the East Coast Main Line, adjacent to the Waste Water Treatment Works .

There is an opportunity to provide a more accessible, legible and direct entrance supported by improvements to surrounding pathways and landscape corridors to strengthen the connection to greenspace including Kincorth Hill / Dee Path Network and the Coastal Path. By providing a safe and accessible route, suitable for a wide range of users, it will extend opportunities for local recreational walking, cycling, outdoor exercise and contact with nature.

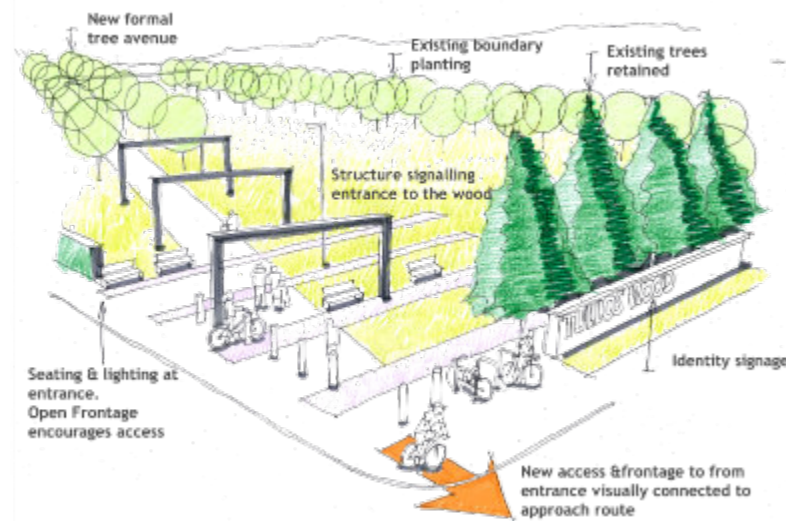
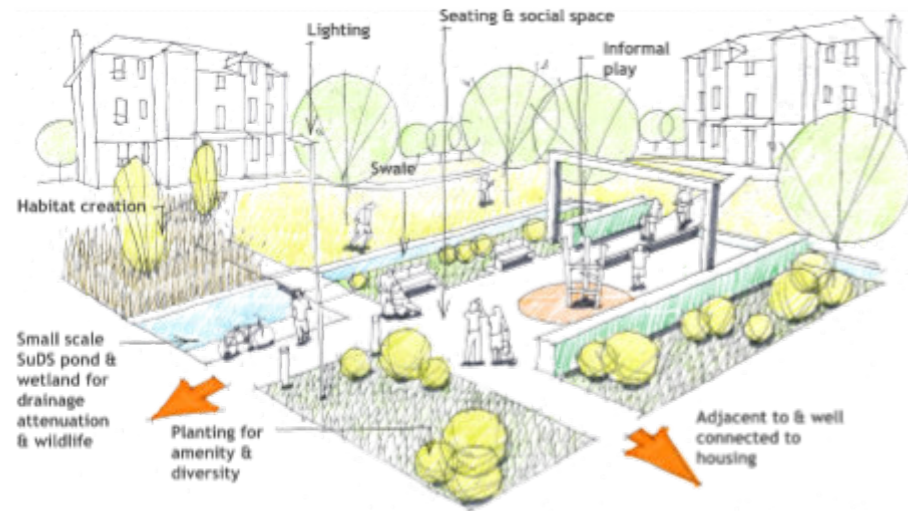
Approaches to improving Tullos Wood access have been considered and explored during community consultation and a detailed option appraisal addressing access, land ownership, gradients and user security is recommended.

4. Path Realignments / Improvements to quality and accessibility of St Fittick's Park will seek to further develop the path network and upgrade paths where necessary (e.g., Girdleness Road / Kirkhill Place / Balnagask Circle/ Coast Road) and strengthen the network to allow more ready accessibility. Improvements in the area of East Tullos Burn would provide for a boardwalk allowing safe access to water margins (wildlife interest/viewing waterfowl/ etc) and contact with nature. Path routing and management can also avoid sensitive habitats and support the sustainable operational management of the wetlands.

5. St Fittick's Church – Interpretation & Restoration – sensitive landscape treatments to the Church and surrounding boundary areas to adapt to changed local context and minimise impacts on setting arising from industrial development and potential road realignment. This would be developed in consultation with HES and ACC Archaeology, potentially incorporating low-level planting, living walls, and other landscape features having particular regard to potential level differences across the area. Additional measures to positively enhance the wider public benefit associated with the Church would also be agreed with HES and ACC, but would be anticipated to include new interpretative signage around the story of the Church and its position within local history, and provision of specialist stonework / fabric repair and/or sensitive up-lighting.

Delivery of the programme and the projects within is to be led by ETZ Ltd, in collaboration with the local community and Aberdeen City Council. Further detailed design and feasibility review will include development of baseline information, and definition of best practice for park, greenspace and habitat development in consultation with the local community and ACC Greenspace and Locality planning team.

Partners	ETZ / Local Community / Aberdeen City Council / Locality Planning / Young People / HES & ACC Archaeology (St Fittick's Church)
Lead Delivery	ETZ Ltd.
Programme	2023-2026 Implementation



Biodiversity Protection & Enhancement

Within St Fittick's Park and across the masterplan area there are a range of wildlife habitats and biodiversity features – including wetlands, broad-leaved and coniferous woodlands, heath, coastal cliff-tops, and open grasslands. Phase 1 Habitat Surveys, along with protected species, wintering and breeding bird, and bat surveys have been undertaken to establish a robust baseline assessment of existing biodiversity, and these will continue to inform detailed site masterplanning in future.

The area has previously benefitted from investment in local biodiversity, including the East Tullos Burn Enhancement Scheme (2014) (described above), as well as the Diamond Woodland Initiative (2012) which involved planting across c. 30 hectares of Tullos Hill with a mix of broad-leaved and coniferous trees. The planting has seen some losses with selective infill and reinforcement required to extend the range of habitat, provide additional tree planting, replace stock losses and enhance amenity. Within St Fittick's Park mixed plantation has been introduced on an ongoing basis since 2006, to provide a woodland belt screening the Waste-Water Treatment Works.

The LDP provides a policy requirement to ensure at least 'no net loss of biodiversity' across the masterplan area, while NPF4 (Policy 3) seeks for development to contribute to the enhancement of biodiversity, including where relevant, restoring degraded habitats and building and strengthening nature networks and the connections between them. The masterplan is committed to achieving no net loss of biodiversity across the area and providing positive enhancement of biodiversity assets through a combination of targeted projects and management interventions focused on supporting local habitats.

Development within the Zone, especially on greenfield Opportunity Sites OP56, OP62, and OP61, will have the potential to impact on local biodiversity – most directly through the loss of existing woodland cover and areas of grassland. While avoided and minimised through reduced developable areas, buffer zones, and retention of the most valuable assets (East Tullos Burn), measures to mitigate and compensate are required to ensure a biodiversity net gain is achieved. This includes direct projects led by ETZ to offset and enhance biodiversity within the masterplan area, and more detailed site-specific measures to integrate biodiversity into development through landscape frameworks.

Areas within the masterplan with potential for enhancement to contribute to the area's biodiversity and habitat connectivity include Tullos Wood, and the former Ness Landfill and the coastal cliff-tops where there is amenity grassland that could be purposefully managed for biodiversity. The masterplan seeks to target these areas for biodiversity projects to mitigate the impacts of development, complement existing biodiversity features and create a connected range of habitats extending across the Green Network at Girdleness, St Fittick's Park, Tullos Wood, Ness Landfill, and coastal strip.

The Biodiversity Protection & Enhancement Projects would therefore comprise the following elements:

1. **'Pollinator Coast'** project creating new habitat / biodiversity opportunities within along coastal corridor and Ness Landfill site (invertebrates), adding to and complementing the B-Line initiative in partnership with ACC. The project will involve targeted coastal plant species (Kidney Vetch / Common Rock Rose) that support B-Lines priority invertebrate species Small Blue and Northern Brown Argus, addressing fragmentation and strengthening habitat connectivity across the Green Network. The project will directly enhance the grassland habitat value of the Ness Farm Landfill Site, which offers significant capacity to create habitat for pollinators and can positively co-exist with the bp Aberdeen Hydrogen Energy Ltd Solar Farm proposals. Pollinator planting will also be introduced at selected locations on the coastal path to provide further habitat enhancement and extend the connected nature corridor, taking advantage of linear elements to make habitat connections.
2. **Compensatory & Replacement Tree Planting** additional planting across the masterplan area to extend woodland cover, provide for new native tree planting and address woodland fragmentation. **Development proposals must increase tree and woodland cover, and where tree removal takes place to enable development, replacement planting will be required to ensure an overall net-gain in tree cover. Areas for tree planting will be informed by further detailed survey of existing woodland and opportunities for enhancement identified through a Landscape / Biodiversity Framework, potentially including in Tullos Wood (building on the Jubilee Woods Project).**
3. **Habitat Management** Pro-actively identifying areas within the site for biodiversity enhancement through new work or enhanced ecological management. Development of local biodiversity will be closely aligned to the

Local Biodiversity Action Plan and Nature Conservation Strategy working with the City Council and NE Scotland Biodiversity Partnership and third sector organisations. The community have expressed clear support for biodiversity enhancements and local participation in design, monitoring and management rimes will be encouraged.

4. **Development Landscaping.** Significant areas of development are proposed within existing brownfield industrial estates and new investment within the LDP Opportunity Sites. Across all sites, development will provide green landscaping including tree planting, hedgerows, and other landscape features to enhance local amenity, integrate with surrounding Green Networks and support habitat connectivity. This should contribute to the enhancement of biodiversity in accordance with NPF4. Where appropriate design will look to incorporate green roofs into the roofscape of new and repurposed buildings. Green roofs can improve surface water drainage from buildings, boost thermal performance and support a wider range of habitat in brownfield and intensively used industrial areas.

In addition to the above, the retention and further investment into the East Tullos Burn (see above) is a separate enhancement project that can positively support a significant feature of the area's biodiversity and protect the wetland habitats within St Fittick's Park. Delivery of the projects is to be led by ETZ Ltd, in collaboration with the local community, Aberdeen City Council, and NatureScot. Detailed design and feasibility review will include further development of existing baseline information, and definition of best practice for the protection and enhancement of biodiversity and local habitat in consultation with NatureScot, SEPA, NESBREC and others.

Future development proposals should be informed and supported by appropriate assessment and measurement of biodiversity (eg. Strategic Biodiversity Action Plan), ensuring measures are coordinated across the area and demonstrate delivery of overall net-gain in accordance with the requirements of NPF4.

Partners	ETZ / Local Community / Aberdeen City Council / NatureScot / NESBP-NESBREC / Third Sector eg. Woodland Trust / Others
Lead Delivery	ETZ Ltd.
Programme	2023-2026 Implementation

Active Travel & Healthy Communities

The existing Green Network in South Aberdeen is highly valued by the community for its contribution to local amenity, space for leisure and recreation, and positive impact on health & wellbeing. Across and between elements of the Green Network existing active travel routes have been developed through ACC's Core Paths Network and Cycle Strategy. These offer off-road opportunities for active travel and movement and compliment on-road cycleways/footways.

The completion of Aberdeen South Harbour and the implementation of the Coast Road will include further investment in Active Travel including a new segregated cycle-way on Hareness Road and along the full length of the Coast Road. Active travel segregated cycleway routes will also be provided for within any of the additional links at Peterseat Drive and in the area west of Aberdeen South Harbour

Existing leisure trails and walks such as the Coastal Path, Kincorth & Tullos Hill Trail, and routes around the Torry Battery & Girdleness form part of the network, and across the masterplan area there is approximately 25km of existing routes and pathways. However, in places these are not fully integrated and connected or not fully accessible to all users. Network Rail's planned demolition of the footbridge access to Tullos Wood (adjacent to the Waste Water Treatment Works) will remove an existing access and connection between elements of the Green Network.

Local improvements to paths, waymarking and signage could significantly enhance access and the quality of these routes and Green Network connections. ETZ is therefore seeking to facilitate the development of an integrated Active Travel Network across the area, with emphasis on connecting green spaces at Tullos Wood, Kincorth Hill, St Fittick's, Walker Park, Balnagask Coast, including the National Cycle route 1 (NCR1) and ensuring that employment sites are fully and sustainably accessible.

The masterplan has identified a number of areas where improvements to connections and Active Travel choice can be enhanced and extended as an integral part of the masterplan. These will form part of masterplan-wide mitigation and compensation for the loss of greenspace, extending the range and accessibility of the Green Network, and creating enhanced routes, trails, and pathways that support active and healthy lifestyles.

Active travel interventions will strengthen and contribute to the creation of 20-minute neighbourhoods and liveable places across the communities of Torry, Cove, Balnagask. Creating easy access and providing safe, accessible well-connected walking routes can support active communities with wider health benefits. In addition to these identified projects, individual Campuses within ETZ will positively integrate Active Travel measures (Cycle path connections / Cycle parking/storage to ensure places of work are fully accessible, support low-carbon travel, and enable safe and easy connectivity through the area for all users.

The Active Travel & Healthy Communities Projects would therefore comprise the following elements:

- 1. 'Energy Coast' Coastal Path - Greyhope Road to Aberdeen South Harbour** – targeted upgrade to Coastal Path (Core Path 78) section around Aberdeen South Harbour and Girdleness to include re-surfacing / reinforcement of pathway where degraded, or addressing localised drainage issues, and adding accessibility, wayfinding, and interpretation features (Nigg Bay SSSI). Improving local Green Network quality and accessibility for all communities and provide for health & well-being. All works to be integrated with planned Port of Aberdeen works to footway on Greyhope Road, as well as tied into any future re-alignment of the Coast Road.

- 2. Energy Coast' Coastal Path – Gregness to Cove (Off-Road)** – targeted upgrade to Coastal Path (Core Path 78) section from Gregness to Cove to include re-surfacing / reinforcement of pathway where degraded, or addressing localised drainage issues, and adding accessibility, wayfinding, and interpretation features. Enhancements should maintain the character of the Coastal Path as a sea-cliff recreational walking route (up to 1m width), ensuring the Local Nature Conservation Site and local habitats (nesting birds) are not negatively impacted. Works to be integrated with and tie into planned Port of Aberdeen works to reinstate Coastal Path around Gregness headland upon completion of Aberdeen South Harbour construction.

- 3. Tullos Wood Path Enhancements** to upgrade and waymark walking routes within Tullos Hill /Tullos Wood, creating accessible connections between the historic cairns (Scheduled Monuments) that positively draw on the area's cultural heritage and link this to healthier and more active lifestyles with defined path routes. This should also incorporate vantage points with views to the Coast and City, and wider connections to the surrounding Green Network including Kincorth Hill, Coast, and Girdleness.

Path upgrading, connections and waymarking can help support easier access and encourage more active lifestyles. Being more active, spending time outdoors and doing regular moderate exercise provides major and long-lasting health benefits.

- 4. Coast Road Cycleway Links** completion of segregated cycle lanes within the upgraded Hareness Road Corridor / Coast Road and provision of connecting link roads at Peterseat Drive ASH Road Links.

- 5. Outdoor Exercise and Health/Well-being** exercise stations can form a useful addition on path networks to support active recreation and promote regular exercise - supporting 'Healthy' Places in accordance with NPF4. NHS Choice advises that undertaking regular exercise offers a wide range of health benefits and promotes walking for health, cycling and gentle, daily exercise. 'Trim trails' and exercise stations can make exercise fun and be part of family or group exercise.

Delivery of the projects is to be led by ETZ Ltd and in-part by Aberdeen City Council in connection with planned works to the Coast Road. They will be delivered in collaboration with the local community, Aberdeen City Council, Nestrans and NatureScot. Detailed design and feasibility review will further development of the baseline information around local walking and cycling connectivity, and define best practice for development of active travel infrastructure in consultation with ACC Officers, Nestrans and others.

Partners	ETZ / Local Community / Aberdeen City Council / NESTRans / NatureScot
Lead Delivery	ETZ Ltd
Programme	2023-2026 Implementation



COMMUNITY & ENERGY COAST

The range of potential measures and projects identified through the 'Community & Energy Coast', and how these relate to development and other features across the masterplan area are shown on the indicative plan below.

Further detail of these measures will be set out within future planning application(s) and subsequently secured through planning conditions / obligations.

These are further expressed in relation to specific development sites within Campus Guidance in Section 4 and Masterplan Delivery in Section 6.

Illustrative Plan Community & Energy Coast

- 1 **Tullis Wood Gateway & Path Connections** – enhancing accessibility to Tullis Wood from Torry through provision of a more accessible, legible and direct entrance to the Wood, utilising brownfield land within East Tullis Industrial Estate. Associated pathway and landscaping improvements will connect to the new Gateway, enhancing connectivity across the Green Network.
- 2 **St Fittick's Park Facilities** – improving the quality of facilities within St Fittick's Park through a combination of extension to the skate park and/or BMX Pump Track, provision of additional play facilities, or creating opportunities for community good growing. To be developed and defined through further engagement with the local community and advanced through process of co-design.
- 3 **East Tullis Burn 2.0 Project** – retention and enhancement of the East Tullis Burn and wetlands, building on the success of the 2014 improvements works. Local realignment of a section of the Burn is proposed to enable development, and measures are identified to improve water quality, manage **overgrown** species, and enhance wetland habitats as part of overall biodiversity enhancement.
- 4 **Local Parklets** - providing enhanced park and local greenspace facilities within currently under-utilised open space in close proximity to housing – extending access and adding to local amenity. Specific locations and amenities within Parklets to be confirmed through further consultation and in coordination with ACC.
- 5 **Pathway & Active Travel Improvements** - Core Path and other walking routes through development sites at St Fittick's, Gregness, and Doonies to be re-instated and enhanced to maintain connectivity through the area and ensure full accessibility across the Green Network. Tying into and connecting to wider active travel routes across the masterplan area including NCR1 and enhancements being delivered through ACC upgrade of Coast Road and Hareness Road.
- 6 **'Energy Coast' Coastal Path** – upgrade to existing Coastal Path to include targeted re-surfacing / reinforcement of pathway where degraded, and provision of interpretation and way-finding features to enhance overall quality– while maintaining current character as a sea-cliff recreational walking route and avoiding impacts on adjacent habitats.
- 7 **Pollinator Coast** - strengthening habitat connectivity and overall enhancement of biodiversity at locations across the Masterplan (including Development Sites) through targeted pollinator planting – complementing ACC B-Line initiative with coastal plant species to support priority invertebrates.
- 8 **Compensatory and Replacement Tree Planting** – provision of tree planting across the masterplan area (with a priority for native species) to extend woodland cover and provide replacement for areas of tree loss as a result of development. Specific locations and species to be informed by woodland survey and developed through a Landscape / Biodiversity Framework.
- 9 **Outdoor Exercise** – outdoor exercise and fitness stations can be integrated to path networks or around existing park facilities – adding to the quality and range of facilities within the Green Network and supporting local health & wellbeing.
- 10 **Development Plot Landscape Frameworks** - incorporating a range of measures within Development Sites to support overall enhancement of biodiversity and habitat connectivity – including landscape planting to support amenity and integrate with surrounding Green Network as well as potential green roofs and living walls adding to the 'Pollinator Coast'.
- 11 **St Fittick's Church Interpretation & Restoration** – addressing the impact on the setting of the Scheduled Monument through landscape mitigation, and enhancing its status as a key asset to St Fittick's Park through new interpretive signage and specialist stonework / fabric repair (to be developed in consultation with ACC Archaeology / HES).

Community Fund

In addition to the potential for direct investment and delivery of projects through the Community & Energy Coast Programme, ETZ Ltd are exploring the establishment of an annual Community Fund for 2023-2028. This would provide support to local community groups and charities meet their aspirations and ambitions.

The Fund would operate as a stand-alone commitment by ETZ Ltd to the communities in closest proximity to planned development. It aims to support smaller, local initiatives and programmes led by the community and directly addressing their priorities. Funding would be awarded on a grant application basis to local projects that supported or enable community participation, local social and environmental resilience, energy transition, youth activity and out-reach – example projects might include community events, food-growing and community garden expansion, or energy-efficiency improvements to community assets.

Development & Delivery

The Community & Energy Coast programme comprises committed projects across the masterplan area, that will be led by ETZ Ltd working in collaboration with partners over a phased programme of delivery.

The projects provide essential mitigation and compensation for the potential impacts that may arise from economic development within the ETZ, particularly at St Fittick’s Park, Gregness, and Doonies. Projects identified within the Community & Energy Coast programme will be aligned to wider development site delivery and infrastructure, with the timing of delivery secured through pre-commencement planning conditions / obligations to ensure core elements of mitigation are delivered in advance of, or in parallel with, development as agreed with Aberdeen City Council.

Outside of development sites / Campuses, the future management and maintenance of environmental enhancements and physical infrastructures delivered as part of the Community & Energy Coast will be subject to future arrangements between ETZ Ltd., ACC, and developers. In all cases maintenance and upkeep requirements should be minimised at design stage, and it is recognised that funding endowment(s) for ACC adoption and/or private agreement(s) around maintenance may be required, depending on the final nature of projects and infrastructures.

Partners	ETZ / Locality Planning Team / Aberdeen City Council / Local Community / Young People
Lead Delivery	ETZ ltd.
Programme	2023-2028 Implementation

St Fittick’s Park & Greenspace / Green Networks

East Tullos Burn

Biodiversity Protection / Enhancement

Active Travel & Healthier Communities

Community Fund



Indicative Delivery Timeline - Community & Energy Coast



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Marine Gateway

4.2 MARINE GATEWAY

Offshore renewables, especially offshore wind, is major economic opportunity for Aberdeen and the North-East. Aberdeen South Harbour has been developed as a major infrastructure asset with the capability to service and support investment in offshore renewables generated through the ScotWind licensing for the period 2025-2050 and beyond.

The Marine Gateway is centred around Aberdeen South Harbour and incorporates land at St Fittick's Park and Gregness which are within Opportunity Sites OP56 and OP62 allocated within the LDP. It provides a focus within the Energy Transition Zone for specialised offshore renewables activity that has specific operational requirements linked to marine infrastructure and logistics, including uses requiring port co-location to enable direct transshipment of manufactured and fabricated goods for offshore deployment. The Harbour was conceived in advance of the current energy crisis and ScotWind Licensing, which has significantly advanced the scale of Scotland's offshore wind ambition and created additional demand for land across all Scottish East Coast ports in order to achieve this. The Harbour has very limited developable land suitable for large-scale manufacturing, component fabrication and service support. Optimising available space and efficient use of land around the Harbour will be critical to meet future demand and to seize significant economic opportunities from energy transition – as recognised by the LDP and NPF4.

Development Vision

Developed as a high value integrated port and manufacturing hub the Marine Gateway is the leading deep-water port of the NE Coast with activity forming a catalyst for wider investment across the ETZ and Region. Port co-located investment in manufacturing, fabrication and renewable technologies supports an extensive local supply chain providing goods and services for offshore activity. Direct port access has secured specialist manufacturing investment creating a regional cluster of renewable energy companies supporting ScotWind.

Marine Gateway – Planning & Policy Overview

The Marine Gateway incorporates land at St Fittick's Park, Gregness and within Aberdeen South Harbour. These areas are included within the Opportunity Sites OP56 (St Fittick's Park) and OP62 (Bay of Nigg) as designated within the LDP, as well as being covered by Policies B4 and B5 relating to Aberdeen Harbours and Energy Transition Zones, respectively.

The Bay of Nigg Development Framework was adopted in 2016 as proposals for Aberdeen Harbour expansion were developed, to plan for necessary infrastructure and to maximise impacts of investment for business and communities. The Framework pre-dates the current planning policy context (LDP and NPF4) as well as wider acceleration of Scotland's transition net zero (Climate Change Plan and Energy & Just Transition Plan) and the significantly increased scale of offshore renewables ambition (ScotWind Leasing Round). While identifying a potential road link from East Tullos to the Harbour (across St Fittick's) it did not identify land within St Fittick's Park or Gregness as potential development opportunities (consistent with LDP policy at the time).

The OP56 Opportunity Site allocations contains a significant area of St Fittick's Park (along with the Nigg Bay Waste Water Treatment Works and Railway). A small area at the north of the park is within the OP62 Opportunity Site and has been used as a temporary storage area associated with construction of the Harbour.

The OP62 Opportunity Site contains the Bay of Nigg and associated coastal land required for development of the Harbour. This includes Gregness as a large coastal site sitting above the Harbour, which currently has a temporary consent (170156/MSC) for marine revetment structure manufacturing and construction compound associated with the Harbour construction.

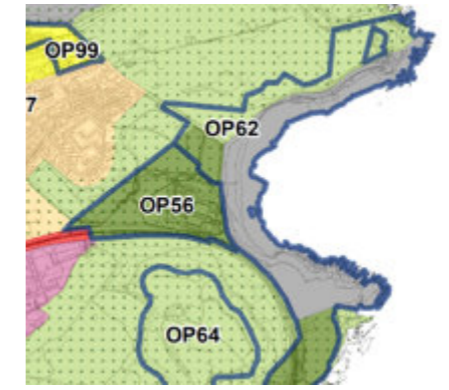
As previously noted, the recently adopted NPF4 supports the regeneration of existing industrial land and re-organising land use around the South Harbour in line with the spatial strategy of the LDP. It recognises that Aberdeen Harbour is a strategically important asset for the economy of North-East Scotland, and that the South Harbour specifically can act as a cluster of port accessible renewable energy research, manufacturing and support services.



POLICY	Summary Extract
OP56	<i>"This site, along with OP61, will support renewable energy transition related industries in association with Aberdeen South Harbour. Any development at this site must have a functional association with the South Harbour which precludes it being located elsewhere, such as the size of the infrastructure preventing transport from other locations or requiring 'roll on / roll off' level access to the South Harbour".</i>
OP62	<i>"Aberdeen Harbour expansion. Bay of Nigg Development Framework approved"</i>
Policy B4	<i>"There will be a presumption in favour of harbour infrastructure and ancillary uses, which are required for the effective and efficient operation of the harbour, and which have a functional requirement to be located there. This may include administrative offices, warehousing and storage (including fuel storage), distribution facilities and car/HGV parking. Other harbour-related uses will be treated on their merits".</i>
Policy B5	<i>"There will be a presumption in favour of the development, production, assembly, storage and/or distribution of infrastructure required to support renewable energy related industries; this includes offshore wind, tidal, hydrogen and solar...Development proposals will be required to include suitable open space and landscape enhancements for the well-being of people and wildlife"</i>

The LDP requires for Opportunity Sites OP56, OP61 and OP62 that masterplanning specifically considers the following matters:

- The extent of developable areas within B5 Energy Transition Zone zoning.
- Areas which should remain undeveloped and the extent of any buffer zones.
- Mitigation measures to ensure the continued viability of linear habitats including the East Tullos Burn, recreation and Core Path network.
- Options for the use of the waste-water treatment plant.
- Measures to avoid, minimise, mitigate, and compensate potential impacts on biodiversity and greenspace that will ensure at least no net loss of biodiversity across the masterplan area.



Local Development Plan (LDP)

Marine Gateway – Opportunities & Constraints

St Fittick's Park & Aberdeen South Harbour
 The Marine Gateway incorporates both the essential marine infrastructure and co-located high value manufacturing sites that will be the catalyst for investment across the zone. The Harbour and development sites can provide a port-integrated cluster of energy transition activity, forming a competitive market proposition that is well positioned to attract major inward investment by specialist operators.

The Harbour provides 1,400 metres of quay at water depths of up to 10.5 metres (LAT), with a turning circle of 300 metres and a channel width of 165 metres. The quays provide operators with flexibility and capacity to accommodate heavy lift capability and transfer of extra-heavy loads (6,000 tonnes plus) with fully segregated quay and apron drainage systems, incorporating interceptors, for controlled operations.

Land within the Opportunity Sites OP56 and OP62 offers the potential to create development platforms with direct and contiguous access to deep-water quaysides at the Harbour, and to be functionally integrated with Harbour operations. Integration with the port and capacity to transport extra-large and/or heavy and specialised equipment between manufacturing facility and quays (e.g., Anchors, Cables, Sub-Sea Structures), or to provide specialist quayside services (Operation & Maintenance / Certification) is key for offshore renewable operators.

The Coast Road currently forms the boundary between St Fittick's Park and the Harbour – linking northwards into Torry (Victoria Road) and southwards towards Gregness and industrial land within Altens. To maximise land area contiguous with the Harbour, strengthen connectivity between manufacturing sites and the Harbour, and to minimise potential for road user conflicts, the potential for the re-alignment of the Coast Road within the Marine Gateway has been identified as an opportunity. Realignment could provide a defined boundary and partial buffer between industrial activity within the Harbour and nearby greenspace and be designed to facilitate movement of heavy goods to quayside. Subject to specific operational requirements this may involve a managed crossing to facilitate inter-connectivity between the OP56 site and Harbour.



St Fittick's Park is a public greenspace that is valued by the community for its amenity and contribution to local environment and character. The Park is part of the ACC Core Green Space Network, and provides a large, multi-use open space extending from Balnagask and bounded by St Fittick's Road, Coast Road and the East-Coast Mainline Railway

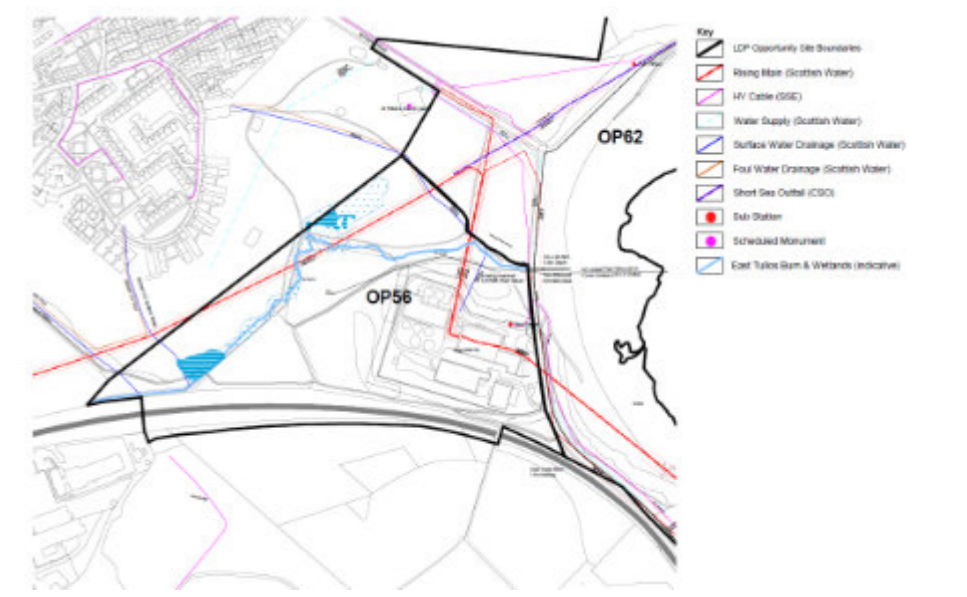
The Park also contains St Fittick's Church (Scheduled Monument) and the East Tullos Burn which serves an important drainage and hydrological function and provides wetland habitats. The Waste-Water Treatment Works situated within the park is served by significant sub-terrain infrastructure, including rising mains and sea outfalls. Each of these features and assets require careful consideration in development proposals to ensure that impacts are minimised, and in the case of St Fittick's Church and East Tullos Burn to explore opportunities to enhance their contribution to the overall amenity of the Park.

In particular, the East Tullos Burn and wetlands is a key feature within the park which was subject to significant investment in 2014 to improve water quality, enhance biological capacity, and create a biodiverse wetland habitat. Delivered through collaboration between ACC, SEPA, and the community the project 're-meandered' the Burn and provided new landscaping (wetland / wildflower planting) along with new access paths. The project and surrounding greenspace woodland has now matured and provides an important biodiversity, hydrological, and amenity function, enhancing the qualities of the park as a local greenspace.

The Nigg Bay Waste-Water Treatment Works (WWTW) situated within the park is served by significant sub-terrain infrastructure, including rising mains and sea outfalls which must be considered in the siting and configuration of development. **A plan of the Scottish Water infrastructure and other utilities around the site is provided below – though the specific location of these and associated wayleaves should be confirmed with relevant service providers (SSE / Scottish Water / SGN).** The potential for odour from the WWTW must also be considered for future development, and the potential for an Odour Impact Assessment may be required depending on end user.

Opportunities for incorporation of the WWTW into the Marine Gateway have been considered through masterplanning, **including discussion and feedback from Scottish Water.** The facility has specific operational requirements and specialist infrastructure associated with large-scale water treatment, limiting opportunities for future integration into energy transition development. The facility serves a significant proportion of the Aberdeen City and **Aberdeenshire** region, such that its re-location or change to treatment processes would incur **significant costs and disruption** and have implications for waste-water treatment across the area and is not considered feasible. Potential synergies around utilisation of waste-heat or effluent from the facility may still emerge depending on end-users within development sites and future technical innovations, and these should be explored through ongoing coordination with Scottish Water.

Potential development within St Fittick's Park and at Aberdeen South Harbour is also in close proximity to existing homes within Torry (Balnagask Circle / Pentland Crescent). Ensuring that impacts on local amenity are minimised may constrain the scale and type development that can be delivered.



Utilities Infrastructure Constraints Plan



Aberdeen South Harbour

Illustrative Concept
High Value Energy Transition Manufacturing Co-located with Port

Gregness

The development area at Gregness is not capable of direct co-location with the Harbour but benefits from immediate proximity and ability to transport materials to the Harbour over a very short downhill distance (c. 500m) via the Coast Road. Site development is constrained by sub-terrain Scottish Water infrastructure (rising main and sea outfall), access requirements to the Harbour breakwater, and placement of its sector light which is essential to ship navigation. A coast-guard lookout station and antenna sit at the western edge, with a fenced boundary and functionally separated from the remainder of the site. The site’s exposed coastal cliff-top setting makes it a prominent and visible location, necessitating careful consideration of landscape in building design and configuration.

Areas within the OP62 Opportunity Site at both Gregness and St Fittick’s Park have been utilised as compounds by Port of Aberdeen during the course of Aberdeen South Harbour construction. Development of these areas must be coordinated with the Port, taking account of committed reinstatements and wider mitigations associated with the South Harbour and incorporating these where feasible alongside future development proposals, whilst ensuring delivery against latest LDP Opportunity Site allocations and land use priorities therein.

In particular, the Coastal Path (Core Path 78) routes around the cliff-top edge of the Gregness site, though has been inaccessible as a result of the construction compound on the site. There is an existing planning requirement for the Coastal Path to be re-instated upon completion of the Harbour construction works which should be reflected in future proposals for the site.

The Nigg Bay Site of Special Scientific Interest is located at the south-west of Nigg Bay, consisting of exposed cliff face and foreshore. It is designated for its geological features, noted as a classic locality for quaternary stratigraphy in north-east Scotland. It is separated but in close proximity to developable areas at Gregness, and will require careful assessment of the potential for impacts from development, including during the construction period.

These constraints limit the principal development area to the north of the site, broadly mirroring the footprint of the existing construction compound. It presents the opportunity for manufacturing / industrial development producing large-scale components, materials, goods to support energy transition. Areas to the south of the site may be appropriate for associated storage, or smaller-scale energy transition uses that may benefit from a coastal location and/or proximity to the Harbour.

While the Harbour and OP56 and OP62 Opportunity Sites represent a major economic and energy transition development opportunity, existing land uses, site infrastructure, and blue-green network assets provide constraint, and a balance is required between development and protecting both greenspace and biodiversity assets.

Development within the Marine Gateway therefore requires coordinated planning that appropriately addresses opportunity and constraint to achieve sustainable development. This means incorporating measures to avoid and minimise environmental impacts such as landscape buffers, as well mitigation and compensatory provision including investment in local biodiversity, amenity, and retaining and improving accessibility to greenspace.

Opportunities	Constraints
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-located investment sites with potential Aberdeen South Harbour integration. • Development site(s) suitable and safeguarded for high-value manufacturing and energy transition use. • Enhancement of St Fittick's Park & East Tullos Burn. • Coast Road re-alignment to unlock additional contiguous land areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Valued local greenspace and park. • East Tullos Burn and wetlands – key hydrological and ecological asset. • St Fittick’s Church Scheduled Monument and local landscape character. • Scottish Water Waste-Water Treatment Works and associated below ground infrastructure. • Proximity to existing residential communities within Torry & Balnagask.



Aberdeen South Harbour

Former Ness Landfill site

Retained East Tullis Burn & Wetlands supporting enhanced biodiversity

**Illustrative Concept
High Value Energy Transition Manufacturing Co-located with Port**

Investment & Development Proposition

The Marine Gateway is a location of active investment interest from energy transition and offshore renewables operators. Identified sectors for high-value, energy transition related development with strong co-locational requirement that could be accommodated on development plots within the Marine Gateway include:

High-Value Energy Transition Activity	Port Co-Location Requirement
Cable Manufacture	Large scale manufacturing of offshore cable Requirement for spooling of specialist HV cables directly from quayside to factory and factory to quayside for offshore deployment.
Sub-sea Engineering (Seabed Infrastructure, Chains, Anchors, Moorings)	Large/heavy components manufacturing requiring marine import/export of goods and requiring deployment ship-shore. Scale and weight limits mobility and require port integrated site for offshore deployment.
Tower and Foundation Structures, transition piece, floating offshore wind platforms, spars, etc	Large/heavy components manufacturing requiring marine import/export of goods and requiring deployment ship-shore. Scale and weight limits mobility and require port integrated site for offshore deployment.
Certification / Testing, Remote Sensing, Sub-sea Inspection, Robotics	Specialist port servicing and technology-based testing at final deployment linked to O&M activity.
Operations & Maintenance - Fixed & Floating Assets - (Offshore Wind)	Quayside 24/7 requirement for Operational and Maintenance of windfarm assets (fixed/floating) including operational management and transfer of crew to/from vessels.

The Scottish Government and Crown Estate Scotland (CES) have established within the ScotWind Leasing process a requirement on local content for offshore wind projects.

The Offshore Wind Sector Deal set a target of 60% lifetime UK content in domestic projects and a commitment to increase UK content in the capital expenditure phase. Under the agreement, offshore wind developers are required to set out their supply chain commitments and a total of £21bn has been committed to the Scottish supply-chain from ScotWind North Sea offshore wind farms. Port access is fundamental to much of the offshore wind supply chain and Aberdeen has the potential to attract a significant share of this investment.



In 2022 CES also launched the Innovation and Targeted Oil & Gas Leasing Round (INTOG) for offshore wind projects that will directly reduce emissions from oil & gas production, adding to the future pipeline of North Sea offshore renewables activity.


As a port co-located development proposition, the Marine Gateway is a critical component of the Energy Transition Zone. It provides the opportunity to attract highly specialised and employment generating activity such as high-value manufacturing for renewable energy technologies and servicing the full life-cycle of offshore renewables. Development within the Marine Gateway should be a catalyst for wider investment and supply-chain development across the area, including in Altens and East Tullis, through active management and coordination by ETZ Ltd, Port of Aberdeen, ACC, and private landowners to maximise combined impact.

Development Guidance

Development within the Marine Gateway should work within the identified constraints as far as possible. It must seek to achieve a balance that provides high-value, employment generating development that contributes to net zero objectives, while limiting its footprint and preserving key assets within the park including East Tullis Burn and wetlands. As a result, the overall maximum developable area identified by the masterplan is approximately 7-8 ha, compared to the 15.3 ha of OP56 and OP62 Opportunity Site designations within the Park.

Within a reduced developable area, the Masterplan seeks to configure multiple plots that are functionally integrated within the Harbour, with scale and typology that respects site constraints. Two principal plots suitable for high-value manufacturing and close integration with the Harbour are identified (St Fittick's and Gregness), plus a flexible plot directly contiguous with the Harbour enabled by a potential re-alignment of the Coast Road.

<p>Land Use</p> 	<p>Land use within the Marine Gateway should comprise flexible Class 4 (Business)m Class 5 (General Industrial) and Class 6 (Storage & Distribution) uses. Larger development plots within St Fittick’s Park and Gregness should be suitable for specialised high-value manufacturing activity associated with energy transition. Development elsewhere within the Marine Gateway should support renewable energy and/or marine-related activities that deliver economic benefits around job creation and add value to the local economy.</p> <p>As required by the LDP, any development at the OP56 site must have a functional association with the South Harbour which precludes it being located elsewhere, such as the size of the infrastructure preventing transport from other locations or requiring ‘roll on / roll off’ level access to the South Harbour.”</p> <p>Opportunities for future collaboration around sustainability or circular economy associated with WWTW operations should be coordinated with Scottish Water.</p> <p>Relevant planning policies and associated guidance to be considered in the development of future planning applications include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Development Plan Policies: B4 (Aberdeen Harbour) and B5 (Energy Transition Zone). • National Planning Framework 4 – National Development 14.
<p>Design Quality</p> 	<p>Development within the Marine Gateway should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create flexible investment sites capable of meeting future market requirements, while minimising greenspace land-take and safeguarding key local environmental assets. • Provide industrial buildings of high-quality design, incorporating sustainable and durable cladding, materials, and detailing that positively add to the built environment and local character. • Provide building heights reflecting standard industrial typologies, typically in the range of 10-15m (eaves height) subject to land uses and specific end-user requirements. Further design development should be informed by Landscape & Visual Impact Assessment to inform plot specific approach to height, massing and building form. • Secure and allow for close integration with the Aberdeen South Harbour operational areas and quays – while providing clear long-term and secure port boundaries. • Provide for sustainable development that minimises resource use and total energy demand through passive and active measures, and where feasible integrate renewable energy technologies within development. • Where feasible, incorporate green / living walls and roofs, landscape planting, and creative elevational design to the west-facing building façades. <p>Relevant planning policies and associated guidance to be considered in the development of future planning applications include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Development Plan Policy: D1 (Quality Placemaking), D2 (Amenity), D3 (Big Buildings), D4 (Landscape), D5 (Landscape Design), D6 (Historic Environment), R6 (Low and Zero Carbon Buildings). • ACC Supplementary Guidance: Big Buildings, Landscape, Resources for New Development.

<p>Transport & Connectivity</p> 	<p>Development within the Marine Gateway should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create safe and attractive routes for walking and cycling across the area - ensuring active travel routes link to employment sites and make connections to wider Core Path and leisure path networks. • Consider options for road re-alignment across an area of St Fittick’s Park (within areas zoned for Energy Transition Zone), to provide a contiguous developable area linked to the Harbour and forming a new boundary with the Park. Road re-alignment should be closely coordinated with Port of Aberdeen to arrange points of access and ensure connectivity (including for public transport) to/from the Harbour. Inter-connectivity and operational association between development within OP56 and the South Harbour is likely to require a managed crossing (depending on end-user operational requirement) which will require careful coordination and management to ensure appropriate road safety (in consultation with ACC and Port of Aberdeen). • Options for road re-alignment should incorporate full active travel provision (walking and cycling) and maintain continuity of existing routes (Core Path 78 and National Cycle Network). • Provide access points to development sites from priority junctions, suitable for heavy-load vehicle movements. Points of access should promote traffic movements south-ward, connecting to the Coast Road /Hareness Road corridor. Access to the OP56 site will require crossing over re-aligned section of the East Tullos Burn which should be designed to minimise impacts on the watercourse. • Support Active Travel integration with covered and secured cycle parking facilities, along with car parking in accordance with ACC Standards (including EV Charging to support low-carbon journeys). • Proposals should be coordinated with planned ACC enhancement work (including road widening) to the Coast Road, noting potential for associated land requirements within the OP62 site at Gregness to enable construction of planned bridge crossing. <p>Relevant planning policies and associated guidance to be considered in the development of future planning applications include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Development Plan Policies: T1 (Land for Transport), T2 (Sustainable Transport), T3 (Parking). • ACC Supplementary Guidance: Transport & Accessibility. <p>In addition to planning requirements, the detailed design of any road infrastructure within the Marine Gateway should have regard to relevant standards within the Design Manual for Roads & Bridges, National Roads Development Guide (SCOTS), and be developed in close consultation with ACC Roads officers.</p>
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Infrastructure



Development within the Marine Gateway should:

- Ensure wayleaves and stand-off zones to below-ground infrastructure connected to WWTW are agreed with Scottish Water. Any future proposals that may involve re-configuration of this must ensure advance review of technical feasibility in collaboration with Scottish Water.
- Allow for ducting and wayleaves as appropriate to future-proof development connections to potential utility and renewable energy networks which may emerge within ETZ.
- Support improvements to water quality within East Tullos Burn (see Landscape & Environment Guidance).
- Ensure that all development is designed to be flood resilient and does not increase the current or future risk of flooding to surrounding land, especially within St Fittick's Park. Surface water management must be incorporated including sustainable flood risk management (SuDS) and appropriate blue-green infrastructures.
- Retain current outfall to Nigg Bay for re-aligned section of the East Tullos Burn.
- Ensure operational access is maintained from Gregness to essential port infrastructure (breakwater / sector light).

Relevant planning policies and associated guidance to be considered in the development of future planning applications include:

- Local Development Plan Policies: R6 (Low and Zero-Carbon Buildings), R7 (Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Developments), R8 (Heat Networks), NE4 (Our Water Environment).
- ACC Supplementary Guidance: Flooding, Drainage & Water Quality, Resources for New Development.



Opportunities to enhance access to St Fittick's Park and wetlands, and integrate new or existing active travel routes should form part of development.



Development should ensure wayleaves and stand-off zones to the WWTW and associated infrastructure are agreed with Scottish Water.

Landscape & Environment



Development within the Marine Gateway will result in some impacts to the local environment, and the loss of some existing greenspace within St Fittick's Park. Development should be designed and delivered in accordance with the environmental mitigation hierarchy to reduce these impacts as far as possible, integrate effectively with environmental projects in the Community & Energy Coast Programme, and contribute to the overall net gain of biodiversity across the masterplan area. The principles of environmental mitigation that all development within the Marine Gateway should follow are scheduled overleaf.

Relevant planning policies and associated guidance to be considered in the development of future planning applications include:

- Local Development Plan Policies: NE1 (Green Belt), NE2 (Green & Blue Infrastructure), NE3 (Our Natural Heritage), NE4 (Our Water Environment), NE5 (Trees & Woodland), WB1 (Healthy Developments), WB2 (Air Quality), WB3 (Noise), D6 (Historic Environment).
- ACC Supplementary Guidance: Landscape, Natural Heritage, Trees & Woodlands, Green Space Network and Open Space, Air Quality, Noise.



There are opportunities to enhance water quality within East Tullos Burn and manage for improved biodiversity.



Development should be integrated with Aberdeen South Harbour and provide high-value activity that is a catalyst to further investment across ETZ.

St Fittick's Park (OP56 / OP62)	PREVENTIVE MEASURES		REMEDIATIVE MEASURES	
Development providing for potential re-alignment of Coast Road and creation of platforms for high-value manufacturing and port-integrated activity.	AVOID <i>Avoiding</i> impacts on biodiversity and local environment through site selection, retention of valuable assets, sensitive design development, and scheduling of works.	MINIMISE <i>Minimising</i> the significance / extent of impacts through controls and limits on the physical extent of development, and/or construction and operation of development.	MITIGATE <i>Mitigating</i> impacts where these occur through targeted environmental interventions -such as the on-site re-establishment of habitats, landscape management, or incorporating blue-green infrastructure into development.	COMPENSATE + ENHANCE <i>Compensating</i> for unavoidable environmental impacts through provision of new or enhanced environmental assets / features / habitats – with specific and direct relationship to residual project impacts.
East Tullis Burn & Wetlands Development within OP56 has the potential for direct impacts on the hydrology and ecology of the East Tullis Burn, and associated wetland habitats within the park.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete survey/mapping of East Tullis Burn to protect hydrology and wetland system. Reduced development footprint – compared to 21ha OP56/OP62 combined allocation. Retention of East Tullis Burn as key design principle informing configuration of development plots. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide minimum 40m buffer zones to East Tullis Burn to ensure separation from development and minimise impact on setting and ecology. Retain Nigg Bay outfall as per current arrangements. Avoid culverts or enclosed sections other than for road/pedestrian footway-cycleway crossings. Ensure all development sites have full SuDS measures to treat/attenuate flows before discharge. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upgrade Burn Management (East Tullis) to extend annual management programme and retain open water/ de-silting works. Typha management programme to manage overgrown species and associated local native re-stocking. Burn/Park Access Improvements – linked to greenspace mitigation, improve blue-green network with access points to water/burn margins. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> East Tullis Burn 2.0 Project to re-align and extend the channel (northern section) ensuring meandering of watercourse. Water Quality Enhancement through management and treatment of surface water from East Tullis Industrial Estate. Wetland Habitat Enhancement including landscape management and potential provision of additional wetlands to support treatment of surface water discharges. East Tullis Boardwalk – for closer integration / access to blue-green network and contact with nature.
Trees & Woodland Development within St Fittick's Park will result in the direct loss of trees and mature woodland habitats– principally in the area surrounding the existing WWTW.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduced development footprint - compared to 21ha OP56/OP62 combined allocation. Retain woodland belt along railway line and elsewhere in St Fittick's Park. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimise losses to woodland wherever possible and safeguard boundary trees through CEMP. Provide buffer zones to site perimeters (WWTW / Park) with retained woodland planting. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New Native Woodland Planting to replace trees removed through development and ensure overall net gain in tree cover (subject to further survey and Landscape Framework) Native Amenity Trees & Hedgerows to be incorporated into site/plot landscape scheme. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compensatory Tree Planting additional planting across masterplan area to ensure overall net gain in tree cover and address woodland fragmentation – Tullis Wood and as potential priority planting area (subject to further survey and Landscape Framework)

St Fittick's Park (OP56 / OP62)	PREVENTIVE MEASURES		REMEDIATIVE MEASURES	
Development providing for potential re-alignment of Coast Road and creation of platforms for high-value manufacturing and port-integrated activity.	AVOID <i>Avoiding</i> impacts on biodiversity and local environment through site selection, retention of valuable assets, sensitive design development, and scheduling of works.	MINIMISE <i>Minimising</i> the significance / extent of impacts through controls and limits on the physical extent of development, and/or construction and operation of development.	MITIGATE <i>Mitigating</i> impacts where these occur through targeted environmental interventions -such as the on-site re-establishment of habitats, landscape management, or incorporating blue-green infrastructure into development.	COMPENSATE + ENHANCE <i>Compensating</i> for unavoidable environmental impacts through provision of new or enhanced environmental assets / features / habitats – with specific and direct relationship to residual project impacts.
Biodiversity Protection & Enhancement Ensure existing biodiversity is protected and enhanced by completing full habitat mapping and developing an ecological based response plan to address long-term enhancement of natural capital and biodiversity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete detailed habitat mapping of core sites within the Marine Gateway Identify areas that contribute to local biodiversity and target / priority species. Integrate environmental / ecological mapping into early planning and design development. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify and minimise direct impacts on areas of biodiversity value. Minimise losses to habitats wherever possible and build ecological / habitat protection into CEMP. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Habitat Management - identify areas within the site for biodiversity enhancement through new planting / landscaping or enhanced ecological management. Park & Wider Managed Grasslands (see Pollinator Coast) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 'Pollinator Coast' - programme creating new habitat / biodiversity opportunities (invertebrates) along coastal corridor. Habitat Connectivity - Enhance existing habitats / natural capital to address habitat fragmentation and link Green Network elements. Green Roofs- incorporated where feasible as part of Plot Landscape Frameworks.
Heritage (St Fittick's Churchyard) Development is proposed in close proximity to St Fittick's Churchyard (Scheduled Monument) with potential for impacts on its setting.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduced development footprint - compared to 21ha OP56/OP62 combined allocation. Potential road re-alignment sited within OP62 boundary to maximise separation from churchyard (reducing PoA development area). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide minimum 40m buffer zones to St Fittick's Churchyard from development and/or re-aligned road to ensure separation from development and minimise impact on setting. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Boundary Treatment to church and boundary areas incorporating combination low-level planting, living walls, and landscape features. Detailed measures to be agreed in consultation with ACC and HES - reflect changed landscape context surrounding the Church, and ensuring impact on setting of the Scheduled Monument are minimised and appropriately mitigated. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provision of new / replacement Interpretative Signage at site to ensure the story of Church and its position within local history positively contributes to amenity within the Park. Enhancing status of the Church as key asset for St Fittick's Park, in prominent location at a 'gateway' to Aberdeen, potentially through sensitive up-lighting specialist stonework / fabric repairs (to be developed in consultation with ACC Archaeology / HES).

St Fittick's Park (OP56 / OP62)	PREVENTIVE MEASURES		REMIADIATIVE MEASURES	
Development providing for potential re-alignment of Coast Road and creation of platforms for high-value manufacturing and port-integrated activity.	AVOID <i>Avoiding</i> impacts on biodiversity and local environment through site selection, retention of valuable assets, sensitive design development, and scheduling of works.	MINIMISE <i>Minimising</i> the significance / extent of impacts through controls and limits on the physical extent of development, and/or construction and operation of development.	MITIGATE <i>Mitigating</i> impacts where these occur through targeted environmental interventions -such as the on-site re-establishment of habitats, landscape management, or incorporating blue-green infrastructure into development.	COMPENSATE + ENHANCE <i>Compensating</i> for unavoidable environmental impacts through provision of new or enhanced environmental assets / features / habitats – with specific and direct relationship to residual project impacts.
Park, Greenspace & Green Networks Development within OP56 and OP62 will involve the loss of some local greenspace and functions / features of the existing public park.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduced development footprint – compared to 21ha OP56/OP62 combined allocation. Avoid greenspace adjacent to housing/ core park areas and main access points to park. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retain most valuable / significant park features – East Tullos Burn + Wetlands, play facilities, Core Paths. Provide buffer zones to site perimeters (WWTW / Park) with retained woodland planting. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Path Realignments / Improvements - to enhance quality and accessibility of St Fittick's Park – including potential boardwalk and integrated with biodiversity and landscape management works. Park Enhancements to mitigate loss of quantity of greenspace with improvements to quality and accessibility. Extending use, improving access, and provision of additional facilities (e.g. skate park / pump track/ play/ community growing - to be agreed with local community). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Parklets enhancing park and local greenspace facilities immediately adjacent to housing. Extending access (Older People /young People / Carers / etc), 'offsetting' loss of greenspace and adding to local amenity. 'Energy Coast' Coastal Path upgrade to improve local Green Network quality and accessibility for all communities and support local health & well-being. Tullos Wood Gateway – enhancing accessibility to local Green Network from Torry.

St Fittick's Park (OP56 / OP62)	PREVENTIVE MEASURES		REMIADIATIVE MEASURES	
Development providing for potential re-alignment of Coast Road and creation of platforms for high-value manufacturing and port-integrated activity.	AVOID <i>Avoiding</i> impacts on biodiversity and local environment through site selection, retention of valuable assets, sensitive design development, and scheduling of works.	MINIMISE <i>Minimising</i> the significance / extent of impacts through controls and limits on the physical extent of development, and/or construction and operation of development.	MITIGATE <i>Mitigating</i> impacts where these occur through targeted environmental interventions -such as the on-site re-establishment of habitats, landscape management, or incorporating blue-green infrastructure into development.	COMPENSATE + ENHANCE <i>Compensating</i> for unavoidable environmental impacts through provision of new or enhanced environmental assets / features / habitats – with specific and direct relationship to residual project impacts.
Local Amenity Development will involve industrial / commercial activity in relative proximity to existing sensitive receptors with the potential for impacts on local amenity – especially in terms of noise and visual impact.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduced development footprint - compared to 21ha OP56/OP62 combined allocation. Ensure a clear stand-off between development areas and residential properties. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development within OP56 site to be primarily 'built development' with limited external operations. Planning conditions to define parameters for height & massing reflecting standard industrial typologies and based on Landscape & Visual Impact Assessment. Planning conditions to provide operational controls on hours of use / outdoor activity. - Planning conditions to provide operational controls on hours of use / outdoor activity – based on Noise Impact Assessment. Noise control measures for construction period (including controlled working hours) to be agreed through CEMP / Noise Impact Assessment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plot Landscape Frameworks for all sites addressing detailed layouts to protect amenity, incorporate screening and boundary treatments (living walls, shelterbelt, other landscape measures) to mitigate visual impact of built development and associated external areas. Landscape Planting & Boundary Treatments within park / buffer zones to provide partial screening to built development. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Architectural/ Design Treatments Architectural and design measures associated with building detailing and combination of site planning / plot development, landscape treatments appropriate to the nature of future development and amenity needs.

Gregness (OP62)	PREVENTIVE MEASURES		REMIEDIATIVE MEASURES	
Development providing platform suitable for manufacturing associated with ASH, and areas suitable for external storage and other energy transition uses.	AVOID <i>Avoiding</i> impacts on biodiversity and local environment through site selection, retention of valuable assets, sensitive design development, and scheduling of works.	MINIMISE <i>Minimising</i> the significance / extent of impacts through controls and limits on the physical extent of development, and/or construction and operation of development.	MITIGATE <i>Mitigating</i> impacts where these occur through targeted environmental interventions -such as the on-site re-establishment of habitats, landscape management, or incorporating blue-green infrastructure into development.	COMPENSATE + ENHANCE <i>Compensating</i> for unavoidable environmental impacts through provision of new or enhanced environmental assets / features / habitats – with specific and direct relationship to residual project impacts.
Biodiversity Protection & Enhancement Ensure existing biodiversity is protected and enhanced by completing full habitat mapping and developing an ecological based response plan to address long-term enhancement of natural capital and biodiversity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete detailed habitat mapping of core sites within the Marine Gateway. Identify areas that contribute to local biodiversity and target / priority species. Integrate environmental / ecological mapping into early planning and design development. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify and minimise direct impacts on areas of biodiversity value. Minimise losses to habitats wherever possible and build ecological / habitat protection into CEMP. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Habitat Management - identify areas within the site for biodiversity enhancement through new planting / landscaping or enhanced ecological management. Native Amenity Trees & Hedgerows to be incorporated into Plot Landscape Framework. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 'Pollinator Coast' - programme creating new habitat / biodiversity opportunities (invertebrates) along coastal corridor. Habitat Connectivity - Enhance existing habitats / natural capital to address habitat fragmentation and link Green Network elements. Green Roof Developments - incorporated where feasible as part of Plot Landscape Frameworks.

Gregness (OP62)	PREVENTIVE MEASURES		REMIEDIATIVE MEASURES	
Development providing platform suitable for manufacturing associated with ASH, and areas suitable for external storage and other energy transition uses.	AVOID <i>Avoiding</i> impacts on biodiversity and local environment through site selection, retention of valuable assets, sensitive design development, and scheduling of works.	MINIMISE <i>Minimising</i> the significance / extent of impacts through controls and limits on the physical extent of development, and/or construction and operation of development.	MITIGATE <i>Mitigating</i> impacts where these occur through targeted environmental interventions -such as the on-site re-establishment of habitats, landscape management, or incorporating blue-green infrastructure into development.	COMPENSATE + ENHANCE <i>Compensating</i> for unavoidable environmental impacts through provision of new or enhanced environmental assets / features / habitats – with specific and direct relationship to residual project impacts.
Park, Greenspace & Green Networks Development at Gregness (OP62) may impact on accessibility to the local Green Network.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduced development footprint to core areas of site – ensuring that Coastal Path can be retained and re-instated (as required by conditions linked to Aberdeen South Harbour construction). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide buffer zones to site perimeters – Coastal Path and clifftop so that these remain fully accessible and provide amenity value as part of the Green Network. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 'Energy Coast' Coastal Path upgrade to improve local Green Network quality and accessibility for all communities and support local health & well-being.
Local Amenity Development will involve industrial / commercial development on an exposed coastal site, with the potential for impacts on local amenity – especially in terms of visual impact.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduced development footprint – situating primary built development to the north of the site closest to ASH and within parts of the site previously developed (Concrete Batching facility). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planning conditions to define parameters for height & massing reflecting industrial typologies and based on detailed Landscape & Visual Impact Assessment. Planning conditions to provide operational controls on hours of use / outdoor activity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Path Network Connections - (See Green Networks above). Plot Landscape Frameworks - addressing detailed layouts to protect amenity and provide landscape features appropriate to coastal character, to mitigate visual impact of built development and associated external areas. Landscape Planting & Boundary Treatments within buffer and boundary zones to provide partial screening to built development (species and character of planting appropriate to Coastal strip) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Architectural/ Design Treatments Architectural and design measures associated with building detailing and combination of site planning / plot development, landscape treatments appropriate to the nature of future development and amenity needs that positively complement the industrial / infrastructure setting around Aberdeen South Harbour.



KEY MASTERPLAN CONSTRAINTS, OPPORTUNITIES & CONSIDERATIONS.

While the Harbour and OP56 and OP62 Opportunity Sites represent a major economic and energy transition development opportunity, existing land uses, site infrastructure, and blue-green network assets provide constraint, and a balance is required between development and protecting both greenspace and biodiversity assets.

Development within the Marine Gateway therefore requires coordinated planning that appropriately addresses opportunity and constraint to achieve sustainable development. This means incorporating measures to avoid and minimise environmental impacts such as landscape buffers, as well mitigation and compensatory provision including investment in local biodiversity, amenity, and retaining and improving accessibility to greenspace.

- 1 **East Tullos Burn** – improved and ‘re-meandered’ in 2014 through SEPA / ACC Community Partnership. Important hydrological and ecological function and key asset for St Fittick’s Park. Approximate route illustrated diagrammatically here.
- 2 **Wetland habitats** providing locally important biodiversity – in places overgrown by non-native species (Typha) closing out open water and hampering function of the Burn.
- 3 **East Tullos Burn outfall to Nigg Bay** (beneath Coast Road).
- 4 **Railway footpath** crossing to be closed by Network Rail
- 5 **Nigg Bay SSSI** – designated for its quaternary geology and geomorphology
- 6 **Existing residential communities** in Torry & Balnagask – in close proximity to allocated Opportunity Sites within St Fittick’s Park.
- 7 **Valued local greenspace** and community park – providing space for leisure and recreation.
- 8 **Existing Woodland** – screening Waste Water Treatment Works.
- 9 **St Fittick’s Church** (Scheduled Monument).
- 10 **Coast Road**
- 11 **Nigg Bay Waste Water Treatment Works** – major water treatment facility for Aberdeen and wider region, including sub-terrain rising mains and combined sewer overflows situated within the Park.
- 12 **Local Path Network** – including Core Path 78 which connects to Cove via the coastal cliff-top path and Core Path 108 crossing St Fittick’s Park.
- 13 **Footpath** to be provided as part of re-aligned Greyhope Road, associated with Aberdeen South Harbour construction.
- 14 **Tullos Wood** – a Local Nature Conservation Site with excellent views over the City and a number of Scheduled Monuments, but challenging to access from Torry.
- 15 **Aberdeen South Harbour** - £400m investment in deep-water marine infrastructure capable of serving offshore renewables sectors and catalysing investment.
- 16 **Co-located LDP Opportunity Site (OP56)** – designated for energy transition uses which have a functional association with Aberdeen South Harbour.



Railway Crossing (to be closed)



East Tullos Burn Outfall



Local Greenspace



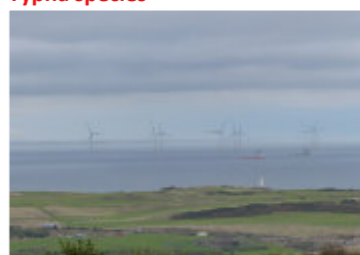
Local Path Network



Wetland Habitats include overgrown Typha species



Tullos Wood



Aberdeen Bay Windfarm



St Fittick's Park

Illustrative Plan Key Masterplan Considerations



STRATEGIC MITIGATIONS & COMPENSATIONS
 As set out within the 'Community & Energy Coast', the Masterplan identifies a range of mitigation and compensatory measures including specific proposals within and around St Fittick's Park to address the impacts of development on greenspace, local landscape and biodiversity, East Tullos Burn, cultural heritage, and local connectivity. These respond to specific requirements set out within the Local Development Plan (OP56 Allocation) and NPF4, as well as incorporating wider measures to ensure a sustainable development that positively contributes to local place-making.

Locations shown are indicative and the precise nature of mitigations and compensations will be informed through further detailed environmental and technical assessment (including EIA), as well as consultation and engagement with key stakeholders including ACC and local community. The full detail of proposed mitigation and compensation measures set out will be developed and secured through future planning processes, recognising that additional site specific mitigation and compensation may also be required as an outcome of EIA / Transport Assessment and other technical studies.

**Illustrative Plan
 Strategic Mitigations & Compensations**

- 1 **Local Parklets** – providing enhanced park and local greenspace facilities within currently under-utilised open space in close proximity to housing – extending access and adding to local amenity. Specific locations and amenities within Parklets to be confirmed through further consultation and in coordination with ACC and the relevant community interest groups.
- 2 **Heritage Interpretation and Restoration** – boundary treatment and landscaping to reflect changed setting of St Fittick's Church, along with provision of replacement interpretation signage and sensitive conservation repair (to be developed in consultation with HES / ACC Archaeology)
- 3 **Path Network** - Core Path and other walking routes through St Fittick's Park to be re-instated and enhanced to maintain connectivity through the area and ensure full accessibility across the Green Network.
- 4 **Boardwalk and Wetland access** – to allow closer integration, access, and contact with nature within St Fittick's Park and wetlands.
- 5 **Pollinator Coast Biodiversity** – strengthening habitat connectivity and biodiversity within the Coastal corridor through targeted pollinator planting – complementing ACC B-Line initiative with coastal plant species to support priority invertebrates.
- 6 **Tullos Wood Access & Path Connections** – to enhance accessibility to Tullos Wood and the wider Green Network from Torry – providing more accessible, legible and direct entrance along with associated pathway and landscaping improvements.
- 7 **Retained East Tullos Burn** – key ecological and hydrological asset retained and separated from proposed development sites through landscape buffer zones.
- 8 **Burn Re-Alignment** - Partial re-alignment and extension of eastern section of the channel to enable formation of development plots – replicating the 'meandering' course of the current section.
- 9 **Native Species Planting and Wetlands Habitat Management** – targeted management of overgrown species (Typha) to improve areas of open water and functional hydrology, and associated re-stocking of native species around the Burn with wetland landscape to be managed for biodiversity.
- 10 **East Tullos Drainage Infrastructure** – management and pre-treatment of surface water run-off from East Tullos Industrial Estate to support water quality improvement within the Burn.
- 11 **Energy Coast 'Coastal Path'** – maintained Coastal Path (Core Path 78) incorporating pathway provisions arising from Aberdeen South Harbour construction, and tied in to planned Coast Road re-alignment with opportunity for interpretation around Nigg Bay SSSI.
- 12 **Plot Landscape Framework** – incorporating a range of measures within the Development to support biodiversity and habitat connectivity – including landscape planting to support amenity and integrate with surrounding Green Network as well as potential green roofs and living walls, adding to the 'Pollinator Coast'.
- 13 **Skate Park / BMX Pump Track** – potential extension and enhancement of Skate Park facility and/or BMX Pump Track to add to facilities within the Park – to be agreed with local community and Locality Planning Partnership, and advanced through co-design.
- 14 **Play Facilities** – potential extension or enhancement of existing play provision within St Fittick's to add to the overall quality of the Park, particularly around facilities for explorative or innovative play.
- 15 **Compensatory Tree Planting** – development in St Fittick's Park will result in the loss of trees and mature woodland, to be replaced and compensated across the masterplan area.



Path Network



Heritage Interpretation & Restoration



Pollinator Cost Biodiversity



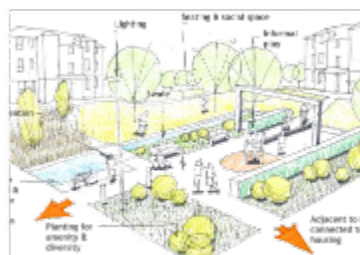
Skate Park



Boardwalk and Wetland Access



Enhanced Wetland Habitat



Local Parklets



Tullos Wood Access & Paths



INDICATIVE MASTERPLAN - ST FITTICK'S

The layout and design principles are captured within the illustrative campus layouts for the Marine Gateway. Developable areas shown are indicative and will be defined through further assessment and review but must reflect design guidance and address site constraints and opportunities on a reduced development area within the allocated Opportunity Site boundaries, along with issues and points raised during engagement with partners, stakeholders and the local community.

St Fittick's

- 1 Buffer zones to setting of St Fittick's Church for landscaping and screening treatment – with detailed consideration of levels and final road alignment. Detail to be agreed with HES and ACC Archaeology.
- 2 Buffer zones to retained East Tullos Burn incorporating native planting and landscaping – separating development from key wetland environments as far as possible.
- 3 Potential coast road re-alignment incorporating full active travel provision. Enabling creation of development plot contiguous with Aberdeen South Harbour. Detailed design to be agreed with ACC Roads.
- 4 Port integrated activity contiguous with Aberdeen South Harbour and with direct access to quayside.
- 5 High-value energy transition activity, such as manufacturing, with functional association to Aberdeen South Harbour which precludes it being located elsewhere. High-quality design incorporating durable materials, with height and massing informed by landscape & visual impact assessment.
- 6 Primary site access from re-aligned Coast Road – crossing the re-aligned section of the East Tullos Burn. Potential managed crossing of Coast Road for inter-connectivity with Aberdeen South Harbour dependent on end-user requirement.
- 7 SuDS provision (shown indicatively) to be incorporated into development plots – ensuring development is flood resilient and does not increase current or future risk of flooding to surrounding land, especially within St Fittick's Park.

○ Strategic Mitigations & Compensations – shown overleaf.



Aberdeen South Harbour



Jack-up Vessel



High Value Manufacturing

**Illustrative Concept
High Value Energy Transition Manufacturing Co-located with Port**



**Illustrative Concept
High Value Energy Transition Manufacturing**

INDICATIVE MASTERPLAN - GREGNESS

The layout and design principles are captured within the illustrative campus layouts for the Marine Gateway. These reflect design guidance and address site constraints and opportunities along with issues and points raised during engagement with partners, stakeholders and the local community.

Development Proposals:

- 1 Principal site access from Coast Road – utilising existing site entrance.
- 2 High-value manufacturing activity – benefitting from immediate proximity and ability to transport materials downhill over a very short distance. Building footprint to be configured around Scottish Water sub-terrain infrastructure
- 3 Access to Aberdeen South Harbour breakwater and sector light maintained through development.
- 4 Development plot at the south of the site – configured around Scottish Water sub-terrain infrastructure and suitable for complementary, smaller-scale energy transition activity that may benefit from coastal location and/or proximity to the Harbour.
- 5 Planned coast road re-alignment including new rail crossing. All future development to be closely coordinated with ACC Roads, noting potential for associated land and/or phasing requirements to enable construction.

Strategic Mitigations & Compensations:

- 6 Landscape screening and treatment within buffer and boundary zones, incorporating native species suitable for coastal cliff-top environment and adding to site biodiversity.
- 7 Coastal path (Core Path 78) to be retained / re-instated (requirement of Aberdeen South Harbour planning consent) and form part of 'Energy Coast' with enhanced interpretation and wayfinding, including around Nigg Bay SSSI.
- 8 Native species amenity landscaping and planting around site boundaries within coastal corridor, to add to 'Pollinator Coast' and overall site biodiversity.
- 9 Building height and massing to be determined through Landscape & Visual Impact assessment, accounting for potential local landscape sensitivity as well as changing setting and character as a result of new marine infrastructure around Aberdeen South Harbour.



Gregness



Aberdeen South Harbour



Development must ensure access and functionality of Harbour infrastructure is maintained.



4.3 HYDROGEN CAMPUS

The production and distribution of low-carbon hydrogen, especially green hydrogen, will be a key part of Scotland’s future net zero economy. Hydrogen can be stored, liquified and transported via road / rail / sea / pipelines and has wide-ranging applications as a zero-carbon energy source especially in industry and transport.

Aberdeen has been an early adopter of hydrogen – and North East Scotland has the potential to produce >20% of Scotland’s low carbon hydrogen production target by 2030. A series of hydrogen production projects are being progressed within the ETZ area, including BP Aberdeen Hydrogen Energy Ltd.’s Aberdeen Hydrogen Hub, Vattenfall’s HT-1 project and ERM’s Dolphyn project.

The ETZ masterplan is seeking to further strengthen the City’s position as a centre for innovation and excellence in this specialist and growing sector. Doonies (OP61) is identified as a suitable and well-positioned site for a purpose-developed technology campus, providing new development and infrastructure to address challenges associated with hydrogen production, storage and distribution, and growing the hydrogen supply-chain and industrial / manufacturing base. Development of the site will seek to provide a multi-use cluster of industry operators, researchers and innovators, and institutional partners active in the emerging hydrogen sector.

Development Vision

Developed as a specialist Energy Transition campus anchored around a Green Hydrogen Test and Demonstration Facility (GHTDF) the campus will reinforce Aberdeen’s position as the leading centre in green hydrogen technology, production and application. Commercial partner investment will drive additional applications and form a key part of the emerging Scottish hydrogen technology ecosystem. The Hydrogen Campus will additionally attract green hydrogen high-value manufacturing opportunities, such as electrolyser manufacturing, and support supply chain companies exploiting green hydrogen production potential associated with ScotWind, INTOG and onshore wind developments.

Hydrogen Campus – Planning & Policy Overview

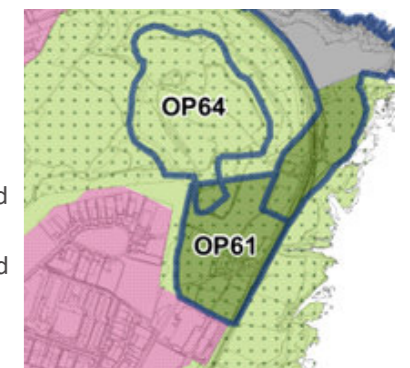
The Hydrogen Campus incorporates land at Doonies, situated on the west side of the Coast Road at the edge of Altens Industrial Estate. Land within Altens Industrial Estate (Peterseat Drive) also has the potential to support future expansion of the Campus and is designated as Business & Employment Land. The Doonies site is designated as Opportunity Site OP61 (Doonies) within the LDP, as well as being covered by Policy B5 relating to the Energy Transition Zone.

The OP61 Opportunity Site allocation includes areas of the former Ness Landfill to the north of the farm, overlapping slightly with the OP64 Opportunity Site which relates to development of a Solar Farm linked to the bp Aberdeen Hydrogen Energy Ltd. “Hydrogen Hub”.

POLICY	Summary Extract
OP61	<i>“This area along with OP56 will support renewable energy transition related industries in association with Aberdeen South Harbour...Other issues which need to be addressed include landscape impact of development, recreational access and habitat connectivity.”</i>
Policy B5	<i>“There will be a presumption in favour of the development, production, assembly, storage and/or distribution of infrastructure required to support renewable energy related industries; this includes offshore wind, tidal, hydrogen and solar...Development proposals will be required to include suitable open space and landscape enhancements for the wellbeing of people and wildlife”</i>

The LDP requires for Opportunity Sites OP56, OP61 and OP62 that masterplanning specifically considers the following matters:

- The extent of developable areas within B5 Energy Transition Zone zoning.
- Areas which should remain undeveloped and the extent of any buffer zones.
- Mitigation measures to ensure the continued viability of linear habitats including the East Tullos Burn, recreation and Core Path network.
- Options for the use of the waste-water treatment plant.
- Measures to avoid, minimise, mitigate, and compensate potential impacts on biodiversity and greenspace that will ensure at least no net loss of biodiversity across the masterplan area.



Local Development Plan (LDP)

Hydrogen Campus



**Illustrative Concept
Hydrogen Campus incorporating Manufacturing, R&D, Demonstrator and Support Services**

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Site Opportunities & Constraints

The Doonies site is currently greenfield and has been in use as a rare breeds farm, though the lease on the farm is due to end subject to agreement with ACC. The site is not subject to any environmental or cultural heritage designations and is relatively unconstrained for development. It offers strong potential for creation of a specialist technology campus with a mix of plot sizes suitable for different users.

The site has a direct access from the Coast Road and is sited directly opposite a single-track railway crossing linking to National Cycle Route 1 and the Coastal Path. There is an opportunity for creation of enhanced access to the site, delivered in coordination with the planned upgrade of the Coast Road (Aberdeen Harbour External Transportation Links) which will strengthen its connection to the South Harbour. In particular, masterplanning has identified an opportunity for creation of a new road link across the site, connecting the Coast Road directly to Peterseat Drive. This would deliver access to plots within the Campus and integrate the site closely with Altens Industrial Estate creating further opportunity for brownfield land renewal on vacant and under-utilised sites for future growth of the Campus.

The site is well removed from sensitive receptors and close to the shoreline providing an opportunity for connection to offshore renewables, including pipeline supply of green hydrogen produced offshore which is already being actively explored (see 'Investment & Development Proposition' below).

The former Ness Landfill sits immediately to the north of the site. Ground conditions and the potential for associated contamination would require thorough assessment as part of any development. At the northern boundary (between the landfill and the site) a narrow pathway provides access to/from Tullos Wood and the Coast, which should be integrated into development with opportunities for enhancement considered.

The site sits at the interface between the heavily industrial character of Altens (to the south and west) and the undeveloped, open coastal landscape (to the north and east), requiring careful design consideration to positively integrate development and provide a strong landscape quality.

Opportunities	Constraints
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specialist Campus to support / catalyse Hydrogen technologies. • Creation of new Link Road connecting Peterseat Drive to Coast Road. • Connection / expansion to future brownfield land renewal (Peterseat). • Create strong landscape amenity. • Strengthen active travel links and support Coast Road infrastructure. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site availability limited by current lease termination date. • Adjacency of former Ness Landfill Site. • Coastal landscape character.



**Illustrative Concept
Green Hydrogen Test & Demonstration Facility**

Investment & Development Proposition

The Hydrogen Campus is a location of active investment interest. Development interests are seeking a range of facilities that will include a mix of building typologies (Office and R&D (Class 4), Manufacturing (Class 5), Distribution (Class 6) suitable for research & innovation, advanced manufacturing, and production-based activities for hydrogen and its linked supply-chain. This includes:

Hydrogen Investment	Masterplan Requirements
Green Hydrogen Test and Demonstration Facilities (GHTDF)	R&D Facility utilising hydrogen from ERM’s Dolphyn project to demonstrate and test hydrogen (meters, valves, compressors etc) and equipment provide an innovation and technology test centre for new and emerging suppliers and service companies.
Enabled Sites for strategic green hydrogen production projects	Enabled land for strategic green hydrogen projects, such as the ERM Dolphyn project’s onshore facilities.
Manufacturing Facilities	Manufacturing associated with large / industrial scale hydrogen electrolyzers (and associated components) through to manufacture of hydrogen refuelling and battery cell technologies.
Large Scale Manufacturing	
Manufacturing Facilities	Cross-cutting innovation and academic and industry partnership will be required in the creation of Scotland's hydrogen economy. R&D and proof of concept / incubator and commercial workshop space for early-stage hydrogen companies.
Proof of Concept / Incubator	
Manufacturing Service & Support Technology Providers	Specialist sector leading companies associated with hydrogen and fuel cell technology, PEM fuel cell management, liquid/molecular hydrogen distribution systems and management.

The Hydrogen Campus will seek to offer a range of buildings suitable for innovation, research & development, start-up businesses, and institutions operating in the hydrogen sector such as ORE Catapult, EMEC, and Net Zero Technology Centre. Subject to future planning and development arrangements these may include co-working space, flexibly let offices, technology labs, technology demonstration facilities, and shared amenities, that together facilitate a high-quality environment for research, innovation and commercialisation.



The scale of site also offer potential for larger-scale industrial units suitable for high-value manufacturing and wider supply-chain activity, supporting the development of technologies and processes involved in hydrogen production, storage and distribution. These could include large scale specialist manufacturing of electrolyzers required to produce hydrogen, or production of hydrogen fuel cells used in low carbon transport and industrial processes.


As noted above, the site’s coastal location provides opportunity for onshore landing of offshore green hydrogen production. ERM Dolphyn is in advanced discussions to make landfall of their offshore green hydrogen production project at a site within the Hydrogen Campus, providing a ready supply of green hydrogen to the site for research, test & demonstration purposes, and for onward distribution to power the city of Aberdeen’s rapidly growing hydrogen sector. The Campus could be suitable as a landfall location for other offshore green hydrogen production, subject to future development and feasibility.

The emergence of new markets and supply-chains within the hydrogen sector will provide diversification opportunities for local companies that have previously serviced oil & gas sectors. The Campus will seek to provide a focus for leveraging and re-purposing the region’s expertise in these areas to create new economic value and jobs.

Development Guidance

Development within the Hydrogen Campus will promote a cluster supporting a regional Centre of Excellence that builds on the early adoption of hydrogen technologies by Aberdeen City Council and the opportunities for green hydrogen production associated with ScotWind, INTOG and the significant planned expansion of the onshore wind sector in Scotland.

<p>Land Use</p> 	<p>The Hydrogen Campus is proposed to be developed on a site currently in agricultural use operating as Doonies Farm, with future expansion potential on brownfield land at Peterseat Drive.</p> <p>Development within the Campus should principally comprise a mix of Class 4 / 5 with ancillary Class 6 uses. It should provide facilities suitable for a range of users in the energy transition and hydrogen sector, including research, test & demonstration / commercialisation of hydrogen technologies, and high-value manufacturing associated with production, storage, distribution, and use of hydrogen. A small portion of the on-site infrastructure may be Sui-Generis use class, reflecting its highly specific nature, and should be considered on its merits and with regard to their suitability within an energy transition and industrial cluster.</p> <p>Relevant planning policies and associated guidance to be considered in the development of future planning applications include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Development Plan Policies: B5 (Energy Transition Zone). • National Planning Framework 4 – National Development 14.
<p>Design Quality</p> 	<p>Development within the Hydrogen Campus should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a coherent and structured Campus layout facilitating development of strategic green hydrogen projects, with development plots sited around the alignment of a Peterseat-Doonies Link Road. • Incorporate landscape and amenity features to provide the qualities of a Campus site. Higher amenity and design quality buildings should be located towards the Coast Road frontage and taking advantage of prominent / principal views offered by the site. • Provide building heights reflecting standard industrial typologies, typically in the range of 10-15m (eaves height) subject to land uses and specific end-user requirements. Further design development should be informed by detailed review of landscape & visual impacts to inform plot specific approach to height, massing and building form – taking account of scale/massing of adjacent sites and surrounding landform. • Provide for sustainable development that minimises resource use and total energy demand through passive and active measures, and where feasible integrate renewable energy technologies within development. <p>Relevant planning policies and associated guidance to be considered in the development of future planning applications include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Development Plan Policies D1 (Quality Placemaking), D2 (Amenity), D3 (Big Buildings), D4 (Landscape), D5 (Landscape Design), D6 (Historic Environment), R6 (Low and Zero Carbon Buildings). • ACC Supplementary Guidance: Big Buildings, Landscape, Resources for New Development.

<p>Transport & Connectivity</p> 	<p>Development within the Hydrogen Campus should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create safe and attractive routes for walking and cycling across the area - ensuring active travel routes link to employment sites and make connections to wider Core Path and leisure path networks. • Ensure connectivity from the site to the Tullos Hill path network and support the creation of new routes through the site connecting to the Coast and NCR1. • Provide direct access via a priority junction from the upgraded Coast Road, with specific siting and design requirements to be agreed in consultation with ACC Roads & Highways. Proposals should be coordinated with planned ACC enhancements work (including road widening) to the Coast Road, noting potential for associated land requirements within the OP61 site. • Incorporate a new link road crossing the site, to service development plots within the Campus and connect the Coast Road directly to Peterseat Drive. The road should be suitable for heavy-load vehicle movements and incorporate full active travel provision (walking and cycling). • Support Active Travel integration with covered and secured cycle parking facilities, along with car parking in accordance with ACC Standards (including EV Charging to support low-carbon journeys). <p>Relevant planning policies and associated guidance to be considered in the development of future planning applications include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Development Plan Policies: T1 (Land for Transport), T2 (Sustainable Transport), T3 (Parking). • ACC Supplementary Guidance: Transport & Accessibility. <p>In addition to planning requirements, the detailed design of any road infrastructure within the Hydrogen Campus should have regard to relevant standards within the Design Manual for Roads & Bridges, National Roads Development Guide (SCOTS), and be developed in close consultation with ACC Roads officers.</p>
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Infrastructure



Development within the Hydrogen Campus should:

- Ensure that all development is designed to be flood resilient and does not increase the current or future risk of flooding to surrounding land. Surface water management must be incorporated including sustainable flood risk management (SuDS) and appropriate blue-green infrastructures. Where possible, development should seek to provide SuDS ponds to the Coast Road frontage of the site, reflecting site topography and complementing landscape planting.
- Give careful consideration to the adjacent Former Ness Landfill site and the potential for contaminated land, ensuring ground conditions suitability is fully considered and any remediation works are programmed.
- Consider regulatory requirements that may arise from on-site production and/or storage of hydrogen – potentially including COMAH / HSC / PPC licensing. Development involving hydrogen storage should be consulted at an early stage with the Health & Safety Executive, SEPA, and ACC to ensure risk management, health & safety, and operational processes are fully coordinated.
- Allow for ducting and wayleaves as appropriate to future-proof development connections to potential utility and renewable energy networks which may emerge within ETZ. (including for distribution of hydrogen).

Relevant planning policies and associated guidance to be considered in the development of future planning applications include:

- Local Development Plan Policies: R6 (Low and Zero-Carbon Buildings), R7 (Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Developments), R8 (Heat Networks), NE4 (Our Water Environment).
- ACC Supplementary Guidance: Flooding, Drainage & Water Quality, Resources for New Development.



Development of the Campus, including delivery of a new Link Road, should be closely coordinated with the planned upgrade of the Coast Road by ACC.

Landscape & Environment



Development of the Hydrogen Campus has the potential to result in impacts to the local environment. Development should be designed and delivered in accordance with the environmental mitigation hierarchy to reduce these impacts as far as possible integrate effectively with environmental projects in the Community & Energy Coast Programme and contribute to the overall net gain of biodiversity across the masterplan area. The principles of environmental mitigation that all development within the Hydrogen Campus should follow are scheduled overleaf.

Relevant planning policies and associated guidance to be considered in the development of future planning applications include:

- Local Development Plan Policies: NE1 (Green Belt), NE2 (Green & Blue Infrastructure), NE3 (Our Natural Heritage), NE4 (Our Water Environment), NE5 (Trees & Woodland), WB1 (Healthy Developments), WB2 (Air Quality), WB3 (Noise), D6 (Historic Environment)
- ACC Supplementary Guidance: Landscape, Natural Heritage, Trees & Woodlands, Green Space Network and Open Space, Air Quality, Noise.



Development should incorporate active travel routes connecting to the local Green Network, including the Coastal Path.



Brownfield land within Altens (Peterseat Drive) presents opportunity to integrate existing industrial sites and further expand the Campus

Doonies (OP61)	PREVENTIVE MEASURES		REMIEDIATIVE MEASURES	
Development area providing for a Doonies-Peterseat Link Road and creation of development platforms for hydrogen test & demo, on-shore landing site, high-value manufacturing and supply-chain activity.	AVOID <i>Avoiding</i> impacts on biodiversity and local environment through site selection, retention of valuable assets, sensitive design development, and scheduling of works.	MINIMISE <i>Minimising</i> the significance / extent of impacts through controls and limits on the physical extent of development, and/or construction and operation of development.	MITIGATE <i>Mitigating</i> impacts where these occur through targeted environmental interventions -such as the on-site re-establishment of habitats, landscape management, or incorporating blue-green infrastructure into development.	COMPENSATE + ENHANCE <i>Compensating</i> for unavoidable environmental impacts through provision of new or enhanced environmental assets / features / habitats – with specific and direct relationship to residual project impacts.
Biodiversity Protection & Enhancement Ensure existing biodiversity is protected and enhanced by completing full habitat mapping and developing an ecological based response plan to address long-term enhancement of natural capital and biodiversity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop within defined OP61 boundaries – excluding areas of former landfill and associated drainage to reduce developable area. Complete detailed habitat mapping of the existing Doonies site. Integrate environmental / ecological mapping into early planning and design development. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimise losses to woodland and other habitats wherever possible and build ecological / habitat protection into CEMP. Provide buffer zones and separation to site perimeters (Landfill / Coast Road / SUEZ) with retained woodland planting where existing. Identify and minimise direct impacts on areas of biodiversity value. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invasive Non-Native Species management programme to remove non-native invasive species on the site (Giant Hogweed) and associated local native species re-stocking. New Native Woodland Planting to ensure no net loss of woodland cover. Native Amenity Trees & Hedgerows to be incorporated into site/plot landscape scheme to support biodiversity. On-site SuDS infrastructure complementing landscaping and adding wetland biodiversity where possible. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compensatory Tree Planting additional planting across masterplan area to extend woodland cover and address woodland fragmentation – Tullos Wood as potential priority planting area. ‘Pollinator Coast’ programme creating new habitat / biodiversity opportunities (invertebrates) along coastal corridor. Green Roofs- incorporated where feasible as part of Plot Landscape Frameworks.

Doonies (OP61)	PREVENTIVE MEASURES		REMIEDIATIVE MEASURES	
Development area providing for a Doonies-Peterseat Link Road and creation of development platforms for hydrogen test & demo, on-shore landing site, high-value manufacturing and supply-chain activity.	AVOID <i>Avoiding</i> impacts on biodiversity and local environment through site selection, retention of valuable assets, sensitive design development, and scheduling of works.	MINIMISE <i>Minimising</i> the significance / extent of impacts through controls and limits on the physical extent of development, and/or construction and operation of development.	MITIGATE <i>Mitigating</i> impacts where these occur through targeted environmental interventions -such as the on-site re-establishment of habitats, landscape management, or incorporating blue-green infrastructure into development.	COMPENSATE + ENHANCE <i>Compensating</i> for unavoidable environmental impacts through provision of new or enhanced environmental assets / features / habitats – with specific and direct relationship to residual project impacts.
Local Amenity Development will involve industrial / commercial development on an exposed coastal site, with the potential for impacts on local amenity – especially in terms of visual impact.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Site located away from sensitive receptors (residential, education, health) Develop within defined OP61 boundaries – excluding areas of former landfill and associated drainage to reduce developable area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Campus primarily of ‘built development’ with limited external operations. Planning conditions to define parameters for height & massing reflecting standard industrial typologies and based on detailed Landscape & Visual Impact Assessment. Planning conditions to provide operational controls on hours of use / outdoor activity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plot Landscape Frameworks for all sites addressing detailed layouts to protect amenity, incorporate screening and boundary treatments (living walls, shelterbelt, other landscape measures) to mitigate visual impact of built development and associated external areas. On-site Path Networks connecting to Tullos Wood to as part of Green Network – and connected to Peterseat-Doonies Link Road Active Travel provision. 	Architectural / Design Treatments – Design measures associated with building detailing and combination of site planning / plot development, landscape treatments appropriate to nature of future development and amenity needs – creating a high-quality ‘Campus’ development.



**Illustrative Concept
Hydrogen Campus incorporating Manufacturing, R&D, Demonstrator and Support Services**

INDICATIVE MASTERPLAN

The masterplan layout and design principles are captured within the campus layouts for the Hydrogen Campus. These reflect design guidance and address site constraints and opportunities along with issues and points raised during engagement with partners, stakeholders and the local community.

Development Proposals

- 1 Flexible development sites in a range of industrial and commercial typologies, suitable for manufacturing, R&D, and wider supply-chain.
- 2 Test & Demonstration facilities supporting innovation for hydrogen production, distribution, utilisation, and storage.
- 3 Brownfield land with Alps Industrial Estate suitable for potential future expansion of Campus, subject to future feasibility.
- 4 Primary site access from the Coast Road – with specific siting and design requirements to be coordinated and agreed with ACC Roads.
- 5 Provision of a new link road crossing the site and connecting the Coast Road to Peterseat Drive, suitable for heavy-load vehicle movements and incorporating active travel (walking and cycling) provision.

Strategic Mitigations & Compensations

- 6 Boundary treatments and landscape buffers incorporating native planting and trees to ensure no loss of woodland cover, and enhance local amenity and biodiversity
- 7 Plot Landscape Frameworks across the Campus incorporating planting and landscaping within development plots to mitigate the visual impact of development and add to site biodiversity – potentially including green roofs, living walls, and other landscape features.
- 8 On-site SuDS infrastructure integrated with landscaping and complementing overall site amenity, and adding to wetland biodiversity where possible.
- 9 Coastal Path (Core Path 78) forming part of 'Energy Coast' to be upgraded through targeted re-surfacing / re-instatement where pathways is degraded and with new interpretation and wayfinding – maintaining existing character as a coastal clifftop recreational walking route.
- 10 Retention and upgrade of on-site path networks connecting to Tullos Wood as part of the Green Network – integrated and connected to active travel provision within new Link Road.
- 11 Former landfill to be partially developed as Ness Solar Farm. Targeted native species planting as part of 'Pollinator Coast' to strengthen habitat connectivity and biodiversity within the Coastal corridor – complementing ACC B-Line initiative with species to support priority invertebrates.



**Illustrative Concept
Hydrogen Campus incorporating Manufacturing, R&D,
Demonstrator and Support Services**



4.4 OFFSHORE WIND CAMPUS

Complementing the Marine Gateway, the Offshore Wind Campus will provide a cluster of commercial, manufacturing, test & demonstration, and innovation facilities within brownfield land at Altens, supporting the growth of a strong offshore wind supply chain within the Zone, as well as providing opportunities for wider energy transition uses.

The key investment catalyst for the Campus is ETZ Ltd's co-investment with the Offshore Renewable Energy (ORE) Catapult to create a world leading National Floating Wind Innovation Centre (FLOWIC). The Centre is being developed to accelerate the commercialisation of floating offshore wind throughout the UK, capitalise on demand for floating offshore wind created by ScotWind, and support the incubation of new products, services and businesses within the sector.

Development Vision

Anchored by the National Floating Wind Innovation Centre (FLOWIC) the Offshore Wind Campus is a cluster supporting the development of offshore wind commercial applications, technologies and services, alongside complementary renewable energy activities. The Campus supports developers, operators, equipment manufacturers, supply chain companies and small innovators with research, test, deployment and validation facilities and small-medium scale business space. It will enable and support collaboration between academia, national innovation partners and industry creating a cluster of energy transition investment and activities.

Offshore Wind Campus – Planning & Policy Overview

The Offshore Wind Campus is situated on land at Hareness Road, on the eastern edge of Altens Industrial Estate. The site is designated as 'Business & Industry' land within the LDP. Immediately to the east of the site land around the Coast Road, East-Coast Main Line and on the coastal fringe is designated as Greenbelt and Greenspace Network.

The site contains the existing Irvin House building (now renamed W-Zero-1), a vacant mixed-use office, industrial and storage and distribution facility.

POLICY	Summary Extract
Policy B1 	<p>"Land zoned for business and industrial uses on the Proposals Map, including already developed land, shall be retained for Class 4 (Business), Class 5 (General Industrial) and Class 6 (Storage and Distribution) uses and safeguarded from other conflicting development types.</p> <p>...</p> <p>New business and industrial land proposals shall make provision for areas of recreational and amenity open space, areas of strategic landscaping, areas of wildlife value and footpaths, in accordance with the Open Space Strategy and any approved non-statutory planning guidance, planning briefs or masterplans"</p>



Local Development Plan (LDP)

Offshore Wind Campus



**Illustrative Concept
Floating Offshore Wind Innovation Centre within Existing Irvin House**

Site Opportunities & Constraints

The site is brownfield land with relatively few constraints to development across multiple plots for industrial use supporting energy transition. Boundaries to the site are well defined by Altens Industrial Estate to the west and north, woodland screening to the south, and the Coast Road and East-Coast Mainline to the east.

The presence of FLOWIC at the site along with renewal of existing buildings (such as ETZ Ltd’s W-Zero-2 Building on Minto Avenue) presents a clear opportunity for co-located activity around offshore wind and/or wider renewable energy supply chain, forming a cluster integrated with the existing industrial character in Altens.

Across the site there is potential to form access to multiple plots directly from Hareness Road. Opportunity exists for access to be enhanced through positive integration with the planned upgrade of this section of road through the Aberdeen Harbour External Transportation Links which will strengthen its connection to the South Harbour. The siting of junctions / access points will need to be sited carefully to ensure appropriate visibility and spacing given the curvature of Hareness Road and existing site entrances.

The site is relatively well removed from sensitive receptors, though residences at Burnbanks Village (approximately 220m from the southernmost plot) will require consideration of local amenity impacts.

The site slopes from west-to-east and further review of site topography and levels will inform more detailed proposals. British Geological Survey mapping indicates there is two areas of Made Ground at the western and southern edges of the site, which will also require further investigation as part of detailed planning.

Existing services at the site include Scottish Water infrastructure (sub-terrain foul sewers and surface water sewers) which cross east-west across the site. On the east side of Hareness Road are open drainage ditch and basins linked to surface water drainage from Altens Industrial Estate and Hareness Road.

Opportunities	Constraints
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Redevelopment of Brownfield land. • Co-located business space & Innovation Centre (FLOWIC). • Co-located investment sites with Altens Industrial Estate. • Key corridor through Altens Industrial Estate to Coast Road. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ground conditions / made ground. • Existing local service and utility infrastructures. • Hareness Road curvature and siting of plot access.



**Illustrative Concept
Floating Offshore Wind Innovation Centre within Existing Irvin House**

Investment & Development Proposition

The Offshore Wind Campus seeks to provide flexible business space for a mix of energy transition activity, (industrial / R&D / commercial) forming a multi-use campus alongside the FLOWIC facility. The main components of the Campus are anticipated to include:

- National Floating Wind Innovation Centre – situated in former Irvin House (now renamed W-Zero-1) which has been acquired, renovated and re-purposed as the centrepiece of the Campus to support innovation and commercialisation in floating offshore wind.
- FLOWIC will anchor the Offshore Wind Campus and be a key early enabler for researchers and innovative / transitioning companies to locate within ETZ as part of a strong industry cluster that is immediately accessible to Aberdeen South Harbour and the 18GW of offshore wind development that is planned within 100 nautical miles of Aberdeen.
- The FLOWIC Centre is to be operated by Ore Catapult provide facilities for the following:
 - Digital Simulation and Modelling
 - Testing and validation of floating wind components / structures
 - Collaboration and joint working between academia and industry
- In addition to housing FLOWIC, the refurbished W-Zero-1 building will provide flexible office and light industrial accommodation for innovative companies operating in the energy transition supply chain and renewable sectors.
- Offshore wind supply chain development within flexible industrial units – new-build development opportunities where suitable to provide modern high-value manufacturing capabilities and allowing for co-locations within existing sites and buildings within the Altens Industrial Estate



- Linked to FLOWIC the plots within the site are well suited to accommodating facilities for test, validation and certification processes associated with offshore wind and the renewable energy supply-chain. These uses will benefit from close proximity to Aberdeen South Harbour and may require external areas for operation and/or specialist equipment which benefit from co-location to FLOWIC, other energy transition users, and setting adjacent to Altens Industrial Estate.


Brownfield land within the Campus may also be utilised for wider energy transition activity that can positively complement FLOWIC and associated offshore wind supply chain. Land within the Campus at Hareness Road has been identified as a preferred site for development of the ‘Hydrogen Hub’ to be delivered by bp Aberdeen Hydrogen Energy Ltd.

The Hydrogen Hub is proposed to operate as a green hydrogen production and re-fuelling facility, which would serve the Council’s fleet of buses, HGVs, and large vans to support transport decarbonisation and advance the take-up of hydrogen technologies in the city. Hydrogen will be produced on-site via electrolysis, utilising green power from the planned Ness Solar Farm, located approximately 1.5km to the north and connected via an underground cable.

Masterplan Development Guidance

The Offshore Wind Campus incorporates brownfield land for a mix of energy transition activities, anchored by the National Floating Wind Innovation Centre delivered in partnership with ORE Catapult.

<p>Land Use</p> 	<p>Development within the Campus should be for a mix of building typologies in Class 4 (Commercial / Light Industrial), Class 5 (Industrial) and Class 6 (Distribution) - providing flexible units with scale / facilities suitable for energy transition activities and supply chain.</p> <p>The National Floating Wind Innovation Centre will operate as a centre for innovation and house facilities for research, test & demonstration, and start-up / SME / innovator businesses in the energy transition supply chain – within Class 4 (Business) and potentially an element of Class 10 (Non-residential institutions).</p> <p>Elements of on-site infrastructure and development may be Sui-Generis use class, reflecting their highly specific nature and should be considered on their merits and with regard to their suitability within an energy transition and industrial cluster.</p> <p>Relevant planning policies and associated guidance to be considered in the development of future planning applications include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Development Plan Policies: B1 (Business & Industrial Land)
<p>Design Quality</p> 	<p>Development within the Offshore Wind Campus should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a coherent and structured Campus layout with high-quality amenity, landscaping and frontages that enhance place quality on Hareness Road. Ensure development integrates with local landscape and townscape character. Building form and massing should reflect standard industrial typologies with heights in the range of 10-15m (eaves height) subject to land uses and specific end-user requirements. Develop a signage strategy for the Campus integrated and referenced with wider Hareness Road signage and ETZ branding. Provide for sustainable development that minimises resource use and total energy demand through passive and active measures, and integrate renewable energy technologies within development. <p>Relevant planning policies and associated guidance to be considered in the development of future planning applications include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Development Plan Policies: D1 (Quality Placemaking), D2 (Amenity), D3 (Big Buildings), D4 (Landscape), D5 (Landscape Design), R6 (Low and Zero Carbon Buildings). ACC Supplementary Guidance: Big Buildings, Landscape, Resources for New Development.

<p>Transport & Connectivity</p> 	<p>Development within the Offshore Wind Campus should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create safe and attractive routes for walking and cycling across the area - ensuring active travel routes link to employment sites and make connections to wider Core Path and leisure path networks. Provide principal access from Hareness Road – with detailed junction siting / design requirements to be agreed in consultation with ACC Roads & Highways and integrate with planned upgrades to Hareness Road. Proposals should be coordinated with planned ACC enhancement work (including road widening) to the Coast Road, noting potential for associated land requirements within at Hareness Road. Support Active Travel integration with covered and secured cycle parking facilities, along with car parking in accordance with ACC Standards (including EV Charging to support low-carbon journeys). <p>Relevant planning policies and associated guidance to be considered in the development of future planning applications include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Development Plan Policies: T1 (Land for Transport), T2 (Sustainable Transport), T3 (Parking). ACC Supplementary Guidance: Transport & Accessibility.
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Infrastructure



Development within the Offshore Wind Campus should:

- Ensure that all development is designed to be flood resilient and does not increase the current or future risk of flooding to surrounding land. Surface water management must be incorporated including sustainable flood risk management (SuDS) and appropriate blue-green infrastructures. Where possible development should integrate with existing SuDS and drainage infrastructure between Coast Road and Hareness Road.
- Allow for ducting and wayleaves as appropriate to future-proof development connections to potential utility and renewable energy networks which may emerge within ETZ.
- Consider regulatory requirements that may arise from on-site production and/or storage of hydrogen (if required) – potentially including COMAH / HSC / PPC licensing. Development involving hydrogen storage should be consulted at an early stage with the Health & Safety Executive, SEPA, and ACC to ensure risk management, health & safety, and operational processes are fully coordinated.

Relevant planning policies and associated guidance to be considered in the development of future planning applications include:

- Local Development Plan Policies: R6 (Low and Zero-Carbon Buildings), R7 (Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Developments), R8 (Heat Networks), NE4 (Our Water Environment),
- ACC Supplementary Guidance: Flooding, Drainage & Water Quality, Resources for New Development.



Existing industrial sites and brownfield land should be incorporated with a focus on sustainable retro-fit and re-purposing.



Vacant Business & Employment allocated land at the edge of Altens – suitable for a range of potential energy transition activities and supply-chain..

Landscape & Environment



Development of the Offshore Wind Campus has the potential to result in impacts to the local environment. Development should be designed and delivered in accordance with the environmental mitigation hierarchy to reduce these impacts as far as possible, integrate with environmental projects in the Community & Energy Coast Programme, and contribute to the overall net gain of biodiversity across the masterplan area.

The principles of environmental mitigation that all development within the Offshore Wind Campus should follow will include:

Avoiding impacts through

- Developing within designated Employment Land allocations and outside of Green Belt / Green Network areas, and well removed from sensitive receptors.
- Retaining existing woodland / hedge-row belts to site perimeter and ensuring appropriate separation from development.
- Completion of comprehensive pre-development surveys of ecology / ground conditions / drainage to inform design development.

Minimising the significance of impacts through:

- Pro-active management of potential construction impacts through a CEMP
- Operational controls on hours of use / outdoor activity for noise-generating uses and siting potential noise generating uses to be distant from noise-sensitive receptors. Future development may be informed by Noise Impact Assessment to inform specific mitigations.

Mitigating impacts through:

- Defined landscape framework for development plots, emphasising strong amenity frontage supported by landscape shelterbelts/native woodlands to site boundaries and along Hareness Road.
- SuDS infrastructure should be positioned to complement landscaping and provide additional campus amenity. Where possible SuDS features should integrate into existing blue-green infrastructure and network corridors.
- Delivering high-quality of design and detailing to site development – contributing positively to character and local amenity of Altens Industrial Estate.

Compensating for impacts through

- Incorporation of tree planting and other habitat features within the soft landscaping of development plots to provide amenity and support biodiversity. Planting should include native tree species & hedgerows to support habitat connectivity.
- Incorporation of green roofs to development plots where feasible to soften visual impact of buildings and create additional roofscape habitat.
- Relevant planning policies and associated guidance to be considered in the development of future planning applications include:
- Local Development Plan Policies: NE1 (Green Belt), NE2 (Green & Blue Infrastructure), NE3 (Our Natural Heritage), NE4 (Our Water Environment), NE5 (Trees & Woodland), WB1 (Healthy Developments), WB2 (Air Quality), WB3 (Noise).
- ACC Supplementary Guidance: Landscape, Natural Heritage, Trees & Woodlands, Green Space Network and Open Space, Air Quality, Noise.



**Illustrative Concept
Floating Offshore Wind Innovation Centre with Hydrogen Hub and R&D and Support Facilities**

INDICATIVE MASTERPLAN

The masterplan layout and design principles are captured within the campus layouts for the Offshore Wind Campus. These reflect design guidance and address site constraints and opportunities along with issues and points raised during engagement with partners, stakeholders and the local community.

Development Proposals

- 1 Flexible re-purposing and retro-fit of existing building to house innovation / R&D / commercialisation facilities for the energy transition supply chain – including National Floating Wind Innovation Centre (FLOWIC).
- 2 Hydrogen Hub to be developed by BP Aberdeen Hydrogen Energy Ltd as a production and re-fuelling facility – complementing wider energy transition activity.
- 3 Flexible industrial units suitable for offshore wind and wider energy transition supply chain – benefitting from proximity to Aberdeen South Harbour and planned upgrade to Coast Road.
- 4 Flexible external areas suitable for test & demonstration activity – complementing activity with FLOWIC and/or energy transition supply chain.
- 5 Opportunities for renewal and investment of brownfield land within Altens Industrial Estate enabled by ETZ.

Strategic Mitigations & Compensations

- 6 SuDS integrated with existing blue-green infrastructure and network corridors, complementing landscaping and adding to overall site amenity.
- 7 Site boundary treatments and landscape buffers incorporating native planting and trees to ensure no loss of woodland cover, and to enhance overall campus amenity and biodiversity
- 8 Plot Landscape Frameworks across the Campus incorporating planting and landscaping within development plots to mitigate the visual impact of development and add to site biodiversity – potentially including green roofs, living walls, and other landscape features.



**Illustrative Concept
Floating Offshore Wind Innovation Centre within Existing Irvin House**



Innovation Campus

4.5 INNOVATION CAMPUS

The Innovation Campus will seek to deliver a mix of industrial / commercial typologies (offices/ workshop/ services support space) providing space for energy transition businesses to locate within the Zone and have ready access to educational and commercial partners and related services infrastructure.

Anchored by ETZ Ltd’s Energy Incubator & Scale-Up Hub and seeking to grow to other sites over time, the Campus will be targeted at smaller businesses, providing flexible industrial, workshop, and office units for innovative companies looking to start-up, expand, or diversify within energy transition sectors. It will support the growth of a renewed industrial cluster in Aberdeen that builds on existing strengths and attracts new innovations in renewable technologies, services, and manufacturing.

Development Vision

Innovation and support for new and growing business is at the core of the ETZ mission and requires the provision of space and service/enterprise support for energy transition activity that includes small start-up business to large international inward investment. ETZ will be the location for starting and growing an energy transition enterprise, providing support for commercialisation of industry applications and services. The Innovation Campus will provide the space, facilities and networks that drive this, accelerating investment and attracting smart, ambitious, entrepreneurial companies to the region.

Innovation Campus – Planning & Policy Overview

The Innovation Campus will be anchored by ETZ Ltd’s delivery of the ‘Energy Incubator & Scale-Up Hub’ (EISH) to be situated on vacant land (formerly Trafalgar House) at Hareness Road, at the centre of Altens Industrial Estate. The site and all surrounding areas with Altens which are potentially suitable for future expansion are designated as ‘Business & Employment’ land within the LDP. The EISH site benefits from two extant planning permissions:

- Detailed planning permission (210429/DPP) was granted in July 2021 for development at the western portion of the site (approximately one third), adjacent to Ian Wood House. Approved development was for: *“erection of multi-let / start-up units in Class 5 and 6 with ancillary office and associated parking, infrastructure and landscaping”*
- Planning permission in principle (210138/PPP) was granted in May 2021 for development at the eastern portion of the site. Approved development was for: *“Commercial development, Class 5 and 6 use (circa 5,000 sqm floorspace), with associated infrastructure and landscaping”*.
- **Planning permission (230371/DPP) was granted to ETZ Ltd. in August 2023 for erection of the ETZ Energy Incubator Scale-Up Hub on the western portion of the site, comprising two single storey ‘Scale-Up Unit’ workshop / warehouse buildings and a two storey ‘Collaboration Hub’ and workshop building.**

POLICY	Summary Extract
Policy B1	<p><i>“Land zoned for business and industrial uses on the Proposals Map, including already developed land, shall be retained for Class 4 (Business), Class 5 (General Industrial) and Class 6 (Storage and Distribution) uses and safeguarded from other conflicting development types.</i></p> <p>...</p> <p><i>New business and industrial land proposals shall make provision for areas of recreational and amenity open space, areas of strategic landscaping, areas of wildlife value and footpaths, in accordance with the Open Space Strategy and any approved non-statutory planning guidance, planning briefs or masterplans”</i></p>



Local Development Plan (LDP)



**Illustrative Concept
Innovation Campus with Serviced Offices, Flexible Workspace, R&D and Support Services**

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Site Opportunities & Constraints

The site of the former Trafalgar House is cleared brownfield land with few constraints to flexible / multi-user industrial development supporting energy transition activity. Site boundaries are well defined relative to surrounding industrial users and Hareness Road from which the site is accessed via a roundabout (shared with Ian Wood House to the west).

The EISH site is centrally located within Altens Industrial Estate. In close proximity to this site and across the wider area there are a number of brownfield investment opportunities for future expansion to form a multi-site Campus.

Opportunities	Constraints
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cleared brownfield site suitable for industrial redevelopment – flexible configuration / layout for multi-let. • Direct access to Hareness Road and key movement corridor. • Situated at the heart of Altens Industrial Estate in a prominent and accessible location. Strong ‘anchor’ to support future growth of Campus to other sites. • Landscape / amenity frontage to site onto Hareness Road. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing residential unit located opposite on Hareness Road. • Potential for contaminated land associated with former industrial use.

Investment & Development Proposition

The Innovation Campus seeks to provide flexible business space suitable for industrial, R&D, commercial energy transition activity in a highly accessible location, alongside targeted enterprise and business support from institutional partners. The main components of the Campus are anticipated to include:



- Priority development of the EISH on Hareness Road as the key ‘anchor’ investment in the Campus. Over time and as the Energy Transition Zone (and operators within it) matures, the Campus will grow and diversify. It will seek to incorporate additional brownfield land within Altens and East Tullos to provide a multi-site enterprise cluster with a greater mix and flexibility of units that can act as ‘grow-on’ space.


- Flexible industrial / commercial units across a range of sizes - allowing for companies looking for flexible office / hot-desk arrangements, up to medium-scale workshop / dry lab units for companies directly involved in technology development and supply chain services. Provision of a central ‘hub’ providing common facilities including conference / meeting space, café, networking, test & demo technologies (3d printing, VR).
- On-site presence from institutional and academic partners to provide on-site mentoring and support to businesses and facilitate the creation of pathways from R&D, to test & demonstration, to commercialisation, to scale-up. The EISH will be delivered and managed by ETZ Ltd in partnership with Scottish Enterprise, Net Zero Technology Centre (NZTC) and National Manufacturing Institute Scotland (NMIS), with NMIS operating a satellite facility within. Partnering arrangements are also proposed with University of Aberdeen and Robert Gordon University. In combination these partners will offer integrated technical and wider enterprise / commercial support to growing businesses to complement the physical accommodation and facilities within the Campus.
- Close integration and connection to facilities within other Campuses across ETZ including Hydrogen Test & Demonstration Facility and National Floating Wind Innovation Centre (FLOWIC) to provide opportunities for cross-collaboration and supply-chain growth, as well as connections to wider research and academic institutions that are driving net zero innovation across the region such as NESAs and OreCatapult.

Development Guidance

The Masterplan Development Guidance relates to the anchor development of the EISH at the former Trafalgar House site, comprising a total area of approximately 2.56 hectares situated on the north side of Hareness Road. It is anticipated that this may be delivered in two phases, to enable the facility (and businesses therein) to become established and then grow in scale over time.

Future growth of the Campus to additional sites will adhere to the same principles, with a focus on sustainable redevelopment of brownfield land for flexible industrial use suitable for start-up / SME / innovator companies and complementing wider ETZ investment programmes.

<p>Land Use</p> 	<p>Land use within the Innovation Campus should predominantly comprise flexible Class 5 (General Industrial) and Class 6 (Storage or Distribution), reflecting a mix of start-up / SME / innovator companies in the energy transition supply chain. Complementary Class 4 (Business / Light Industrial) uses may be provided, providing flexible / shared workspace environment as well as housing common amenities and facilities for occupiers of the Campus.</p> <p>It is anticipated that a first phase of the Campus will develop on the western portion of the site, providing up to 3,000 sqm in line with extant planning permission 210429/DPP. Development should be distributed across blocks providing multi-let industrial / commercial units in a mix of sizes / typologies.</p> <p>Future / later-phase expansion of the Campus may incorporate land to the east. Development should maintain parameters establish by extant Planning Permission in Principle (210138/PPP) for circa 5,000 sqm floorspace.</p> <p>Relevant planning policies and associated guidance to be considered in the development of future planning applications include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Development Plan Policies: B1 (Business & Industrial Land)
<p>Design Quality</p> 	<p>Development within the Innovation Campus should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a coherent and structured Campus layout with high-quality amenity, landscaping and frontages that enhance place quality on Hareness Road. Ensure development integrates with local landscape and townscape character. Building heights should follow principles established within the current planning permissions, providing 2-3 storey commercial and industrial units. Develop a signage strategy for the Campus integrated/referenced with wider Hareness Road signage and ETZ branding. Provide for sustainable development that minimises resource use and total energy demand through passive and active measures, and where feasible integrate renewable energy technologies within development. Create flexible development units that respond to market requirements and offer flexibility of tenure/licensing for small and growing businesses. <p>Relevant planning policies and associated guidance to be considered in the development of future planning applications include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Development Plan Policies: D1 (Quality Placemaking), D2 (Amenity), D4 (Landscape), D5 (Landscape Design), R6 (Low and Zero Carbon Buildings). ACC Supplementary Guidance: Landscape, Resources for New Development

<p>Transport & Connectivity</p> 	<p>Development within the Innovation Campus should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create safe and attractive routes for walking and cycling across the area - ensuring active travel routes link to employment sites and make connections to wider Core Path and leisure path networks. This should include positive integration with planned upgrade to active travel routes / connections on Hareness Road. Take principal access from Hareness Road, via the existing roundabout junction which currently serves the site. Specific design requirements to be agreed in consultation with ACC Roads & Highways and integrate with planned upgrades to Hareness Road. Consider potential for delivery of a new priority access junction to the east of the roundabout that may be introduced to support larger vehicle access to the site (as per the current planning permission). Support Active Travel integration with covered and secured cycle parking facilities, along with car parking in accordance with ACC Standards (including EV Charging to support low-carbon journeys). Provide adequate areas within the site for loading / servicing for industrial / commercial occupiers. <p>Relevant planning policies and associated guidance to be considered in the development of future planning applications include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Development Plan Policies: T1 (Land for Transport), T2 (Sustainable Transport), T3 (Parking). ACC Supplementary Guidance: Transport & Accessibility.
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Infrastructure



Development within the Innovation Campus should:

- Allow for ducting and wayleaves as appropriate to future-proof development connections to potential utility and renewable energy networks which may emerge within ETZ.
- Ensure that development incorporates measures for treatment of surface water drainage and to minimise the risk of flooding – through combination of permeable surfaces, soakaways, and other SuDS features (as appropriate / required).

Relevant planning policies and associated guidance to be considered in the development of future planning applications include:

- Local Development Plan Policies: R6 (Low and Zero-Carbon Buildings), R7 (Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Developments), R8 (Heat Networks), NE4 (Our Water Environment).
- ACC Supplementary Guidance: Flooding, Drainage & Water Quality, Resources for New Development.



Vacant Business & Employment allocated land at the centre of Altens Industrial Estate – suitable for a mix of industrial typologies to support growing energy transition businesses.



Development should seek to provide landscape frontage that enhances the amenity and place-quality on Hareness Road.

Landscape & Environment



The Innovation Campus is situated on brownfield land within the Altens Industrial Estate, with limited potential for direct impacts to sensitive environmental receptors or local landscape. Development should nonetheless be designed and delivered to ensure that any potential for impacts is minimised in accordance with the mitigation hierarchy. Where possible it should incorporate enhancements to the local environment, including integration with environmental projects in the Community & Energy Coast Programme and contributing to the overall net gain of biodiversity across the masterplan area.

The principles of environmental mitigation that all development within the Innovation Campus should follow will include:

The principles of environmental mitigation that all development within the Innovation Campus should follow will include:

Avoiding impacts through

- Development within designated Employment Land allocations and outside of Green Belt / Green Network areas and well removed from sensitive receptors.
- Productive re-use / redevelopment of vacant brownfield land.
- Completion of comprehensive pre-development surveys of ground conditions / drainage to inform design development.

Minimising the significance of impacts through:

- Pro-active management of potential construction impacts through a CEMP.
- Operational controls on hours of use / outdoor activity for noise-generating uses (as appropriate) and siting potential noise generating uses to be distant from noise-sensitive receptors.

Mitigating impacts through:

- Defined landscape framework for the site emphasising strong amenity frontage supported by landscape shelterbelts/native planting to site boundaries. Development should maintain and seek to enhance existing set-backs from Hareness Road – providing landscape buffer with opportunities for planting.
- Opportunities for landscaping within the site forecourt / parking areas should also be considered to sub-divide areas and define boundaries.
- Delivering high-quality of design and detailing to site development – contributing positively to character and local amenity of Altens Industrial Estate.

Compensating for impacts through

- Incorporation of tree planting and other habitat features within the soft landscaping of development plots to provide amenity and support biodiversity. Planting should include native tree species & hedgerows to support habitat connectivity.
- Incorporation of green roofs to development plots where possible to soften visual impact of buildings and create additional roofscape habitat.

Relevant planning policies and associated guidance to be considered in the development of future planning applications include:

- Local Development Plan: NE2 (Green & Blue Infrastructure), NE3 (Our NE4 (Our Water Environment), NE5 (Trees & Woodland), WB1 (Healthy Developments), WB2 (Air Quality), WB3 (Noise).
- ACC Supplementary Guidance: Landscape, Air Quality, Noise.



Illustrative Concept
Innovation Campus with Serviced Offices, Flexible Workspace, R&D and Support Services

INDICATIVE MASTERPLAN

The masterplan layout and design principles are captured within the campus layouts for the Innovation Campus. These reflect design guidance and address site constraints and opportunities along with issues and points raised during engagement with partners, stakeholders and the local community.

Development Proposals

- 1 Flexible industrial units in mix of sizes and typologies suitable for start-up and innovator companies operating in energy transition supply chain.
- 2 Office / R&D / flexible workspace with shared amenities and on-site support services for growing energy transition companies – incorporating conference / meeting space, café, networking, test & demonstration technologies.
- 3 Defined areas for car / cycle parking and servicing – including adequate capacity for loading / servicing for industrial and commercial occupiers.
- 4 Principal site access from Hareness Road, via the existing roundabout junction which currently serves the sites. Specific design requirements to be agreed in consultation with ACC Roads and integrate with planned active travel upgrades to Hareness Road.

Strategic Mitigations & Compensations

- 5 Development set back from Hareness Road creating well defined and attractive frontage, supported by landscaping and planting to enhance overall site amenity and add to biodiversity within Altens Industrial Estate.
- 6 Landscape Frameworks for the Campus incorporating planting and landscaping within site forecourt and parking areas to sub-divide and define boundaries and contribute to overall enhancement of biodiversity. Built development may also incorporate landscape measures potentially including green roofs, living walls to soften the visual impact of development and create additional habitat.



Illustrative Concept
Innovation Campus with Serviced Offices, Flexible Workspace, R&D and Support Services



Skills Campus

4.6 SKILLS CAMPUS

Essential to the long-term success of the Energy Transition Zone will be providing leading-edge education and training infrastructure that can support and enhance the existing local skills base in Aberdeen and renew its position as a global leader in the energy sector for the 21st century. To facilitate this the masterplan includes proposals for a Skills Campus, to provide specialist and purpose-designed facilities for education and skills development around energy transition technologies and industries.

Development Vision
The Skills Campus sits at the heart of the Energy Transition Zone, clustered around a core formed by the existing NESCoI Campus. Through ETZ investment and partnership working it will provide new bespoke education & training facilities for net zero, utilising brownfield land for development of an Advanced Manufacturing Skills Hub (AMSH) aiming to accelerate the next generation of supply-chain skills and knowledge for Aberdeen. The facility will be fully accessible to the community as a net zero hub offering flexible spaces suitable for a range of learning and networking activities, as well as widening access to training & re-skilling opportunities.

Skills Campus – Planning & Policy Overview
 The Skills Campus is situated on brownfield land at Hareness Road, at the centre of Altens Industrial Estate. The existing building (Former Muller Dairies site) is in industrial use. The site and all surrounding areas are designated as ‘Business & Employment’ land within the LDP.

Planning permission (210775/DPP) was granted in September 2021 for “erection of extension to form cold store / dispatch area”, though the development has not been initiated.

A planning application (231098/DPP) was submitted in September 2023 for change of use of the existing building from Class 6 (Distribution Centre) to Class 10 (Educational Facilities) along with external alternations and associated parking and landscaping.

POLICY	Summary Extract
Policy B1 	<p>“Land zoned for business and industrial uses on the Proposals Map, including already developed land, shall be retained for Class 4 (Business), Class 5 (General Industrial) and Class 6 (Storage and Distribution) uses and safeguarded from other conflicting development types.</p> <p>...</p> <p>New business and industrial land proposals shall make provision for areas of recreational and amenity open space, areas of strategic landscaping, areas of wildlife value and footpaths, in accordance with the Open Space Strategy and any approved non-statutory planning guidance, planning briefs or masterplans”</p>



Local Development Plan (LDP)



Illustrative Concept
Skills Campus providing specialist and purpose-designed facilities for education and skills

Site Opportunities & Constraints

The site is under-utilised brownfield land with few constraints to redevelopment and/or extension for development to support energy transition. Site boundaries are well defined relative to surrounding industrial users and Hareness Road / Minto Avenue from which the site is accessed.

The existing NESCol Campus is situated immediately to the east providing strong opportunity for co-located activity and a strong cluster of education and skills activity that complements the industrial function within Altens.

Opportunities	Constraints
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brownfield site suitable for industrial redevelopment / extension • Co-location to NESCol Altens Campus • Net zero retro-fit of existing industrial building for energy-efficiency. • Direct access to Hareness Road and key movement corridor • Situated at the heart of Altens Industrial Estate in a prominent and accessible location. • Landscape / amenity frontage to site onto Hareness Road. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential for contaminated land associated with former industrial use.

Investment & Development Proposition

NESCol Altens Campus is in the heart of the Energy Transition Zone, though is currently an understated facility in terms of its visible presence to Hareness Road especially, and in its wider connection to local communities, or to surrounding industrial users in the energy sector. The Skills Campus seeks to create a new cluster around NESCol, providing renewed opportunities for extension of its facilities and opportunities for enhanced skills and training.

The College’s current facilities are geared towards traditional engineering, automotive and construction skills. Opportunities to expand the College’s offering of training facilities are limited by the current configuration. In the face of changing technologies, increasing automation, and transition to net zero carbon there is a need to refresh and extend facilities to provide future student cohorts with more modern and advanced training in engineering trades, manufacturing, and service sectors that meet the needs of a changing energy industry.

The creation of a purpose-developed skills and training facility , extending space available to NESCol may also allow for the provision of new courses / training programmes within existing buildings, potentially tailored towards future trades / skills associated with energy transition such as electric vehicle maintenance, and domestic technology upgrades such as heat pump installation, hydrogen boilers, and new insulation techniques.

Alongside the new-build elements of the Skills Campus, the masterplan therefore supports longer-term enhancement and renewal of the existing NESCol facilities, to improve the student experience and to give a stronger profile and visual connection to Hareness Road frontage against which one of the Campus’ main blocks is sited.

Through development of the new-build elements of the Skills Campus, the masterplan supports and seeks to facilitate longer-term enhancement and renewal of the adjacent NESCol facilities. This will be led by NESCol and will consider opportunities to provide a stronger profile and visual connection to Hareness Road frontage against which one of the Campus’ main blocks is sited. Through future investment there is potential for NESCol to further strengthen its role as an ‘anchor’ institution within the ETZ, and to form a key part of the corridor on Hareness Road that provides facilities for innovation, skills development, and commercialisation around energy transition.



Illustrative Concept
Skills Campus providing specialist and purpose-designed facilities for education and skills

Advanced Manufacture Skills Hub

Extending and adding to the existing NESCol facilities, the core project within the Skills Campus is the development of an Advanced Manufacturing Skills Hub (AMSH) to be situated on land adjacent to NESCol at Hareness Road. The AMSH is proposed to be developed through adaptive re-use and extension of an existing building and associated brownfield land, adopting Circular Economy principles and minimising its environmental impact. It will form an effective extension to the current NESCol facilities and provide new capabilities to grow and sustain the skills base within the Energy Transition Zone.

While continuing to be developed as a detailed project, it is anticipated that the AMSH will include the following facilities and features:

- Flexible teaching and demonstration space with equipment showcasing future green technologies and skills to students, visitors and the community.
- Welding & Fabrication Academy – modernised workshop facilities showcasing innovative practices, flexible welding booths, augmented reality welding zone for students and commercial clients. Key skill which will be in demand as offshore wind construction accelerates through 2020's and 2030's.
- Model “industrial lab” concept – in the form for a mobile manufacturing skills lab to engage regional schools in STEM subjects, demonstrate clean-fuel technologies.
- Advanced manufacturing demonstrator equipment including laser scanning, 3d printing, and remote-controlled robotics.
- Next-gen’ teaching including virtual reality / artificial intelligence to support advanced manufacturing processes and skills needed for the energy transition.
- The space will also support mobile manufacturing skills lab that can be used to extend the facility’s reach by visiting local schools to promote clean fuel technologies and energy sector careers.

Design and delivery of the building will also explore opportunities to provide net zero ‘exemplar’ development in terms of configuration, circular economy construction, and energy efficiency, including on-site renewable energy generation (wind / solar), battery storage , and potential for future hydrogen integration.



The facility will be open and accessible to the local community, with flexible space available for use by local groups for a range of activities and events that could include Men’s Sheds, local craft / activity groups, or simply as a meeting space for local organisations. While principally an educational facility, it is intended to be used throughout evenings and weekends, to make full use of its potential to support social and ‘third-sector’ activities around net zero, health & wellbeing, and community cohesion.


The future operation of the Skills Hub is to be led by NESCol as an extension of their existing facilities, while also extending local accessibility to programmes promoting upskilling and reskilling. NESCol will operate in collaboration and partnership with specialist institutions such as National Manufacturing Institute Scotland (NMIS), National Energy Skills Accelerator (NESA), Engineering Construction Industry Training Board (ECITB), Offshore Petroleum Industry Training Organisation (OPITO), as well as industry partners seeking to support specific training cohorts which can lead to direct employment opportunities for students. This will support delivery of a specialised curriculum so that students are trained in the skills required for energy transition employment, as well as ensuring that there is a skilled local workforce that meets the needs of offshore wind, hydrogen, and wider renewables sectors.

The Skills Campus will strengthen the profile and capacity for engagement for NESCol as the key education and training asset within the ETZ, in particular with the community and local industrial sectors. It will support career pathways within ETZ for young people, providing access to applied education and skills development opportunities that are directly relevant to energy transition and the changing face of the energy sector.

Development Guidance

Retain and support the extension of existing education and training facilities. Support new development and renewal / regeneration of currently under-utilised land around Hareness Road and Minto Avenue where this provides additional education and training facilities for energy transition / net zero activity. Extensions and amendments to existing buildings to enhance the provision of education and training facilities are also supported where these enhance the character and townscape of the area and incorporate high-quality materials.

<p>Land Use</p> 	<p>Land use within the Skills Campus should seek to extend and complement the existing uses within NESCol’s Altens Campus. It should provide facilities for practical training and skills development in energy transition and associated sectors –supporting the industrial cluster at Altens and around Aberdeen South Harbour. This should principally comprise Class 10 (Non-residential institution), and potential elements of ancillary Class 4 (Business), purpose developed and operated as an educational facility.</p> <p>New facilities should be accessible and available for use by the community, with operation seeking to facilitate evening and weekend use for local groups / activities.</p> <p>Relevant planning policies and associated guidance to be considered in the development of future planning applications include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Development Plan Policies: B1 (Business & Industrial Land).
<p>Design Quality</p> 	<p>Development within the Skills Campus should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regenerate and re-purpose existing building(s) on the site in line with the principles of Circular Economy and sustainable design. This may include adaptive re-use and enhancement of existing building fabric, and extension to create space for new facilities. Create strong street frontages including site landscape and amenity features, enhancing the place quality on Hareness Road and shaping a defined Campus identity that positively complements existing NESCol Campus. Incorporate signage / wayfinding for the Campus and educational facilities therein – complementing wider Hareness Road signage and ETZ branding. Design for multi-purpose, flexible and adaptable buildings that can serve wide range of training / teaching / educational uses and suitable for wider community functions. Provide for sustainable development that minimises resource use and total energy demand through passive and active measures, and where feasible integrate renewable energy technologies within development. <p>Relevant planning policies and associated guidance to be considered in the development of future planning applications include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Development Plan Policies: D1 (Quality Placemaking), D2 (Amenity), D4 (Landscape), D5 (Landscape Design), R6 (Low and Zero Carbon Buildings). ACC Supplementary Guidance: Landscape, Resources for New Development.

<p>Transport & Connectivity</p> 	<p>Development within the Skills Campus should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create safe and attractive routes for walking and cycling across the area - ensuring active travel routes link to employment sites and make connections to wider Core Path and leisure path networks. This should include positive integration with planned upgrade to active travel routes / connections on Hareness Road. Take principal accesses from Hareness Road / Minto Avenue, via existing junctions which serve the site. Any proposed amendment to site access / junctions should be agreed in consultation with ACC Roads & Highways and integrate with planned upgrades to Hareness Road. Support Active Travel integration with covered and secured cycle parking facilities, along with car parking in accordance with ACC Standards (including EV Charging to support low-carbon journeys). Provide adequate areas within the site for servicing of the development. Opportunities for external areas within the site to be utilised for clustering of food & drink vans and other mobile/ temporary uses that add to the amenity and place-quality of Altens should be explored given the sites location at the heart of the Estate and adjacency to NESCol. <p>Relevant planning policies and associated guidance to be considered in the development of future planning applications include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Development Plan Policies: T1 (Land for Transport), T2 (Sustainable Transport), T3 (Parking). ACC Supplementary Guidance: Transport & Accessibility.
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Development should complement the existing NESCol Campus in Altens.

Infrastructure



Development within the Skills Campus should:

- Allow for ducting and wayleaves as appropriate to future-proof development connections to potential utility and renewable energy networks which may emerge within ETZ.
- Ensure that development incorporates measures for treatment of surface water drainage and to minimise the risk of flooding – through combination of permeable surfaces, soakaways, and other SuDS features (as appropriate / required).

Relevant planning policies and associated guidance to be considered in the development of future planning applications include:

- Local Development Plan Policies: R6 (Low and Zero-Carbon Buildings), R7 (Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Developments), R8 (Heat Networks), NE4 (Our Water Environment).
- ACC Supplementary Guidance: Flooding, Drainage & Water Quality, Resources for New Development.



Development should seek to enhance the frontage to Hareness Road and integrate with planned active travel measures.



Industrial land at the heart of Altens with potential for net-zero focused retro-fit and re-purposing to provide new skills & training facilities.

Landscape & Environment



The Skills Campus is situated on brownfield land within the Altens Industrial Estate, with limited potential for direct impacts to sensitive environmental receptors or local landscape. Development should nonetheless be designed and delivered to ensure that any potential for impacts is minimised in accordance with the mitigation hierarchy. Where possible it should incorporate enhancements to the local environment, including integration with environmental projects in the Community & Energy Coast Programme and contributing to the overall net gain of biodiversity across the masterplan area.

The principles of environmental mitigation that all development within the Innovation Campus should follow will include:

Avoiding impacts through

- Development within designated Employment Land allocations and outside of Green Belt / Green Network areas and well removed from sensitive receptors.
- Productive re-use / redevelopment of vacant brownfield land.
- Completion of comprehensive pre-development surveys of ground conditions / drainage to inform design development.

Minimising the significance of impacts through:

- Pro-active management of potential construction impacts through a Construction & Environmental Management Plan (CEMP).
- Operational controls on hours of use / outdoor activity for noise-generating uses (as appropriate). and siting potential noise generating uses to be distant from noise-sensitive receptors.

Mitigating impacts through:

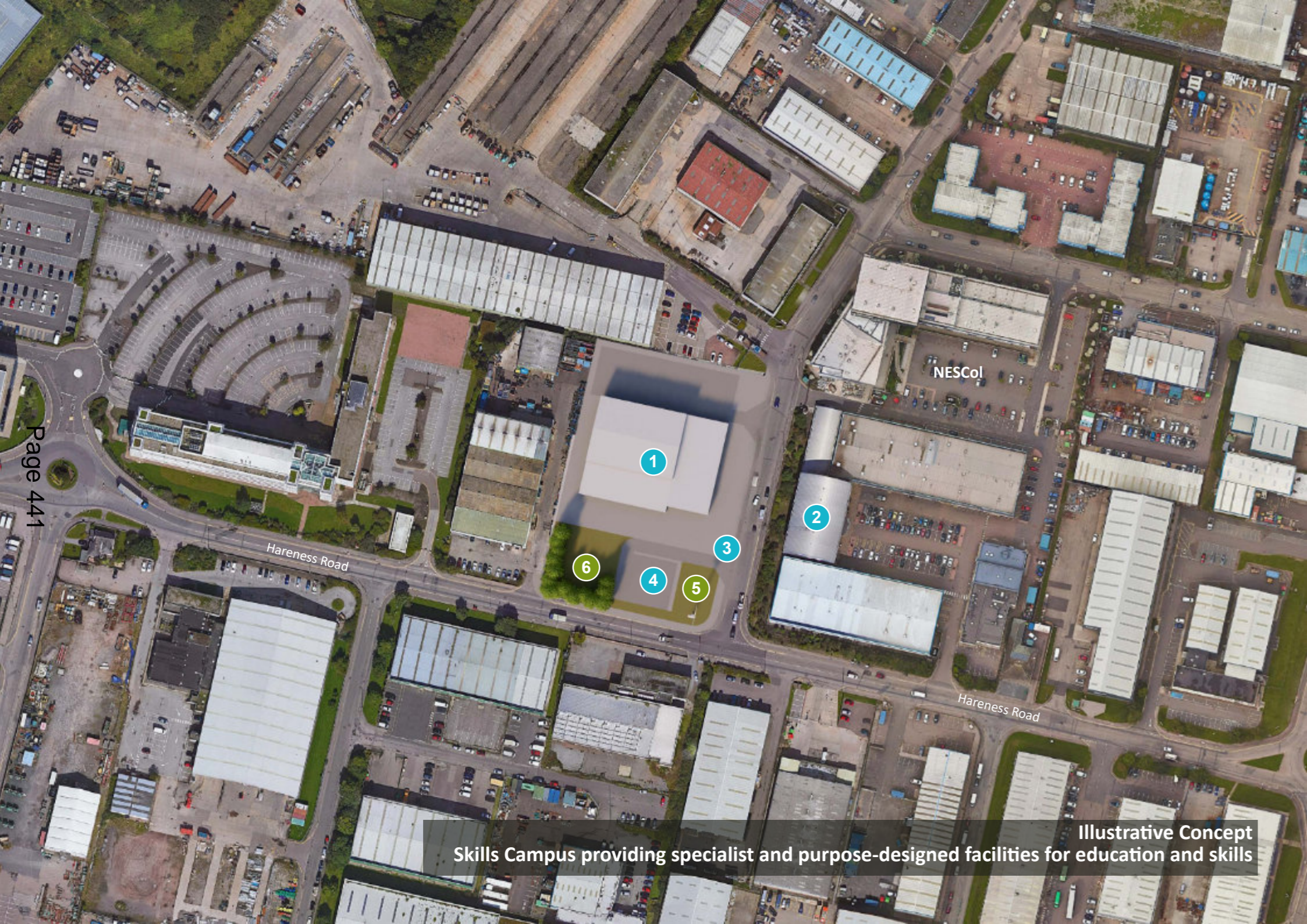
- Defined landscape framework for the site with a strong amenity frontage supported by landscape shelterbelts/native planting to site boundaries and along Hareness Road / Minto Avenue boundaries. Development should maintain and seek to enhance existing set-backs from Hareness Road – providing landscape buffer with opportunities for planting.
- Opportunities for landscaping within the site forecourt / parking areas should also be considered to sub-divide areas and define boundaries.
- Delivering high-quality of design and detailing to site development – contributing positively to character and local amenity of Altens Industrial Estate.

Compensating for impacts through

- Incorporation of tree planting and other habitat features within the soft landscaping of development to provide amenity and support biodiversity. Planting should include native tree species & hedgerows to support habitat connectivity and add to the amenity of Altens Industrial Estate.
- Incorporation of green roofs to development where possible to soften visual impact of buildings and create additional roofscape habitat.

Relevant planning policies and associated guidance to be considered in the development of future planning applications include:

- Local Development Plan: NE2 (Green & Blue Infrastructure), NE3 (Our NE4 (Our Water Environment), NE5 (Trees & Woodland), WB1 (Healthy Developments), WB2 (Air Quality), WB3 (Noise).
- ACC Supplementary Guidance: Landscape, Air Quality, Noise.



INDICATIVE MASTERPLAN

The masterplan layout and design principles are illustrated within the campus layouts for the Skills Campus. The site of the proposed Advanced Manufacturing Skills Hub comprises a total site area of approximately 1 hectare, situated on the north side of Hareness Road, with the existing NESCol Campus on the opposite side of Minto Avenue forming the remainder of the Campus.

Development Proposals

- 1 Advanced Manufacturing Skills Hub (AMSH) – re-purposing and retro-fitting vacant and under-utilised building in line with Circular Economy principles to provide a new centre for training and skills development around energy transition.
- 2 Existing NESCol Campus to which AMSH will form an effective extension, strengthening the profile and capacity of NESCol as the key education and training asset within the ETZ.
- 3 Principal site access from Hareness Road / Minto Avenue, via the existing entrance to the site. Specific design requirements to be agreed in consultation with ACC Roads and integrate with planned active travel upgrades to Hareness Road.
- 4 Under-utilised land within the sites provides opportunity for clustering of food & drink and other temporary/mobile uses that add to Campus quality and amenity at heart of Altens – subject to further review with ACC and operators.

Strategic Mitigations & Compensations

- 5 Development set back from Hareness Road creating well defined and attractive frontage, supported by landscaping and planting to enhance overall site amenity and add to biodiversity within Altens Industrial Estate.
- 6 Landscape Frameworks for the Campus incorporating planting and landscaping within site forecourt and parking areas to sub-divide and define boundaries and contribute to overall enhancement of biodiversity. Built development may also incorporate landscape measures potentially including green roofs, living walls to soften the visual impact of development and create additional habitat.

Illustrative Concept
Skills Campus providing specialist and purpose-designed facilities for education and skills

Torry

East Tullos
Industrial Estate

Aberdeen
South Harbour

Tullos Hill

Altens
Industrial Estate

05

Supporting Infrastructure

Long-term sustainable development across the ETZ area will require a range of enabling infrastructures to underpin place-making. As well as supporting development activity, infrastructure should positively contribute to wider qualities of Successful Places such as adapting to climate change, restoring biodiversity loss, improving health & well-being, and maintaining an active local economy.

The supporting infrastructure will help create a more sustainable, liveable and productive place and provide the basis from which economic, community, and environmental projects can be delivered across the Zone. It includes functional infrastructures such as road networks and connections, rail freight opportunities, low-carbon energy, utilities and services, as well Local Place infrastructures such as community facilities, habitat connectivity, active travel routes, and greenspace enhancements which ETZ is seeking to directly invest in through the 'Community & Energy Coast' programme.

5.1 BROWNFIELD LAND RENEWAL

ETZ are developing a major Brownfield Land Development programme across Altens and East Tullos Industrial Estates. ETZ's commitment to the circular economy starts with the maximising the value of existing allocated industrial land assets and ensuring brownfield land is prioritised and brought back into use.

The priorities are:

- Address the principals of the Circular Economy.
- Prioritise Brownfield Land for redevelopment.
- Support the re-development and re-purposing of existing buildings.
- Upgrading buildings to higher specification / Low Carbon / Energy Efficiency.
- Develop a portfolio of market-ready sites and buildings.

Brownfield land redevelopment helps support renewal of industrial land assets, strengthens place quality, safeguard and restore natural assets, promote re-use of vacant / derelict land and buildings and ensure the approach to development focuses has both a strong place and net zero focus. The re-use of vacant sites also provides opportunities to support restoration of environmental assets through enhanced biodiversity and habitat development as well as assisting in mitigating and adapting to the effects of climate change.

The programme is seeking to acquire or and/or invest with partners to redevelop land and buildings and ensure a portfolio of sites and buildings to meet a range of needs is available within the ETZ. The programme provides for:

- ETZ / landowner collaboration and investment to renew brownfield land and raise quality / profile of Altens and East Tullos Industrial Estates as key destinations for energy transition industries.
- Progressive site upgrading and the re-positioning of existing industrial land and building assets within Altens and East Tullos Industrial Estates to provide market-ready buildings that provide modern occupier requirements and are suitable for energy transition users.
- Building refurbishment will incorporate circular economy principles, promoting energy-efficiency improvements and take advantage of opportunities to generate low-carbon energy through roof-top solar panels and other renewables.
- Developing across the portfolio of new build and refurbished buildings a Net Zero Building Exemplar (Base: Standards Compliant/ Low Carbon: Upgrade Energy Efficiency / Net Zero: Full Building Retrofit Exemplar) as a demonstrator of energy efficiency/low carbon building refurbishment.
- Advancement of a number of Pilot Projects including buildings such as former Irvin House (W-Zero-1) and at Minto Avenue (W-Zero-2), Hareness Rd, Greenwell Rd and Peterseat Drive.
- Supporting as a priority brownfield land redevelopment and brownfield renewal across the ETZ masterplan area and maximising its potential as an industrial base for Aberdeen's energy transition and supply chain.
- Seeking to add stronger amenity and place-quality to Altens and East Tullos as business destinations – working with Aberdeen City Council and landowners to actively enhance key frontages, boundaries, property assets and signage.
- Working with Partners to support development common service facilities within the Hareness Road Corridor, including a potential Mobility Hub to integrate with local public transport, and to facilitate better management of food and beverage vans.

5.2 ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE

Transport connectivity for Aberdeen South Harbour, ETZ sites and local industrial has been subject to detailed Transport Assessments (STAG Appraisals) to ensure appropriate access between the strategic road network, harbour and proposed ETZ area.

These studies build on the ongoing Wellington Road Multi-modal Corridor Study and set out a preferred option for the Coast Road Upgrade (Wellington Road to Aberdeen South Harbour).

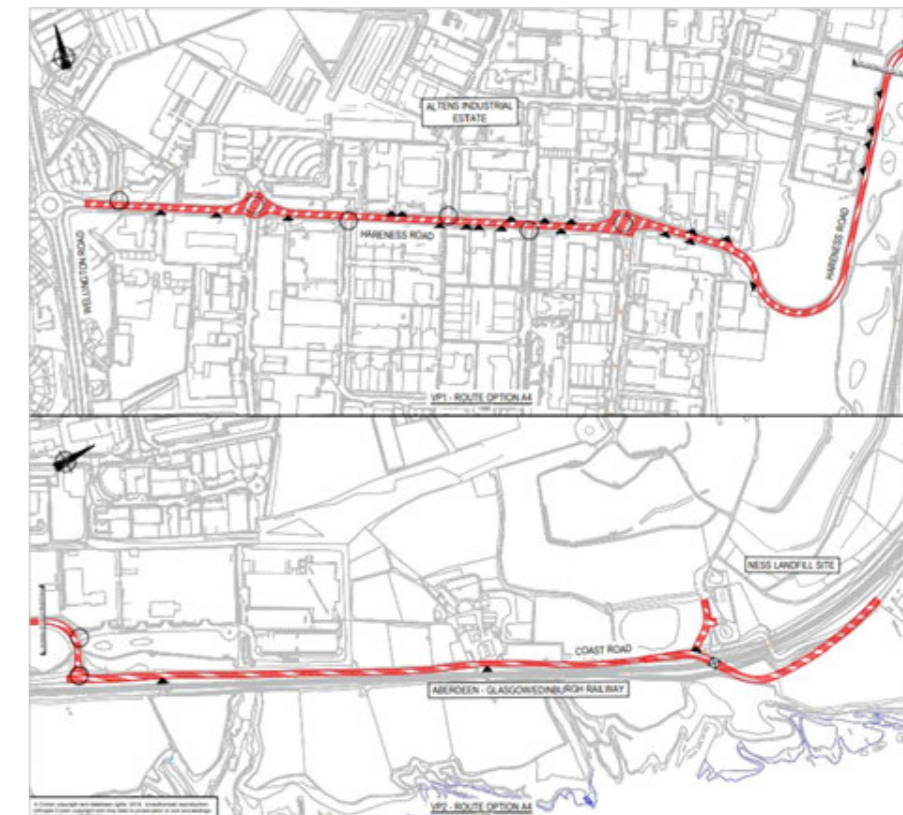
Essential to realising the full potential of development within ETZ will be the development of high-quality transport accessibility (marine/ rail/ road including integrated active travel) connecting the Aberdeen South Harbour, and all sites within the Zone. The proposals within the masterplan build on the ongoing Wellington Road Multi-modal Corridor Study and Coast Road Upgrade (Wellington Road to Aberdeen South Harbour) studies.

Within specific Campuses, the Masterplan has also identified opportunities where ETZ and Partners can actively invest in new infrastructure that will complement committed projects and create a highly connected and accessible net zero industrial cluster.

Planned road infrastructure enhancements within the Masterplan area are:

Hareness Road & Coast Road

The Coast Road is the key access route to Aberdeen South Harbour from the A956 / A92 / A90, as well as connecting the LDP Opportunity Sites (OP56 /OP61/ OP62) and brownfield land within Altens. It is the primary vehicle movement corridor for the Masterplan and key sites within.



External Transportation Links to Aberdeen South Harbour (Updated Strategic Business Case – August 2021). Preliminary Feasibility Design Study for preferred Option – showing extent of potential works with key junctions and access on the existing route, and indicative railway bridge crossing

ACC are currently progressing through design stages and detailed options assessment for a full upgrade of the Coast Road and Hareness Road (known as ‘External Transport Links to Aberdeen South Harbour’). The project scope includes replacement of the existing signalised rail bridge crossing to address constrained horizontal geometry and limited accessibility for larger / wider abnormal loads, as well as improving journey times.

The upgraded Coast Road will therefore enable full accessibility to Aberdeen South Harbour including for freight transport and form the primary access route for vehicle movements to/from the Harbour, ensuring that freight movement through nearby communities in Torry and Balnagask is minimised.

The upgraded route will incorporate active travel measures – with dedicated footway and cycleway provision on sections of Hareness Road and Coast Road to strengthen low-carbon connectivity across the area.

While subject to ongoing design and detailed technical appraisal of route options, it is anticipated that the upgrade works will be completed in 2026-2027. ETZ Ltd and future Partners will continue to engage with ACC Roads to ensure alignment of works programmes and coordination of design and delivery through the Coast Road corridor.

Wellington Road – Multi-Modal Corridor

Wellington Road is currently the primary traffic route into Aberdeen and the Masterplan Area from the south. Issues of traffic congestion, air quality, and lack of walking / cycling accessibility have been identified. The northern section of the Wellington Road, from Balnagask Road to Victoria Bridge, is designated as an Air Quality Management Area.

In addition to the Coast Road upgrade works, ACC have preliminarily identified a programme of improvement works to Wellington Road, to support multi-modal accessibility across the corridor from the A92 junction to Wellington Bridge. The Project has progressed through STAG 1 & 2 and recommended a package of works including cycleways, bus lanes, pedestrian crossings to enable greater use of the corridor by multiple modes of transport. The project will support efficient freight movement to / from Aberdeen South Harbour and the ETZ, and positively complements the development of a fully accessible energy transition and industrial cluster.

Recommended works include conversion of Hareness Road roundabout to a signalised junction with integrated pedestrian and cycle crossing facilities. More detailed options appraisal and technical design work (including OBC/FBC) is to be undertaken to further define the scope of the project and a programme for delivery.

In addition to road infrastructure works planned by ACC, the Masterplan has identified potential delivery of new roads to enable development and strengthen connectivity within the area.

Coast Road Re-Alignment (Marine Gateway) – Within the Marine Gateway, the option of re-aligning a section of the Coast Road situated between St Fittick’s Park and Aberdeen South Harbour is identified. A re-alignment of the road in-land to cross a section of the park (within OP56 / OP62 Opportunity Sites) would segregate port activity from local travel and transport movement and create a long-term secure boundary to all port activity. The re-aligned road would incorporate full active travel provision to maintain Core Path and National Cycle Routes through the area. Further detailed design must consider and ensure coordination of the following (in consultation with ACC, Nestrans, and Port of Aberdeen):

- Design Manual for Roads and Bridges and National Roads Development Guide (SCOTS) standards and ensuring appropriate horizontal / vertical alignments for expected traffic volumes and vehicle loads.
- Accesses to/from Aberdeen South Harbour and ensuring freight / abnormal load vehicle movements are directed southbound from the Harbour.

- Maintaining accessibility of buses to Aberdeen South Harbour and integrating with bus stop / turning areas within the Harbour.
- Provision of lay-by parking and potential for EV charging within re-aligned section of the road facilitating access for recreational users and people of limited mobility.
- Provision of dedicated footway and cycleways and connection to existing active travel routes through the area.
- Provision of road lighting and signage.
- Boundary treatments and landscaping within the road corridor, with particular regard to the setting of St Fittick’s Church (Scheduled Monument) and providing a long-term strong boundary for St Fittick’s Park. This must consider levels and sectional details as they relate to the Church and road corridor.
- Integration with planned Coast Road upgrade works programme being delivered by ACC.

Peterseat Drive – Coast Road Link (Hydrogen Campus) - Within the Hydrogen Campus, the Masterplan has identified opportunity to create a new road link between Peterseat Drive and the Coast Road (crossing the Doonies (OP61) site). The road link would serve development plots within the Campus and offer improved industrial access to Altens. It would situate Peterseat Drive at the centre of the Masterplan, extending travel connectivity and transforming the potential of existing industrial units, as well as wider catalysing effects for brownfield land within Altens.

The Link Road would complement the planned Coast Road upgrade. Subject to programme it can support delivery of the Coast Road and reduce disruption by providing an alternative route to the South Harbour and adding further capacity to the network south of Aberdeen South Harbour. Further detailed design must consider and ensure coordination of the following (in consultation with ACC and Nestrans):

- Design Manual for Roads and Bridges and National Roads Development Guide (SCOTS) standards and ensuring appropriate horizontal / vertical alignments for expected traffic volumes and vehicle loads.
- Potential further road re-alignment within Altens around Minto Avenue / Peterseat Drive to improve movement for heavy goods / extra wide loads and ensure brownfield sites can fully contribute to land availability within the ETZ.

- Design and siting of junction with the Coast Road.
- Provision of lay-by parking as part of the new road link, and potential for EV charging provision.
- Provision of dedicated footway and cycleways and connection to existing active travel routes through the area.
- Provision of road lighting and signage.
- Boundary treatments and landscaping within the road corridor.
- Integration with planned Coast Road upgrade works programme being delivered by ACC.

Both road infrastructure proposals within the Masterplan have been subject to preliminary design and technical review, including consultation with ACC Roads and Nestrans to identify key issues for further consideration. This has confirmed their in-principal feasibility and potential as complementary projects that can add to transport connectivity across the Masterplan area.

ETZ Signage & Branding – Linked to delivery of road infrastructure, the delivery of enhanced signage and branding within key movement corridors can support stronger sense of place and identify within the ETZ.

Hareness Road provides one of the primary spines and will develop as multi-user destination with industrial, innovation / start-up, and education / skills uses. Delivery of development sites and road infrastructure on Hareness Road and across Altens should take opportunity to incorporate ETZ branding and signage that enhances place quality and supports stronger awareness of the cluster. The Masterplan encourages a range of interventions to be developed in consultation with ACC and Development Partners (e.g. NESCoI) that could include gateway features, banners, improved lighting, and signage and frontage treatments that form a complimentary package of works to the road improvements noted above.

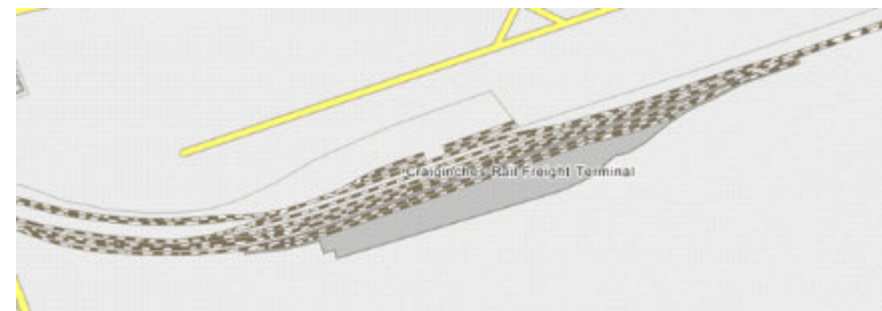
5.3 RAIL FREIGHT INFRASTRUCTURE

Craiginches freight yards at East Tullos present a future development opportunity, which is currently under-utilised (particularly south of the railway on Greenwell Road).

The site is relatively constrained by surrounding development, limiting opportunities for expansion beyond its current scale. It does provide opportunity for low-carbon rail freight to serve existing industrial activity and energy transition activity across the Campuses or elsewhere within East Tullos / Altens, facilitating modal shift from road to rail freight.

The integration within the Energy Transition Zone of a functional rail hub would complement the strong low-carbon marine and road transport accessibility and potentially create a differentiated offer for East Tullos which would support its longer-term renewal. In particular, the potential for Hydrogen re-fuelling and/or distribution should be explored as technologies continue to develop, working in partnership with ACC's Hydrogen Hub and long-term programme to promote the city as a market-leader in this sector, which has clear alignment with ETZ vision and objectives.

The masterplan therefore supports the long-term retention and renewal of the rail freight **infrastructure** as an asset. Opportunities to optimise the potential of the **freight yards** should continue to be actively explored between ETZ Ltd, Nestrans, and Aberdeen City Council, including means to integrate effectively with energy transition activity within Altens and Marine Gateway.



Craiginches Rail Sidings

5.4 ENERGY & NET-ZERO INFRASTRUCTURE

Linked to the preparation of the Masterplan, ETZ Ltd have undertaken early review of future Energy Strategy to consider provision of low-carbon energy infrastructure within Campuses, suitable for the range of potential users across the Zone.

Detailed Energy Strategies for individual sites / Campuses will be developed as part of future planning, reflecting specific user needs and requirements, and seeking to incorporate the latest green energy technologies and best practices where feasible.

In the short term, it is anticipated that development within ETZ is likely to incorporate air-source heat-pump technologies – incorporated within Energy Centres serving specific buildings. Heat pumps are a relatively mature technology which utilise low grade heat and electricity to generate useable heat for space heating and hot water for buildings. New build development can be designed to accept lower temperate heat than traditional buildings. This enables heat pumps to operate at greater efficiencies.

In some instances, it may be feasible and offer greater energy efficiency to develop Campus Energy Centres and heat networks which can provide low-carbon, low-temperature heat across multiple plots / buildings within a Campus.

In parallel, opportunities across the ETZ to incorporate localised renewable energy production such as Solar PV or on-shore wind will be explored and positively considered where they can be integrated sustainably into development, and where they do not cause harm to the local environment, townscape / landscape character, or local amenity in accordance with LDP Policy R7.

Development of local heat networks and/or renewable energy should in all instances have regard to parallel green energy initiatives by Port of Aberdeen, Aberdeen City Council, Scottish Water, and other local development such as Ness Energy-from-Waste and associated Torry Heat Network and seek to positively coordinate and integrate delivery of green energy infrastructure across the area.

Subject to future development, technological advancement, and legislation, hydrogen may provide a significant opportunity to support local / Campus heat networks within the ETZ. Over the medium-longer term this could include transitioning to a higher temperature (if required) hydrogen boiler led network to serve new development. It is envisaged that in the short-term, generation of hydrogen will be restricted to a limited volume focussed on Test & Demonstration and for transport fuel replacement (bp Aberdeen Hydrogen Energy Ltd 'Hydrogen Hub').

Existing buildings within the ETZ (within Altens and East Tullos) are likely to require higher temperature heat. Opportunities to extend and connect local heat networks to serve existing buildings should be considered when the transition to hydrogen led heat is made. Hydrogen boilers can supply heat at temperatures equal to those currently required by existing building stock. Integrating existing buildings to a high temperature network could greatly reduce costs and disruptive retrofit requirements which would be required if they were to connect to a lower temperature, heat pump led network.

Complementary to ETZ Ltd's activity, Aberdeen City Council is actively exploring and developing District Heating Network opportunities. This includes developing a Heat Network connected to the Ness Energy-from-Waste Plant situated in East Tullos. Over time and subject to future feasibility this will seek to grow and connect with city-wide heating infrastructure, incorporating a range of low-carbon heat sources potentially including waste heat from processes within the Nigg Waste-Water Treatment Works and other industrial sources.

5.5 UTILITIES INFRASTRUCTURE & WASTE MANAGEMENT

The ETZ extends across a significant area combining a wide variety of land-uses sharing a range of utilities and with opportunity to develop utility networks delivering benefits across the zone. Existing utilities include power/water/drainage/digital and include a range of infrastructures including the Waste Water Treatment Works (WWTW) and SUEZ Recycling Facility and Ness EfW Facility.

Opportunities exist around developing energy generation connections with offshore wind, hydrogen, PV-solar production creating an energy network supporting industrial, transport (marine/railfreight/public transport) and commercial and domestic applications.

Energy & Utility Networks

Utility provision within development across the masterplan should include full suite of site servicing with digital, energy, and utility provision appropriately networked and future-proofed wherever possible to allow for future technologies / infrastructures to be incorporated.

Sustainable Urban Drainage

The masterplan will within plots require provision for sustainable drainage within all plots and sites integrated with site landscape and biodiversity measures and urban design detailing. Development areas sub-divided into plots will require a strategic site drainage strategy and appropriate planning for drainage and water impact assessments (DIA /WIA)

Water Infrastructure

The Nigg Bay Waste Water Treatment Works, situated within St Fittick's Park is a key element of water infrastructure for Aberdeen and the wider region. All proposed development adjacent to the WWTW and/or associated sub-terrain infrastructure must be closely coordinated with Scottish Water to ensure there are no operational impacts.

The masterplan area, including Opportunity Sites at St Fittick's Park, Gregness and Doonies Farm will be served by the Nigg Bay WWTW as well as the Invercappie Water Treatment Works and. Measures to provide for sustainable use of water across all development should be incorporated. A Pre-Development Enquiry should be submitted to Scottish Water at an early stage in design development to ensure appropriate future planning around network and capacity demand.

Waste Minimisation & Circular Economy

Promoting circular economy opportunity to minimise waste and adopt a Zero Waste planning approach should in all construction /related construction and operational activity promote waste minimisation and re-use of materials.



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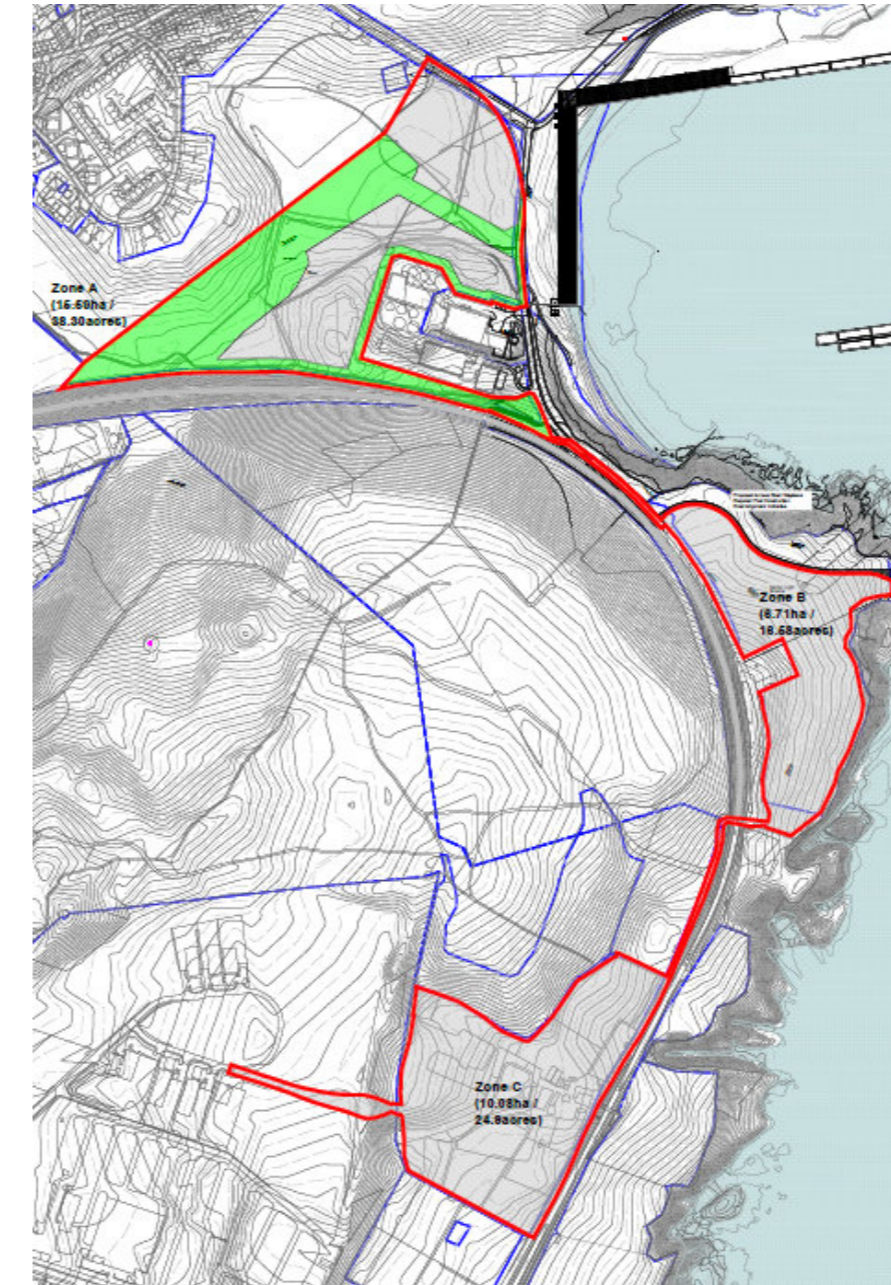
Masterplan Delivery

PLANNING & EIA
The Masterplan has been prepared for formal submission to Aberdeen City Council, for adoption as Supplementary Guidance in line with their established Masterplanning Process.

Aberdeen City Council will review and advance the Masterplan accordance with the *Aberdeen Masterplanning Process- Guide for Developers*. Following adoption as Supplementary Guidance the Masterplan will serve as a material consideration in the determination of future planning applications, and a framework for the assessment and setting of conditions and planning obligations.

The key reference documents for consideration in bringing forward this Masterplan are the Local Development Plan (LDP), National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4), and the relevant Aberdeen City Council Supplementary Planning documents and design guides.

The masterplan seeks to set an overall framework for development by a range of parties and stakeholders across the area, that will collectively contribute to the ambition of a thriving and market-leading cluster that places Aberdeen and the North-East at the heart of energy transition.



Indicative PPIP boundaries for development sites at OP56 (St Fittick's Park), OP61 (Doonies), and OP62 (Bay of Nigg).

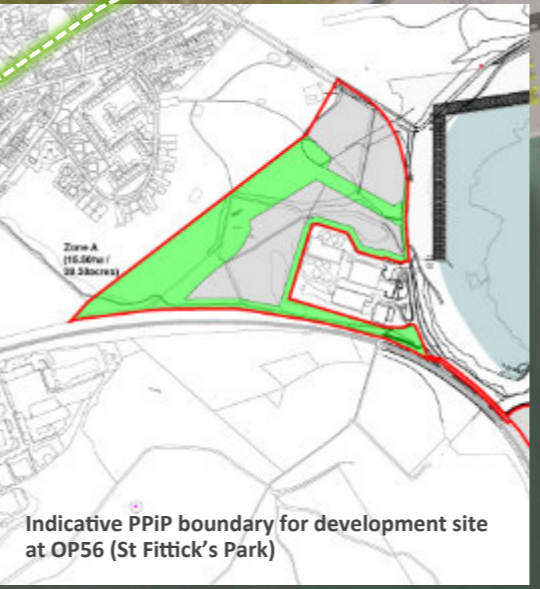
The masterplan therefore does not confer permission for development on any of the potential sites, though it is the current intention of ETZ Ltd to seek planning permission in principle for early-action development on land within the LDP identified Opportunity Sites OP56 (St Fittick's Park), OP61 (Doonies), and OP62 (Bay of Nigg) and directly adjoining areas required for delivery of linked infrastructure.

An indicative Site Location Plan for a future PPIP application is shown below, defining specific Development Zones (A,B,C) for these areas within an overall red-line boundary. **The final site location and boundaries will be defined through the PPIP application.**

Subject to progression of the Masterplan, it is anticipated that a PPIP application will be submitted in 2023, with advance pre-application consultation and engagement undertaken in line with Scottish Government and ACC requirements following submission of a Proposal of Application Notice.

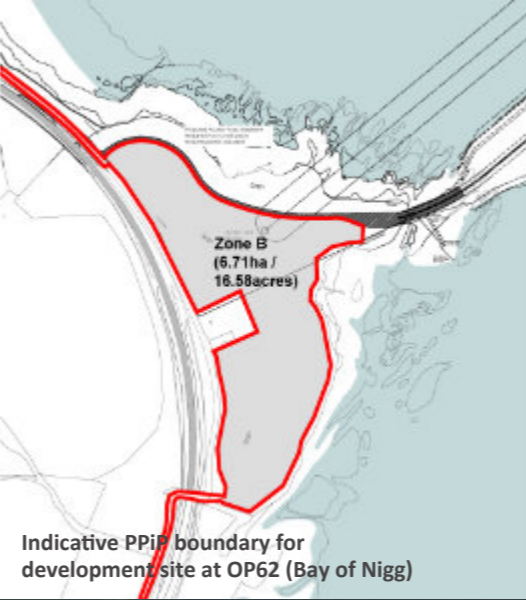
In line with the framework and Development Guidance set out within the Masterplan it is anticipated that Planning Permission in Principle (PPiP) will be sought for a mix of industrial uses (Class 4 / 5 / 6) and associated infrastructure works across the defined Development Zones, supporting the creating of an energy transition cluster.

Tabled below is an indication of likely development description for each Zone within the PPIP, along with linked measures of mitigation or compensation which have been identified within the Masterplan – such as pathway improvements, planting & landscaping, and wetland enhancement. Further detailed preparation of the PPIP and assessment by ACC and wider stakeholders during the determination period would inform the detailed wording of planning conditions and obligations to secure these measures (including for off-site works within the Masterplan area). These would control the timing and delivery of mitigation and compensation measures relative to the delivery of development, ensuring clear coordination of development and linked mitigations in line with the framework set by the Masterplan.



Zone	Zone Name	Area (Ha)	Indicative GFA (m2)	Description	Linked Strategic Mitigation & Compensation Measures (identified through Masterplan) (further detailed site-specific mitigation to be confirmed through EIA / Transport Assessment and other technical assessments and conditioned as appropriate)
A	St Fittick's	15.5	10,000 – 15,000 sqm.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of flexible Class 4/5/6 business/ industrial uses for Energy Transition – focused towards high-value manufacturing and other port-integrated activity Re-alignment of the Coast Road through site – connecting to St Fittick's Road Retention and partial re-alignment of East Tullos Burn to form development plots Associated infrastructure including site accesses, external areas for parking and storage, active travel connections, site landscaping, SuDS, utility & service connections. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Local Parklets – providing enhanced park facilities within currently under-utilised open space in close proximity to housing within Torry & Balnagask. Specific locations and amenities to be confirmed through future consultation and in coordination with ACC and local community. 2 St Fittick's Church Interpretation & Site Improvement Works – incorporating boundary treatment / landscaping along with provision of interpretive signage and conservation repair (to be developed in consultation with HES / ACC Archaeology) 3 St Fittick's Park Path Re-Alignment & Improvements – re-aligned and enhanced Core and local Path networks within St Fittick's Park – maintaining connectivity and access across the Green Network. 4 7 East Tullos Burn 2.0 & Wetland Enhancement including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7 INNS management 8 9 Native species planting and habitat management for biodiversity 10 Boardwalk and wetland access 10 Water quality enhancement 6 Tullos Wood Access & Pathway Improvements – creating new entrance to Tullos Wood and more legible, accessible and direct route, along with associated pathway and landscaping improvements that can support interpretation and access to historic cairns 11 Coastal Path (Core Path 78 section from Aberdeen South Harbour and including Greyhope Road) – enhancement to path quality, interpretation and way-finding. Integrated with Coast Road re-alignment and South Harbour works. 12 Plot Landscape Frameworks – incorporating planting, landscaping (including Green Roofs where feasible) and Boundary Treatments to support biodiversity and habitat connectivity. 13 14 St Fittick's Park Enhancements – including potential extension and enhancement of Skate Park / BMX Pump Track / Play Facilities – adding to quality of facilities within the Park. To be agreed with ACC / local community and advanced through co-design. 15 Replacement & Compensatory Tree Planting – replacing trees to be removed through development and ensuring no overall loss of woodland cover. Informed by arboricultural survey and Landscape Framework.

*Indicative floorspace ranges are derived from the illustrative layouts shown within the ETZ masterplan and would be confirmed within future PPIP application(s).



Zone	Zone Name	Area (Ha)	Indicative GFA (m2)	Description	Linked Strategic Mitigation & Compensation Measures (identified through Masterplan) (further detailed site-specific mitigation to be confirmed through EIA / Transport Assessment and other technical assessments and conditioned as appropriate)
B	Gregness	6.71	8,000 – 12,000 sqm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of flexible Class 4/5/6 business / industrial uses for Energy Transition- focused towards high-value manufacturing and other port-integrated activity Associated infrastructure including site accesses, external areas for parking and storage, active travel connections, site landscaping, SuDS, utility & service connections. <p>*Annotations 1-5 on plan opposite relate to Development Proposals for the site, including buildings, roads and accesses, as described in more detail on pg 100.</p>	<p>6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plot Landscape Frameworks (including Green Roofs where feasible), native species planting and landscaping to add to campus amenity and biodiversity. Pollinator Coast & Habitat Connectivity – native species amenity landscaping and planting targeted coastal plant species addressing fragmentation and adding to site biodiversity. <p>7</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coastal Path (Core Path 78 section between Doonies and Aberdeen South Harbour) – enhancement to path quality, accessibility, interpretation and way-finding. Integrated with planned re-instatement around Gregness headland (as required by Aberdeen South Harbour permission). <p>8</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Landscape screening and treatment within buffer and boundary zones, including native species suitable for coastal environment. <p>9</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Height and massing to have regard to landscape sensitivity as well as changing setting and character around Aberdeen South Harbour – informed by LVIA.

*Indicative floorspace ranges are derived from the illustrative layouts shown within the ETZ masterplan and would be confirmed within future PPIP application(s).

**Illustrative Plan
Marine Gateway**



**Illustrative Plan
Hydrogen Campus**

Zone	Zone Name	Area (Ha)	Indicative GFA (m2)	Description	Linked Strategic Mitigation & Compensation Measures (identified through Masterplan) (further detailed site-specific mitigation to be confirmed through EIA / Transport Assessment and other technical assessments and conditioned as appropriate)
C	Doonies	10.08	28,000 – 34,000 sqm.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of flexible Class 4/5/6 business / industrial uses within a Campus focused towards hydrogen and associated energy transition supply-chain activity. Provision of new road link crossing the site – connecting Coast Road to Peterseat Drive. Associated infrastructure including site accesses, external areas for parking and storage, active travel connections, site landscaping, SuDS, utility & service connections. <p>* Annotations 1-5 relate to Development Proposals for the site, including buildings, roads and accesses, as described in more detail on pg 114.</p>	<p>6 • Landscape screening and treatment within buffer and boundary zones, including native species and woodland.</p> <p>7 • Plot Landscape Frameworks (including Green Roofs where feasible). INNS removal and management, native species planting and landscaping to add to campus amenity and biodiversity.</p> <p>8 • On-site SuDS infrastructure complementing overall site amenity and adding to biodiversity</p> <p>9 • Coastal Path (Core Path 78 section from Doonies to Cove) – enhancement to path quality, accessibility, interpretation and way-finding – maintaining existing character as coastal walking route.</p> <p>10 • Retention and upgrade of on-site path networks – including connection to Tullos Wood as part of Green Network and integrated with active travel provision within new Link Road.</p> <p>11 • Pollinator Coast & Habitat Connectivity – native species amenity landscaping and planting targeted coastal plant species addressing fragmentation and adding to site biodiversity – including areas of former Ness Landfill in coordination with planned Solar Farm.</p>

*Indicative floorspace ranges are derived from the illustrative layouts shown within the ETZ masterplan and would be confirmed within future PPIp application(s).

The PPIP will require comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment. This will include assessment of full suite of environmental topics, assessing potential for environmental effects in line with EIA Regulations (2017) and where appropriate identifying necessary mitigation and compensatory measures to be provided. Significant baseline and technical appraisal / assessments have informed the masterplan process, and will continue to be built upon and extended as part of the full statutory Environmental Impact Assessment. While subject to EIA Scoping Opinion from Aberdeen City Council (in consultation with statutory consultees) to confirm the methodology and requirements of assessment, it is likely that and EIA for development of the Opportunity Sites will cover the following topics:

- Planning Policy
- Ecology, Nature Conservation & Biodiversity
- Water Environment, Drainage & Flood Risk
- Air Quality
- Landscape & Visual
- Traffic, Transport, Movement
- Disruption Due to Construction
- Population & Human Health
- Geology, Soils & Contaminated Land
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Noise Environment
- Cultural Heritage
- Cumulative Impacts
- Others as Identified by Screening

In addition to Environmental Impact Assessment, further assessments and studies will be required to support a future PPIP application. The final list and scope of planning deliverables will be agreed with ACC through pre-application process but may include:

- Planning Supporting Statement
- Tree Survey
- Air Quality Assessment
- Flood Risk Assessment
- Construction Environmental Management Plan
- Biodiversity / Landscape Framework
- Transport Assessment
- Ground Conditions Report
- Noise Impact Assessment
- Drainage Assessment
- Ecological Surveys (incl. Habitats and Protected Species)

National and major developments (or those requiring EIA) will also require a Health Impact Assessment to consider potential for impacts on wider determinants of health such as poverty & inequality, physical exercise, safety, greenspace, and access to services, and how health benefits may be realised through development. ACC are currently preparing Aberdeen Planning Guidance on Health Impact Assessments and once adopted this should be followed in the preparation of assessment.

Separate from the planning consenting requirements, a CAR License will be required for the proposed re-alignment works to the East Tullos Burn. This will be developed in close consultation with SEPA and will require further detailed bathymetric / geomorphological survey, modelling, and design development of the Burn channel to ensure works are compliant.

The potential for works to St Fittick’s Church has also been identified within the Masterplan. The approach and detailed scope for mitigation and enhancement of the Church and its setting will be developed with HES and ACC Archaeology, but could require separate Scheduled Monument Consent. Development of other projects and infrastructure identified within the masterplan and supporting wider growth of the cluster (ie. those within LDP designated employment land) would be delivered through separate consents as necessary either by ETZ Ltd or other parties, and in line with the vision and overall framework established through the Masterplan.

As noted above, where planning applications within the ETZ require specific planning obligations to mitigate the impacts of development, these will be agreed with Aberdeen City Council during the determination of planning applications as required for individual sites and secured where appropriate or necessary through planning conditions and the mechanisms of a ‘Section 75’ or similar legal agreement.

Developer contributions may be sought to support infrastructure interventions across the ETZ area, and other local infrastructure improvements or mitigations required by proposed development. The scale of contributions will be agreed with Aberdeen City Council through planning application assessment and in line with the requirements of the Council’s Supplementary Guidance on Developer Obligations and Circular 3/2012 (Planning Obligations & Good Neighbour Agreements).

The initial phases of development within ETZ will be assessed and **consented against the Local Development Plan**, however future development and renewal of sites within ETZ over a longer time horizon of 5+ years may be brought forward in the context of future Development Plan(s). The ETZ Masterplan will remain a material consideration and the development guidance within should be considered in the planning and development process to ensure coordinated delivery across the Zone.

HABITATS REGULATIONS APPRAISAL

As competent authority, Aberdeen City Council have completed a Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA) Screening and Appropriate Assessment in relation to the Energy Transition Zone Masterplan, which will be made available on the Council’s website.

This concludes that, subject to appropriate mitigation measures in relation to habitats, otter, and mobile species (including birds), the proposals will not adversely effect the integrity of any protected sites (Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas) or their qualifying interests. Conservation objectives for the protected sites will be met during and after construction and following implementation and delivery of the recommended mitigations measures.

The mitigation measures proposed to ensure no adverse effects on the integrity of the protected sites are set out fully in an Appendix to the Masterplan. These are further detailed within an Environmental Impact Assessment, Site Biodiversity Action Plan(s) and other supporting assessments which will form part of future PPIP application(s) and associated conditions as these are secured.

It should be noted that it may be necessary to revise and/or renew the HRA in respect of future planning applications as they come forward and mitigation measures are further detailed.

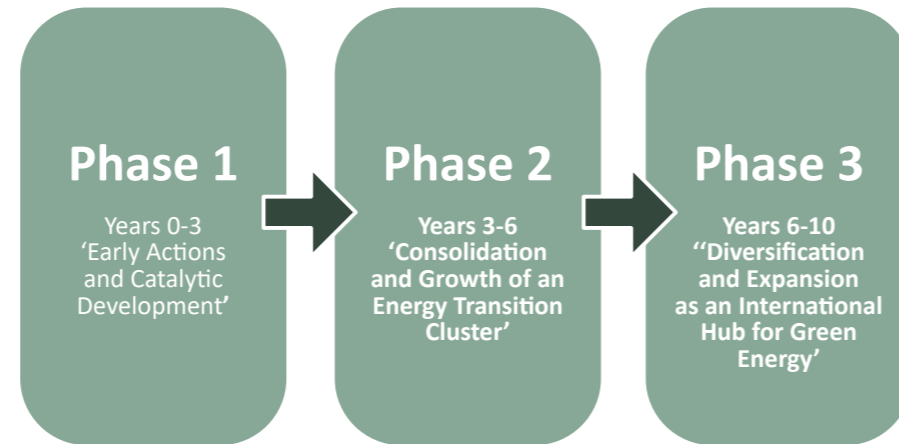
PHASING & DEVELOPMENT TIMELINE

The ETZ Masterplan seeks to provide a long-term planning document that sets out the relationships between place, project elements and local environment, and creates a spatial framework for future investment and development.

The ETZ programme for transition is an initiative for the next decade and beyond and it is important to consider the masterplan as a dynamic document that can be flexed and adjusted based on changing place, and investment needs over time.

- An indicative phasing timeline has been identified for the delivery of elements within the masterplan, seeking to balance delivery of development in response to market / investor demand, provision of supporting infrastructure, and managing impacts on local environment and communities. The indicative timeline sets out actions and potential projects led by ETZ Ltd., as well as complementary projects which will be led and delivered by key stakeholders across the area such as ACC, Port of Aberdeen, Nestrans, and future inward investors.
- The Phasing Strategy seeks to gradually establish and then grow in scale the campuses across ETZ. Key early actions that will facilitate the establishment of the ETZ Campuses on existing brownfield land are already well advanced, either benefitting from extant consents or utilising existing buildings, including creation of the National Floating Wind Innovation Centre, and development of the Energy Incubator and Scale-Up Hub.
- Critical to phasing and timely delivery of market-ready sites will be securing planning permission for development on identified Opportunity Sites. As noted above, it is the current intention of ETZ Ltd to progress planning permission in principle application in 2023 for these key sites, following further pre-application consultation with ACC and local communities.

- At this stage, the outlined approach to phasing is indicative and it should be recognised that exact sequence and timing of development will change in response to market drivers, partnership arrangements, project funding and feasibility, and other development factors. There will be overlap between phases and depending on market cycles and technological development it is likely that elements of the masterplan may be delivered quicker than others, to which supporting infrastructure will need to respond. Across the ETZ, development opportunities will be managed in consultation with ACC (and wider stakeholders) to ensure impacts are mitigated and supporting infrastructures delivered.
- Ensuring market-ready land / development sites is critical to success of Energy Transition Zone, especially with regard to current round of ScotWind leasing for which supply-chain is being established to enable build-out across the 2020's.
- In parallel with energy-transition focused development within Campuses, it is essential that supporting infrastructures are delivered, ensuring that benefits from development flow to local communities, that environmental assets are protected and enhanced through development, and that the physical transport and utilities infrastructures are in place to serve current and future phases of development.



Years 0-3– ‘Early Actions and Catalytic Development’



Energy Transition Zone Campuses

- **Enable the Marine Gateway and Hydrogen Campus** sites for inward investment focused around high-value manufacturing and energy transition supply-chain.
- Deliver **Green Hydrogen Test & Demo facility** (linked to ERM) as early action to catalyse development of the Hydrogen Campus. Support and enable the delivery of pioneering Green Hydrogen project including ERM, Vattenfall, and Hydrogen Hub (by bp Aberdeen Hydrogen Energy Ltd).
- Establish FLOWIC as a national centre for floating offshore wind R&D, test and validation and to anchor the Offshore Wind Campus.
- **Develop Energy Incubator and Scale-Up Hub** for growing businesses to locate in ETZ and as a catalyst for the Skills Campus
- **Develop Advanced Manufacturing Skills Hub** facility adjacent to and linked to NESCoI Altens Campus.



Community & Energy Coast




- Progress design and delivery of **enhancements to St Fittick's Park** and under-utilised green spaces in the locality – in collaboration with the local community.
- Enhanced access and **connectivity to Tullos Wood**.
- **East Tullos Burn 2.0 Project** to include re-alignment and lengthening of the Burn channel, improvement to water quality, and habitat development for Burn and wetlands.
- **Enhancement of biodiversity** across the area through Pollinator Coast, habitat management, and plot landscape frameworks.
- Enhancement of **active travel routes across the Green Network**, including the Coastal Path network as part of the ‘Energy Coast’.
- **Establish ETZ Community Fund** to help accelerate delivery of local development priorities.
- Implement **ETZ Jobs & Skills Plan** working with industry partners and local communities.






Enabling Infrastructures

- Support ACC delivery of **ASH Transportation Links Project** to upgrade Coast Road and provide enhanced connection (incl. HGV capability) between key ETZ nodes.
- Deliver **Peterseat-Doonies Road Link** as key enabling action to support development of the Hydrogen Campus, in coordination with ASH Transportation Links Delivery.
- Subject to development and investment requirements, deliver **Coast Road re-alignment** as part of Marine Gateway– strengthening access to key sites enabling port-contiguous developable areas.
- Support development of **Craiginches Rail Freight Feasibility Study** to identify future options for de-carbonisation and integration of rail-freight into ETZ.
- Establish **a framework for net zero development**, including facilities management support throughout the ETZ Campuses.
- Utilise heat-pump technologies to sustainably meet building heat & energy needs. Support and enable delivery of **renewable energy technologies** including wind and solar across the Zone and linked to Campus development.
- Continue ETZ Ltd. programme of **partnering and co-investment in brownfield land** across Altens and East Tullos – renewing and strengthening the quality of industrial land assets with a focus on circular economy and energy efficiency.

Years 3-6 – ‘Consolidation and Growth of an Energy Transition Cluster’

	<p>Energy Transition Zone Campuses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attract and enable further high-value investment into ETZ Campuses to support their continued development and expansion. Focus towards high-value supply-chain services and activity meeting demand from ScotWind delivery and wider renewables sectors. • Expansion of Hydrogen Campus from Test & Demonstration to provide specialised technology and industrial units as sector matures and further manufacturing and supply-chain opportunities emerge. • Follow-on investment in brownfield land within the Offshore Wind Campus to meet growing supply-chain needs. • Expansion of Energy Incubator & Scale-Up Hub within Altens, extending across the full extent of its Hareness Road site and providing additional flexible space for growing businesses. • Consolidation of the Advanced Manufacturing Skills Hub and further development of specialist curriculum and training opportunities tailored to energy transition industries.
	<p>Community & Energy Coast</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support development and expansion of fully integrated active travel connections across Green Network, employment sites, and local community. • Further collaboration and liaison with local communities to identify opportunities for development of enhanced community / greenspace facilities. • Management and maintenance of East Tullos Burn and wetlands (in collaboration with ACC and community) to support enhanced water quality and biodiversity. • Continued management and enhancement of landscape for local biodiversity through Pollinator Coast and Plot Landscape Frameworks – in partnership with ACC and wider stakeholders. • Ongoing operation of ETZ Community Fund – supporting and enabling local priorities in collaboration with communities. • Ongoing implementation of Jobs & Skills Plan to support local job creation and skills development.
	<p>Enabling Infrastructures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential delivery by ACC of Wellington Road upgrade (subject to future programme review) to provide enhanced transport corridor suitable for all users, including priority junctions at Hareness Road providing key gateway to ETZ. • Potential development of a Mobility Hub at Hareness Road (NESCol) to complement road infrastructure improvements and integrate active travel and public transport movement. • Continue ETZ Ltd programme of partnering and co-investment in brownfield land across Altens and East Tullos – renewing and strengthening the quality of industrial land assets with a focus on circular economy and energy efficiency. • Create green energy Campus heat & power distribution centres utilising air source heat pump technologies (subject to feasibility) to service multiple buildings at greater efficiencies.

Years 6-10 – ‘Diversification and Expansion as an International Hub for Green Energy’-

	<p>Energy Transition Zone Campuses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ETZ Campuses fully established and developed as a thriving industrial cluster – leading Aberdeen and Scotland’s transition to net zero through development for high-value manufacturing, energy transition supply-chain, innovation, research & development, and skills & training. • Opportunities for further expansion and diversification of Campuses are explored in close collaboration with ACC, PoA, and local stakeholders – with priority on maximising potential of brownfield land to serve next generation of green energy development. • Continued renewal and investment into brownfield land within East Tullos and Altens to further support and grow the market-leading cluster of Energy Transition activity.
	<p>Community & Energy Coast</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborative management of local environment and landscape to enable long-term establishment of habitats that support biodiversity across the area, and support sustainable blue-green networks including East Tullos Burn. • Opportunities for further renewal, integration and expansion of active travel routes across the Green Network are explored with ACC, Nestrans, and other stakeholders as part of city-wide network. • Ongoing implementation and evolution of Jobs & Skills Plan in response to changing technologies and industry needs – supporting sustainable, long-term local job creation and skills development.
	<p>Enabling Infrastructures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following earlier feasibility and options review, support investment and renewal of Craiginches Rail Freight Facility to enable multi-modal low-carbon transport links within the Zone. • Subject to future exploration of feasibility and technological readiness, seek to support Local Heat & Energy Networks. Incorporating hydrogen as primary zero-carbon fuel source and extending across Campuses to include existing and new-build development, as well as potentially connecting into city-wide district heating networks led by ACC. • Sustainable investment and renewal of local and strategic road network by ACC and Nestrans – supporting a fully accessible industrial cluster. • Subject to future demand and technological advancement, supporting opportunities for scaled-up hydrogen production and enabling connectivity and integration with city-wide infrastructures, facilities, and export capabilities.

PROJECT PARTNERSHIPS & DELIVERY

To help deliver the vision and ambition for the region, ETZ Ltd will continue to work with core partners including Aberdeen City Council, Port of Aberdeen, and Scottish Enterprise – supported through funding from Opportunity North East and Scottish and UK Government. They will work collaboratively to share knowledge, develop complementary programmes, and support the alignment of interests to create a globally integrated energy cluster.

In addition to successfully deliver the ETZ, the project will continue to engage with a wider partnership featuring organisations including (but not limited to); Invest Aberdeen, SDI, NZTC, National Manufacturing Institute Scotland (NMIS), Global Underwater Hub, ORE Catapult, Nestrans, Robert Gordon and Aberdeen Universities, NESCol, and SDS.

ETZ Ltd are committed to local engagement and supporting the widest participation of communities in the delivery of programmes and projects, including working alongside communities as they draw down and fund local initiatives through the proposed Community Fund.

- The process of coordinating and preparing the masterplan has been led by ETZ Ltd, but delivery of the full potential of the Energy Transition Zone will require ongoing collaboration and partnership working with a wide range of groups. Engagement with communities has played a major role in developing the masterplan and the contribution, local knowledge and indeed challenge to the scope of projects has helped to identify mitigation measures and identify areas of opportunity for mitigation, compensation and enhancement.

- Minimising environmental impacts and impacts on local communities whilst providing opportunity to develop a more sustainable, inclusive and productive place will offer significant opportunity for co-design and collaboration around the detailed planning and design phases of the project. The masterplan sets out a range of committed projects that can build upon previous initiatives and programmes and support the ambitions of the Aberdeen South Locality Plan and wider Development Plan.

The proposed Campuses and supporting infrastructures across ETZ will be developed through ongoing collaboration between a wide range of partners and stakeholders – with ETZ Ltd seeking to take a leading role in coordinating and facilitating delivery. The matrices below highlight potential range of interests and contributions that will support delivery of projects and infrastructures.

ENERGY TRANSITION ZONE CAMPUSES - Partnership Delivery

	ETZ Ltd	ACC	Community	Port of Aberdeen	Energy Transition Operators	Inward Investment	NESCol & NESA	Industry Bodies	Statutory Bodies / Others
Community & Energy Coast Programme	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Marine Gateway	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Hydrogen Campus	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Offshore Wind Campus	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Skills Campus	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Innovation Campus	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓

ENERGY TRANSITION ZONE ENABLING INFRASTRUCTURES - Partnership Delivery

	ETZ Ltd	ACC	Community	Port of Aberdeen	Nestrans	Transport Scotland	Network Rail	Scottish Water	Statutory Bodies & Agencies (e.g. SEPA / NatureScot)
Rail Freight Infrastructure	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Road Infrastructure	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Energy & Net-Zero Infrastructure	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓
Utilities Infrastructure & Waste	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓

✓ Key Delivery Partner & Stakeholder

✓ Potential Delivery Support & Interest

APPENDIX:

Habitats Regulations Appraisal: Mitigations

Relevant overarching mitigations for the **development** include:

1. Development of the site would adhere to environmental legislation and best practice guidance in relation to protection of human health and groundwater (and the water environment), and also to the appropriate management of soils during construction.
2. Potential impacts in relation to the natural environment will be assessed and addressed through the development of technical assessments, including Contaminated Land Assessment, Construction Environmental Plan (CEMP), Construction Traffic Management Plan and Noise Impact Assessment.
3. Operationally, the proposals will include a Landscape Framework supported by a Site Biodiversity Action Plan.
4. Furthermore, it is however anticipated that detailed mitigation measures, if required, will be included as part of any detailed planning application for proposals within land covered by the Masterplan area. However, it is unlikely that any further such HRA assessments would be required in Zone C (Doonies).

Key mitigations to minimise disturbance, loss and fragmentation to **habitats** includes:

1. The East Tullos Burn crosses St Fittick's Park (Zone A) and is to be retained, with a partial section re-aligned in order to enable formation of development plots.
2. The proposals will also include measures to protect and enhance the local environment and biodiversity within and around areas of development through buffer zones, boundary treatments, development plot landscaping, tree and pollinator planting, and other blue-green infrastructures.
3. Importance of a Site Biodiversity Action Plan (SBAP) has been recognised to deliver 'no net loss' to biodiversity and promotion of 'nature-based solutions' in line with the SBAP.
4. Area-specific, over-arching CEMP, absorbing the AHEP CEMP for delivery of mitigation, and any follow-on compensation and enhancement – in order to capture the complexity of habitats and their intrinsic public appeal and biodiversity value in a semi-urban setting. Proposed to be delivered at the same time as, finalising the masterplan and any landscape plans.

Key mitigation measures for **Otter** are:

1. Protections and control measures implemented through a Construction Environmental Management Plan, with integral Pollution Plan.
2. Production of a Site Biodiversity Action Plan.
3. Maintenance and improvement of natural otter corridors at St Fittick's Park and East Tullos Burn.
4. Avoiding disturbance to inter-tidal habitat or coastal escarpment habitat in Zone B (Gregness), as masterplanned.
5. Provision of two artificial breeding holts, constructed to the specification in NatureScot guidance.
6. Reduction of potential disturbance caused by construction noise, soft starts will be adopted in Zones A (St Fittick's Park) and B (Gregness).
7. Wildlife friendly lighting, directed away from potential otter habitat during construction and operational phases in Zones A (St Fittick's Park) and B (Gregness)
8. Retention of otter habitat at St Fittick's including, retention of open channel, reedswamp and pools for shelter and foraging.
9. Enhancement of St Fittick's Park wetland by upstream water treatment to improve water quality, primarily by removal of suspended sediments and nutrient stripping. Water quality discharges will be better than existing.
10. Proposed potential for otter food sources (amphibian) to be re-introduced to the wetland system by direct translocation of spawn during the construction period but only after the completion of the upstream measures to improve water quality.
11. Application of regular protected species survey updates (annual survey) to maintain records of otter interest and ensure appropriate mitigation. Consultation with NatureScot should otter features requiring licensing be identified.
12. Specific mitigation measures will be proposed to encourage spread of any local Otter into Zone A, (St Fittick's Park) the St Fittick's wetlands and burn, and to ensure that any future use of the coastline at Zone B (Gregness) is not adversely affected. These measures will include:

- Retention of all key habitat capable supporting the viability of otter e.g. retention of reedbeds, retention of reedswamp for above ground couching and avoidance of potentially adverse effects on the ponds so that they may support otter prey populations. There is one culvert crossing required and this would be limited in width as far as possible with mammal ledges designed in.

- Improvements to the discharged water quality in the East Tullos Burn and wetlands and outfall
- Construction of an artificial holts in Zones A (St Fittick's Park) and B (Gregness) based on project ecologist's advice.

Key mitigations for **mobile bird species** include:

1. Avoid/minimise impacts on breeding birds – Where practical, time all groundworks, particularly tree and scrub clearance, outwith the bird breeding season. Any new disturbance to any habitats during the bird breeding season will require advance surveys to ensure that legal obligations are met. Findings and recommendations of such surveys should be fully implemented.
2. Key bird species mitigation – Red List SoCC and UK, Scottish and local BAP priorities will be adversely impacted in small numbers through displacement following development. Special measures must be included to minimise the local reduction in number, particularly in Zone C (Gregness).
3. Bat Species Protection Plan (SPP) – Commission and implement a bat SPP which delivers Black Hill Ecology Ltd 2023 Bat Report recommendations. Only one species roosting – pipistrelle, but recommended inclusion of bat boxes as part of the overall development scheme.
4. Habitat / foraging wise, mitigation and enhancement as covered in the SBAP for the development zones.
5. Write and deliver SBAPs for Zones A, B and C – Each SBAP should assimilate all principle proposed measures as well as identifying new enhancements based on updating surveys, detailed site layouts, drainage and landscaping. An Ecological Clerk of Works (EcCOW) should be appointed to ensure delivery of the SBAP during the construction phase.

A detailed **Site Biodiversity Action Plan** has been drafted and includes a range of requirements that also relate to **mobile species**, including the following:

Zone A - East Tullos Burn and Wetlands

- Upstream interventions to improve water quality reaching the wetlands to encourage submerged plants.
- Re-alignment and enhancement of the East Tullos Burn. Enhancements to include meanders, mini-floodplains and small detention basins.
- Toad introduction scheme to establish a breeding population.
- Construction of a new artificial otter holt to encourage a more regular presence.

- Management of native invasives, for example reed sweet grass, to maintain open water.

Zone B – Gregness

- Protection of the coastal heath and species – rich grassland that has naturally regenerated.
- Enhancement of the coastal habitat through removal of invading scrub.
- Supporting the Pollinator Coast Project by encouraging the spread of kidney vetch, a larval food plant for the small blue butterfly.
- Coastal grassland seed mix sowing to encourage coastal butterflies in decline e.g. grayling.
- New native tree and scrub planting (species lists included within the PPIP Landscape Framework too).

Zone C – Doonies

- Protection of the integrity of the northern ecological corridor.
- Compensatory native tree and scrub planting for loss of gorse scrub (species mixes included).
- Grassland enhancement through sowing new native species rich swards for seed eating birds, invertebrates, pollinators and hedgehogs.
- Installation of new native hedges and log-piles for hedgehogs and other fauna.
- Nestbox scheme for house sparrow, tree sparrow and starling.
- Bat box scheme to compensate for loss of non-breeding common pipistrelle roost.
- Breeding bumblebee homes/boxes.

Effects and consideration of alternatives:

Subject to the above mitigations consideration of alternative sites is not required. Nevertheless, the development site has been subject to the local development plan process which has considered alternative sites previously, and the 'Aberdeen Energy Transition Zone Feasibility Study' (February 2020) produced by Barton Wilmore/Opportunity North East and Invest Aberdeen also assessed suitably of alternative (Aberdeen-area sites). This site assessment criteria was based on:

- planning policy implications and environmental constraints,
- review of existing road infrastructure and potential new road provision/investment that could include site selection,
- to consider operational end-user requirements for land and proximity to the harbour etc; deliverability, availability, ownership, infrastructure constraints and servicing, and
- commentary received during technical workshops with key stakeholders which provided an extra level of insight on top of desktop reviews.



	Company/ Individual/ Location	Comments	Response	Recommended changes to Draft ETZ Masterplan
1.	Individual/ Wider Aberdeen City	Destroying a green space (St Fitticks Park) in a deprived area of the city. Could use the empty industrial units throughout the City instead.	<p>This consultation process relates to the Draft Masterplan and is not about the allocation or the removal of this site from the ALDP, this has been considered and decided through the LDP preparation process including Examination carried out by an independent Scottish Government reporter. The Report of Examination published in September 2022 recommended a number of additional requirements for a Joint Masterplan for Aberdeen South Harbour and the Energy Transition Zone sites. Importantly however, the Report recommended retaining the proposals for the Energy Transition Zone at OP56 St Fittick's Park and OP61 Doonies / Gregness.</p> <p>The Council accepted all the Reporter's recommendations in December 2022 and the Aberdeen Local Development Plan was formally adopted on 19th June 2023. The principle of developing OP56 St Fittick's Park and OP61 Doonies for energy transition uses has therefore been accepted in the adopted Aberdeen Local Development Plan 2023. However, the Local Development Plan also requires a joint Masterplan for OP56 St Fittick's Park, OP61 Doonies and OP62 Aberdeen South Harbour and outlines some</p>	None

	Company/ Individual/ Location	Comments	Response	Recommended changes to Draft ETZ Masterplan
			<p>of the issues that need to be considered within the Masterplan. It is this Masterplan which is subject to the current consultation.</p> <p>If the Masterplan is approved, any development of the sites would then require planning consent. This will require planning applications containing further detailed proposals, over and above what would be contained within a Masterplan, which in turn will be open for further public scrutiny and comment and each planning application will be considered and decided on its own merits.</p> <p>The Masterplan relates to land allocated in the ALDP for an ETZ. The masterplan has identified the developable area within the site, which equates to around 1/3 of it.</p>	
2.	Individual/ Local area	There are alternatives to building at St Fitticks, these should be used as a priority.	Per comment 1.	None
3.	Individual/ Local area	Should not be getting rid of the green space in Torry when most people live in flats with no gardens. This is a safe space.	This consultation process relates to the Draft Masterplan and is not about the allocation or the removal of this site from the ALDP, this has been considered and decided through the LDP preparation process including Examination carried out by an independent Scottish Government reporter. The Report of Examination published in	None

	Company/ Individual/ Location	Comments	Response	Recommended changes to Draft ETZ Masterplan
			<p>September 2022 recommended a number of additional requirements for a Joint Masterplan for Aberdeen South Harbour and the Energy Transition Zone sites. Importantly however, the Report recommended retaining the proposals for the Energy Transition Zone at OP56 St Fittick's Park and OP61 Doonies / Gregness.</p> <p>The Council accepted all the Reporter's recommendations in December 2022 and the Aberdeen Local Development Plan was formally adopted on 19th June 2023. The principle of developing OP56 St Fittick's Park and OP61 Doonies for energy transition uses has therefore been accepted in the adopted Aberdeen Local Development Plan 2023. However, the Local Development Plan also requires a joint Masterplan for OP56 St Fittick's Park, OP61 Doonies and OP62 Aberdeen South Harbour and outlines some of the issues that need to be considered within the Masterplan. It is this Masterplan which is subject to the current consultation. If the Masterplan is approved, any development of the sites would then require planning consent. This will require planning applications containing further detailed proposals, over and above what would be</p>	

	Company/ Individual/ Location	Comments	Response	Recommended changes to Draft ETZ Masterplan
			<p>contained within a Masterplan, which in turn will be open for further public scrutiny and comment and each planning application will be considered and decided on its own merits.</p> <p>The Masterplan sets principles and parameters that will be taken forward with any planning applications. Its objectives are to provide a series of strategic design and development principles to guide the most appropriate forms of development and uses for the area in accordance with the allocation.</p> <p>The masterplan shows that not all of St Fitticks park will be developed, but rather only the area immediately adjacent to the harbour equating to around 7 hectares. This area per the ALDP allocation must have a functional association with the South Harbour that precludes it being located elsewhere, such as the size of the infrastructure preventing transport from other locations or requiring roll on/roll off level access to the harbour.</p> <p>The environment, connectivity and community benefits, including the</p>	

	Company/ Individual/ Location	Comments	Response	Recommended changes to Draft ETZ Masterplan
			<p>enhancement and potential extension of the existing play, and the potential extension and enhancement of the skate park and/or pump park and parklets identified as part of the marine gateway are all embedded within the document highlighting their importance and requirement to be further considered. The Masterplan sets out that although there will be a loss of quality of greenspace there will be an improvement in the quality and accessibility of the remaining space.</p> <p>The Community and Energy Coast chapter of the Masterplan considers the East Tullis Burn and wetlands (p59 and 60), St Fittick's Park and the projects that will be brought forward in this area, to the benefit of the community, are shown on pages 61-64. Biodiversity protection and enhancement are also considered on pages 65-66 with suggested improvements including pollinator coast, habitat management and development landscaping.</p> <p>The Energy Transition Zones are to bridge the transition from one industry to another and due to its strategic location adjacent to the South Harbour, OP56 is a keystone to</p>	

	Company/ Individual/ Location	Comments	Response	Recommended changes to Draft ETZ Masterplan
			this and potential catalyst for wider economic and environmental change.	
4.	Individual/ Local area	<p>Destroying the park means that the only healthy green space left in a deprived area is to be build on under the guise of saving the planet.</p> <p>This could all be done on brownfield land nearby.</p>	Per comment 3	None
5.	Individual/ Local area	<p>Essential consideration is the suitability of the road network both during and on completion of the areas.</p> <p>Also of note is the Road/W Tullos Road/Wellington Road roundabout it is already a difficult pinch point at peak times.</p>	<p>This level of detail is not required at Masterplanning stage. An assessment of traffic and transport impacts and other relevant studies will be required as part of planning applications as they come forward.</p> <p>The requirement for such studies is identified within the Masterplan on page 167.</p> <p>Each campus has a section on Transport and Connectivity shown the importance of this issue(p84, p108, p122, p123, p144). Furthermore p 152 – 154 relates specifically to road infrastructure and how the ETZ relates to other existing and committed projects including the Aberdeen South Harbour Link Road.</p>	None
6.	Individual/ Wider	Object to development on the coastline for industrial uses.	This consultation process relates to the Draft Masterplan and is not about the allocation or the removal of this site, this consideration	None

	Company/ Individual/ Location	Comments	Response	Recommended changes to Draft ETZ Masterplan
	Aberdeen City	Industry and waste disposal should be in outlying areas and coastline should be development for walks and tourists.	<p>has taken place and been decided through the LDP and at an Examination carried out by an independent reporter. The reporter issued a Report into the Examination in September 2022. The Report recommended a number of additional requirements for a Joint Masterplan for Aberdeen South Harbour and the Energy Transition Zones. Importantly however, the Report recommended retaining the proposals for Energy Transition Zones at OP56 St Fittick's Park and OP61 Doonies. The Council accepted all of the Reporter's recommendations in December 2022 and the Aberdeen Local Development Plan was formally adopted on 19th June 2023.</p> <p>The ALDP allocation for OP56 St Fittick's Park does state "Any development at this site must have a functional association with the South Harbour which precludes it being located elsewhere, such as the size of the infrastructure preventing transport from other locations or requiring 'roll on / roll off' level access to the South Harbour."</p> <p>The waste disposal (WWTP) is an existing use in this area.</p>	

	Company/ Individual/ Location	Comments	Response	Recommended changes to Draft ETZ Masterplan
7.	Individual/ Local area	St Fitticks is the only greenspace in Torry it is right on their doorstep outdoor use. There are more suitable places away from people so it cannot hurt people or animals. The air quality and quality of life will suffer from the proposal.	Per comment 3 Assessments will be required with planning applications that will take into consideration air quality, odours, and a health impact assessment. The specific final uses of the different areas are unknown so cannot be assessed at this time.	None
8.	Individual/ Aberdeens hire	Object yet again Torry being considered as an area to take away all green spaces.	Per comment 1	None
9.		More suitable sites that do not destroy a local amenity.	Per comment 1	None
10.	Individual/ Local area	ETZ masterplan must not go ahead. Do not see how removing an existing greenspace can be any benefit to the residents of Aberdeen, the wildlife and biodiversity.	Per comment 3	None
11.	Individual/ Local area	Object to the removal of the coast road. Object to the inclusion of greenspaces especially Doonies a huge asset to the city used by schools, nurseries and special needs children.	The coast road will not be removed, it is proposed to be realigned. Per comment 1	None
12.	Individual/ Wider Aberdeen City	Object to the allocation of Doonies and the other areas for 'energy transition.' Do not believe the social impact of this decision has been fully assessed and taken into consideration. Decision should be reversed Plenty industrial areas that can be used instead.	This consultation process relates to the Draft Masterplan and is not about the allocation or the removal of this site from the ALDP, this has been considered and decided through the LDP preparation process including Examination carried out by an independent Scottish Government reporter. The Report of Examination published in September 2022 recommended a number of	None

	Company/ Individual/ Location	Comments	Response	Recommended changes to Draft ETZ Masterplan
			<p>additional requirements for a Joint Masterplan for Aberdeen South Harbour and the Energy Transition Zone sites. Importantly however, the Report recommended retaining the proposals for the Energy Transition Zone at OP56 St Fittick's Park and OP61 Doonies / Gregness.</p> <p>The Council accepted all the Reporter's recommendations in December 2022 and the Aberdeen Local Development Plan was formally adopted on 19th June 2023.</p> <p>The ETZ will use vacant and redundant buildings and sites within industrial areas as well as the allocated greenfield land. Throughout the masterplan states that brownfield land will be utilised. Examples within the masterplan are evident in the Innovation and Skills Campuses.</p>	
13.	Individual/ Local area	Fully in support of transition away from fossil fuels but the proposals are problematic. Not a just transition for the people of Torry. Want the green spaces retained.	Per comment 1	None
14.	Individual/ Local area	No reason to use green space where there is so much vacant industrial land. Return Gregness back and St Fitticks as promised.	Per comment 12	None
15.	Individual/ Wider	Object to use of greenspace when the city is full of Brownfield land.	Per comment 12	None

	Company/ Individual/ Location	Comments	Response	Recommended changes to Draft ETZ Masterplan
	Aberdeen City			
16.	Individual/ Local area	<p>Object to use of greenspace when the city is full of Brownfield which could be reused.</p> <p>Harbour promised to reinstate Gregness back to Doonies farm and St fitticks park back to the people of Torry but this did not happen.</p> <p>Concern with noises and smells a short distance from residences.</p>	<p>Per comment 12</p> <p>The requirement to reinstate the land by Aberdeen Harbour Board does not relate to this Masterplan.</p> <p>Assessments will be required with planning applications that will take into consideration air quality, odours, and a health impact assessment. The specific final uses of the different areas are unknown so cannot be assessed at this time.</p>	None
17.	Individual/ Local area	Waste of money, time and effort.	Comments noted	None
18.	Individual/ Aberdeens hire	Object to the allocations on greenspaces. Object to the loss of Doonies particularly for the poorer areas.	Per comment 1	None
19.	Individual/ Local area	<p>Object to the loss of the last accessible green space from the community, loss of nature reserve and animals.</p> <p>Reuse vacant lots at Altens instead.</p>	Per comment 12	None
20.	Individual/ Local area	<p>Object to the loss of another green space.</p> <p>Concern for further health issues as a result of the development.</p>	<p>Per comment 3</p> <p>Assessments will be required with planning applications that will take into consideration air quality, odours, and a health impact assessment. The specific final uses of the</p>	None

	Company/ Individual/ Location	Comments	Response	Recommended changes to Draft ETZ Masterplan
			different areas are unknown so cannot be assessed at this time.	
21.	Individual/ Aberdeens hire	Object to the loss of St Fitticks /Greenspace to the detriment of the detriment of the local population and nature, planet and people come last.	Per comment 3	None
22.	Individual/ Wider Aberdeen City	Object to the use of accessible greenspace from the poorest community when there is Brownfield land.	Per comment 12	None
23.	Individual/ Local area	Object to the use of St Fitticks Greenspace for development -, greenspaces are important for health. Area surrounded by industrial estates, an incinerator, a new harbour and a landfill site that is still polluting the areas of Aberdeen. Use brownfield sites in Tullos and Altens instead.	Per comment 12	None
24.	Individual/ Other former resident	Object to more development in Torry. The incinerator causes air pollution. The closure of the Academy destroyed the community.	The sites are allocated within the local development plan as set out under comment 1. Concerns with existing air pollution should be raised with the Council's Environmental Health Service. Assessments will be required with planning applications that will take into consideration air quality, odours, and a health impact assessment. The specific final uses of the different areas are unknown so cannot be assessed at this time.	None

	Company/ Individual/ Location	Comments	Response	Recommended changes to Draft ETZ Masterplan
25.	Individual/ Wider Aberdeen	Object to the ETZ detriment of a city.	Per comment 1	None
26.	Individual/ Local area	Object to the use of Green spaces, very few green spaces left in Torry this will harm the community and environment.	Per comment 3	None
27.	Individual/ Wider Aberdeen	Object where masterplan states it was not informed by community feedback, they are opposed to the proposals. Community were not a stakeholder.	Community engagement was carried out by the design team as set out on pages 7-16 of the Masterplan (and summarised within this report). The main concerns raised by the community during consultation related to the allocation of the sites at St Fittick's and Doonies rather than community requirements or benefits.	None
		Community benefits – concern for: No apparent funding for proposed; No planning condition / condition of occupation proposed; Lack of enforcement of the ASH s69; and, Agreed community benefits, must be developed. Requested explanation of mitigation hierarchy.	The masterplan sets out phasing of applications and linked Strategic Mitigation & Compensation Measures (identified through Masterplan) on pages 158-172 of the draft Masterplan. It also states that planning obligations will be agreed with ACC through planning application assessment and as such will be secured through planning conditions and/or a legal agreement.	None
		Concern for the loss of amenity (views/boundary treatment/light/24 hour operative site) to the existing park.	Detailed design and further assessments submitted with planning applications will consider the potential impact of elements such as light. This document sets out parameters and a framework for detailed proposals, but the design detail will be	None

	Company/ Individual/ Location	Comments	Response	Recommended changes to Draft ETZ Masterplan
			determined through the planning application process.	
		<p>Comments re St Fittick's park (' the Park')</p> <p>Note development of a part of the Park such to conditions which include that development must have a ' functional association with ASH which precludes it being located elsewhere '</p>	A new section will be added to the Masterplan to make it clear the LDP requirement of each allocation.	Amend masterplan to ensure it is clear the LDP requirement including the functional association with ASH.
		Concern for the height limitations (up to 15 meters) of development for the park 2 and no justification for impact to visual amenity.	The Masterplan sets parameters for development. Detail of building heights will be set out in subsequent planning applications. via studies such as Landscape and Visual Impact Assessments.	None
		<p>Concern realignment of the Coast Road would increase the land and allow land to be used for other purposes and should not be permitted.</p> <p>The section of land which will be enclosed is land which AHB had refused permission to use when ASH was constructed. The land was to be reinstated when construction concluded.</p>	<p>The level of detail required at Masterplanning stage does not include detailed assessments for topics like roads. An assessment of traffic and transport impacts and other relevant studies will be required as part of planning applications as they come forward.</p> <p>The requirement for such studies is identified within the Masterplan on page 167.</p> <p>Each campus has a section on Transport and Connectivity shown the importance of this issue(p84, p108, p122, p123, p144).</p>	None

	Company/ Individual/ Location	Comments	Response	Recommended changes to Draft ETZ Masterplan
			<p>Furthermore p 152 – 154 relates specifically to road infrastructure and how the ETZ relates to other existing and committed projects including the coast road.</p> <p>The requirement to reinstate the land by Aberdeen Harbour Board does not relate to this Masterplan.</p>	
		Concern no meaningful screening is proposed, in particular loss of tress.	<p>The Masterplan illustrates the location and area of landscaping that will be removed and replaced. Replacement planting will include native species and will extend woodland cover, particularly within the Tullos Wood. A section has also been added to the Masterplan stating: “development proposals must increase tree and woodland cover, and where tree removal takes place replacement planting will be required to ensure an overall <u>net gain</u> in tree cover”</p> <p>Screening will be considered in more detail as part of the planning application process.</p>	None
		The practicality of realigning the East Tullos Burn remains unclear. Detailed engineering/ hydrological drawings should be required to demonstrate feasibility.	Noted. The Masterplan makes it clear that further studies, design and assessments are required as part of any planning application to fully consider the details of this.	None
		The masterplan omits the damage to the remaining two thirds of the park which will now be bordered by a fenced , possible floodlit, etc this must be a condition.	Detailed design and further assessments submitted with planning applications will consider the potential impact of elements	None

	Company/ Individual/ Location	Comments	Response	Recommended changes to Draft ETZ Masterplan
			such as light. This document sets out parameters and a framework for detailed proposals, but the design detail will be determined through the planning application process.	
		<p>Mitigation</p> <p>Concern no funding/costing information provided or, details of proposed construction.</p>	It is not appropriate to go into such detail at the Masterplan Stage of the process. Funding / costing are not material planning considerations.	None
		The Masterplan shows a range of footpaths (dotted white). Note, the path South of the railway will soon be inaccessible given proposals by Network Rail to shut the footbridge. ETZ need to specify which paths will be 'maintained and enhanced'. Note that no new paths are proposed in the upper area of the Burn near the school. Completion of path should be a condition of occupation of any industrial buildings.	The removal of the bridge is outwith the control of ETZ but they have considered connections beyond the site. The plan on page 71 shows how the connections can be made via an underpass to the west. This said in section 6 it would be helpful to have a plan showing the indicative path improvements within the sites and the wider connections to the network beyond. It should be noted that at this time the final path locations have not been determined and this would be part of a planning application process, but the requirement for their retention and enhancement has been identified.	Add wider context plan for the sites showing potential path links to the wider network ensuring connectivity to the City Centre, the surrounding communities and the coast.
		The planning conditions should specify detail of what is to be done re enhancing Tullos Wood access, where etc.	This will be considered through the planning application process.	None
		Concern pocket parks and areas of green space in the wider Torry community are no longer proposed.	Pages 95 and 96 of the Masterplan show Local Parklets and it states that specific locations and amenities within parklets to be	Add note here after with ACC to include “and

	Company/ Individual/ Location	Comments	Response	Recommended changes to Draft ETZ Masterplan
			confirmed through further consultation and in coordination with ACC.	the relevant community interest groups”
		Compensatory off-site planting provides no benefit to the community but can be used as screening. Support adherence to Tree Replacement Plan.	A detailed landscape plan will be developed as part of any planning application including native species. A section has also been added to the Masterplan stating: “development proposals must increase tree and woodland cover, and where tree removal takes place replacement planting will be required to ensure an overall <u>net gain</u> in tree cover”	None
		Gregness Object to the proposed buildings height on grounds of impact visual amenity.	The Masterplan sets parameters for development. Detail of building heights will be set out in subsequent planning applications. via studies such as Landscape and Visual Impact Assessments.	None
		Concern no mitigations proposed for loss of this public open space as part of the S69 ASH agreement.	The requirement to reinstate the land by Aberdeen Harbour Board does not relate to this Masterplan.	None
28.	Individual/ Local area	Suggest reuse and reinvigorate existing industrial areas and brown land.	The ETZ will use vacant and redundant buildings and sites within industrial areas as well as the allocated greenfield land. Throughout the masterplan states that brownfield land will be utilised. Examples within the masterplan are evident in the Innovation and Skills Campuses.	None

	Company/ Individual/ Location	Comments	Response	Recommended changes to Draft ETZ Masterplan
		Object to inclusions of St Fitticks park it is invaluable.	Per comment 1	None
29.	Individual/ Wider Aberdeen	Object to the plans to develop community areas.	Per comment 1	None
		Object to the loss of Doonies farm it educates children.	Per comment 1	None
30.	Individual/ Wider Aberdeen	Support the move towards renewable energy but not at the expense of well used green spaces. Reuse derelict industrial areas instead.	Per comment 1 The ETZ masterplan and the proposals will use vacant and redundant buildings and sites within industrial areas as well as the allocated greenfield land.	None
31.	Individual/ Local area	Concern with loss of 2/3 of the trees from St Fitticks. Need to retain the greenspace because adjacent houses don't have gardens. Use Brownfield land instead of building on the park.	Allocation of site per comment 1 The Masterplan illustrates the location and area of landscaping that will be removed and replaced. Replacement planting will include native species and will extend woodland cover, particularly within the Tullos Wood. A section has also been added to the Masterplan stating: "development proposals must increase tree and woodland cover, and where tree removal takes place replacement planting will be required to ensure an overall <u>net gain</u> in tree cover" The ETZ will use vacant and redundant buildings and sites within industrial areas as well as the allocated greenfield land. Throughout the masterplan states that	None

	Company/ Individual/ Location	Comments	Response	Recommended changes to Draft ETZ Masterplan
			brownfield land will be utilised. Examples within the masterplan are evident in the Innovation and Skills Campuses.	
32.	Individual/ Other	Retain the green space for mental and physical wellbeing. Concern with the development that have impacted Torry over the recent years.	Per comment 3	None
33.	Individual/ Local area	The ETZ is, in principle a good concept. Object that the plan starts by concreting up a wetland in the most deprived area of Aberdeen.	<p>At the centre of the ETZ masterplan is the consideration of environment, biodiversity and landscape. The community and energy coast considers the East Tullos Burn and wetlands (p59 and 60). St Fittick's park and the projects that will be brought forward in this area, to the benefit of the community are shown on pages 61-64. Biodiversity protection and enhancement are also considered on pages 65-66 with suggested improvements including pollinator coast, habitat management and development landscaping.</p> <p>It is acknowledged that around 1/3 of the site will be built on and alterations will be made to the burn at its easterly end but a number of further studies and assessments, including an EIA and flood risk assessment are required as part of ongoing planning processes and will be fully assessed and considered through this route.</p>	None

	Company/ Individual/ Location	Comments	Response	Recommended changes to Draft ETZ Masterplan
			<p>The Masterplan sets principles and parameters that will be taken forward with any planning applications. The environment, connectivity and community benefits, including a new play park, pump park and parklets identified as part of the marine gateway are all embedded within the document highlighting their importance and requirement to be further considered.</p> <p>Furthermore, ACC carried out a Habitat Regulation Appraisal which considers the masterplan proposals against the Special Areas of Conservation and identified the mitigation required to avoid adverse impact on the designated sites and their qualifying species interests. These will be added to the Masterplan for clarity and the HRA available for the Councils website.</p>	
34.	Individual/ Wider Aberdeen	<p>Strongly opposed to the Draft ETZ Masterplan. St Fitticks park very important and valuable greenspace with many benefits. Torry has suffered more than its fair share of industrial development. Cannot encroach further.</p> <p>Sufficient Brownfield land could be used instead.</p>	<p>Per comment 3</p> <p>The ETZ masterplan and the proposals will use vacant and redundant buildings and sites within industrial areas as well as the allocated greenfield land.</p>	None
		Concern with the governance process in relation to the ETZ and want decision made by Full Council.	A decision was taken at PDMC to consider the Masterplan at Council, hence this report.	None

	Company/ Individual/ Location	Comments	Response	Recommended changes to Draft ETZ Masterplan
			The governance process is not a matter for consideration within this report or masterplan.	
35.	Individual/ Local area	Concern with black particles in the air already the atmospheric pollution will get worse with this project.	Assessments will be required with planning applications that will take into consideration air quality, odours, and a health impact assessment. The specific final uses of the different areas are unknown so cannot be assessed at this time.	None
36.	Individual/ Local area	Concern that Doonies has closed and that the green space is being removed.	Per comment 1. The closure of Doonies Farm is not for consideration in this Masterplan or report.	None
37.	Individual/ other – born in area	Object to development on St Fitticks park. Concern that once this is over the park will not be restored to its current states.	Per comment 1. Part of St Fittick's Park will be lost to development under current plans. The remaining areas will be maintained and enhanced.	None
38.	Individual/ Aberdeens hire	Concern with the inclusion of St Fitticks park in the ETZ. The site is in part a boggy wetland, not very accessible and not suitable for development; it will severely impact an already disadvantaged community. Reuse brownfield land adjacent to the South Harbour instead.	Per comment 12 The ETZ will use vacant and redundant buildings and sites within industrial areas as well as the allocated greenfield land. Throughout the masterplan states that brownfield land will be utilised. Examples within the masterplan are evident in the Innovation and Skills Campuses	None
39.	Individual/ Local area	Community needs St Fitticks park it is the only natural resource near our doorstep.	Per comment 3	None

	Company/ Individual/ Location	Comments	Response	Recommended changes to Draft ETZ Masterplan
40.	Individual/ Local area	Concern with existing pollution in Torry. Loss of St Fitticks would cause decline in mental health, it is a well used area.	The sites are allocated within the local development plan as set out under comment 2. Concerns of existing air pollution should be raised with environmental health. Assessments will be required with planning applications that will take into consideration, air quality, odours, and a health impact assessment. The specific final uses of the different areas are unknown so cannot be assessed at this time.	None
41.	Individual/ Local area	Masterplan should be considered by Full Council.	This report is for Council	None
42.	Individual/ Local area	Reuse Brownfield land in Altens and Tullos industrial estates instead. Concern with the loss of the green space. Concern from air pollution from HGVs and machinery.	The ETZ masterplan and the proposals will use vacant and redundant buildings and sites within industrial areas as well as the allocated greenfield land. Examples of this are evident in the Innovation and Skills Campuses.	None
		Masterplan should be considered by Full Council.	This report is for Council	None
43.	Individual/ Local area	Object to the loss of Torrys only expansive green space when the provision is already limited.	Per comment 3	None
44.	Individual/ Wider Aberdeen	Concern that Torry has already had many industrial developments imposed upon it. Should support green business and not fossil fuel industry, retrofit homes and instal insulation.	The existing situation in Torry or retrofitting of homes with insulation are not for this Masterplan to consider. The ETZ vision states: “ By 2030 we will have designed and built in phases a unique Energy Transition Zone adjacent to the new harbour development at	None

	Company/ Individual/ Location	Comments	Response	Recommended changes to Draft ETZ Masterplan
			Aberdeen South Harbour. It will be a leading-edge catalyst for innovation and high value manufacturing, and a centre of excellence for offshore renewables, large scale production of hydrogen and CO2 storage. Through the success of the ETZ, the region and the energy supply chain will become a global leader in energy transition, and a net exporter of product, services, technologies, and skills. This purpose-built net zero green space, connected to the coastline, will provide future Energy Transition organisations and the local community with amenities, job opportunities, a strong blue-green network supporting a long term business environmentally sustainable business cluster; harnessing the region's natural resources and existing skills base to maximise the future value potential from Energy Transition developments for future generations." Thus moving away from the Oil and Gas.	
45.	Business/ Fridays for Future Aberdeen/ Wider Aberdeen	1. Object and want Opportunity Sites 56 and 62 in St Fittick's Park removed from the ETZ and amend the draft Masterplan accordingly. The proposed development of Opportunity Sites 56 and 62 will negatively impact environmental health experienced by a	1. Per Comment 1 2.The Masterplan relates to land allocated in the ALDP for an ETZ. Throughout the document national, regional and local policies have been considered and assessed. The masterplan looks at policy topics such as	None

	Company/ Individual/ Location	Comments	Response	Recommended changes to Draft ETZ Masterplan
		<p>community which already has significant health outcome disparities.</p> <p>Will negatively impact the natural environment will have a negative impact on the amenity of the surrounding residential area</p> <p>2. Will be contrary to current national and local authority planning policy including Scotland's NPF4 and Aberdeen Local Development Plan 2023</p> <p>3. will cause traffic congestion, access, and safety problems for residents and those using coast paths due to increased HGV and other vehicular traffic related to uses. Potential conflicts with pedestrians, cyclists and public transportation</p> <p>4. will create a precedent for future similar proposals in Torry,</p> <p>5. will adversely impact a Scheduled National Monument and Commonwealth War Grave site of St Fittick's Church</p> <p>6. result in the loss of public amenities, such as green space and recreational grounds cannot compensate for the loss</p> <p>7. Proposed improved access to Tullos Wood is not suitable compensation as this requires lengthy pedestrian travel through an industrial estate.</p> <p>will adversely affect the needs of people with disabilities due to the loss and diminution of quality of accessible and inclusive</p>	<p>improvements to biodiversity, active travel, health and wellbeing, historic environment, safety, reuse of brownfield land, job opportunities and upskilling, and at the forefront of the ETZ, the move to net zero and climate mitigation and adaptation.</p> <p>3. Concerns of traffic and road congestion conflicts will all be considered as part of required assessments submitted with any planning application. The Masterplan sets out on page 167 the further assessments that are required for planning applications including an EIA, HIA and TIA.</p> <p>4. The issue of precedent does not exist, every application is considered on its own merits. The sites are allocated in the ALDP and will be assessed against the requirements of this and other relevant legislation and other material planning considerations.</p> <p>5. Consideration has been given to the siting of the development beside St Fittick's Church and Historic Environment Scotland and the Council's archaeologist have been involved throughout the process. Further</p>	

	Company/ Individual/ Location	Comments	Response	Recommended changes to Draft ETZ Masterplan
		<p>existing pathways in the park. he proposed mitigation and compensation will not meet the needs of elderly and disabled residents of Brimmond Court.</p> <p>8. Proposed local parklets do not provide for the same range of uses as the existing park.</p> <p>9. will impose additional pollution on top of those already present</p>	<p>Assessments and consultation with HES will be required as part of the planning process.</p> <p>6. The Masterplan relates to land allocated in the ALDP for an ETZ. The masterplan has identified the developable area within the site, which equates to around 1/3 of it. The Masterplan also clearly sets out projects (p64-66) as well as proposals and opportunities with the area (p73-98), including pollinator coast, local species planting, habitat management, and as identified by SEPA the need to improve water quality of the burn (p59 and 60).</p> <p>7. The proposal includes improved access through St Fittick's Park to Tullos Hill. It is noted that the bridge will be removed but this is a consequence of a separate project to electrify the main east coast rail line and upgrade the Coast Road and is consequently under the control of Network Rail. Careful consideration will be given to allowing improved access for all through the assessment of planning applications. Further path networks and improvements are shown for each area but in particular on the Marine Gateway. Though part of the site</p>	

	Company/ Individual/ Location	Comments	Response	Recommended changes to Draft ETZ Masterplan
			<p>will be developed, there will be an extensive path network still available.</p> <p>8. The Masterplan sets principles and parameters that will be taken forward with any planning applications. The environment, connectivity and community benefits, including a new play park, pump park and parklets identified as part of the marine gateway are all embedded within the document highlighting their importance and requirement to be further considered.</p> <p>9. Assessments will be required with planning applications that will take into consideration air quality, odours, and a health impact assessment. The specific final uses of the different areas are unknown so cannot be assessed at this time.</p>	
46.	Individual/ Wider Aberdeen	Comments same as 45 above.	Response per 45 above.	none
47.	Individual/ Wider Aberdeen	<p>Object to the proposed development which is contrary to key policies within Scotland's National Planning Framework 4 regarding nature recovery and human wellbeing.</p> <p>Development will destroy plants and animal habitats as well as large areas of woodland and grassland.</p>	<p>The Masterplan relates to land allocated in the ALDP for an ETZ. Throughout the document national, regional and local policies have been considered and assessed. The masterplan looks at policy topics such as improvements to biodiversity, active travel, health and wellbeing, historic environment,</p>	None

	Company/ Individual/ Location	Comments	Response	Recommended changes to Draft ETZ Masterplan
		Proposed compensatory tree planting at Tullos Wood is insufficient.	<p>safety, reuse of brownfield land, job opportunities and upskilling, and at the forefront of the ETZ, the move to net zero and climate mitigation and adaptation.</p> <p>The masterplan has identified the developable area within the site, which equates to around 1/3 of it. The Masterplan also clearly sets out projects (p64-66) as well as proposals and opportunities with the area (p73-98), including pollinator coast, local species planting, habitat management, and as identified by SEPA the need to improve water quality of the burn (p59 and 60). Further assessments such as an EIA are required with any planning application.</p> <p>The Masterplan illustrates the location and area of landscaping that will be removed and replaced. Replacement planting will include native species and will extend woodland cover, particularly within the Tullos Wood. A section has also been added to the Masterplan stating: “development proposals must increase tree and woodland cover, and where tree removal takes place replacement planting will be required to ensure an overall <u>net gain</u> in tree cover”</p>	

	Company/ Individual/ Location	Comments	Response	Recommended changes to Draft ETZ Masterplan
		<p>Concern that Balnagask residents already live with unhealthy levels of air pollution which would deteriorate further.</p> <p>Concern that some proposal ie pump park would expose young users to high levels of pollution.</p> <p>Concern would cause a reduction in opportunities for healthy outdoor activity.</p> <p>Insufficient compensatory greenspace proposed</p>	<p>Concerns of existing air pollution should be raised with environmental health.</p> <p>Assessments will be required with planning applications that will take into consideration air quality, odours, and a health impact assessment. The specific final uses of the different areas are unknown so cannot be assessed at this time.</p> <p>A Health Impact Assessment will be provided as part of the planning application process.</p> <p>The Masterplan relates to land allocated in the ALDP for an ETZ. The masterplan has identified the developable area within the site, which equates to around 1/3 of it. The Masterplan also clearly sets out projects (p64-66) as well as proposals and opportunities with the area (p73-98), including pollinator coast, local species planting, habitat management, and as identified by SEPA the need to improve water quality of the burn (p59 and 60). The proposal looks at quality as well as quantity.</p>	None
48.	Individual/ Local area	<p>Concern children will be exposed to more pollution,</p> <p>Object as a community for this ETZ to go ahead.</p>	Per comment 1. Assessments (including a health impact assessment) will be required with planning applications that will take into consideration air quality, odours, and a health impact assessment. The specific final	None

	Company/ Individual/ Location	Comments	Response	Recommended changes to Draft ETZ Masterplan
			uses of the different areas are unknown so cannot be assessed at this time.	
49.	Individual/ Local area	Not in my backyard please	No response	None
50.	Local area	Object to all the plans	Per comment 1	None
51.	Individual/ Local area	Concern that the loss of St Fitticks would have a detrimental effect on the community and wildlife. Concern with increase pollution in the area which will impact on animals that do survive.	Per comment 2 Assessments (including a health impact assessment) will be required with planning applications that will take into consideration, air quality, odours, and a health impact assessment. The specific final uses of the different areas are unknown so cannot be assessed at this time.	None
		Support that new children's facilities included however within an industrial estate seems inappropriate.	Assessments (including a health impact assessment) will be required with planning applications that will take into consideration air quality, odours, and a health impact assessment. The specific final uses of the different areas are unknown so cannot be assessed at this time.	None
		Object to the forced closure of Doonies farm	The closure of Doonies is not for consideration in this Masterplan or report,	None
		The current 'masterplan' does not seem to listen to the voices of local residents or the community.	Community engagement was carried out by the design team as set out on pages 7-16 of the Masterplan. The main concerns raised by the community during consultation related to the allocation of the sites at St Fitticks and Doonies rather than community	None

	Company/ Individual/ Location	Comments	Response	Recommended changes to Draft ETZ Masterplan
			requirements or benefits. The allocation of the site is not for this Masterplan to consider, this was carried out via the Local Development Plan process (per comment 1)	
52.	Individual/ Wider Aberdeen	Object to the rezoning of the park due to an undemocratic process and lack of meaningful community consultation.	Per comment 1.	None
		Concern for the negative impacts from the proposed development, namely the health of the community. Highlights "economic wellbeing" is not suitable compensation.	Assessments will be required with planning applications that will take into consideration, air quality, odours, and a health impact assessment. The specific final uses of the different areas are unknown so cannot be assessed at this time.	None
		Object to any development on St Fitticks it is not 1/3 being developed but further creep into the green lung.	Per comment 3	None
		Global issues cannot simply be used to justify local injustices not in the community's best interest.	Per comment 3	None
53.	Individual/ Local area	Object to the rezoning of this vital green space for industrial use.	Per comment 1	None
		Object to further noise and dust that will be produced as a result of the development.	Assessments (including a health impact assessment) will be required with planning applications that will take into consideration air quality, odours, and a health impact assessment. The specific final uses of the different areas are unknown so cannot be assessed at this time.	None
		Object to living beside St Fittick's if it's an industrial zone Torry is already bordered by industrial uses and incinerator that cause noise and air pollution.	Per comment 1	None

	Company/ Individual/ Location	Comments	Response	Recommended changes to Draft ETZ Masterplan
			The existing uses within the area are not for consideration within this report, that is an existing situation.	
		Object to the impact on the important wetlands round the Tullos Burn, destroying their habitat will result in the loss of our wildlife.	<p>Per comment 1. At the centre of the ETZ masterplan is the consideration of environment, biodiversity and landscape. The community and energy coast considers the East Tullos Burn and wetlands (p59 and 60). St Fittick's park and the projects that will be brought forward in this area, to the benefit of the community are shown on pages 61-64. Biodiversity protection and enhancement are also considered on pages 65-66 with suggested improvements including pollinator coast, habitat management and development landscaping. It is acknowledged that around 1/3 of the site will be built on and alterations will be made to the burn at its easterly end but a number of further studies and assessments, including an EIA and flood risk assessment are required as part of ongoing planning processes and will be fully assessed and considered through this route.</p> <p>Further detail on the burn and the wetlands will be developed via the planning application process. This will include biodiversity/ landscape framework and ecological surveys.</p>	None

	Company/ Individual/ Location	Comments	Response	Recommended changes to Draft ETZ Masterplan
			Furthermore, ACC carried out a Habitat Regulation Appraisal which considers the masterplan proposals against the Special Areas of Conservation and identified the mitigation required to avoid adverse impact on the designated sites and their qualifying species interests. These will be added to the Masterplan for clarity and the HRA available for the Councils website.	
54.	Individual/ Local area/	Object to the green hydrogen but if it is that important to make hydrogen there is so many empty industrial buildings Do not build on St Fittick park and Donnies Farm.	Per comment 1 The ETZ masterplan and the proposals will use vacant and redundant buildings and sites within industrial areas as well as the allocated greenfield land. Examples of this are evident in the Innovation and Skills Campuses.	None
55.	Individual/ ocal area	Object to inclusion of the Green space should be left alone for Residents of Torry	Per comment 1	None
56.	Individual/ Aberdeens hire	Object to inclusion of the Green space should be left alone for Residents of Torry	Per comment 1	None
57.	Individual/ Local area	The masterplan should be decided by full council and not planning committee.	This report is for Council.	None
58.	Individual/ Local area	Object to inclusion of St Fitticks Park, it is the only play area this side of Torry .it is well used by all in Torry.	Per comment 3	None
59.	Individual/ Local area	Object to the inclusion of St Fitticks and Doonies in the ETZ. Concern Torry is becoming overdeveloped at the cost of loss of open greenspace.	Per comment 1	None

	Company/ Individual/ Location	Comments	Response	Recommended changes to Draft ETZ Masterplan
		Seeks clarity that St Fitticks Park was a Council initiative. Highlights the bigger "green" agenda must take precedence over the one remaining green space in Torry.	Per comment 3	None
60.	Individual/ Aberdeens hire	Object to loss of Doonies Farm it should never have been forced to close.	Per comment 1	None
61.	Individual/ Local area	Object – the park and doonies farm they are well used and should be kept.	Per comment 1	None
62.	Business/ Individual/ Peterson UK LTD	Fully Supportive of the Masterplan and its objectives. The ETZ should be set up to maximise the skills and expertise of the supply chain in order to make the Offshore Renewables activity as efficient and effective as possible. Must ensure the vendor community is as attractive as possible for investment and activity is not lost to other parts of the UK or worse to the rest of Europe. The ETZ has a once in a generation opportunity to set out its stall and become a best in class vendor community. This will not only support the energy transition of jobs from Oil and Gas to Renewables, but also create new jobs of the future and provide an exciting prospect for the next generation of talent who are not motivated to be involved in Oil & Gas.	Support Noted	None
63.	Individual/ Local area	Object to St Fittick's park to be included in the ETZ - it is not needed. Concern it is only to absorb activities from the old north harbour. Object to further industrialisation of Torry.	Per comment 1.	None

	Company/ Individual/ Location	Comments	Response	Recommended changes to Draft ETZ Masterplan
		The consultation was information giving with no opportunity for residents to have any influence on the plan.	This consultation period that this report relates was a time to provide comment to the Council on the content of the document.	None
		Object to a 50ft factory making anchor chains located 50m from housing. As the landowner, ACC has betrayed its duties to Torry Community by allowing this development to take place.	The Masterplan sets parameters for development. Further detail of building heights and uses will be set out in subsequent planning applications via studies such as Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, Noise Impact Assessment dependant on the use proposed. The Masterplan sets out a framework for development, a significant level of work and further information is required through the planning application process before development can begin.	None
		Concern that the proposed scale and type of development will not sufficiently protect the local amenity on existing homes (p78) certainly, the protection measures within the 2020 AHB Plan are not sufficient.	Landscape plans and mitigation will be considered in detail as part of a planning application. Also per comment above surveys and assessments will also be required.	None
64.	Business/ River Dee Medical Group	The board and staff of River Dee Medical Group support the aims of an Energy Transition Zone to develop new renewable technologies using existing brownfield sites.	Noted	None
		We object to any industrial development of greenspace in the St Fittick's Park area (OP56). This is a public health asset.	Assessments will be required with planning applications that will take into consideration, air quality, odours, and a health impact assessment. The specific final uses of the	Text added to Masterplan to confirm that a

	Company/ Individual/ Location	Comments	Response	Recommended changes to Draft ETZ Masterplan
		<p>No evidence that development of the St Fittick's Park is essential to a successful energy transition programme.</p> <p>Further industrialisation will exacerbate the already poor health outcomes within the community.</p> <p>No health impact assessment has been undertaken in the nor been asked by Aberdeen City Council to do so.</p>	<p>different areas are unknown so cannot be assessed at this time.</p> <p>A Health Impact Assessment will be provided as part of the planning application process.</p>	HIA is required.
65.	Individual/ Local area	Strongly object to development at St Fitticks Park. Use empty buildings in Altens instead. Loss of greenspace is contrary to the Masterplan of Aberdeen.	<p>Per comment 1</p> <p>Assume the masterplan of Aberdeen is the LDP and the site is allocated within this document.</p>	None
66.	Individual/ Local area	<p>Masterplan should be considered at full council.</p> <p>Object to this masterplan and the pollution it will generate.</p> <p>Object to impact on St Fitticks church and the graveyard.</p>	<p>The masterplan will be considered at Full Council.</p> <p>The impact on St Fitticks Church and Graveyard has been considered. Additional surveys and assessments will be required to ensure no physical damage is caused during development the setting of the church was altered a number of years ago.</p>	None
67.	Individual/ Local area	<p>Object to the loss of the Torry golf course and Doonies farm.</p> <p>Full council should consider the document.</p>	<p>There is no proposal to carry out any work at the golf course.</p> <p>OP61 Doonies is within the Aberdeen Local Development Plan which was formally adopted on 19th June 2023.</p>	None

	Company/ Individual/ Location	Comments	Response	Recommended changes to Draft ETZ Masterplan
			This report is for Council.	
68.	Business / Paths for all	Welcome the links to the place principle and net zero priorities and the delivery of 20 minute neighbourhoods policies embedded in NPF4. Welcome the compliance with specific policy requirements including sustainable places and liveable places.	Support noted	None
		Welcomes reference to NPF4 six qualities of successful places	Support noted	None
		Agree that development within the Masterplan should: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be focused on key transport and movement corridors that are accessible and have potential for multi-modal connectivity. • Incorporate active travel connections and infrastructure. • Support local living and the strengthening of 20-minute neighbourhoods. 	Support noted	None
		Opportunity should be taken to enhance greenspace and encourage active use.	Support noted	None
		Supports investing to enhance the path/cycleway network.	Support noted	None
		Supports active travel interventions and the creation of 20-minute neighbourhoods and liveable places.	Support noted	None
		Supports the principle of a Community Fund.	Support noted	None
		Supports creating safe and attractive routes for walking and cycling across the area.	Support noted	None
		Our strategy sets out our vision for tackling physical inactivity, poor mental health, increased health and transport inequalities and the climate emergency.	Support noted	None
69.	Individual/ Wider City	Objects to the Draft ETZ Masterplan. Supports transition but must ensure social justice & environmental protection.	The masterplan has identified the developable area within the site, which is note the whole of the site and equates to	None

	Company/ Individual/ Location	Comments	Response	Recommended changes to Draft ETZ Masterplan
		<p>The plans will destroy a large part of St Fittick's Park - unacceptable.</p> <p>Loss of much of St Fittick's Park will affect residents' physical & mental health which is already poorer.</p>	<p>around 1/3 of it. The Masterplan also clearly sets out projects (p64-66) as well as proposals and opportunities with the area (p73-98), including pollinator coast, local species planting, habitat management, and as identified by SEPA the need to improve water quality of the burn (p59 and 60).</p> <p>It is acknowledged that around 1/3 of the site will be built on and alterations will be made to the burn at its easterly end but a number of further studies and assessments, including an EIA and flood risk assessment are required as part of ongoing planning processes and will be fully assessed and considered through this route.</p> <p>The Masterplan sets principles and parameters that will be taken forward with any planning applications. The environment, connectivity and community benefits, including a new play park, pump park and parklets identified as part of the marine gateway are all embedded within the document highlighting their importance and requirement to be further considered.</p>	

	Company/ Individual/ Location	Comments	Response	Recommended changes to Draft ETZ Masterplan
		Object to the damage to the wetlands and the fact that the remaining undeveloped space will be too close to an industrial park.	The sites are allocated in the Local Development Plan as set out in comment 1. Page 59 and 60 of the Masterplan sets out what is proposed and it states that “further detailed design and feasibility must be informed by further development of baseline information around baseline information around water quality, technical appraisal of existing hydrology and water flow through the burn, and review of channel length, dimensions and capacities to ensure that any amendment to these elements addresses existing issues and enhances the Burn’s hydrological and biodiversity function work will be required in relation to the wetlands”	None
		<p>The ETZ proposals are inconsistent with Scottish Government policy which is to prioritise wellbeing & nature recovery.</p> <p>The proposals set an extremely bad precedent</p> <p>Local people have made their objection to loss of St Fitticks clear.</p>	The Masterplan relates to land allocated in the ALDP for an ETZ. Throughout the document national, regional and local policies have been considered and assessed. The masterplan looks at policy topics such as improvements to biodiversity, active travel, health and wellbeing, historic environment, safety, reuse of brownfield land, job opportunities and upskilling, and at the forefront of the ETZ the move to net zero and climate mitigation and adaptation.	None

	Company/ Individual/ Location	Comments	Response	Recommended changes to Draft ETZ Masterplan
			The issue of precedent does not exist, every application is considered on its own merits. The sites are allocated in the ALDP and will be assessed against the requirements of this and other relevant legislation and material planning considerations. Per comment 1	
70.	Individual/ Wider Scotland	Object to the construction as it will destroy our land. Do not allow yet another industrial park. We need to put people first.	Per comment 1	None
71.	Individual/ Local Resident	Not against the development of an ETZ, just should not be built at St.Fitticks Park. Use brownfield industrial land instead.	The site is allocation with the LDP for development. The ETZ proposal also includes building on brownfield land at Altens.	None
72.	Business/ Wider Aberdeen/ CBRA	With the shift in focus from oil and gas to more greener forms of energy there is significant potential for the North East to be at the forefront of this new green revolution, and the proposals for Energy Transition Zone will help create the right working environment to embrace this new energy world we are entering in to. Critical that Aberdeen and the Energy Transition Zone progress these plans to provide a credible proposition for these organizations to set up a base in the North East. We therefore fully support this masterplan.	Comment noted, support welcomed	None

	Company/ Individual/ Location	Comments	Response	Recommended changes to Draft ETZ Masterplan
73.	Individual/ Local Area	Object to development at Fitticks Park and the wetlands, not appropriate for heavy industry. No guarantee jobs will be given to local people. Nothing will compensate for the loss of green space.	Per comment 3 At the heart of the ETZ masterplan is growth, investment and jobs. The skills campus is set out on pages 137-148 of the masterplan	None
74.	Individual/ Work locally	Strongly oppose plans, it will destroy a lovely place. Retain greenery.	Per comment 3	None
75.	Individual/ Local Area	Objects to inclusion of St Fittick's Park and its unique habitats. Further industrialisation of the park will cause irrevocable damage. Park is already eroded by the new harbour and views lost. Unjust to industrialise this area further considering presence of existing Sewage Treatment works and incinerator. Supports the need for an energy transition, but must be a Just Transition that ensures those most affected are central to decision-making.	Per comment 3	None
		The consultation process carried out by ETZ Ltd and Ironside Farrar has been insufficient. The masterplan omits detail regarding job creation.	Community engagement was carried out by the design team as set out on pages 7-16 of the Masterplan. There is a section of the masterplan dedicated to a skills campus and the aim to provide leading- edge education and training infrastructure that can support and enhance the local skills base in Aberdeen.	None

	Company/ Individual/ Location	Comments	Response	Recommended changes to Draft ETZ Masterplan
		Questions the requirement for additional space, given that projected construction of offshore windfarms will be reduced post 2025, thus the sites are not needed.	It is not for the Masterplan to question the need for sites.	None
		<p>Suggestion that there will be ‘no net loss of biodiversity’ is ineffective if an area of greenspace is destroyed and merely placed elsewhere. Additionally, land has already been lost in the area so ‘no net loss’ is untrue. Creating biodiverse habitats to offset loss is costly, and may result in further biodiversity loss overtime if local authority cannot afford its maintenance.</p> <p>Language used in masterplan regarding compensation of biodiversity loss is ambiguous and causes uncertainty. Such as quotations: “Areas within the masterplan with potential for enhancement to contribute to the area’s biodiversity and habitat connectivity”, and “coastal cliff-tops where there is amenity grassland that could be purposefully managed for biodiversity.”</p> <p>Detail regarding what the land in St Fitticks Park will be used for is too ambiguous.</p> <p>It would be reckless for councillors to support destruction of St Fitticks’ highly valued greenspace, risks a costly legal challenge.</p>	<p>Per comment 3 – the site is allocated in the ALDP.</p> <p>At the centre of the ETZ masterplan is the consideration of environment, biodiversity and landscape. The community and energy coast considers the East Tullos Burn and wetlands (p59 and 60). St Fittick’s park and the projects that will be brought forward in this area, to the benefit of the community are shown on pages 61-64. Biodiversity protection and enhancement are also considered on pages 65-66 with suggested improvements including pollinator coast, habitat management and development landscaping.</p> <p>It is acknowledged that around 1/3 of the site will be built on and alterations will be made to the burn at its easterly end but a number of further studies and assessments, including an EIA and flood risk assessment are required as part of ongoing planning processes and will be fully assessed and considered through this route.</p>	None

	Company/ Individual/ Location	Comments	Response	Recommended changes to Draft ETZ Masterplan
			<p>The Masterplan sets principles and parameters that will be taken forward with any planning applications. The environment, connectivity and community benefits, including a new play park, pump park and parklets identified as part of the marine gateway are all embedded within the document highlighting their importance and requirement to be further considered.</p> <p>Furthermore, ACC carried out a Habitat Regulation Appraisal which considers the masterplan proposals against the Special Areas of Conservation and identified the mitigation required to avoid adverse impact on the designated sites and their qualifying species interests. These will be added to the Masterplan for clarity and the HRA available for the Councils website.</p> <p>At this time the end user is not known for the area. It is entirely appropriate for a Masterplan to provide this level of detail. The Masterplan sets principles and parameters that will be taken forward with any planning applications.</p>	
76.	Business/ Torry	Plan is good but location is wrong. Locals views are not being considered holistically.	Per comment 1.	None

	Company/ Individual/ Location	Comments	Response	Recommended changes to Draft ETZ Masterplan
	Medical Practice	No health impact assessment has been undertaken.	A Health Impact Assessment will be provided as part of the planning application process.	
77.	Individual/ Wider Aberdeen/ Ferryhill	Use empty industrial sites instead. Unclear why an energy transition zone required. This is a significantly deprived area any just transition should take these factors into account.	The ETZ Masterplan includes a number of proposals for Brownfield sites. This however does not remove the requirement for the land at St Fitticks which is allocated for this use.	None
		Object to inclusion of St Fitticks Park an important wetland linked to the East Tullos Burn. Health inequality is significantly different across Aberdeen, removing green areas will have a further detrimental effect on health.	Per comment 3	None
		Clean Technology and Insulation are essential. More efforts needed for a transition that supports Climate Change mitigation/adaptation and Aberdeen's economy (job creation for locals). Concern ETZ masterplan is deficient in promoting a genuine, just transition.	At the centre of ETZ is the principles of adapting to climate change and job creation and upskilling.	
78.	Individual/ Aberdeens hire	Object to the inclusion of St. Fitticks Park this park is vital for health and wellbeing.	Per comment 3	
79.	Individual/ Local Area	Against proposal for St Fitticks and Tullos Burn. It is a perfect carbon sink, home of hundreds of wildlife. Building over it in the name of green energy is not acceptable. Space can be found in the Tullos Industrial Estate.	Per comment 3 The ETZ masterplan and the proposals will use vacant and redundant buildings and sites within industrial areas as well as the allocated greenfield land. Examples of this are evident in the Innovation and Skills Campuses.	
		The Tullos burn was part funded by the community and we don't want 2/3rds of the park we want it all.	Per comment 3	None

	Company/ Individual/ Location	Comments	Response	Recommended changes to Draft ETZ Masterplan
		For energy transition but needs to be just this is environmental justice.	Noted.	None
		Against taking any more space from the golf course.	There are no changes proposed to the Golf Course	
80.	Individual/ Aberdeens hire	Comments per 79.	Per responses for 79.	None
81.	Individual/ Local Area	Completely opposed to any development on the greenspace between Torry and the new harbour and/ or Tullos it should not be built over. Not energy transition when loss of greenspace, use old industrial areas instead.	Per comment 1	None
		Concern that if the area of harbour was insufficient, Torry will be subject to increased light, noise and air pollution due to poor planning. These spaces must be protected.	This Masterplan considers the sites allocated in the ALDP. Assessments (including a health impact assessment) will be required with planning applications that will take into consideration air quality, odours, and a health impact assessment. The specific final uses of the different areas are unknown so cannot be assessed at this time.	None
82.	Individual/ Wider City	Object to the inclusion of St Fittick's Park and Doonies Farm. These spaces are important for maintaining good mental health, residents being ignored.	Per comment 1.	None
		This Masterplan will result in the most vulnerable communities suffering. Communities need outdoor space.	Per comment 3	None

	Company/ Individual/ Location	Comments	Response	Recommended changes to Draft ETZ Masterplan
83.	Individual/ Local Area	Object to the creation of an ETZ within the parks, farmlands and green spaces of Torry. Object to the creation an industrial complex on a flood plain within St Fitticks Park. Reuse vacant brownfield sites nearby instead. The ETZ as proposed should be abandoned.	Per comment 3 The ETZ masterplan and the proposals will also use vacant and redundant buildings and sites within industrial areas.	None
84.	Individual/ Visitor	Object to inclusion of St Fitticks in its entirety and the surrounding green belt.	Per comment 1	None
		Promote both St Fittick's Park and Doonie's farm as centres for wildlife education and as community assets.	This is not relevant to the masterplan.	None
		Aberdeen City Council and staff should work in collaboration with others to help maintain and improve the park and its biodiversity, including the East Tullos Burn.	Per comment 3. Further work and consultation will be carried out as proposals are further developed.	None
85.	Individual/ wider Aberdeen	Oppose any industrialization of green space in or around St. Fittick's Park and Tullos Burn. It is the last green space there is. Space can be found in the Tullos industrial estate.	Per comment 3	None
86.	Individual/ local area	Object to the inclusion of St Fitticks Park, it's the only park in the area and valued by the community. A different area should be found.	Per comment 3	None
87	Individual/ Aberdeens hire	Objects to development at St. Fittick's Park and Tullos Burn. Area already acts as a carbon sink, developing on it in the interest of 'green energy' is not acceptable. Residents of Torry need the park. Restoration of the Tullos Burn was funded by the community, therefore, the community want to retain all of it, not just two thirds. Supports the energy transition, but needs assurance it is just. Objects to taking space from the golf course.	Per comment 3. There is no proposal to carry out any work at the golf course.	None

	Company/ Individual/ Location	Comments	Response	Recommended changes to Draft ETZ Masterplan
88.	Individual/ Wider Aberdeen	Against the proposed plans for St. Fittick's Park and I oppose any industrialization of green space. It full of wildlife.	Per comment 3	None
89.	Individual/ Wider Aberdeen	Oppose industrialisation of green space in or around St. Fittick's Park(last green space in Torry) and Tullos Burn.	Per comment 3	None
90.	Individual/ Local Area	Object to the inclusion of St Fittick's. Concern with loss for community and bird population.	Per comment 3	None
91.	Individual/ Local Area	Removing St Fitticks Park and Doonies from green space areas is going against green and environmental policy. Concern with lack of fairness or transparency and community ignored.	Per comment 3 Throughout the document national, regional and local policies have been considered and assessed. The masterplan looks at policy topics such as improvements to biodiversity, active travel, health and wellbeing, historic environment, safety, reuse of brownfield land, job opportunities and upskilling, and at the forefront of the ETZ the move to net zero and climate mitigation and adaptation. The site allocation process is set out in comment 1. This document is the responses to the 8 week consultation that took place over summer by ACC Planning. The process has been transparent.	None
92.	Individual/ Wider Aberdeen	Object to the plans and the impact they will have on the residents, community and history of Torry.	Per comment 3	None

	Company/ Individual/ Location	Comments	Response	Recommended changes to Draft ETZ Masterplan
93.	Individual/ Wider Aberdeen	Object to the inclusion of St Fitticks and Doonies in the ETZ and why it has to be here. The cruise ship are met with an industrial site and solar panels, this is destroying the city.	Per comment 3	None
94.	Individual/ Local Area	Object, enough green space has been taken on the south of city.	Per comment 3.	None
95.	Individual/ Wider Aberdeen	Object to any land being used at St Fittick's Park.	Per comment 1	None
96.	Individual/ Local Area	Heavily opposed to the industrialization plan in and around St. Fittick's Park and Tullos Burn and the impact on biodiversity and a way for stress relief. This would take away the little natural green that we have and around Torry.	Per comment 3	None
97.	Individual/ Aberdeens hire	Object to the destruction of green belt which removes open space, amenities and unique nature opportunities from communities. Use brown field, industrial land within the industrial estates in of Altens, Dyce and Bridge of Don instead.	Per comment 1	None
98.	Individual/ Aberdeens hire	Consultation meaningless given Doonies Farm was closed in advance of this consultation, decision was already made. Made reference to bus gates which are not part of this consultation. Proposals will deter visitors from the cruise ships with views of the city, including the sewage works. Use the brownfield sites before greenspaces.	The closure of Doonies is not for consideration in this Masterplan or report. Bus gates and cruise ships are not relevant to this masterplan. The ETZ masterplan and the proposals will use vacant and redundant buildings and sites within industrial areas as well as the allocated greenfield land. Examples of this	None

	Company/ Individual/ Location	Comments	Response	Recommended changes to Draft ETZ Masterplan
			are evident in the Innovation and Skills Campuses.	
99.	Individual/ Aberdeens hire	Comments will not be taken onboard, it has been decided already.	Unclear what decision is being referred to, if the allocation of the sites that process is covered under comment 1. This consultation was to feed into the Masterplan and where appropriate changes have been recommended.	None
100	Individual/ Wider Aberdeen	<p>1.Objects to the inclusion of OP56 in St Fittick's Park, suggests removal from the ETZ. Development on green space serving residential areas is contrary to national and local planning policy.</p> <p>Development will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increase pollution and damage people's health, increasing health disparities already present in Torry. - Cause environmental damage through destruction of East Tullos Burn and degradation of remaining park area. - Damage amenity of surrounding residential area through loss of parkland and increase of heavy manufacturing and Cause loss of public amenities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increase traffic and congestion, causing access and safety issues, and increased land conflicts among users - Creates precedent promoting future industrial development in Torry 	<p>1. Per comment 3.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A Health Impact Assessment will be required as part of the planning application process. - The burn is not being destroyed to allow for development. A need for the realignment of the Burn has been highlighted and the proposal seeks to improve the quality of the environment and accessibility. The remaining park area includes improvements to play provision and access. - Amenity - Per comment 3 - Detailed traffic modelling and assessments will be required as part of the planning application process. The issue of precedent does not exist, every application is considered on its own merits. The sites are allocated in the ALDP and will be 	None

	Company/ Individual/ Location	Comments	Response	Recommended changes to Draft ETZ Masterplan
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Adversely impacts a Scheduled National Monument and Commonwealth War Grave site due to the proximity of the re-routed Coast Road to the site of St Fittick's Church <p>Concern development will not compensate for losses. Specifically, proposed improved access to Tullos Wood is not suitable compensation due to distance and route.</p> <p>Proposed local parklets do not provide for the same range of uses as the existing park. Causes more sources of pollution and adversely affects people with disabilities due to the loss and disruption to accessible and inclusive pathways in the park.</p>	<p>assessed against the requirements of this and other relevant legislation and material planning considerations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consideration has been given to the siting of development adjacent to St Fittick's Church and Historic Environment Scotland and the Council's archaeologist have been involved throughout the process. Further assessments and consultation with HES and the Archaeology Service will be required as part of the planning process. <p>The Masterplan relates to land allocated in the ALDP for an ETZ. Throughout the document national, regional and local policies have been considered and assessed. The masterplan looks at policy topics such as improvements to biodiversity, active travel, health and wellbeing, historic environment, safety, reuse of brownfield land, job opportunities and upskilling, and at the forefront of the ETZ the move to net zero and climate mitigation and adaptation.</p> <p>Extension and enhancement of the skate park and/or pump park and parklets identified as part of the marine gateway are</p>	

	Company/ Individual/ Location	Comments	Response	Recommended changes to Draft ETZ Masterplan
			all embedded within the document highlighting their importance and requirement to be further considered. Though there will be a loss of greenspace there will be an improvement in the quality and accessibility to it.	
101	Individual/ Local Area	Object to loss of access to greenspace for our local community. Concern with loss of wildlife. Park was well used during lockdown especially for those with no gardens.	Per comment 1	None
102.	Individual/ Local Area	Object to removal of Doonies Farm	The closure of Doonies is not for consideration in this Masterplan or report, .	None
103.	Individual/ Aberdeens hire	Object to Doonies Farm being forced to shut down. -	The closure of Doonies is not for consideration in this Masterplan or report,	None
104.	Individual/ Aberdeens hire	Object to the proposal at St. Fittick's Park and Tullos Burn. Supportive of energy transition. Process needs to be just. St. Fitticks Park and Tullos Burn is a carbon sink, home to varied flora and fauna. Torry residents need the whole park. Land should not be taken from the golf course.	Per comment 3. There is no proposal to carry out any work at the golf course.	None
105	Individual/ Wider Aberdeen	Object to removal of St Fitticks park to build the energy transition zone - protect our green spaces.	Per comment 3	None

	Company/ Individual/ Location	Comments	Response	Recommended changes to Draft ETZ Masterplan
106	Individual/ Wider Aberdeen	Object to proposal. Queries if it could be built in alternative locations such as Milltimber, Cults or Kingswells.	Per comment 1. The principle of developing OP56 St Fittick's Park and OP61 Doonies for energy transition uses has therefore been accepted in the adopted Aberdeen Local Development Plan 2023. However, the Local Development Plan also requires a joint Masterplan for OP56 St Fittick's Park, OP61 Doonies and OP62 Aberdeen South Harbour and outlines some of the issues that need to be considered within the Masterplan. It is this Masterplan which is subject to the current consultation. If the Masterplan is approved, any development of the sites would then require planning consent. This will require planning applications which in turn will be open for further public scrutiny and comment and each planning application will be considered and decided on its own merits.	None
107	Individual/ Wider Aberdeen	Object to the loss of a Doonies Farm and the community asset	The closure of Doonies is not for consideration in this Masterplan or report,	None
108	Not answered	Not answered	No response required.	None
109	Individual/ Wider Aberdeen	Object to business and industrial development on the rural coastline.	Per comment 3	None

	Company/ Individual/ Location	Comments	Response	Recommended changes to Draft ETZ Masterplan
		Object to the development of St. Fitticks and Doonies, which are well used and necessary community initiatives needed for flat dwellers who have little green space.		
110	Individual/ Aberdeens hire	<p>1.Supportive of Aberdeen reinventing itself as a sustainable energy capital but needs to be based on principles of sustainable development. This will ensure that economic development does not undermine communities or result in environmental degradation.</p> <p>2.Developing the site at OP56 (St Fitticks) is at odds with the principles of a Just Transition. It will have substantive negative impacts on the community of Torry who will receive very little of the benefits around the development.</p> <p>3. The development of Doonies (OP61) impacts the wider region and the generations who have enjoyed and learned about farming, sustainability and rural development.</p> <p>4.Supportive of the concept of an Energy Transition Zone. However, the proposed Master plan is flawed and undermines the principles that guide sustainable development. The Masterplan fails both a Just Transition and Sustainable Development test.</p> <p>5.The Masterplan document, minimises and fails to address, concerns around St Fitticks Community Park and Doonies Farm.</p>	<p>1.note support for sustainable energy capital but the need for economic development note to undermine communities or result in enviro degradation. The Energy Transition Zones are to bridge the transition from one industry to another and OP56, due to its location is a keystone to this and potential catalyst for wider economic and environmental change</p> <p>Community engagement was carried out by the design team as set out on pages 7-16 of the Masterplan (and summarised within this report). The main concerns raised by the community during consultation related to the allocation of the sites at St Fittick’s and Doonies rather than community requirements or benefits. There was opportunity for the community to feed into this process.</p> <p>3.per comment</p> <p>4. the sites are allocated in the ALDP for energy transition and states “ Aberdeen is ideally placed geographically to capitalise on energy transition opportunities. It also has the skills and</p>	

	Company/ Individual/ Location	Comments	Response	Recommended changes to Draft ETZ Masterplan
		<p>6.The masterplan downplays the critical set of ‘ecosystem services’ the greenspace provides. Greenspaces offer numerous health benefits and provide opportunities for physical activities and education.</p> <p>7. The Masterplan does not identify benefits provided by the local restored ecosystem and the impacts of disrupting, changing or removing these services.</p> <p>8. The Masterplan proposes the annexation of a third of the park (OP56) as a part of the ‘marine gateway’ but there is an absence of detail and balance in the plan.</p> <p>9.Proposed mitigation measures do not adequately address the concerns or impacts to a loss of 1/3 of the park:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - no consideration on how the remaining park sited by an industrial facility would degrade or eliminate many of the benefits of the greenspace. - The adjoining restored woodland that is cited for development acts as both a buffer to the wastewater treatment works and is considered one of the more rewilded parts of the site, providing an urban wilderness experience while still within the bounds of St Fitticks. Placing an industrial facility would substantially undermine these benefits, and likely remove them entirely. - The proposition for a ‘biodiversity swap’ by improving access to a restored Tullos Hill does not account for the change in different eco systems. It is not swappable. 	<p>workforce to support diversification of the energy sector. Ensuring best use of these regional assets will help to safeguard the city region’s economic future. The construction of Aberdeen South Harbour creates the opportunity to accommodate location specific renewable energy transition developments that capitalise on supporting the rapid delivery of offshore developments.”</p> <p>5. the masterplan is for sites that are allocated in the ALDP. The principle of development on these sites has been established via this statutory process. The Masterplan sets principle and objectives for the development that will be further addressed and considered through any planning application process where studies and assessments are required.</p> <p>6. though the area of park and wetland has been altered the habitats and ecosystems will still be retained. The Masterplan also identifies areas for native planting, wetland habitat management and the opportunity to</p>	

	Company/ Individual/ Location	Comments	Response	Recommended changes to Draft ETZ Masterplan
		<p>- inequality by undermining local access (both in terms of distance to access, a hilly environment rather than flat ground and accessibility via the East Tullos industrial estate) and deepen inequalities for those with limited mobility or limited ability, the means to travel or families.</p> <p>10. The Masterplan needs fundamental revision to exclude the inappropriate development of critical community green infrastructure.</p> <p>The current plan fails at one of the key pillars of a Just Transition. The decarbonisation agenda cannot be progressed in isolation from biodiversity conservation or social justice. A Just Transition demands maximisation of all three underlying principles, and in progressing to Net Zero we do not impose unnecessary impacts on communities or those with the least ability to adapt.</p> <p>In this context the ETZ proposition suffers from a lack of imagination. There are many options that have not been considered, e.g. identification of areas of existing and vacant brownfield sites - of which there are many in the city. It must do better, or the risk is that it will be held as an example of an unjust transition. We can do better with the design of the ETZ masterplan. Urge decision makers, proponents and public authorities to think again and work directly with the affected community.</p>	<p>improve the quality of the burn. The ETZ are working with the local school and the proposal include the opportunity for interpretation. Skills and training are at the forefront of the ETZ principles.</p> <p>7. The sites are allocated in the ALDP. Detailed assessments and surveys will be required as part of any planning application process, where further consideration is given to such topics.</p> <p>8. the level of detail in this document is appropriate for its purpose. Further detailed design will be required as part of the planning application process.</p> <p>9. the end user of the site is not determined at this time. An EIA is required as part of the planning application process. There will be a number of path and networks on flat land that will be accessible for all. Per the reporters recommendations the Masterplan considers measures to avoid, minimise, mitigate, and compensate potential impacts on biodiversity / greenspace that will ensure at least no</p>	

	Company/ Individual/ Location	Comments	Response	Recommended changes to Draft ETZ Masterplan
			<p>net - loss of biodiversity across the masterplan area. Furthermore detailed landscape schemes will be provided as part of the planning application process. The Masterplan identifies where mitigation will be appropriate.</p> <p>10. per comment 3 the site is allocation in the Adopted Aberdeen Local Development Plan.</p> <p>In terms of Just transition the draft plan states we must takes steps to ensure that national, regional and local energy economies are thriving, and that the Strategy and Plan delivers for all parts of Scotland.</p> <p>The loss of an industry that supports so much of Aberdeen, without the transition away from oil and gas would have huge economic and social impacts on the City and region as a whole. Overall in reducing inequalities the ETZ can contribute in job creation and upskilling. The principle of redevelopment of brownfield sites is clearly set out in the Masterplan and already developments of this type have</p>	

	Company/ Individual/ Location	Comments	Response	Recommended changes to Draft ETZ Masterplan
			gone through the planning process and have been granted.	
111.	Individual/ Local Resident	<p>Objects to the Draft ETZ Masterplan (ETZMP) based on the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Concerned with the Local Development Plan allocation process. 2. Promotes the use of existing industrial estates and Aberdeen Harbour Board's land instead. 3. No evidence in support or reasons why St Fitticks Park (OP56), Gregness (OP62) or the Doonies (OP61) areas should be developed. 4. There is no current 'manufacturing' requirement at St Fittick's Park/immediately adjacent to the South Harbour. 5. Does not make it clear why related industries should have to 'cluster' together. Concerned this is just a means to acquire/sell areas of land near the new harbour. 6. Makes no reference to land already owned and controlled AHB. 7. States the community involvement was not consultation but information giving. Comments and suggestions were ignored. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Per comment 1. 2. The sites are based on the allocations within the LDP. 3. Per comment 2. 4. At this time no operators have been identified. The LDP states the site will support Energy Transition related industries in association with Aberdeen South Harbour and that it "must have a functional association with the South Harbour which precludes it being located elsewhere.... 5. The purpose of ETZ lit is to reposition the North East of Scotland as a globally recognised integrated green energy cluster focused on the delivery of net zero. By clustering uses together it provides a destination for green energy providers to share knowledge and work together to skills in one area. 6. The land the AHB own is not relevant to the development of the masterplan. Ownership of land is 	

	Company/ Individual/ Location	Comments	Response	Recommended changes to Draft ETZ Masterplan
		<p>8. Makes no mention of leasing public amenity land for industrial development.</p> <p>9. Access to background data and key related studies/ investigations have not been made available to the public.</p> <p>10 ACC documentation suggesting no impact to the East Tullos Burn is contrary to latest publicly available plan relating to impact on the East Tullos Burn. Latest plan shows re-routing of burn to the North, loss of land and destruction of existing wetlands.</p> <p>11. Does not accept the mitigation proposed can be considered appropriate. It is unacceptable that ETZ Ltd.'s consultants have been under pressure not to consider local public amenity space mitigation.</p> <p>12. Does not accept that proposals to tinker with the remainder of St Fittick's Park could constitute appropriate mitigation for the loss of the existing amenity area of the park to the proposed ETZ.</p> <p>13. Promotes the use of vacant brownfield land instead. Constructing industrial facilities and offices on extensive areas of green and open-space land is unacceptable.</p> <p>14. Planning Decisions should be made by the whole Council, and not the Planning Committee.</p>	<p>not a material planning consideration.</p> <p>7. Community engagement was carried out by the design team as set out on pages 7-16 of the Masterplan. The main concerns raised by the community during consultation related to the allocation of the sites at St Fitticks and Doonies rather than community requirements or benefits. The principle of development on this site was established as set out in comment 1.</p> <p>8. The leasing of public land is not a consideration for the Masterplan or a material planning consideration.</p> <p>9. Relevant background data is available, the masterplan has been informed by a number of studies but these do not need to be submitted as part of the Masterplan process. However a number of studies will be required as part of any planning application and will be publicly available.</p> <p>10. The plan referred to is shown on page 95.</p> <p>11. The mitigation will be considered in more detail as part of any planning</p>	

	Company/ Individual/ Location	Comments	Response	Recommended changes to Draft ETZ Masterplan
			<p>application but this identifies mitigation based on studies and assessments so far. Local amenity has been considered and discussed throughout the whole document.</p> <p>12. A large area of St Fitticks Park will remain and will have additional uses such as heritage interpretation, skate park, play facilities. It will also look at the water quality of the burn.</p> <p>13. The ETZ masterplan and the proposals will use vacant and redundant buildings and sites within industrial areas as well as the allocated greenfield land. Examples of this are evident in the Innovation and Skills Campuses.</p> <p>14. This report is for full council.</p>	
112	Individual/ Wider Aberdeen	Object this is an important wildlife area and is the only greenspace left.	Per comment 3	None
113	Individual/ Local Resident	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Raised significant concern with the past development in the Torry area and the lack of response they have had to complaints. Objected to the new harbour, it does not bring tourism into the city and the area was well used before the harbour. Concern proposal removes half of the land utilised by residents. Suggests the proposal is better suited to be built at sea. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The existing development in Torry and the new harbour and not for consideration as part of this Masterplan. 2. The closure of Doonies is not for consideration in this Masterplan or report. 	None

	Company/ Individual/ Location	Comments	Response	Recommended changes to Draft ETZ Masterplan
		<p>2. object to loss of Doonies Farm.</p> <p>3 Concern Community not being listened to and that this has already been decided.</p>	<p>3 The site allocation is covered in comment 1. Community consultation has been undertaken through both the ALDP and Masterplan preparation process.</p>	
114	Individual/ Wider Aberdeen	<p>Object to the inclusion of St Fittick's Park in the proposed Energy Transition Zone.</p> <p>1. The Masterplan is not compliant with current National and Local Authority Planning Policies which include NPF4 Policy 23: Health and a number of Aberdeen Local Development Plan 2023 Policies.</p> <p>2. Concern with conflicts of interest involving Aberdeen City Council. The council is a partner in the ETZ, controls the land, is the Planning Authority, has endorsed the Masterplan. Further intends adopting the Masterplan as Planning Guidance, making it a material consideration in Planning Applications.</p> <p>3. No argument in either the business plan or the Masterplan that justifies development of St Fittick's park. Concern that the plan is predicated on speculative development. Concern about the economic risk.</p> <p>4. Lack of transparency over the motivation behind developing the park. Concern it will be used for offices, warehouses and fuel stores instead by the port.</p> <p>5. Concern that any compensation/mitigation obligations will not</p>	<p>1. The Masterplan relates to land allocated in the ALDP for an ETZ. Throughout the document national, regional and local policies have been considered and assessed. The masterplan looks at policy topics such as improvements to biodiversity, active travel, health and wellbeing, historic environment, safety, reuse of brownfield land, job opportunities and upskilling, and at the forefront of the ETZ the move to net zero and climate mitigation and adaptation.</p> <p>2. The Council's Planning Service independently assesses masterplans and planning applications on their own merits. The Council's interest in the land will result in greater scrutiny through the Masterplan and planning application process.</p> <p>3. The comment about the proposal being speculative is not for the</p>	None

	Company/ Individual/ Location	Comments	Response	Recommended changes to Draft ETZ Masterplan
		<p>be enforced. States this happened at the south harbour despite a legal agreement. Concern re cumulative health impacts especially given the other development that has occurred in this area. Lack of data re impact.</p> <p>6. Concern there are wider plans to industrialise the Torry area, it needs to be kept to protect Torry. No mitigation for the loss of the park is possible. It is the last accessible green space.</p>	<p>masterplan to consider. This document sets principles for development to aid in any planning application process. It has been confirmed by ETZ that the area of St Fitticks will not be developed until an end user has been identified. As part of any planning application for this site it must be demonstrated that there is a functional association with the South Harbour which precludes the proposed use from being located elsewhere.</p> <p>4. per comment 1</p> <p>5. Mitigation and developer obligations will be determined via the planning application process.</p> <p>6. These sites are allocated as set out in comment 3 of this table. A large area of the park will remain.</p>	
115	Individual /Wider Aberdeen	I object to the ETZ Masterplan and in particular the loss of greenspace, many homes have no gardens at all and this is free.	Per comment 3	None

	Company/ Individual/ Location	Comments	Response	Recommended changes to Draft ETZ Masterplan
116	Individual / Wider Aberdeen	Object to loss of St Fitticks Park it should be retained in full. The green space in Torry should be maintained and for the public's use.	Per comment 3	None
117	Individual/ Local Resident	To loss of more greenspace in Torry.	Per comment 3	None
118	Individual/ Wider Aberdeen	Reuse abandoned offices, and industrial estates instead of green spaces. There are already "technology campuses" that have never returned added value to the public.	The ETZ masterplan and the proposals will use vacant and redundant buildings and sites within industrial areas as well as the allocated greenfield land. Examples of this are evident in the Innovation and Skills Campuses. It is not for the masterplan to consider added value from existing technology campuses.	None
119	Individual /Local Resident	Object to the loss of St Fitticks Park, and Doonies Farm, torrys social deprivation. Use existing industrial estates which lie empty instead. Suggests create a green corridor between Cove and Altens incorporating the city farm.	Per comment 3 The suggestion of an alternative is not for the consideration of the Masterplan on the allocated sites.	None
120	Individual /Local Resident	Object to the plans for St Fitticks given there are no other green spaces and on health grounds.	Per comment 3	None
121	Individual/ Wider City	Object to park being turned into an industrial area and the pollution it will add. Build on a brownfield site.	Per comment 1	None

	Company/ Individual/ Location	Comments	Response	Recommended changes to Draft ETZ Masterplan
122	Individual/ Wider City	Object to loss of St Fitticks park and Doonies farm	Per comment 1	None
123	Individual/ Visitor	<p>The development of St Fittick's Park should not go ahead for the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Park is the last green space for an impoverished community, -carbon capture is not viable, -Taking out the existing trees to make a carbon capture is wrong. - other alternative sites available -new luxury housing and marina will be unaffordable <p>the whole development project is "green washing"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -invest in insulating the people of Torry's houses instead 	<p>Per comment 1</p> <p>In terms of trees Masterplan proposed to be updated to include the text "development proposals must increase tree and woodland cover, and where tree removal takes place replacement planting will be required to ensure an overall <u>net gain</u> in tree cover"</p> <p>The statement about carbon capture being unviable and investing in insulating houses in Torry not relevant to the Masterplan document.</p> <p>Unsure to what the new houses in the marina relates, this is not proposed in the Masterplan.</p>	None
124	Individual/ Visitor	Per 123	Per 123	None
125	Individual/ Wider Aberdeen	This is not a just transition.	The masterplan development has followed the approved guidance and a number of consultation exercises have taken place. The principle of the ETZ is not for the Masterplan to determine given the allocation set out in comment 1.	None
126	Individual/ Local Resident	Damages the city with disregard of the wishes of the people that live here.	Per comment 3	None

	Company/ Individual/ Location	Comments	Response	Recommended changes to Draft ETZ Masterplan
127	Individual/ Local Resident	Object to development at Fitticks Park and surrounding areas – only greenspace that is left.	Per comment 3	None
128	Individual/ Aberdeens hire	Object to Non-renewal of lease for Doonies farm.	The ETZ is allocated The sale/lease of land is a separate matter and not relevant to the masterplan or the planning process	None
129	Individual/ Wider Aberdeen	No factually accurate business plan justifying use land at St Fittick's. Reuse brownfield lands. The proposal will adversely affect the residents of Torry and the neighbouring area re-health, air pollution, noise pollution and the lack of a park to enjoy in the area.	<p>A business plan is not required to be submitted for the purpose of a Masterplan.</p> <p>The ETZ masterplan and the proposals will use vacant and redundant buildings and sites within industrial areas as well as the allocated greenfield land. Examples of this are evident in the Innovation and Skills Campuses.</p> <p>Assessments will be required with planning applications that will take into consideration air quality, odours, and a health impact assessment. The specific final uses of the different areas are unknown so cannot be assessed at this time.</p>	None
130	Individual/ Local Resident	<p>St Fitticks is an important green space and should be retained. It has wildlife, birds and the community planted trees.</p> <p>Value of the South Harbour promised mitigations have been watered down and are now meaningless.</p> <p>Concern raised about the process and lack of transparency of site</p>	<p>Per comment 1.</p> <p>The south harbour proposal and mitigation associated with it, is not for the masterplan to deal with.</p>	None

	Company/ Individual/ Location	Comments	Response	Recommended changes to Draft ETZ Masterplan
		<p>allocation. ACC own the land and are not subject to any form of local democratic oversight.</p> <p>All consultations with Ironside Farrar have met with objection.</p> <p>The business plan was not seen nor approved by any local democratic body, nor the local community.</p> <p>Lack of maintenance by ACC on the wetlands which are now overgrown.</p> <p>Believes this is a speculative land grab.</p> <p>Torry residents have had many unjust industrial developments imposed upon them.</p> <p>An Energy Transition Zone in Altens and Tullos in brownfield sites is acceptable but not the loss of the park.</p>	<p>The process for allocation of the site is set out in comment 1.</p> <p>The consultation related to the content of the masterplan and not the allocation of the site.</p> <p>A business plan is not required to be submitted for the purpose of a Masterplan.</p> <p>Current maintenance regime is not relevant to the Masterplan.</p> <p>The site is allocated in the LDP and a Masterplan is required, this is the process that has been undertaken.</p> <p>The comment about the proposal being speculative is not for the masterplan to consider. This document sets principles for development to aid in any planning application process.</p> <p>The development in the area in the past is not relevant to this masterplan. Note acceptability of the brownfield development.</p>	

	Company/ Individual/ Location	Comments	Response	Recommended changes to Draft ETZ Masterplan
131	Individual/ Wider Aberdeen	Object to the use of the site specified. There are plenty of other sites that could be used.	Per comment 1	None
132	Individual/ Local Area	No comments	No comments	None
133	Individual/ Local Area	This project is not acceptable, as it degrades St Fitticks Park. It isn't either rational because there are no necessary road connection with the Zone.	Per comment 3. Road infrastructure and the relevant assessments will be further considered via any planning application. This document sets principles for the ETZ development on the site.	None
134	Individual/ Local Area	No proper consultation has been undertaken. There is no counter to the loss of the amenity of St Fitticks park. Proposals are speculative Object to loss of Doonies farm for speculative reasons.	Community engagement was carried out by the design team as set out on pages 7-16 of the Masterplan. The main concerns raised by the community during consultation related to the allocation of the sites at St Fitticks and Doonies rather than community requirements or benefits. The allocation of the site is not for this Masterplan to consider, this was carried out via the Local Development Plan process). The comment about the proposal being speculative is not for the masterplan to consider. This document sets principles for development to aid in any planning application process. The closure of Doonies is not for consideration in this Masterplan or report,	None

	Company/ Individual/ Location	Comments	Response	Recommended changes to Draft ETZ Masterplan
135	Individual/ Local Area	<p>Concern of community and city impact from increased level of noise and pollution generated by the increase in traffic and manufacturing.</p> <p>Concern for the impact on residents of the south of the city.</p>	<p>Assessments will be required with planning applications that will take into consideration air quality, odours, and a health impact assessment. The specific final uses of the different areas are unknown so cannot be assessed at this time.</p>	None
136	Individual/ Aberdeens hire	<p>Object to loss Doonies Farm and St Fitticks park. It is always the less affluent areas of the city impacted.</p> <p>Concern for impact on residents lifestyle and mental well-being.</p>	<p>Per comment 2</p> <p>Assessments will be required with planning applications that will take into consideration air quality, odours, and a health impact assessment. The specific final uses of the different areas are unknown so cannot be assessed at this time.</p>	None
137	Business/ Port of Aberdeen	<p>Support for the Masterplan.</p> <p>Specifically support the Marine Gateway elements which recognise the need to support the strategic growth plans for the North East of Scotland embodied in the Port of Aberdeen's role as a National Planning Framework 4 priority site. This will aid its growth with the possibilities associated with sourcing new port-centric industry or supply chain, particularly in the renewables arena, needing direct access to quayside services.</p> <p>Welcomes the work that has been done to protect the green environment and ensure that community interests and needs are included within the Masterplan such as enhancing the amenities and access to greenspace.</p>	Support noted.	None

	Company/ Individual/ Location	Comments	Response	Recommended changes to Draft ETZ Masterplan
		<p>Welcomes the work to ensure the local community benefits from the wider opportunities available as a result of the Energy Transition Zone, embodied within the projects identified as part of the Masterplan, including training and skills enhancement, retraining and education and the availability of new job opportunities.</p> <p>Key to retention of Aberdeen and the North East's position as the North Sea energy hub are the two major initiatives to :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. ensure a fair transition away from fossil fuel production while protecting the livelihood of thousands of residents, maintaining and utilising the expertise gained from the last 50 years association with the energy industry and supporting a world leading energy supply chain; together with 2. working towards ensuring the achievement of Net Zero and climate change goals <p>The work that ETZ is proposing as part of this Masterplan is key to successful achievement of that goal and the Port wholeheartedly supports the plan as presented.</p>		
138	Resident/ Wider Aberdeen	Object the green spaces will inevitably be destroyed and deprivation in the area increased further.	Per comment 3.	None
139	Visitor	<p>Object to loss of last accessible green space as it will negatively impact the community.</p> <p>Understand the need to transition from a carbon economy.</p>	A large area of greenspace and path connections will still be available. The proposal also looks to improve active travel including improved cycle and path connections to the area.	None

	Company/ Individual/ Location	Comments	Response	Recommended changes to Draft ETZ Masterplan
		<p>However transition needs to be fair and just. This is not, it will affect residents who won't benefit from employment.</p> <p>Concern over use of public funds in unproven technologies instead of energy efficiency measures, renewable energy infrastructure and public engagement.</p> <p>Building 'green-washing' factories sends the wrong message and represents 'business as usual'.</p> <p>Proposes the use of other sites that wouldn't result in the loss and damage to an already hard hit community.</p>	<p>Funding is not for the Masterplan to consider. A Masterplan sets detailed guidance on land use, design principles and development programme. It ensure a joined up approach for the development of a complex site(s). It sets a framework and parameters for what is expected as part of the development and when.</p> <p>The ETZ masterplan and the proposals will use vacant and redundant buildings and sites within industrial areas as well as the allocated greenfield land. Examples of this are evident in the Innovation and Skills Campuses. The masterplan covers both brown and greenfield sites per the allocation.</p>	
140	Resident/	Object to the plans for Torry. Use the vacant industrial sites instead.	Per comment 3	None
141	Resident/ Wider Aberdeen	Welcome the level of detail, with the associated investigation and analysis. However, no detailed financial information on forecast demand, capital and operational costs.	Detailed financial information on forecast demand, capital and operational costs are not for the Masterplan to consider and are not material planning considerations. e	None
142	Resident/ Local Area	Object to the development. Use other sites not close to the residents which would not result in health issues for residents. Reuse brownfield land at Altens rather. Object to closure of Doonies.	The closure of Doonies is not for consideration in this Masterplan or report,	None
143	Resident/	Leave it alone.	Per comment 1.	None

	Company/ Individual/ Location	Comments	Response	Recommended changes to Draft ETZ Masterplan
144	Resident/ Local Area	<p>I object to development of St Fitticks Park. Acknowledge the to move away from reliance on fossil fuels but suggest use brownfield industrial units instead.</p> <p>There is a conflict of interest with ACC being part of the ETZ and the authority granting permission.</p>	<p>The Masterplan relates to land allocated in the ALDP for an ETZ. The masterplan has identified the developable area within the site, which equates to around 1/3 of it.</p> <p>Aberdeen City Council and the Planning Authority are not the same thing.</p> <p>The Council's Planning Service independently assesses masterplans and planning applications on their own merits. The Council's interest in the land will result in greater scrutiny through the Masterplan and planning application process..</p>	None
145	Resident/ Local Area.	Object to loss of habitats and the only green space left in torry.	Per comment 3	None
146	Resident/ Local Area.	Object to the concept and raised concerns with transparency of process. This will not benefit the residents of Torry or Aberdeen.	Per comment 1	None
147	Resident/ Local Area.	Object to loss of st Fitticks due to very little green space left.	Per comment 3	None
148	Resident/ Local Area.	<p>1. The ETZ proposal is contrary to National Planning Framework regarding nature recovery and human wellbeing.</p> <p>2 It will destroy the habitat of East Tullos Burn and the remaining area will be degraded by proximity to industrial pollution.</p>	<p>1. The Masterplan relates to land allocated in the ALDP for an ETZ. Throughout the document national, regional and local policies have been considered and assessed. The masterplan looks at policy topics such as improvements to</p>	None

	Company/ Individual/ Location	Comments	Response	Recommended changes to Draft ETZ Masterplan
		<p>3. Concern with destruction of woodland. Planting trees on a landfill site has already proved not to be effective because the surface soil is too shallow.</p> <p>4.Existing concerns in Torry include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • health risks already placed on the community by proximity to the sewage works and Incinerator, and high pollution levels. • LEZ has resulted in older cars detouring in Torry. • Traffic reduction in city centre resulted in diverted traffic through highly populated and poor suburbs such as Torry. • Torry are often treated unfairly in terms of development. • One of most underprivileged areas in Scotland with lower average life expectancy. <p>5.During pandemic residents came to Torry/St Fitticks for the environment not found in most of the city. Removal of opportunity to access greenspace for exercise to build roads is criminal negligence by ACC who are representatives for all residents in the city.</p> <p>6.Concern with the decision making process.</p> <p>7. Masterplan should be decided by Full Council.</p>	<p>biodiversity, active travel, health and wellbeing, historic environment, safety, reuse of brownfield land, job opportunities and upskilling, and at the forefront of the ETZ the move to net zero and climate mitigation and adaptation.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. The East Tullos Burn will remain with proposal to enhance and improve water quality set out on pages 59 and 60 of the Masterplan. 3. A detailed landscape plan and scheme will be developed as part of the relevant planning applications when they come forward. A section has been added to the masterplan stating “development proposals must increase tree and woodland cover, and where tree removal takes place replacement planting will be required to ensure an overall <u>net gain</u> in tree cover” 4. Existing concerns in Torry do not relate to this masterplan. 5. There will still be spaces to walk and the ETZ aspires to improve walking, cycling and wheeling in the area. 	

	Company/ Individual/ Location	Comments	Response	Recommended changes to Draft ETZ Masterplan
			<p>6. The site allocation process is set out in the response to comment 1 on page 1 of this appendix. This report is for Council.</p> <p>7. This report is for Full Council.</p>	
149	Individual/ Wider Aberdeen	<p>Object to the loss of as St Fittick's park and Doonies Farm</p> <p>Decision on the Masterplan should be made by full council.</p>	<p>Per comment 1</p> <p>This report is for full council.</p>	
150	Individual/ Wider Aberdeen	Should use brownfield land not the green spaces.	The ETZ masterplan and the proposals will use vacant and redundant buildings and sites within industrial areas as well as the allocated greenfield land. Examples of this are evident in the Innovation and Skills Campuses.	
151	Individual/ Wider Aberdeen	The loss of St Fitticks will be detrimental to the health of locals	<p>The masterplan has identified the developable area within the site, which is note the whole of the site and equates to around 1/3 of it. The Masterplan also clearly sets out projects (p64-66) as well as proposals and opportunities with the area (p73-98), including pollinator coast, local species planting, habitat management, and as identified by SEPA the need to improve water quality of the burn (p59 and 60).</p> <p>Assessments will be required with planning applications that will take into consideration air quality, odours, and a health impact</p>	

	Company/ Individual/ Location	Comments	Response	Recommended changes to Draft ETZ Masterplan
			assessment. The specific final uses of the different areas are unknown so cannot be assessed at this time..	
152	Individual/ Wider Aberdeen	Object to the loss of St Fitticks Park. Decision on Masterplan should be made by Full Council.	Per comment 1 This report is for full council.	None
153	Individual/ Wider Aberdeen	Aware we need an ETZ it should not encroach on St Fitticks Park but use empty buildings at Kirkhill.	Per comment 1 This report is for full council.	None
154	Individual/ Local Resident	Concern why renewable energy comes at the cost of local residents. The green spaces are vital to the well being of residents and wildlife this does not appear to have been considered. Community comments and engagement are not listen to.	Per comment 3.	None
155	Individual/ Visitor	Objects to loss of green space when it is already limited in the Torry area. Object to doonies farm removal.	Per comment 3	
156	Individual/ Local Resident	Concern local residents views have been ignored. Object because plan will have a massive impact on the local community and the park area is important to the physical and mental well being.	Per comment 3.	None
157	Aberdeens hire Individual/ links with Torry	Use brownfield sites instead.	The ETZ masterplan and the proposals will use vacant and redundant buildings and sites within industrial areas as well as the allocated greenfield land. Examples of this are evident in the Innovation and Skills Campuses. There is the requirement for both as part of the ETZ proposals. Some consents have already been granted on Brownfield sites.	None

	Company/ Individual/ Location	Comments	Response	Recommended changes to Draft ETZ Masterplan
158	Individual/ Aberdeens hire	St Fitticks should be saved as a protected green site for the people of Torry and visitors. The proposals will have a significant negative impact on the area and the residents.	Per comment 3	
159	Individual/ Aberdeens hire	Limited access to open areas in Torry area, should not deprive the community when there are brown field sites and vacant buildings closeby.	The ETZ masterplan and the proposals will use vacant and redundant buildings and sites within industrial areas as well as the allocated greenfield land. Examples of this are evident in the Innovation and Skills Campuses. There is the requirement for both as part of the ETZ proposals.	None
160	Individual/ Wider Aberdeen	Object to the loss of St Fitticks, it is a precious amenity for its local residents and destroying the park will harm their quality of life. The masterplan is not a Just Transition and does not protect the interests of its residents.	Per comment 3	None
161	Individual/ Wider Aberdeen	We need to keep our parks to provide the wellbeing to people and animals for their future.	The masterplan has identified the developable area within the site, which is note the whole of the site and equates to around 1/3 of it. The Masterplan also clearly sets out projects (p64-66) as well as proposals and opportunities with the area (p73-98), including pollinator coast, local species planting, habitat management, and as identified by SEPA the need to improve water quality of the burn (p59 and 60).	None
162	Individual/ Wider Aberdeen	Object to loss of St Fitticks retain existing biodiverse wetlands and outdoor space for people	Per comment 3	None

	Company/ Individual/ Location	Comments	Response	Recommended changes to Draft ETZ Masterplan
163	Individual/ Wider Aberdeen	Oppose any more land being reclaimed from St Fitticks Park it has a huge impact.	Per comment 3	None
164	Individual/ Wider Aberdeen	I don't agree with the amount of green space being sacrificed for the ETZ.	Per comment 3. The masterplan has determined the developable area	None
165	Individual/ Wider City – City Centre	I object to the inclusion of St Fittick's Park in the proposed Energy Transition Zone, as outlined in the ETZ Draft Masterplan April 2023 by Ironside Farrar. Concerned over the future of the planet and not necessarily opposed to the ETZ developing on a different site. But the proposed inclusion of St Fitticks Park comes at devastating cost to the local and wider community.	Per comment 3	None
166	Individual/ Wider City	Object to loss of St Fittick's park. It is one of the few green spaces that is easily accessible to those residents. Use brownfield land instead.	The whole of St Fitticks park will not be lost, see comment 3.	None
167	Individual/ Local Resident	Object to the loss of St Fitticks and the precious greenspace and the further development of this area. It has an impact on the local community. Concern this is being driven by an agenda and not a just transition. No benefits returned to the people of Torry	Per comment 3. There are new facilities proposed at St Fitticks including pump park, play park and the opportunity for local parklets off site. These will be considered further as part of any planning application and community involvement in this process is encouraged.	None
168	Individual/ Local Resident	Object to loss of St Fitticks, only green space for some and it is free. Area already has poor health and deprivations.	Per comment 3.	None

	Company/ Individual/ Location	Comments	Response	Recommended changes to Draft ETZ Masterplan
169	Individual/ Wider Aberdeen	Object to further building in Torry. If loose St Fitticks no greenspace will be left.	Per comment 3.	None
170	Individual/ Local Resident	Use the brownfield Altens industrial estate instead.	The ETZ masterplan includes campuses which utilise the Brownfield sites of Altens and Tullos.	None
171	Individual/ Local Resident	Retain St Fitticks and Doonies sites as green field natural area. Reuse brown field sites which are sitting vacant in Tullos and Altens instead.	Per comment 1.	None
172	Individual/ Wider City	Object to development on St Fitticks park, it would be a loss of existing wetlands, woods, flora and fauna as well as national and local planning. The proposal would damage physical and mental health and air quality of Torry and its people. A clean energy transition can and must happen in Aberdeen without the loss of a community's most valuable and cherished public asset.	Per comment 3.	None
173	Individual/ Local Resident	Object to inclusion of St Fitticks Park. Already lost Nigg Bay, had an incinerator built need to retain open space at St Fitticks for the sake of our physical and mental health.	Per comment 3.	None
174	Individual/ Wider City	People have a right to make decisions regarding their local community and infrastructure. These decisions have not been democratic.	The sites have been allocated in the Local Development Plan and this democratic process is set out in the response to comment 1. Community engagement was carried out by the design team as set out on pages 7-16 of the Masterplan. The main concerns raised by the community during consultation related	None

	Company/ Individual/ Location	Comments	Response	Recommended changes to Draft ETZ Masterplan
			to the allocation of the sites at St Fitticks and Doonies rather than community requirements or benefits. The allocation of the site is not for this Masterplan to consider, this was carried out via the Local Development Plan process.	
175	Individual/ Local Resident	Object the local people are not being listened to use brownfield sites in Altens instead.	Per comment 1	None
176	Individual/ Local Resident	St. Fitticks Park would be a great loss to the local community.	Per comment 1	None
177	Individual/ Local Resident	<p>Unclear why St Fitticks Park and Doonies Farm need to be developed. ETZ plans do not explain what is going there. There is no need for another industrial area.</p> <p>Use vacant industrial land instead.</p> <p>The community have not been consulted regarding your plans and communication about meeting has not been timeous. A few trees is not going to compensate for this loss.</p> <p>This is a deprived area with families living below the poverty line who depend on the park for recreation.</p> <p>We have been promised many things in the past regarding the harbour still waiting.</p>	<p>Per comment 1.</p> <p>Community engagement was carried out by the design team as set out on pages 7-16 of the Masterplan. The main concerns raised by the community during consultation related to the allocation of the sites at St Fitticks and Doonies rather than community requirements or benefits. The allocation of the site is not for this Masterplan to consider, this was carried out via the Local Development Plan process. Furthermore this report relates to an 8 week consultation carried out on the content of the Draf ETZ Masterplan.</p>	None

	Company/ Individual/ Location	Comments	Response	Recommended changes to Draft ETZ Masterplan
178	Individual/ Local Resident	Another ACC vision or as the council call it a "Masterplan". Queries why the proposal is to be located on the South side of the City again. Why not the West of the City?	This document has been produced in accordance with the established Aberdeen Placemaking Process Aberdeen Planning Guidance(formerly Masterplanning process). The site has been allocated in accordance with the local development plan process – per comment 1	None
179	Individual/ Wider City	Object to the loss of greenspace for deprived communities. Providing a range of outdoor spaces of various qualities and amenities for active as well as more passive outdoor recreation facilities is imperative, and the plan shows some promise in this regard. The community should be continued to be involved in the design and implementation of this space to ensure the benefits to the people.	Any subsequent planning applications for sites within the ETZ masterplan area, will be made available for public comments and consideration.	None
180	Individual/ Local Resident	Object to loss of widely used greenspace from one of scotland's poorest areas. Plenty other sites that can be used.	Per comment 3	None
181	Individual/ Wider City	Object to use of St Fitticks park. It's an area of special interest for both wildlife and history and should remain sacrosanct. In an area that is classed as deprived, green space should be kept this will increase the negative effects of living in a deprived community.	Per comment 3	None
182	Individual/ Aberdeens hire	Restrictions are forcing people out with the city to access shops. This is damaging to city centre shops and Aberdeen's economy.	Comments not relevant to the Masterplan	None
183	Individual/ Local Resident	Torry is becoming a 'dumping ground' for the city. Torry residents are fond of the park and its' existing wildlife. Unoccupied industrial land in Altens should be considered instead.	Past development in Torry is not part of this masterplan consultation.	None

	Company/ Individual/ Location	Comments	Response	Recommended changes to Draft ETZ Masterplan
184	Individual/ Wider City	Need more green areas not less.	Per comment 3.	None
185	Individual/ Local Resident	<p>Appreciates the long term benefits of ETZ. No need for the removal of an already limited supply of green space.</p> <p>Proposed improvements to Tullos Hill will not benefit the residents near St Fitticks Park that have mobility difficulty or lack access to transportation, which is required to access the Hill area.</p> <p>Proposed demolition of the Shell building and other areas in Tullos and Altens that lie unused would be better suited to house everything. Tullos and Altens have a useful transportation system and should be factored into plans rather than disturbing the limited supply of green space in Torry.</p> <p>People's livelihoods will be affected, leaves a feeling of disappointment towards the council. Seems that financial gain is being prioritised.</p>	<p>Per comment 3.</p> <p>The improvements to Tullos hill are one of the proposals. There is also improved access along the coast and the aspirations to improved cycling wheeling and walking in the area. the community and energy coast section shows an illustrative plan of potential walking and cycling routes and how to access them. It is acknowledged that the railway line causes challenges but it demonstrates how the hill and wider network could be accessed. (p69)</p> <p>The demolition of the shell building is not relevant to the masterplan however the ETZ masterplan and the proposals will use vacant and redundant buildings and sites within industrial areas as well as the allocated greenfield land. Examples of this are evident in the Innovation and Skills Campuses.</p> <p>The comment on financial gain is not relevant to this consultation exercise.</p>	None
186	Individual/ Wider City	Objects to inclusion of St Fittick's Park. Concerned about the impact on natural environment and its value to the health of Aberdeen residents.	Per comment 3.	None

	Company/ Individual/ Location	Comments	Response	Recommended changes to Draft ETZ Masterplan
		<p>Proposals for OP56 will have a negative impact on natural environment. Loss of habitat, nature corridor, and quality of St Fittick's Park due to relocation and changes to East Tullos Burn wetland, grasslands and woodland habitats.</p> <p>Disagrees with the division of natural habitats, the biodiversity existing within these natural areas should be prioritised and green corridors maintained.</p> <p>The documents' mentioning of "restoration" and "amelioration" of damage and loss indicates there will be damage and loss of habitat in the construction and lifespan of the project. Loss of these amenities can never be restored to their former state. Queries why they should be destroyed when many have invested time and effort to develop and protect these amenities.</p> <p>Questions if an Environmental Impact Assessment has been carried out on OP56 and the development as a whole.</p> <p>Questions if proposal meets NPF4's requirement to address the 6 Spatial Qualities, particularly qualities 1-3: "Healthy", "Pleasant", and "Connected".</p> <p>Cites document quotation: "It must be developed sensitively and with an integrated approach that supports place-based investment and delivers wider benefits around the Green Network, active travel connectivity, and enhanced local biodiversity." And section 2.5: "[it will]..Positively enhance the</p>	<p>It was acknowledged in the examination into the ALDP that there would be an impact on habitat but the masterplan is required to include "Measures to avoid, minimise, mitigate, and compensate potential impacts on biodiversity / greenspace that will ensure at least no net - loss of biodiversity across the masterplan area." this is included under each campus such as pages 111-112 for OP61 and 86-90 for OP56.</p> <p>An SEA was carried out as part of the ALDP statutory process. As part of the Masterplan process an HRA was carried out and concluded "In the light of the HRA, it is considered that the proposal will not adversely affect the integrity of any of the protected sites or their qualifying interests, and that the conservation objectives will be met during and after construction as well as following implementation and delivery of the required mitigation measures. The Masterplan document has been updated to include the mitigations outlined in section 6b of the HRA."</p> <p>The Masterplan sets principles and objectives for these allocated sites for Energy Transition. The aspirations in relation</p>	

	Company/ Individual/ Location	Comments	Response	Recommended changes to Draft ETZ Masterplan
		<p>local environment (including biodiversity) across all sites." Requests further clarity to identify as to how the ETZ can claim to maintain and protect biodiversity, let alone enhance it. Use of the word "should" rather than "must" throughout the document leads to questions as to whether developers will actually adhere to aspirations.</p> <p>Arguments for choosing the site are unconvincing, due to the loss of St Fittick's Park, and increased disturbance to Girdleness, East Tullos, Hill, Cove Bay, etc. The extent of work, and timescales proposed for the area that includes St Fittick's Park lack clarity within the document.</p> <p>Legal requirements of NPF4 should be considered before finalising decisions.</p> <p>There should be a fair way to transition to clean energy without trading off and destroying existing good quality environmental benefits.</p> <p>St Fitticks Park and its surroundings should be removed from the ETZ plan. It is a unique place due to the people that care for it. The plan must be debated at an Aberdeen City full council meeting.</p>	<p>to biodiversity and the local environment are set out within the whole masterplan and shows where improvements could be made including quality of the wetlands.</p> <p>The choosing of the site has already been established via the statutory Local Development Plan Process set out in comment 3.</p> <p>The ALDP was adopted after NPF4 and was considered by Scottish Ministers. The principle and policies of NPF4 have been considered as part of the process, including tackling the climate and nature crisis. NPF4 also identified Aberdeen Harbour as one of the 6 National Developments and states, "This will contribute to international and national connectivity, freight and the renewable energy sector". Furthermore it goes on to state that the North East –</p> <p>"This area will evolve, through a just transition, to move industry and business away from the oil and gas sector towards a cleaner, greener future" and it</p>	

	Company/ Individual/ Location	Comments	Response	Recommended changes to Draft ETZ Masterplan
			<p>“will play a crucial role in achieving Just Transition to net zero. By guiding RSS and LDPs in this area, our strategy aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan infrastructure and investment to support the transition from oil and gas to net zero whilst protecting and enhancing blue and green infrastructure and decarbonising connectivity. • Focus on continued regeneration through the principles of local living and 20 minute neighbourhoods to sustain the skilled workforce and improve local liveability. • Support continued economic diversification and innovation”. <p>Per comment 3.</p> <p>This report is for Council.</p>	
187	Individual/ Aberdeens hire	<p>Draft ETZ is poorly presented, written in planning 'speak' and designed not to be readable, should be re-written and presented again so that ordinary people can understand the implications.</p> <p>Concern with the loss of greenspace. Compensation would require considerable additional investment in mental health services for local people.</p> <p>The area will attract additional workers which will place additional pressure on biodiversity through disturbance.</p>	<p>This is a planning document used to inform planning applications for the sites. The document is clearly set out and the illustrations understandable and clear. It has to contain a certain level of technical detail and information in order to ensure all the relevant topic and areas are covered to assist in the determination of planning applications.</p>	None

	Company/ Individual/ Location	Comments	Response	Recommended changes to Draft ETZ Masterplan
			<p>there are still areas of open space available as part of the proposal as well as improved access and facilities such as the play park and pump track.</p> <p>Biodiversity enhancement is a key part of the proposals and will be located in the most appropriate areas to avoid impact from commercial activities.</p>	
188	Individual/ Wider Aberdeen	Object to use of the easily accessible open space. The loss of this natural space will have a negative impact on the local population.	Per comment 3.	None
189	Business/ Own a shop in Torry	Concern the residents are never get listened to. Taking green space for a green agenda just does not make sense.	Per comment 3.	None
190	Individual/ Local Resident	Object that the development always effects Torry. I strongly object to development of St Fittick's Park. This is a much needed green space for residents.	Per comment 3.	None
191	Individual/ Local Resident	As 190	As 190	None
192	Business Aberdeen International Airport	The area proposed for the ETZ is wholly within the aerodrome safeguarding zone for Aberdeen Airport. As such aviation impacts should be considered in development of this site.	Noted text added to the Masterplan accordingly.	Add text to the Masteplan confirming that aviation impacts should be considered in

	Company/ Individual/ Location	Comments	Response	Recommended changes to Draft ETZ Masterplan development of this site
193	Individual/ Local Resident	<p>Very little green space left. Heavier traffic caused by cruise ships and the bus gates, which are increasing journey times, resultantly causing more air pollution. Difficult to access amenities such as the hospital, especially with mobility issues.</p> <p>Councillors need to listen to the people.</p>	<p>The traffic generated by the harbour and the journey times increasing is not for this masterplan to resolve. This masterplan does identify the requirement for an assessment of traffic and transport impacts and other relevant studies will be required as part of planning applications as they come forward.</p> <p>The requirements for such studies is identified within the Masterplan on page 167.</p> <p>Each campus has a section on Transport and Connectivity shown the importance of this issue(p84, p108, p122, p123, p144). Furthermore p 152 – 154 relates specifically to road infrastructure and how the ETZ relates to other existing and committed projects including the coast road.</p>	None
194	Individual/ Former resident	Object to loss of a relatively small area which will have catastrophic effects on wildlife and a negative impact residents mental and physical health.	per comment 3	None
195	Individual/ Wider City	Per 194	per comment 3	None
196	Individual/ Wider City	Green spaces such as the St Fittick's park area are vital for the physical and mental well-being of a community. Concern ultimately the whole of the parkland will be built over.	Per comment 3.	None

	Company/ Individual/ Location	Comments	Response	Recommended changes to Draft ETZ Masterplan
			The masterplan sets parameters and shows developable areas, this is set out on page 95 for example which shows a large area of the park retained.	
197	Individual/ Local Resident	Object to everything getting built in either torry or cove. About time they started building at the other side of town. No more, will have no green space left in the south of Aberdeen.	The principle of development has been established within the LDP and as set out in comment 3. The proposal does not build over all the green space.	None
198	Individual/ Wider City	It's a nice document. 1. Not a JUST transition if valuable green space for Torry residents is sacrificed. 2. Objects to use of St Fittick's Park. Redevelopment of brownfield sites should be used instead of St Fittick's Park and Doonies Farm. 3. Abandon the Hydrogen Campus. Use Cove and Tillydrone stations for fuelling the usual buses, council trucks and cars. Hydrogen for heating has no future.	Per comment 11, discussion on the future of hydrogen is not for this masterplan or consultation, the proposal includes a hydrogen campus that seeks to promote future hydrogen use.	None
199	Individual/ Wider City	I love st Fitticks park. It's a beautiful piece of calming green in an otherwise heavily built up area.	comments noted.	None
200	Individual/ Wider City	Object to use of St Fitticks Park, and any other green space in the coastal area. Plenty of vacant space in current industrial estates and also in the city centre that could be used instead.	per comment 3.	None
201	Individual/ Wider City	Issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • plan is too high level. • Methods for community involvement and decision making should be clarified 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The masterplan is a document that sets principles, parameters and requirements of any future development. More details 	None

	Company/ Individual/ Location	Comments	Response	Recommended changes to Draft ETZ Masterplan
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mitigation measures must be included • Relationship between South Harbour and ETZ needs clarification • Clearer distinction between general harbour related activities and energy transition/renewables activities needed • It is untrue or misleading to state that the developable area has been reduced and the East Tullos Burn retained in response to Community concerns. • Objects to development in St Fittick's Park, Gregness and further areas noted on the draft Masterplan. • Lack of evidence for economic benefits of development and its contribution to reaching Net Zero • Overreliance on the effectiveness of mitigation and compensation measures, which will be ineffective considering the significant environmental and social costs. 	<p>submissions on design, layout, roads etc would all be required as part of a planning application process.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community engagement was carried out by the design team as set out on pages 7-16 of the Masterplan. This report relates to an 8 week consultation carried out by ACC Planning, and the decision has been made to take the decision on this masterplan at Council. • Mitigation measures are included for each campus. For example page 87 – 92. The show preventative measures and remediative measures. • The developable area is smaller than the site allocated in the LDP. • Per comment 3 • The evidence for economic benefits is not required for a masterplan. The site is allocation in the LDP, a masterplan takes forward the allocations and policies already established and provides more information. • Per comment 1, and detailed mitigation and compensation being considered through planning applications 	

	Company/ Individual/ Location	Comments	Response	Recommended changes to Draft ETZ Masterplan
		<p>1. Marine Gateway section too high level, omits detail regarding proposals and mitigation measures, and is insufficient as Planning Guidance.</p> <p>2. Welcomes the framework development of the Innovation and Skills campuses in East Tullos and Altens sites as it has community support and complies with LDP policies for efficient use of brownfield sites.</p> <p>3. Objects to development within St Fittick's Park and Gregness, due to lack of evidence for economic benefits and contribution to net zero transition and environmental and social damage.</p> <p>4. Concern that Gregness, St Fitticks, and Walker Park will not be restored to pre-construction status as per Revision Order.</p> <p>5. Concern Gregness is not suitable for high value manufacturing and was not included in ETZ feasibility study of initial ETZ core area. Concern it will not meet end user requirements. Development will be visually intrusive and not accessible.</p> <p>6. Concern that reference to maximizing the economy potential in the Masterplan, may lead to more areas of land being developed for harbour or ETZ related activity. If the ETZ does not materialised there is concern this land will be repurposed for general harbour activity.</p>	<p>1. This masterplan has been produced in line with the Aberdeen Planning Guidance Placemaking process and sets out parameters and a framework for detailed proposals, but the design detail will be determined through the planning application process. The level of detail is appropriate for this document. It highlights and identifies where and when more detailed assessments, design and information will be required.</p> <p>2. comments noted.</p> <p>3. per comment 3.</p> <p>4. this is not part of this masterplan, mitigation measures relative to the South Harbour will be addressed through a separate process.</p> <p>5. Per comment 3 response</p> <p>6. the Masterplan relates to ETZ allocations in the ALDP</p> <p>7. The function of the ETZ is defined in the masterplan, any proposed development will be assessed against the masterplan. For the St Fittick's Park allocation, the ALDP states that any development on the site must demonstrate a functional relationship with the South Harbour.</p>	None

	Company/ Individual/ Location	Comments	Response	Recommended changes to Draft ETZ Masterplan
		<p>7. Concern the aim is to essentially move activities from North Harbour to South Harbour, which requires more land availability around South Harbour. The Masterplan plan should define what “energy transition activities are”, and to expand on the “functional needs” enabling them to be in the ETZ.</p> <p>8. Masterplan needs to ensure that only land currently within OP62 is used, and not any out-with OP62.</p> <p>9. Concern the social and environmental damage to St Fittick park cannot be mitigated, despite recognition of need for mitigation.</p> <p>10. Concern community objections to the proposal will be ignored.</p> <p>11. Concern the suggested mitigation measures are not sufficient, considering anticipated significant damage outlined in the LDP Environmental Report. Need for more detail on development positions, sites, and extent to ensure the Masterplan can be effective supplementary guidance. Suggestion that no biodiversity net loss is ineffective in protecting biodiversity, considering initial lack of biodiversity in overall ETZ area which largely includes brownfield sites.</p> <p>12. Suggests claims of sustainable economic growth are perhaps inflated and over relied upon in document. Need for further detail on specifics of economic prospects of the ETZ. Additionally, concern that job forecasts in offshore wind and renewables are not reliable.</p>	<p>This is carried through into the Masterplan. Further justification and explanation regarding the uses would be required as part of the planning application process.</p> <p>8. The masterplan covers the allocated sites and parts of OP 62 as set out in the ALDP.</p> <p>9. Mitigation measures are set out in the Masterplan and will be detailed further through the planning application process.</p> <p>10. The community objection relates largely to the allocation of the sites in the LDP. See comment 3.</p> <p>11. Mitigation will be agreed through any planning application process and legal agreement and as such can be monitored.</p> <p>12. See comment response 3.</p> <p>13. See comment 3 response</p> <p>14. See comment 3 response</p> <p>15. Lack of confidence noted.</p> <p>16. The masterplan shows the developable area at St Fitticks per the requirement of the LDP. The masterplan does not allow development to take place without</p>	

	Company/ Individual/ Location	Comments	Response	Recommended changes to Draft ETZ Masterplan
		<p>13. The Masterplan should not be approved and adopted until more detail is made available to confirm that the development of green space achieves economic gain in-line with LDP policy NE3.</p> <p>14. Concern ETZ sites are not appropriate for offshore wind development industry standards. Recommends more feasible sites such as Port of Nigg, Leith and Dundee and particularly Ardeseir and Cromarty, where there larger amounts of flat land, co-located to harbours, with level access to sites.</p> <p>15. Lack of confidence in ETZ due to failed 2014 Energetica Corridor that did not meet its aims in creating a 'world class corridor' for renewables.</p> <p>16. Urges Masterplan to rule out any speculative developments in St Fittick's Park until a firm commitment is agreed with a developer.</p> <p>17. Proposals for hydrogen campus at Doonies should be abandoned. Aberdeen already has two electrolyser sites manufacturing hydrogen, and the hydrogen hub will have electricity supplied by solar panels on OP64. Therefore, there is no justification for a hydrogen manufacturer to be at Doonies Farm.</p> <p>18. Calls for a method to monitor provision of mitigation measures.</p>	<p>going thought the relevant planning applications process and assessment first.</p> <p>17. OP64 is allocated in the LDP and that is the proposal that has been put forward by the ETZ masterplan.</p> <p>18. Mitigation will be agreed through any planning application process and legal agreement and as such can be monitored.</p>	

	Company/ Individual/ Location	Comments	Response	Recommended changes to Draft ETZ Masterplan
202	Individual/ Former Torry Resident	Object to more industrialization and impact on Torry. Need to think of health impact both mentally and physically. Object to taking some of the golf course. Also annoyed by loss of Doonies, concern that it is land grabbing.	A Health Impact Assessment will be provided as part of the planning application process. The golf course is not being developed. The sites are allocated in the LDP per comment 1 response.	None
203	Individual/ Wider Aberdeen	Object to loss of St Fitticks. It's a beautiful piece of calming green in an otherwise heavily built up area.	Per comment 3 response	None
204	Individual Visitor	Oppose the Masterplan, as it would deprive people in Torry of their only green space. This would have a highly negative impact on their physical and mental health, as well as being very damaging to the environment in a time of climate crisis.	Per comment 3 response.	None
205	Amenity Group/ Aberdeen Civic Society	<p>1.Masterplan lacks concern for public amenity. Given the current surrounding situation. The proposed allocation of sites within St Fitticks will have a negative impact on physical and mental health, will result in a loss of amenity and impact on health.</p> <p>2.Available Brownfield sites suitable for redevelopment should be pursued instead (e.g. – former Shell headquarters) to provide ETZ.</p> <p>3.Torry is deprived area and residents live within close proximity to sewage treatment plant, an incinerator, and a working harbour. Loss of the accessible St Fittick's Park would negatively impact on life expectancy and public health within area.</p> <p>4. Compensatory parkland/woodland is not as accessible in location as St Fittick's, and existing amenity would be lost in what remains of park due to increased air/noise/light pollution</p>	<p>1.per comment 3. The Masterplan also stipulates the requirement for a Health Impact Assessment.</p> <p>2.The ETZ masterplan and the proposals will use vacant and redundant buildings and sites within industrial areas as well as the allocated greenfield land. Examples of this are evident in the Innovation and Skills Campuses.</p> <p>3.the existing situation in an area is not part of this masterplan.</p> <p>4.as part of a landscaping scheme planting and details will be required. Detailed design and further assessments submitted</p>	None

	Company/ Individual/ Location	Comments	Response	Recommended changes to Draft ETZ Masterplan
		<p>5.Re-routed coastal road will impact on setting of St Fittick's Kirk (scheduled monument and Commonwealth war grave).</p> <p>6.Loss of East Tullos Burn wetland and woodland is contrary to Aberdeen City Council policies.</p>	<p>with planning applications will consider the potential impact of elements such as light. This document sets out parameters and a framework for detailed proposals, but the design detail will be determined through the planning application process.</p> <p>5.further assessments and studies will be required as part of this proposal. HES have been involved in discussions on the development of the masterplan in relation to St Fitticks and will continue to be moving forward.</p> <p>6.the east tullos burn and wetland and woodland will not be lost. There will be replacement planting and a detailed landscaping scheme developed for the burn. Proposals for the burn can be seen on pages 59 and 60.</p>	
206	Individual/ Wider City/	<p>Appears to be conflict of interest due to ACC being a business partner in ETZ scheme, and with the masterplan requiring agreement by Development Management Committee.</p> <p>ETZ scheme re-zoned St Fittick's Park without public consultation and changed Trust's constitution so Council officer can sell/lease the land. Verbal agreement (14/12/22) that any decision over Lands of Torry would be made by Full Council.</p>	<p>The Council's Planning Service independently assesses masterplans and planning applications on their own merits. The Council's interest in the land will result in greater scrutiny through the Masterplan and planning application process. The ETZ is allocated in the ALDP per comment 1. The sale/lease of land is a separate matter and</p>	

	Company/ Individual/ Location	Comments	Response	Recommended changes to Draft ETZ Masterplan
			not relevant to the masterplan or the planning process.	
207	Individual/ Local Resident	The draft masterplan needs to consider vacant brownfield sites in Altens, which could be repurposed for the ETZ rather than industrialising the remaining greenspace on the South side of the City.	<p>The ETZ masterplan and the proposals will use vacant and redundant buildings and sites within industrial areas as well as the allocated greenfield land. Examples of this are evident in the Innovation and Skills Campuses.</p> <p>The masterplan looks at policy topics such as improvements to biodiversity, active travel, health and wellbeing, historic environment, safety, reuse of brownfield land, job opportunities and upskilling, and at the forefront of the ETZ the move to net zero and climate mitigation and adaptation.</p>	None
208	Individual/ Local Resident	<p>ETZ development will have a devastating effect on the St Fitticks Park area.</p> <p>ETZ should not extend past the sewage treatment works. This would still allow easy access to the new harbour expansion without impacting green space.</p> <p>Don't believe that Torry's loss would be outweighed by what these benefits will provide the area.</p>	per comment 1. Per the Reporters recommendation the Masterplan has determined the "Areas which should remain undeveloped and the extent of any buffer zones."	None
209	Individual/ Local Resident	<p>This park is the only green space that is left in Torry.</p> <p>Torry and the surrounding has already too much industrial sites.</p> <p>This is a deprived area with everything being taken away.</p>	An area of the park will still be retained with additional facilities and improvement made to it.	None
210	Individual/ Local Resident	<p>The proposed sites are green belt areas.</p> <p>Questions the Scottish Government proposal of the south harbour and lack of consideration on traffic impact.</p>	the sites are allocated in the LDP and as such are not greenbelt land.	None

	Company/ Individual/ Location	Comments	Response	Recommended changes to Draft ETZ Masterplan
			The harbour is in place and not for consideration in this Masterplan.	
211	Individual/ Local Resident	Object to building on St Fittick's Park. This is a beautiful area with lots of wildlife using the land and water and is in a deprived area, should be protected. Don't take the park.	per comment 3.	None
212	Individual/ Wider City	<p>Development must respect St Fittick's church and not dominate it. Encroachment on St Fittich's Park must be minimal, with greenspace preserved for the community.</p> <p>A pedestrian bridge linking St Fittich's Park to the path network on Tullos Hill would increase access to green space.</p> <p>The loss of Doonies Farm is regrettable.</p> <p>The inhabitants of Torry always seem to get a rough deal.</p>	<p>The setting of st Fitticks church has changed over the years, the masterplan considers St Fitticks church and on page 64 confirms that sensitive landscaping treatments will be provided to minimise impact on setting arising from industrial development and potential road alignment. This would be developed in conjunction with HES and ACC archaeology services they have also been involved in the preparation of the masterplan.</p> <p>A pedestrian bridge would be challenging because it would go over third party land in the form of the railway line.</p> <p>Other comments noted.</p>	none
213	Individual/ Wider City	<p>Opposed to the destruction of the park which will lead to loss of rec spaces and impact on stress.</p> <p>Doubt the council will oppose the plans and questioned honesty.</p>	per comment 3	None
214	Individual/ other	Object to loss of green spaces suggest use vacant brownfield land instead. Use the brown site areas that are derelict. Loss of archaeology	per comment 1	None

	Company/ Individual/ Location	Comments	Response	Recommended changes to Draft ETZ Masterplan
215	Individual/ Aberdeens hire	<p>St Fitticks and to a lesser extent Doonies are precious community assets</p> <p>Torry is a deprived community and ETZ won't bring them much in the way of compensation. Use existing industrial land instead.</p> <p>Note need for energy transition but top down strategy is not fair and unjust.</p>	<p>The Masterplan relates to land allocated in the ALDP for an ETZ. Throughout the document national, regional and local policies have been considered and assessed. The masterplan looks at policy topics such as improvements to biodiversity, active travel, health and wellbeing, historic environment, safety, reuse of brownfield land, job opportunities and upskilling, and at the forefront of the ETZ the move to net zero and climate mitigation and adaptation.</p> <p>The sites were allocated in the Aberdeen Local Development plan and this masterplan has been carried out in accordance with the Aberdeen Planning Guidance Placemaking Process. This is the process that is carried out when considering sites for development. As part of this process consultation is carried out at all stages and input from stakeholders and consultees welcomed.</p>	None
216	Individual/ Local Resident	<p>Concern with loss of heritage and community assets</p> <p>Oppose current plans which have no benefit to the community. Object to development on St Fitticks and to the loss of Doonies.</p>	per comment 3. The plan sets out mitigation principles throughout the document for example on pages 87 -92.	None
217	Individual/ Wider City	<p>Object to the use of St Fittick's Park for speculative development.</p> <p>Develop unused industrial sites instead. Concern that the masterplans and the positive content never come to pass.</p>	<p>per comment 1</p> <p>The comment about the proposal being speculative is not for the masterplan to</p>	None

	Company/ Individual/ Location	Comments	Response	Recommended changes to Draft ETZ Masterplan
		Concern that the promises of jobs and money never come to pass, but the land eroded and damaged.	consider. This document sets principles for development to aid in any planning application process. Jobs and skill training are at the forefront of the ETZ aspirations. These proposals are on allocated land in the ALDP	
218	Individual/ Local Resident	Torry has enough Industrial areas and pollution already. Object to inclusion of St Fittick's Park due to loss of nature and wildlife. Develop surrounding Industrial estates instead.	per comment 1	None
219	Individual/ Local Resident	Per 218	per comment 1	None
220	Individual/ Local Resident	Strongly object to ETZ masterplan and inclusion of St Fittick's Park within it. Torry residents unduly impacted by ETZ masterplan. Unacceptable loss of greenspace, playing fields and loss of part of park is against SG policy and NPF4 policy for biodiversity and reduces places for healthy outdoor activity. Proposed ETZ development in Torry would be contrary to NPF4 policies regarding nature recovery and human wellbeing and would result in destruction of plants/animals and degradation of wetland habitat due to proximity to new sources of industrial air/noise/light pollution during construction and operation. Reporter's measures to ensure no net loss of biodiversity/greenspace cannot be achieved.	Objection noted, per comment 1. The Masterplan relates to land allocated in the ALDP for an ETZ. Throughout the document national, regional and local policies have been considered and assessed. The masterplan looks at policy topics such as improvements to biodiversity, active travel, health and wellbeing, historic environment, safety, reuse of brownfield land, job opportunities and upskilling, and at the forefront of the ETZ, the move to net zero and climate mitigation and adaptation.	None

	Company/ Individual/ Location	Comments	Response	Recommended changes to Draft ETZ Masterplan
		<p>Compensatory planting at Tullos Wood inadequate to address losses elsewhere and pathway to access this is longer and shared with HGVs.</p> <p>Pump park and play areas would expose young people to air pollution from increased HGV traffic.</p> <p>Detrimental impact on setting and significance of St Fittick's Church and Churchyard by rerouted Coast Road.</p> <p>Concern that public consultation over ETZ was 'tick box exercise' and that residents concerns not being taken on board.</p> <p>Remaining undeveloped land prone to flooding.</p>	<p>Final details of mitigation and compensation will be determined via the planning application process but the masterplan clearly sets out what these could be.</p> <p>The setting of St Fitticks church has changed over the years, the masterplan considers St Fitticks church and on page 64 confirms that sensitive landscaping treatments will be provided to minimise impact on setting arising from industrial development and potential road alignment. This would be developed in conjunction with HES and ACC archaeology services they have also been involved in the preparation of the masterplan.</p> <p>Community engagement was carried out by the design team as set out on pages 7-16 of the Masterplan. This report relates to an 8 week consultation carried out by ACC Planning, and the decision has been made to take the decision on this masterplan at Council. As part of this process consultation is carried out at all stages and input from stakeholders and consultees welcomed</p> <p>A flood risk assessment is required as part of the planning application process.</p>	

	Company/ Individual/ Location	Comments	Response	Recommended changes to Draft ETZ Masterplan
221	Individual/ Local Resident	Object to removal. Alternative sites for ETZ are available. Concern over impact on health and life expectancy on Torry residents	Per comment 3.	None
222	Individual/ Raised locally	Object to the use of St Fitticks Park for development and the destruction of a much loved place. Concern that Torry also has a number of other uses put there that have a negative impact. To take away the only green space for the locals would be a disgrace.	Per comment 3 The existing uses in the area are not part of this masterplan.	None
223	Individual/ Local Resident	Object to loss of St Fittick's Park which is an integral part of health and play. The area has already been subjected to the other negative uses and the community would be impacted on further by the loss of the park ,which is the only green space in already seriously deprived area.	Per comment 3	None
224	Individual/ Local Resident	ETZ should be located somewhere else everything always gets put here.	Per comment 1.	None
225	Individual/ Aberdeens hire	Concerned with the allocation of St Fitticks Park as an 'Opportunity Site' OP56. This is an community of multiple deprivation and removing greenspace will further exacerbate the local health problems. Concern with what Torry has taken in the past. ACC should remove St Fitticks Park from their ETZ. Energy Transition needs to be sustainable environmentally, socially and economically. ACC is not considering the first 2 pillars of sustainability with the development of the park.	Per comment 3 The Council's Planning Service independently assesses masterplans and planning applications on their own merits. The Council's interest in the land will result in greater scrutiny through the Masterplan and planning application process,	None

	Company/ Individual/ Location	Comments	Response	Recommended changes to Draft ETZ Masterplan
		There is also a clear conflict of interest with ACC approving development plans for an entity it plays a part in the ETZ company.		
226	Individual/ Local Resident	Should not proceed	Per comment 1.	None
227	Individual/ Local Resident	Feel it would lead to mental health issues due to restrictions on pathways etc. Families depend on local green areas for exercise and enjoyment, already lost land to the harbour. Should not be built near housing and a school.	per comment 3	None
228	Individual/ Local Resident	This will have a negative impact on residents mental health and wellbeing as well as impacting on the school and residents. It is industrialising Torry. Concern with the loss of assets such as the bay and now Doonies farm and st fitticks park are in danger of going.	Assessments will be required with planning applications that will take into consideration air quality, odours, and a health impact assessment. The specific final uses of the different areas are unknown so cannot be assessed at this time. Per comment 3	None
229	Individual/ Aberdeens hire	The area that is St Fitticks Park should be maintained & preserved due to its unique features. Once it's gone this can never be restored to its original state, which would be a travesty!	Per comment 3	None
230	Individual/ Local Resident	The wetlands are needed for mental health and to allow time to reflect an breathe. Use the empty lots in altens instead not the wetland.	The proposal does not remove the entire wetlands. The ETZ masterplan and the proposals will use vacant and redundant buildings and sites within industrial areas as well as the allocated greenfield land. Examples of this are evident in the Innovation and Skills Campuses.	None

	Company/ Individual/ Location	Comments	Response	Recommended changes to Draft ETZ Masterplan
231	Individual/ Local Resident	<p>Energy transition should not be at the expense of the welfare of Torry residents as this runs contrary to concept of “just transition”.</p> <p>Proposal would result in loss of area rewilded by local community, with the small remainder of the park unsuitable for most of its intended uses.</p>	Per comment 3 response	None
232	Individual/ Local Resident	Object to proposed plans for st.fitticks park/doonies farm. Need to stop all development of these green areas there is very little left for us in Torry.	Per comment 3.	None
233	Individual/ Visitor	<p>Green space and parkland is scarce in Torry already a lack of social amenities surrounding St Fittick’s park.</p> <p>Concern with loss of park with its rich plant and wildlife and area of solace for people living with mental health issues.</p> <p>To remove a large part of this space to replace it with an industrial site and the resulting air and noise pollution would negatively impact the area.</p> <p>Torry has already had much negative development within it and have a right to live in pleasant surroundings.</p> <p>These new ‘initiatives’ should be shared with other areas of Aberdeen.</p>	<p>Per comment 3 response.</p> <p>The relationship of the ETZ with the south harbour is fundamental. The Energy Transition Zones are to bridge the transition from one industry to another and due to its location adjacent to the South Harbour OP56 is a keystone to this and potential catalyst for wider economic and environmental change.</p>	None
234	Individual/ Aberdeens hire	Object fundamentally to green spaces being used for industrialisation. Use brownfield sites sitting empty in Tullos	Per comment 1.	None

	Company/ Individual/ Location	Comments	Response	Recommended changes to Draft ETZ Masterplan
		instead. The green spaces cannot be replaced for the benefit of a business.		
235	Individual/ Aberdeens hire	<p>Loss of park will have significant detrimental impact on physical and mental health (and general wellbeing) of residents of Torry.</p> <p>Pursuit of ETZ does not address root causes of climate/environmental problems. Represents economic growth at expense of environment.</p> <p>Hydrogen generation and manufacturing has many negatives and leaks can counter-act gains through secondary greenhouse gas impacts. Dumping of CO₂ under North Sea is expensive.</p> <p>ETZ scheme is “riddled with colonial and harmful logics”.</p>	<p>Per comment 3</p> <p>Comments re hydrogen generation are not relevant to this masterplan.</p>	None
236	Individual/ Wider City	<p>Object to the development of the green space and again development being placed on Torry.</p> <p>Concern with the incinerator and should stop building it.</p>	<p>Per comment 3</p> <p>The existing uses within the area are not for consideration within this report, that is an existing situation. The incinerator is completed and operational.</p>	None
237	Individual/ Local Resident	Objects to the development of St Fitticks Park. it is well used and loved. Enough other negative development in the area already.	Per comment 3	None
238	Individual/ Local Resident	I strongly object to this Masterplan - the proposals for the intended use of St Fittick's Park are contrary to National Planning Policy and in particular, will destroy an important area of amenity (of which there are few in this locality) and essentially throw away an area which has become a vibrant habitat for wildlife over a number of years following previous neglect.	The Masterplan relates to land allocated in the ALDP for an ETZ. Throughout the document national, regional and local policies have been considered and assessed. The masterplan looks at policy topics such as improvements to biodiversity, active travel,	None

	Company/ Individual/ Location	Comments	Response	Recommended changes to Draft ETZ Masterplan
			health and wellbeing, historic environment, safety, reuse of brownfield land, job opportunities and upskilling, and at the forefront of the ETZ, the move to net zero and climate mitigation and adaptation.	
239	Individual/ Wider City	<p>1.Object to the The ETZ masterplan and the loss of greenfield sites (St Fittick's Park, Doonies etc).</p> <p>Should use large amount of brownfield sites adjacent instead (e.g. Altens)</p> <p>2. The proposed use of the ETZ as a laydown area for offshore wind construction is impractical as the site is extremely marginal</p> <p>3.Concern that the road infrastructure is totally inadequate to cope with the volume and type of traffic that the ETZ would generate with no plan to improve it.</p> <p>4.It is socially unacceptable to destroy the only local green space available to residents of Torry which is already surrounded by NEW industrial development (South Harbour, Incinerator Plant).</p> <p>5.The job creation figures are unrealistic and impossible to achieve.No credible business case for this development has been presented</p> <p>6..Raised concerns with the process of site allocation, changes to trusts conditions and the fact that ACC is a business partner on</p>	<p>1.Per comment 1</p> <p>2.The end uses have not been determined yet, this document sets parameters and principles for development.</p> <p>3.The level of detail required at Masterplanning stage does not include detailed assessments for topics like roads. An assessment of traffic and transport impacts and other relevant studies will be required as part of planning applications as they come forward. The requirement for such studies is identified within the Masterplan on page 167.</p> <p>Each campus has a section on Transport and Connectivity shown the importance of this issue(p84, p108, p122, p123, p144). Furthermore p 152 – 154 relates specifically to road infrastructure and how the ETZ relates to other existing and committed projects including the coast road.</p>	None

	Company/ Individual/ Location	Comments	Response	Recommended changes to Draft ETZ Masterplan
		the ETZ.	4 – per comment 3. 5. A business plan is not required to be submitted for the purpose of a Masterplan. 6. per comment 3.	
240	Individual/ Local resident	<p>Object development on St Fitticks Park</p> <p>It provides the only green open space in Torry , which is essential for fitness and well being.</p> <p>Raised concerns with the way residents of Torry have been treated by ACC which is not replicated elsewhere.</p> <p>Highlight that St Fitticks Park and golf course are the only green spaces left in Torry particularly since the loss of Doonies</p> <p>Torry gets lost of visitors here on the Dolphin watch, and the coastal paths is it not an unwanted eyesore. Building at St Fitticks Park would be a huge loss of this important area.</p> <p>Develop Tullos industrial estate instead.</p> <p>We are not against green transitions, but not to take away one environmentally important space, and destroying it, in an area that has already paid the brunch of development does not make sense.</p>	As per comment 3 and 12 response	None
241	Individual/ Wider City	Object to development of St Fittick’s Park and Doonie’s Farm and seek removal from ETZ.	Per comment 3.	None

	Company/ Individual/ Location	Comments	Response	Recommended changes to Draft ETZ Masterplan
		<p>Torry could be a recognised example of “just transition” that benefits those that live/work/visit Torry, and loss of SFP, wetlands and other Greenspaces would have negative impact.</p> <p>Wetlands at Tullos have great value to city in terms of health/wellbeing, vibrancy, biodiversity and for carbon capture.</p> <p>Focus should be on creating jobs in Torry and promotion of heritage and history of the area as well as local business and community energy schemes. SFP and coastal core path are assets that could be better supported and could be tourist destination.</p>	<p>Enhancement at St Fitticks Church will be part of the ETZ proposals including interpretation.</p>	
242	Individual / Aberdeens hire	<p>Seeks removal of St Fittick’s Park and Doonies Farm from draft ETZ masterplan and not to be included within industrialised zone.</p> <p>Greenspace benefits health, wellbeing, vibrancy of place and is important for supporting biodiversity and carbon capture. Tullos wetland/burn is particularly valuable in this regard.</p> <p>St Fittick’s Park could provide opportunity for eco-tourism, that could also support social enterprises and provide employment to locals. Torry and St Fittick’s should become ‘must visit’ destination that can offer dolphin watching opportunities, and attract tourists/cruise ship visitors</p> <p>More focus could be made of heritage and history of the area, and promotion of community energy schemes and local businesses.</p>	<p>Per comment 3.</p> <p>It is not for the masterplan to consider alternative uses for this allocated site.</p> <p>Enhancement at St Fitticks Church will be part of the ETZ proposals including interpretation.</p>	None

	Company/ Individual/ Location	Comments	Response	Recommended changes to Draft ETZ Masterplan
243	Individual / Aberdeens hire	Torry needs the green space to be conserved for future generations. Children need St Fitticks park and Doonies to be left alone. The ecologically important wetlands of the area are a vital part of the fight against climate change.	A large area of the park will be retained as part of the proposals and these include a new play park and pump park. The wetland is not being removed and proposal to improve the quality of it are part of the Masterplan (p59 and 60).	None
244	Individual/ Wider	Want St Fitticks Park, Doonie's Farm and any other green spaces removed from the ETZ. They provide vital habitat for biodiversity and an essential space for local residents.	Per comment 3.	None
245	Individual/ Local Area	By building on, and destroying an environmentally important wetland with a lot of biodiversity reflects very badly on Aberdeen leadership, and are prepared to destroy these important areas if there is enough money waving in front of them.	The wetland is not being destroyed and proposal to improve the quality of it are part of the Masterplan (p59 and 60).	None
246	Individual/ Wider City	The ETZ is best seen as an economic as opposed to a geographical zone. Use brownfield land at altens and tullos instead. Remove St Fitticks Park, Doonies Farm and any green spaces from the ETZ. Not a just transition.	per comment 1.	None
247	Individual/ Local area	Oppose the planned build on a beautiful large green space that has cultivated wildlife and new fauna. Plenty other areas that could be built on. No need to take away a beautiful landscape.	per comment 3	None
248	Individual/ Aberdeens hire	Per 242	Per 242	None
249		Per 242	Per 242	None

	Company/ Individual/ Location	Comments	Response	Recommended changes to Draft ETZ Masterplan
250		Object to the loss of a natural habitat should be conserving green spaces etc. Concern that locals are being ignored, should work with the community. St Fitticks is currently an accessible area for all to enjoy and relax. This land is not needed.	Community consultation that took place as part of the Masterplan development is set out on	None
251		Per 242	Per 242	None
	Emails start			
252 a	Local Area	Morven court residents object to the abolition of the well used St.Fittick's Park concern with loss of fresh air and clean nature.	per comment 3. There is still an area of park and wetland available as part of the development.	None
253	Individual/ Aberdeens hire	<p>Disagree with the proposal to include St. Fitticks Park in the ETZ, and the decision making.</p> <p>There have been numerous representations regarding the value to the people Torry and Balnagask of this simple green open space. The community of Torry and Balnagask is already adversely affected by industrialisation in Tullos and Altens.</p> <p>St Fittick's Park is not accessible and boggy and therefore seems unsuited to ETZ. Available Brownfield land near South Harbour is better site and would avoid further negative health (and other) impacts on disadvantaged people of Torry/Balnagask.</p> <p>Decision seems based more on cost and convenience to Council, and decision should be made at Full Council.</p>	<p>per comment 3</p> <p>The Masterplan relates to land allocated in the ALDP for an ETZ. Throughout the document national, regional and local policies have been considered and assessed. The masterplan looks at policy topics such as improvements to biodiversity, active travel, health and wellbeing, historic environment, safety, reuse of brownfield land, job opportunities and upskilling, and at the forefront of the ETZ the move to net zero and climate mitigation and adaptation.</p>	None

	Company/ Individual/ Location	Comments	Response	Recommended changes to Draft ETZ Masterplan
254	Individual/ Local Area	Objects to inclusion of St Fitticks Park and Doonies Farm	Per comment 1.	None
255a	Individual/ Wider City	<p>Object to Masterplan, specifically inclusion of St Fittick's Park and Doonies Farm. No reason to include environmental resources within ETZ.</p> <p>ETZ development of Opportunity Sites in Torry of 56 and 62 will be contrary to key policies in NPF4 regarding nature recovery and human wellbeing.</p> <p>Development would destroy existing plants/animals if Tullos Burn and wetland is moved. Habitat degradation and biodiversity loss due to new pollution.</p> <p>Loss of woodland and grassland is not adequately compensated by new planting or greenspace elsewhere and doesn't address air quality, loss of recreation opportunities, flood mitigation or visual amenity. New areas also less accessible.</p> <p>Detrimental impact on setting of Churchyard and St Fittick's Church (scheduled monument) due to re-routing of the Coast Road.h</p>	<p>Per comment 2.</p> <p>The Masterplan relates to land allocated in the ALDP for an ETZ. Throughout the document national, regional and local policies have been considered and assessed. The masterplan looks at policy topics such as improvements to biodiversity, active travel, health and wellbeing, historic environment, safety, reuse of brownfield land, job opportunities and upskilling, and at the forefront of the ETZ the move to net zero and climate mitigation and adaptation.</p> <p>Further detailed studies and designs are required for the burn but it should be noted that the masterplan aims to enhance water quality and wetland habitat. Per page 59 and 60 of the Masterplan.</p> <p>A section has been added to the masterplan ensuring an overall <u>net gain</u> in tree cover. Though the area has been reduced that does not mean that equal or better planting and landscaping cannot be provided. The proposal includes features</p>	None

	Company/ Individual/ Location	Comments	Response	Recommended changes to Draft ETZ Masterplan
			<p>such as a park and pump park. Finally a Flood risk assessment would be required as part of the planning application process.</p> <p>The rerouting of the coast road and its relationship to st Fitticks have been discussed with Historic Environment Scotland as well as the councils archaeology service, further discussions will be required as proposal progress. Their comments can be seen under comment 254.</p>	
246	Business/ Aberdeen (CBRE)	<p>Aberdeen has been at the forefront of the energy industry since the 1970's creating significant amount of jobs and prosperity to the region.</p> <p>With the shift in focus from oil and gas to more greener forms of energy there is significant potential for the North East to be at the forefront of this new green revolution, and the proposals for Energy Transition Zone will help create the right working environment to embrace this new green world we are entering in to.</p> <p>Other regions in the UK are getting their green energy infrastructure plans in place so critical that Aberdeen and the Energy Transition Zone progress these plans to provide a credible</p>	Comments noted and welcomed.	None

	Company/ Individual/ Location	Comments	Response	Recommended changes to Draft ETZ Masterplan
		<p>proposition for these same organizations to set up a base in the North East.</p> <p>Fully support this masterplan.</p>		
247	Individual/ Aberdeens hrie	<p>I object strongly to the inclusion of St Fittick's Park in the proposed Energy Transition Zone, as outlined in the ETZ Draft Masterplan</p> <p>Object to building on greenfield land when there is so much vacant brownfield land available across Aberdeen. There are more than 200 acres of land zoned for business park development that have yet to be taken up.</p> <p>Concerns with the process and what is trying to be achieved,.</p> <p>Demand that you remove Opportunity Site 56 in St Fittick's Park from the ETZ and amend the draft Masterplan accordingly.</p> <p>No reason for having a renewables park in this location.</p>	<p>Per comment 1</p> <p>The site was considered and assessed for these uses as part of the ALDP process. The location it allows the opportunities to link to the harbour and the offshore sector beyond. This area well located adjacent to the Altens and Tullos industrial areas.</p>	None
248		Demand that the masterplan is decided by full council and not only planning committee.	This report is for Council.	None
249	Individual/ Edinburgh	<p>Fossil fuel industries cannot be trusted to manage transition to net zero.</p> <p>Local communities should lead efforts to decarbonise, not profiteering companies.</p>	per comment 1 response.	None

	Company/ Individual/ Location	Comments	Response	Recommended changes to Draft ETZ Masterplan
		Torry residents already feel short-changed by previous decisions on their community and oppose this “flawed plan”.		
250	Individual/ Aberdeen	Object to re-zoning of St Fittick’s Park for industrial use for the ETZ as there are other suitable sites in Altens. Loss of park will negatively impact residents, and proposed compensatory greenspace is already greenspace and is difficult to access and inferior compensation for biodiverse local park.	Per comment 1.	None
251	Business/ Aberdeen (Shell Internation al Ltd)	<p>Shell are supportive of the ETZ masterplan, which presents a vision for creating an integrated energy cluster focussed on net zero.</p> <p>The masterplan sets out a much-needed strategy for the regeneration of Altens and East Tullos Industrial Estates by maximising the impact Aberdeen South Harbour and surrounding land, alongside investment in infrastructure and delivery of transformational innovation & skills projects and is in line with Shell’s vision for the Tullos site.</p> <p>The provision of ‘fit for purpose’ development sites and property solutions within the existing industrial estates will be essential to attract new investment to the region.</p> <p>I am leading Shell’s work on determining the best future use of our old Tullos office campus and there is significant alignment with this draft Masterplan.</p>	Comments noted and welcomed.	None
252	Individual	Strongly object to proposal. Suggests hypocrisy over Council’s pledge to maintain and improve Greenspace while removing one	Per comment 3 response.	None

	Company/ Individual/ Location	Comments	Response	Recommended changes to Draft ETZ Masterplan
		<p>of Torry's remaining areas. It will result in loss of plants/wildlife and biodiversity.</p> <p>Pollution will increase due to proposal and this will negatively impact health and welfare of local residents and exacerbate existing issues.</p> <p>Questions importance of the site to the ETZ project and states consultation meetings were more of a "show and tell" that didn't take onboard feedback.</p>	Potential for pollution will be assessed and relevant mitigations highlighted through detailed planning application stage.	
253a	Individual/ Wider City	<p>Development of St Fittick's Park and Doonie's Farm should be stopped.</p> <p>Development would greatly harm a marginalised community and would fail to fulfil goals of Just Transition to Net Zero and UN Sustainable Development Goals. It would also result in health impact to local residents through air pollution and result in destruction of wetlands, grasslands and woodland habitats.</p> <p>Would also result in loss of amenity spaces that is already lacking, and increase road safety concerns from increased volume of traffic.</p>	Per comment 3	None
254	Individual/	Seeks full assessment of issues around proposal including environmental assessment, HIA and consideration of reputational impact on city as well as impact on environmental, biodiversity and LOIP.	The Masterplan relates to land allocated in the ALDP for an ETZ. The masterplan has identified the developable area within the site, which equates to around 1/3 of it. The Masterplan also clearly sets out projects (p64-66) as well as proposals and	None

	Company/ Individual/ Location	Comments	Response	Recommended changes to Draft ETZ Masterplan
		<p>Seeks removal of St Fittick's Park and Doonies Farm from draft ETZ masterplan and not to be included within industrialised zone.</p> <p>Greenspace benefits health, wellbeing, vibrancy of place and is important for supporting biodiversity and carbon capture. Tullos wetland/burn is particularly valuable in this regard.</p> <p>St Fittick's Park could provide opportunity for eco-tourism, that could also support social enterprises and provide employment to locals.</p>	<p>opportunities with the area (p73-98), including pollinator coast, local species planting, habitat management, and as identified by SEPA the need to improve water quality of the burn (p59 and 60).The document sets out on page 167 the further assessments that are required for planning applications including an EIA, that will be provided and considered through the planning application process. ACC has carried out a Habitat Regulations Appraisal which considers the masterplan proposals against the Special Areas of Conservation and other designated sites and identified the mitigation required to avoid adverse impact on the designated sites and their qualifying species interests. These will be added to the Masterplan for clarity and the HRA made available foron the Council's website.</p> <p>The sites are allocated in the LDP for Energy Transition Zone per the process set out in comment 1.</p>	
255	Individual/ Local Area	Object to further industrial development in Torry Area. Torry is one of the deprived areas in the city yet every bit of greenspace is being destroyed.	Per comment 1 response	None

	Company/ Individual/ Location	Comments	Response	Recommended changes to Draft ETZ Masterplan
		<p>Already have an incinerator and sewage works adjacent to the community.</p> <p>Object to development at Doonies a loss to the community of a valued asset.</p> <p>Raised concerns that comments are to being listened to.</p>		
256a	Individual/ Local Area	<p>Increase in traffic since the South Harbour construction began and, although promises were made HGV traffic continues to speed through and pollutes residential areas. Increase in traffic noise is unbearable and will increase with this project. We need clean air.</p> <p>Object to loss of green areas, existing woodland and farmland being lost to development.</p> <p>Residential areas should be protected and used for residential purposes only.</p> <p>Use vacant brownfield sites instead.</p>	<p>For this development an assessment of traffic and transport impacts and other relevant studies will be required as part of planning applications as they come forward. The requirement for such studies is identified within the Masterplan on page 167.</p> <p>Each campus has a section on Transport and Connectivity shown the importance of this issue(p84, p108, p122, p123, p144). Furthermore p 152 – 154 relates specifically to road infrastructure and how the ETZ relates to other existing and committed projects including the Aberdeen South Harbour Link Road. Assessments will also be required with planning applications that will take into consideration air quality, odours, and a health impact assessment. The specific final uses of the different areas are unknown so cannot be assessed at this time.</p>	None

	Company/ Individual/ Location	Comments	Response	Recommended changes to Draft ETZ Masterplan
			Per comment 1, re residential areas and brownfield use.	
257	Individual/ Local Area	Concerns over development on St Fittick's Park. It is an area full of wildlife, development would be detrimental. Use brown sites in Altens, Tullos and the West end of Aberdeen instead - more environmentally friendly to reuse these spaces. Decision on this should be made at full council.	Per comment 1. This report is for Council.	None
258	Individual/ Local Area	Safe open spaces for play/recreation are needed in Torry for health and wellbeing of people. Development would result in loss of greenspace to detriment of community (and wildlife). Concern with impact on health and wellbeing. concern this is just a tick box exercise	The Masterplan relates to land allocated in the ALDP for an ETZ. The masterplan has indicatively identified the developable area within the St Fittick's Park site, which equates to around 1/3 of it. The Masterplan also clearly sets out projects (p64-66) as well as proposals and opportunities with the area (p73-98), including pollinator coast, local species planting, habitat management, and as identified by SEPA the need to improve water quality of the burn (p59 and 60). The proposal looks at quality of the burn and wetland as well as quantity. The masterplan shows that not all of St Fitticks park will be developed, but rather only the area immediately adjacent to the harbour equating to around 7 hectares. The environment, connectivity and community benefits, including a new play park, pump track and parklets identified as part of the marine gateway are all embedded within the	None

	Company/ Individual/ Location	Comments	Response	Recommended changes to Draft ETZ Masterplan
			document highlighting their importance and requirement to be further considered.	
258a	Individual/ Local Area	<p>Object to inclusion of St Fitticks – it is a well established greenspace particularly important for the low income community need this safe space.</p> <p>it is a refuge for animals and birds. There are also a variety of habitats including wetlands and woods.</p> <p>impact on people with disabilities with loss of accessible paths in the park, mitigation does not meet needs.</p> <p>Excess traffic will cause problems for peds and cyclists.</p> <p>Contrary to policies including NPF4.</p>	per 276-640 below	None
259	Individual/ Aberdeens hire	<p>Why not create access from top of Wellington Road through existing industrial area, instead of through Torry/Balnagask?</p> <p>Questions how 'just' and 'fair' the transition is for the local community given other alternatives to the loss of SFP appear plausible.</p> <p>Suggests the value of the investment is speculative at best.</p>	<p>The Masterplan relates to land allocated in the ALDP for an ETZ as set out in comment 1 response. The ETZ masterplan and the proposals will use vacant and redundant buildings and sites within industrial areas as well as the allocated greenfield land. Examples of this are evident in the Innovation and Skills Campuses.</p> <p>The Masterplan sets a framework for any planning applications as they come forward. The comment about the proposal being speculative is not for the masterplan to consider. This document sets principles for development to aid in any planning application process.</p>	None

	Company/ Individual/ Location	Comments	Response	Recommended changes to Draft ETZ Masterplan
259a	Individual	<p>Object to inclusion of OP56 St Fitticks</p> <p>why do Torry have to put up with all the pollution, lose greenspace for poisonous fumes and smells.</p> <p>removing the area destroys wildlife. The remaining marsh part is the worst part of the park that is being left. Green area needed for mental health.</p> <p>Use land at Tullos and Altens instead.</p> <p>contrary to national and local authority policy including NPF4 and the ALDP2023.</p> <p>Roads are already a hazard with pollution.</p> <p>Improved access to Tullos wood is not suitable compensation and parklets do not provide the same level of uses.</p>	<p>Per comment 1.</p> <p>Concerns of traffic and road congestion conflicts will all be considered as part of required assessments submitted with any planning application. The Masterplan sets out on page 167 the further assessments that are required for planning applications including an EIA, HIA and TIA.</p> <p>The ETZ will use vacant and redundant buildings and sites within industrial areas as well as the allocated greenfield land. Throughout the masterplan states that brownfield land will be utilised. Examples within the masterplan are evident in the Innovation and Skills Campuses.</p> <p>The Masterplan relates to land allocated in the ALDP for an ETZ. Throughout the document national, regional and local policies have been considered and assessed. The masterplan looks at policy topics such as improvements to biodiversity, active travel, health and wellbeing, historic environment, safety, reuse of brownfield land, job opportunities and upskilling, and at the forefront of the ETZ, the move to net zero and climate mitigation and adaptation.</p>	None

	Company/ Individual/ Location	Comments	Response	Recommended changes to Draft ETZ Masterplan
			Detailed mitigation will be dealt with through the planning application process.	
260	Individual	<p>Object to development at St Fittick's Park and loss of Torry remaining green space. Torry always gets this type of development. There is little support provided for Torry compared to other more affluent areas.</p> <p>Leave the space that's left for the community to enjoy and use brownfield land at Altens instead.</p>	Per comment 3	None
261		Relates to the closure of Swimming pools and libraries and not the ETZ	Comments are not related to this proposal.	None
262	Individual/ Local Area	<p>The rezoning of St. Fittick's Park and Doonies farmland for industrial use may well have a negative impact on Burnbanks Village residents.</p> <p>There is an ongoing issue with traffic. Heavy lorries take these roads to avoid Wellington Road. Villagers suggested Hareness Road and Souterhead Road should be used instead.</p> <p>What are the plans for a field opposite Burnbanks Village?</p> <p>Concerned about the future impact on Burnbanks village and its residents.</p>	<p>per comment 3</p> <p>This level of detail is not required at Masterplanning stage. An assessment of traffic and transport impacts and other relevant studies will be required as part of planning applications as they come forward.</p> <p>The requirements for such studies is identified within the Masterplan on page 167.</p> <p>The offshore wind campus is the campus closest to Burnbanks village but the plans (p115-126) show the existing tree belt between Burnbanks and the nearest use</p>	None

	Company/ Individual/ Location	Comments	Response	Recommended changes to Draft ETZ Masterplan
			around 200m away. The existing industrial uses to the west are around 100m away.	
263	Individual	<p>Masterplan should be decided by Full Council, not Planning Committee.</p> <p>Greenspace valuable to public health, and the area is historically important. It is also ideal place for cruise line passengers to visit.</p>	<p>This report is for Council.</p> <p>A Health Impact Assessment is required as part of the planning application process.</p>	None
264	Business/ Historic Environment Scotland	<p>Reviewed document in relation to their main area of interest for the historic environment.</p> <p>Been involved in discussions throughout the development of this masterplan and commenting on various draft. welcome that, as a result of this engagement, our comments on aspects of the masterplan and how it relates to the historic environment have been acted upon with the plan updated accordingly. We therefore have no substantial comments to offer on the masterplan at this stage but would offer the following general comments.</p> <p>The aims and objectives of the masterplan in relation to the historic environment assets within the plan area recognise the need to consider and mitigate impacts on these resources that will come from development as part of the plan. Projects identified include works to mitigate the impacts of continuing development on the setting of the scheduled monument St Fittick's Church through delivery of landscape mitigation as well as targeted opportunities for repair, maintenance and enhanced interpretation and these are welcomed. The masterplan also explores interpretation and access opportunities around the</p>	<p>Comments noted, as a statutory consultee HES will be involved as proposals progress.</p>	None

	Company/ Individual/ Location	Comments	Response	Recommended changes to Draft ETZ Masterplan
		<p>historic environment assets in the wider area, notably the series of scheduled cairns on Tullos and Doonies Hill and we look forward to further discussion on these opportunities with all stakeholders as proposals progress.</p> <p>In terms of next steps we are aware that the Environmental Impact Assessment scoping consultation is currently under way for a Planning Permission in Principle (PPiP) application for the site. It will be important that the projects and approaches outlined in</p>		
265	Business/ Network Rail	<p>Network Rail anticipates that the strategic role played by the railway and objectives and concerns of Network Rail will be considered in the ETZ.</p> <p>The railway at this location forms part of the proposed 'Aberdeen to Central Belt' (A2CB) project which seeks to decarbonise this part of the railway network. As part of these proposals, works are expected to three structures within the masterplan area, and the full railway line within the Energy Transition Zone would be electrified with overhead line equipment.</p> <p>Full Scope of project TBC for A2CB but expected to include:</p> <p>133/388 (NJ9641104445) 'Ness Occupation' Currently preferred for demolition</p> <p>133/387 (NJ9679403833) 'Coast Road' Currently preferred for parapet extensions on bridge</p>	<p>Comments noted and passed onto the design team to ensure compliance with any statements made in the masterplan.</p> <p>Note the terminology re rail halt and freight yards.</p>	None

	Company/ Individual/ Location	Comments	Response	Recommended changes to Draft ETZ Masterplan
		<p>133/386 (NJ9659803395) 'Doonies' Currently preferred for re-decking of bridge.</p> <p>Timescale in Draft ETZ Masterplan (of 6-10 years) ties in with, but may be after, the A2CB upgrade. Benefits of project can help support masterplan achieve a sustainable, liveable and productive place in line with principles of NPF4</p> <p>Supports modal shift of passengers and freight towards railway.</p> <p>Network Rail structure 133/388 'Ness Occupation' is a private structure with no public right of way which is intended to be removed to allow electrification of the railway. A replacement structure will not be funded, but it would support Council in proposals for replacement bridge if 3rd party funding is available.</p>		
		<p><u>Freight</u></p> <p>Network Rail supportive of proposals to enhance freight provision in Aberdeen.</p> <p>Masterplan does not distinguish between freight yard to south of railway and bulk handling facility to the north. The northern one could handle more freight but is constrained by configuration, space and road access at present.</p> <p>A2CB route upgrade will be 'well-placed' to take advantage of freight facility to south of railway at Craiginches. Network Rail in discussions with Nestrans and AECOM over future aspirations for site which include expanded container facility for longer trains</p>	Comments noted. Terminology change required.	Ensure that the term 'rail halt' is removed and changed to 'freight yards'

	Company/ Individual/ Location	Comments	Response	Recommended changes to Draft ETZ Masterplan
		<p>and increased no. of movements. Significant road layout changes would be required.</p> <p>Potential for transportation of hydrogen by rail has been discussed with Nestrans and AECOM. Suitable infrastructure at freight site would be required with safety measures designed in. New safety protocols would also need to be developed prior to design/construction/operation.</p>		
		<p><u>Hydrogen Fuelling</u></p> <p>Fuelling closer to (or north of) Aberdeen Station would be preference if hydrogen fuelling pursued. However, battery power is also alternative to decarbonising rural trains.</p>	<p>Comments noted and passed onto the design team to ensure compliance with any statements made in the masterplan.</p> <p>Comments noted and passed onto the design team to ensure compliance with any statements made in the masterplan.</p>	None
		<p><u>Demolition and Realignment of OB 133/387 Coast Road</u></p> <p>Network Rail supportive of replacement of signalised railway bridge OB 133/387 Coast Road to address constraint issues.</p>	<p>Comments noted and passed onto the design team to ensure compliance with any statements made in the masterplan.</p>	None
		<p>Multi-Modal Connectivity</p> <p>Network Rail is supportive of the masterplan's commitment to the principle of multimodal connectivity.</p> <p>Walking should be primary way of accessing station and proposals should look to facilitate/integrate with this Aberdeen Station.</p>	<p>Comments noted and passed onto the design team to ensure compliance with any statements made in the masterplan.</p>	None

	Company/ Individual/ Location	Comments	Response	Recommended changes to Draft ETZ Masterplan
		<p>Changes to public realm in ETZ offer opportunity to encourage modal shift in transport. Network Rail committed to facilitating safe travel to and from stations via active means.</p> <p>Maximise potential of existing stations and new ones, and recognise their importance to communities in urban and rural areas as local hubs. All development within the Energy Transition Zone would be within 5km of Aberdeen Station so the potential for providing well-integrated active travel provision is high.</p>		
		<p>We are of the view that the STTS, which has been endorsed by SCOTS (Society of Chief Officers of Transportation in Scotland), will provide a useful guide for the development of sustainable travel infrastructure and we would be enthused to engage on this with Aberdeen City Council as proposals for specific sites within the Energy Transition Zone take shape.</p>	<p>Comments noted and passed onto the design team to ensure compliance with any statements made in the masterplan.</p> <p>Comments noted and passed onto the design team to ensure compliance with any statements made in the masterplan.</p>	None
266 and 266a	Torry Community Council	<p>Observations:</p> <p>1.1 . talks of how the plan could "directly uplift and empower the local community": the community overwhelmingly opposes any industrial development of OP56..</p> <p>Question how can loss of over 1/3 of a public park can increase amenity.</p> <p>2.4 The eventual use of the area will not be put to public consultation. This does not stipulate that no preparatory development of the site would happen in advance of, or to encourage, a particular development.</p>	<p>Per comment 3</p> <p>re 2.4 - Public involvement in the planning application process is key, which will include further assessments, studies and more detailed design to inform the process and allows the public to comment on detailed proposals.</p> <p>2.5 relates specifically to Aberdeen South Locality Planning Partnership that Torry is part of.</p>	None

	Company/ Individual/ Location	Comments	Response	Recommended changes to Draft ETZ Masterplan
		<p>2.5 The community is not mentioned as a partner in these partnership arrangements.</p> <p>Question why the exclusion of OP56 is not included here as an option.</p> <p>The representation included a statement from the Torry Community Council that was submitted to Full Council on 23.08.23. This has not been summarised here as it does not directly relate to the Masterplan public consultation.</p>	<p>OP56 is allocated in ALDP.</p> <p>The statement submitted to full council on 23.08.23 relates to the allocation of the site at St Fitticks. OP56 is allocated in ALDP.</p>	
		<p>ETZ masterplan must go to full council.</p> <p>Re-zoning of St Fittick's Park was without public consultation and it changed the Trust's constitution so that a Council Officer could be delegated to sell/lease the land. When the constitution was changed (on 14th December 2022) there was a verbal agreement that any decision over the Lands of Torry would be made by Full Council. Also concerns over Council's conflict of interest.</p> <p>ETZ development of Opportunity Sites in Torry of 56 and 62 will be contrary to key policies in NPF4 regarding nature recovery and human wellbeing.</p> <p>Development would destroy existing plants/animals if Tullos Burn and wetland is moved. Habitat degradation and biodiversity loss due to new pollution, and air pollution would impact local residents.</p>	<p>This report is for full council.</p> <p>Per comment 3</p> <p>The ETZ is allocated in the ALDP per comment 1. The sale/lease of land is a separate matter and not relevant to the masterplan or the planning process.</p> <p>Consideration has been given to the siting of the development beside St Fittick's Church and Historic Environment Scotland and the Council's archaeologist have been involved throughout the process. Further assessments and consultation with HES will be required as part of the planning process. Furthermore traffic assessments and other</p>	None

	Company/ Individual/ Location	Comments	Response	Recommended changes to Draft ETZ Masterplan
		<p>Loss of woodland and grassland is not adequately compensated by new planting or greenspace elsewhere and doesn't address air quality, loss of recreation opportunities for local residents, flood mitigation or visual amenity. New areas also less accessible.</p> <p>Detrimental impact on setting of Churchyard and St Fittick's Church (scheduled monument) due to re-routing of the Coast Road.</p>	relevant studies will be required as part of planning applications as they come forward.	
267	Torry Community Group	<p>Significantly objects to the proposal.</p> <p>Feels that Torry has already sacrificed green space to prior developments that were supposedly for the good of the area, yet none have delivered the jobs/prosperity promised. If land is so essential, why aren't the plans for it more specific?</p> <p>Development would result in loss of Greenspace and scientific studies show this can have negative impact on mental health.</p> <p>St Fittick's Park would most likely lose much of its biodiversity if developed which includes 42 species of breeding birds, 116 plant species and impact upon invertebrates and migratory birds.</p> <p>Development of St Fittick's Park is contrary to Council's own vision of retaining and improving existing Greenspaces.</p>	Per comment 3	None
268	Individual/ Local Area	Objection to ETZ on sites 56 and 62 in Torry.	<p>Per comment 3</p> <p>Assessments will be required with planning applications that will take into consideration</p>	None

	Company/ Individual/ Location	Comments	Response	Recommended changes to Draft ETZ Masterplan
		<p>It would destroy large areas of grassland, woodland, ponds which provide habitat for existing plants and animals, and result in biodiversity loss.</p> <p>It would result in loss of open space for local community that supports healthy lifestyles and offers recreation opportunities. Loss further felt in addition to closure of Doonie's Farm.</p> <p>Increased air pollution will be caused by development as well as HGV traffic which already impacts Torry and Balnagask. Construction of incinerator may well also have negative impacts on health and welfare of locals and World Health Organisation (WHO) 'stated that it would have a huge negative impact on people's health - especially those living in the immediate vicinity of the incinerator'.</p>	<p>air quality, odours, and a health impact assessment. The specific final uses of the different areas are unknown so cannot be assessed at this time. The end uses have not been determined yet, this document sets parameters and principle for development.</p>	
269	Individual/ Local Area	Per 266	Per 266	None
270	Local Member	<p>Support the Energy Transition Zone in principle. This is because of our need as a City to pivot to renewable energy and remain a global player in the energy industry.</p> <p>Does not support building on St Fittick's Park (OP56).</p> <p>As a local Councillor I note the park is one of the few green spaces in Torry and its most substantial. Its loss would be detrimental to the community.</p>	Per comment 3.	None

	Company/ Individual/ Location	Comments	Response	Recommended changes to Draft ETZ Masterplan
		The community benefit package cannot make up for the potential loss of up to 1/3 of St Fittick's Park.		
271	Individual/	Object to development of St Fittick's Park for the ETZ, as outlined in the Draft Masterplan. The space is important to the community and they will be negatively impacted. The transition to sustainable energy should be led by the community. Remove Opportunity Site 56 in St Fittick's Park from the ETZ and amend the draft Masterplan accordingly.	Per comment 3	None
272	NatureScot	Reviewed the masterplan in line with remit. Note the updates made and do not have any comments to add further to our previous responses as part of document preparation (see comments dated 18 May 2023 and 21 March 2023).	Comments noted and welcomed	No recommended changes
273	SEPA	SEPA has reviewed the Draft Energy Transition Zone Masterplan (April 2023 V8) and continues to consider that it should not be adopted as supplementary guidance. SEPA's comments on the previous draft Masterplan have not been addressed	The proposal is to adopt the document as Aberdeen Planning Guidance and not Supplementary Guidance.	None
		It should be made clear what the 'masterplan' is & all references to indicative masterplans and illustrative concepts removed on key pages (eg page 97/98; 99/100; 113/114; 125/126)	The plans are indicative at this time as is always the case with Masterplans. The document notes that a number of assessments, studies and more detailed design work is required to development the proposals further. The document. The Masterplan sets principles and parameters that will be taken forward with any planning applications. The environment,	None

	Company/ Individual/ Location	Comments	Response	Recommended changes to Draft ETZ Masterplan
			connectivity and community benefits, including a new play park, pump park and parklets identified as part of the marine gateway are all embedded within the document highlighting their importance and requirement to be further considered.	
		We consider that one of the key principles to set out in a masterplan is the developable areas – and these should be shown as more than ‘indicative’ and reference to ‘reduced’ area should be removed;	The developable area is shown within the relevant plans such as St Fitticks on page 95. The reduced terminology related to the site is not the whole allocation that will be developed,	None
		Any further assessments required should be carried out as part of the masterplan process	The more appropriate time for further survey and assessments is part of the planning application process and not here.	None
		Consider the statement “Indicative floorspace ranges are derived from the illustrative layouts” is not justified at this stage and should be removed as further justification is required for the indicative GFA shown of 10,000 – 15,000 sqm for Zone A St Fitticks	The purpose of a Masterplan is to set principle and parameters for development.	None
		The masterplan itself should reference the local plan requirement for OP56 in full - <i>Any development at this site must have a functional association with the South Harbour which precludes it being located elsewhere.</i> It should also consider how this will be addressed through a planning in principle application.	Comment noted	Update draft Masterplan accordingly
		A detailed topographical survey should be completed and it be confirmed if the proposed East Tullos diversion is achievable;	This will be required as part of any planning application along with other assessments, studies and more detailed design.	None
		A FRA should be carried out for OP56 and results incorporated into masterplan;	A FRA will be carried out as part of the planning application process and not the	None

	Company/ Individual/ Location	Comments	Response	Recommended changes to Draft ETZ Masterplan
			Masterplanning process. This requirement for this is set out in the ALDP 2023 and will accompany any PPIP.	
		All constraints to development should be clearly shown on the masterplan – including Scottish Water infrastructure referenced in text;	Agreed these could be shown clearly on a plan.	Update Masterplan to show technical constraint for St Fitticks. (P77 /78)
		SUDS requirements should be identified on the masterplan within development site boundaries;	Indicative SUDs locations are shown on the plans such a p98 number 7 and page 125 number 6. The document makes it clear that “all development sites have full SUDs measures to treat/attenuate flows before discharge”.	None
		Mitigation requirements including landscaping & buffer strips should be identified more clearly. (The illustrative concept page 8-1 shows landscaping (trees) in the East Tullos Burn & wetland area & in the burn diversion.)	Landscape plans and mitigation will be considered in detail as part of a planning application. Also per comment above surveys and assessments will also be required. A detailed landscape plan and scheme will be developed as part of the relevant planning applications when they come forward. A section has been added to the masterplan stating “development proposals must increase tree and woodland cover, and where tree removal takes place replacement planting will be	None

	Company/ Individual/ Location	Comments	Response	Recommended changes to Draft ETZ Masterplan
			required to ensure an overall <u>net gain</u> in tree cover”	
274	Individual	<p>Strongly object to inclusion of St Fittick’s Park within ETZ, and it must be protected in full.</p> <p>It would result in loss of haven for biodiversity and species and destroy rich habitat. Argues that ‘no net loss’ of biodiversity is a loss in real terms as areas lost cannot be replaced like-for-like and do not replace memories, cultural, social and historical significance associated with place. New habitats would require maintenance and cost-cutting would likely result in degradation of what was promised.</p> <p>Language within masterplan of how losses would be compensated is also vague and insufficient to justify loss of park.</p> <p>People of Torry disproportionately negatively affected by proposal as they are already some of the ‘economically poorest’. Their views have not been incorporated into Masterplan, and their views and needs have not been heeded in consultation process.</p> <p>Evidence suggests port space required to service the construction of off-shore wind farms will significantly reduce by 2035, therefore permanent loss of existing irreplaceable habitat will be for shorter-term need.</p>	<p>Per comment 3</p> <p>The Community and Energy Coast chapter of the Masterplan considers the East Tullos Burn and wetlands (p59 and 60), St Fittick’s Park and the projects that will be brought forward in this area, to the benefit of the community, are shown on pages 61-64. Biodiversity protection and enhancement are also considered on pages 65-66 with suggested improvements including pollinator coast, habitat management and development landscaping.</p> <p>Detailed mitigation measures and their delivery would be determined via the planning application process.</p> <p>There have been a number of consultation exercises consulting the community, including this 8 week one.</p> <p>The future requirement for this area is not for the masterplan to consider.</p>	None
275	Individual	Acknowledges importance for Aberdeen to reinvent itself as a sustainable energy capital and highlights the importance of	Per comment 3.	None

	Company/ Individual/ Location	Comments	Response	Recommended changes to Draft ETZ Masterplan
		<p>sustainable development in supporting both communities and the environment.</p> <p>Impacts to St Fitticks are significant, concern the community will not reap many benefits. Mitigation measures do not address concerns expressed by the community.</p> <p>Masterplan does not reflect a Just Transition or Sustainable Development.</p> <p>Concern for disadvantaged communities accessing greenspace, particularly important considering the impact of local greenspaces on community wellbeing during the pandemic.</p> <p>Concern that the benefits of critical ecosystems in St Fitticks Park, experienced by the locals, is not fully reflected in the masterplan (such as clean water, protection from floods, local biodiversity, carbon sequestration, education, sense of place, recreation and mental and physical health impacts).</p> <p>Mitigation measures are inadequate and are based on poor evidence.</p> <p>Redirection and positioning of the wetland (p28) next to an industrial facility and road would nullify its potential benefits. The same can be said for the adjoining restored woodland.</p> <p>Proposed 'biodiversity swap' through improved access to Tullos Hill to compensate loss of space in St Fitticks does not account for the change in different ecosystems, and the services provided.</p> <p>The differing natures of these areas makes them not swappable.</p>	<p>The site is allocated in the ALDP and the allocation sets out a requirement to identify preventative and remediative measures, all of which will be fully considered as part of the planning application process.</p> <p>there will still be an area of greenspace available with enhanced play facilities, improved access and improved quality of wetland.</p> <p>The ETZ is allocated within the ALDP and the principle of development established through this [process and set out in comment 3. The masterplan takes that principle of development and considers the area as a whole and identifies developable area, proposals, access etc. Further studies and assessments will be required as part of the planning application process and will be determined in more detail, mitigation, landscaping etc.</p> <p>The area of Donnies was assessed and allocated through the ALDP process and allocated for development per comment 3 response.</p> <p>Finally the ETZ masterplan will also utilise</p>	

	Company/ Individual/ Location	Comments	Response	Recommended changes to Draft ETZ Masterplan
		<p>Could lead to increased inequalities experienced by locals accessing Tullos Hill due to mobility issues, and results in giving them access to a hilly environment rather than flat ground. Supports efforts to restore Tullos Hill, but should not be used to substitute loss of St Fitticks Park.</p> <p>Objects to the development of Doonies (OP61).</p> <p>Masterplan does not fully reflect benefits of Doonies, which is a site of local significance, where access to rural areas is limited.</p> <p>Mitigation measures are inadequate and fail to provide comparable benefits. Concern this will deepen inequalities as locals will lose more than there is to gain.</p> <p>Concern that the decarbonisation agenda cannot progress in isolation of biodiversity conservation or social justice. Urges decision makers to rethink and work directly with the affected community</p> <p>Argues there are options that have not been considered, e.g. identification of areas of existing and vacant brownfield sites - of which there are many in the city.</p>	vacant brownfield land at Tullos and Altens for development.	
276 to 640	365 emails –received with the standard text shown in the next column.	Object to the proposed development of Opportunity Site 56 in St Fittick's Park for the following re:	Per comment 3 the site is allocated in the ALDP This area as per the ALDP allocation must have a functional association with the South Harbour that precludes it being located elsewhere, such as the size of the infrastructure preventing transport from	None

	Company/ Individual/ Location	Comments	Response	Recommended changes to Draft ETZ Masterplan
			other locations or requiring roll on/roll off level access to the harbour.	
		will negatively impact environmental health due to increased levels of air, noise and light pollution associated with further industrial development near a residential area. These impacts will be experienced by and have a detrimental effect on a community with significant health outcome disparities compared to other parts of Aberdeen (13 years lower life expectancy, 20 years lower healthy life expectancy)	Assessments will be required with planning applications that will take into consideration air quality, odours, and a health impact assessment. The specific final uses of the different areas are unknown so cannot be assessed at this time. The end uses have not been determined yet, this document sets parameters and principles for development.	None
		will negatively impact the natural environment due to proposed relocation/ destruction of the existing East Tullos Burn wetland, grasslands and woodland habitats and the diminished quality of what remains of the park	The Masterplan relates to land allocated in the ALDP for an ETZ. The masterplan has identified the developable area within the St Fittick's site, which equates to around 1/3 of it. The Masterplan also clearly sets out mitigation projects (p64-66) as well as proposals and opportunities with the area (p73-98), including pollinator coast, local species planting, habitat management, and as identified by SEPA the need to improve water quality of the burn (p59 and 60). The proposal looks at quality of the burn and wetland as well as quantity.	

	Company/ Individual/ Location	Comments	Response	Recommended changes to Draft ETZ Masterplan
			St Fittick's park and the projects that will be brought forward in this area, to the benefit of the community are shown on pages 61-64. Biodiversity protection and enhancement are also considered on pages 65-66 with suggested improvements' including pollinator coast, habitat management and development landscaping	
		will be contrary to current national and local authority planning policy including Scotland's NPF4 Policy 23: Health and Safety (sections b, d, e, g and h) which seeks to protect people and places from environmental harm and Aberdeen Local Development Plan 2023 Policy WB1 Healthy Development, WB2 Air Quality, WB3 Noise, NE2 Green and Blue Infrastructure (particularly urban green spaces), NE4 Flood Risk and Management, NE5 Trees and Woodland, D3 Big Buildings (proposed high-value manufacturing facility is 10-15 m high), D4 Landscape, D6 Historic Environment and R2 Degraded Land (the wetland acts as a sink for organic and inorganic contaminants)	Per comment 3 the site is allocated in the ALDP. The Masterplan relates to land allocated in the ALDP for an ETZ. Throughout the document national, regional and local policies have been considered and assessed. The masterplan looks at policy topics such as improvements to biodiversity, active travel, health and wellbeing, historic environment, safety, reuse of brownfield land, job opportunities and upskilling, and at the forefront of the ETZ, the move to net zero and climate mitigation and adaptation. Subsequent planning applications will be assessed against relevant ADLP policies.	
		will have a negative impact on the amenity of the surrounding residential area due to loss of parkland and replacement of existing green spaces with heavy manufacturing and harbourside development	The Masterplan sets principles and parameters that will be taken forward with any planning applications. The Masterplan illustrates the location and area of	

	Company/ Individual/ Location	Comments	Response	Recommended changes to Draft ETZ Masterplan
			<p>landscaping that will be removed and replaced. Replacement planting will include native species and will extend woodland cover, particularly within the Tullos Wood. A section has also been added to the Masterplan stating: “development proposals must increase tree and woodland cover, and where tree removal takes place replacement planting will be required to ensure an overall <u>net gain</u> in tree cover”</p> <p>The end uses have not been determined yet, this document sets parameters and principle for development. Amenity will be assessed as part of any planning application.</p>	
		<p>will cause traffic congestion, access, and safety problems for residents and those using coast paths and other active travel routes due to increased HGV and other vehicular traffic associated with heavy manufacturing and harbourside development and potential conflicts with pedestrians, cyclists and public transportation users from nearby residential areas and users of coastal path network</p>	<p>An assessment of traffic and transport impacts and other relevant studies will be required as part of planning applications as they come forward.</p> <p>The requirement for such studies is identified within the Masterplan on page 167.</p> <p>Each campus has a section on Transport and Connectivity shown the importance of this issue(p84, p108, p122, p123, p144). Furthermore p 152 – 154 relates specifically to road infrastructure and how the ETZ</p>	

	Company/ Individual/ Location	Comments	Response	Recommended changes to Draft ETZ Masterplan
			relates to other existing and committed projects including the Aberdeen South Harbour Link Road.	
		will create a precedent for future similar proposals in Torry, making it difficult to object to further industrial development due to the history of industrial expansion in the area, particularly by the Port of Aberdeen whose long-term plans include further industrialisation around the South Harbour	The Masterplan reflects the ALDP development allocations and does not consider future expansion. Every application is considered on its own merits. The sites are allocated in the ALDP and will be assessed against the requirements of this and other relevant legislation and material planning considerations.	
		will adversely impact a Scheduled National Monument and Commonwealth War Grave site due to the proximity of the re-routed Coast Road to the site of St Fittick's Church	Consideration has been given to the siting of the development beside St Fittick's Church and Historic Environment Scotland and the Council's archaeologists have been involved throughout the process. Further assessments and consultation with HES will be required as part of the planning process.	
		<p>result in the loss of public amenities, such as green space and recreational grounds due to the destruction of woodland, including walking paths, and open grassland areas, including a large playing field</p> <p>cannot compensate for the loss of the above, as claimed in the Masterplan because there are no other comparable accessible green areas in Torry. Proposed improved access to Tullos Wood is not suitable compensation as this requires lengthy pedestrian travel through an industrial estate. Tullos Wood is still a managed</p>	The plan on page 71 shows how the connections can be made via an underpass to the west. This said in ould be helpful to have a plan showing the indicative path improvements within the sites and the wider connections to the network beyond. It should be noted that at this time the final path locations have not been determined and this would be part of a planning application process, but the requirement for	

	Company/ Individual/ Location	Comments	Response	Recommended changes to Draft ETZ Masterplan
		landfill site, containing methane venting zones and does not provide access for disabled users. Proposed local parklets do not provide for the same range of uses as the existing park.	<p>their retention and enhancement has been identified.</p> <p>The Masterplan relates to land allocated in the ALDP for an ETZ. The Masterplan sets principles and parameters that will be taken forward with any planning applications. The masterplan shows that not all of St Fitticks park will be developed, but rather only the area immediately adjacent to the harbour equating to around 7 hectares. The environment, connectivity and community benefits, including a new play park, pump park and parklets identified as part of the marine gateway are all embedded within the document highlighting their importance and requirement to be further considered.</p> <p>The masterplan has identified the developable area within the St Fittick's site, which is not the whole of the site and equates to around 1/3 of it. The Masterplan also clearly sets out projects (p64-66) as well as proposals and opportunities with the area (p73-98), including pollinator coast, local species planting, habitat management, and as identified by SEPA the need to improve water quality of the burn (p59 and 60).</p>	

	Company/ Individual/ Location	Comments	Response	Recommended changes to Draft ETZ Masterplan
			<p>Further assessments such as an EIA are required with any planning application.</p> <p>The Masterplan illustrates the location and area of landscaping that will be removed and replaced. Replacement planting will include native species and will extend woodland cover, particularly within the Tullos Wood. A section has also been added to the Masterplan stating: “development proposals must increase tree and woodland cover, and where tree removal takes place replacement planting will be required to ensure an overall <u>net gain</u> in tree cover</p> <p>The proposal includes improved access through St Fittick’s Park to Tullos Hill. It is noted that the bridge will be removed but this is a consequence of a separate project to electrify the main east coast rail line and upgrade the Coast Road and is consequently under the control of Network Rail. Careful consideration will be given to allowing improved access for all through the assessment of planning applications. Further path networks and improvements are shown for each area but in particular on the Marine Gateway. Though part of the site</p>	

	Company/ Individual/ Location	Comments	Response	Recommended changes to Draft ETZ Masterplan
			will be developed, there will be an extensive path network still available.	
		will impose additional sources of pollution on top of those already present (waste treatment plant, incinerator, landfill sites) which causes a cumulative negative effect on local health outcomes	Assessments will be required with planning applications that will take into consideration air quality, odours, and a health impact assessment. The specific final uses of the different areas are unknown so cannot be assessed at this time. A Health Impact Assessment will be provided as part of the planning application process.	
		will adversely affect the needs of people with disabilities due to the loss and diminution of quality of accessible and inclusive existing pathways in the park. The proposed mitigation and compensation will not meet the needs of elderly and disabled residents of Brimmond Court	There is still a network of paths available within St Fitticks park.	
		For the reasons outlined above, I ask that you remove Opportunity Site 56 in St Fittick's Park from the ETZ and amend the draft Masterplan accordingly.	Per comment 3.	
	Other	Finally, a small number of other technical updates and clarifications have been incorporated, where necessary, to reflect changes in circumstances since the draft ETZ Masterplan was developed, such as the adoption of the LDP and NPF4.	Other minor corrections / updates included are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reference to adopted LDP (2023) throughout – particularly pg. 23-24 - Reference to bp Aberdeen Hydrogen Energy Ltd consent granted June 2023. 	List them

	Company/ Individual/ Location	Comments	Response	Recommended changes to Draft ETZ Masterplan
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reference to opening of the Torry Community Hub in November 2023, on pg. 44. - Reference to EISH / Skills Hub planning application within relevant planning context sections for those Campuses. - Corrected reference to Balnagask Golf Course, rather than Nigg Bay Golf Club. - Corrected / updated operational status of South Harbour and EfW facility. - Updated image on pgs. 29-30 and pg. 78 to more recent images of Park / Harbour / Coastline (previous images were from 2021 / early 2022). - Minor amendments to remove reference to 'invasive' or 'non-native' species, have referred to overgrown typha / grasses where relevant. 	

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A: SCREENING

1. Name of Competent Authority

Aberdeen City Council

Note: Refer to NatureScot HRA Guidance whilst completing the HRA, this template only contains basic pointers for the completion of this document, further Guidance should be referred to for detail;

- *If you would like more information on the terms used in this template, see the EU guidance document [here](#), pages 33-52*
- *When producing a plan or strategy, use this [guidance](#) from NatureScot*
- *For projects where work is taking place on the ground, this [guidance](#) from NatureScot may be more useful*
- *For all cases, reference **must** also be made to the following additional [guidance note](#) from NatureScot*
- *[SiteLink](#) provides access to data and information on key [Protected Areas](#) across Scotland. You can view site boundaries, designated features and download supporting documents.*

Note: Refer to Local Development Plan (LDP) HRA before progressing when assessing development within an Opportunity Site identified through the LDP.

2. SITE DETAILS

2a. Name of European site affected

The below lists the European and UK designated sites within the potential zone of influence (ZOI) which were considered and the qualifying interest features are outlined below in Section 2b.

- 1. River Dee SAC**
EU Site Code: UK0030251 Designated: 17 March 2005 Area: 2334.48 ha
- 2. Moray Firth SAC**
EU Site Code: UK0019808 Designated: 17 March 2005 Area: 151273.98 ha
- 3. The Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie and Meikle Loch SPA**
EU Site Code: UK9002221 Designated: 03 December 2020 Area: 7062.03 ha
- 4. Loch of Skene SPA**
EU Site Code: UK9002261 Designated: 01 Oct 1986 Area: 121.76 ha
- 5. Buchan Ness to Collieston Coast SPA**
EU Site Code: UK9002491 Designated: 25 Sep 2009 Area: 5400.76 ha

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6. Isle of May SAC (Grey seal)

EU Site Code: UK0030172 Designated: 17 Mar 2005 Area: 356.64 ha

7. Berwickshire and North Northumberland Coast SAC (Grey seal)

EU Site Code: UK0017072 Designated: 17 Mar 2005 Area: 65226.12 ha

It is recognised that the above list contains sites which are more than 2km distance away from the Masterplan area. However, there is no maximum distance specified in defining a 'Zone of Influence' and therefore additional SPAs and SACs have been identified for the purposes of this habitats appraisal. Such sites have been identified as being within the potential ZOI as their designations include mobile species, which may be on a flightpath, utilise supporting habitats on or near the site, and/or are hydrologically connected to the site. For example, the common tern which is a qualifying species at the Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie and Meikle Loch SPA typically forages up to 5–10 km (3.1–6.2 mi) away from the breeding colony, sometimes as far as 15 km (9.3 mi). Given the proximity of the Masterplan area to the coast determines that other sites with marine based attributes and qualifying interested should also be considered.

2b. European qualifying interest(s)

Site / Qualifying Interest / Condition

1. **River Dee SAC: Otter** *Lutra lutra* (Favourable Declining); **Freshwater pearl mussel** *Margaritifera margaritifera* (Unfavourable No Change); **Atlantic salmon** *Salmo salar* (Favourable Maintained)
2. **Moray Firth SAC: Bottlenose dolphin** *Tursiops truncatus* (Favourable Maintained)
3. **Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie and Meikle Loch SPA: Sandwich tern** *Sterna sandvicensis* (Favourable Maintained); **Common tern** *Sterna hirundo* (Unfavourable No Change); **Little tern** *Sterna albifrons* (Favourable Maintained); **Pink-footed goose** *Anser brachyrhynchus* (Favourable Maintained); **Common eider** *Somateria mollissima mollissima* (Favourable Declining); **Lapwing** *Vanellus vanellus* (Favourable Maintained); **Redshank** *Tringa tetanus* (Favourable Maintained); **Non-breeding waterbird assemblage** (Favourable Maintained).
4. **Loch of Skene SPA: Goldeneye** *Bucephala clangula* (Favourable Maintained); **Goosander** *Mergus merganser* (Unfavourable Declining); **Greylag goose** *Anser anser* (Unfavourable Declining).
5. **Buchan Ness to Collieston Coast SPA: Fulmar** *Fulmarus glacialis* (Unfavourable Declining); **Guillemot** *Uria aalge* (Favourable Maintained); **Herring gull** *Larus argentatus* (Favourable Maintained); **Kittiwake** *Rissa tridactyla* (Unfavourable No change); **Shag** *Phalacrocorax aristotelis* (Unfavourable No change); **Seabird assemblage** (Favourable Recovered).
6. **Isle of May SAC: Grey seal** *Halichoerus grypus* (Favourable Maintained).
7. **Berwickshire and North Northumberland Coast SAC: Grey seal** *Halichoerus grypus* (Favourable Maintained).

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2c. Conservation objectives for qualifying interests

The following outlines both the conservation objectives for the qualifying interests of the sites, alongside factors influencing the site and vulnerabilities to changes/potential effects

1. River Dee SAC

- To ensure that the qualifying features (Freshwater pearl mussel, Atlantic salmon and otter) of the River Dee SAC are in favourable condition and make an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status.
- To ensure that the integrity of the River Dee SAC is restored by meeting objectives 2a, 2b, 2c for each qualifying feature (and 2d for freshwater pearl mussel):
 - 2a - Restore the population of the qualifying feature species as a viable component of the site.
 - 2b - Restore the distribution of the qualifying feature species throughout the site.
 - 2c - Restore the habitats supporting the qualifying feature species within the site and availability of food.
 - 2d - Maintain the distribution and viability of freshwater pearl mussel host species and their supporting habitats.
- Factors Influencing Site and Vulnerability to Changes / Potential Effects
 - River engineering works
 - Habitat loss
 - Disturbance
 - Recreational impacts
 - Coastal squeeze
 - Water abstraction
 - Pollution Housing developments

2. Moray Firth SAC

- To ensure that the qualifying features (e.g. bottlenose dolphin and subtidal sandbanks) of Moray Firth SAC are in favourable condition and make an appropriate contribution to achieving Favourable Conservation Status.
- To ensure that the integrity of Moray Firth SAC is maintained or restored in the context of environmental changes by meeting objectives 2a, 2b and 2c for each qualifying feature:
 - For subtidal sandbanks
 - 2a - Extent and distribution of the habitat within the site.
 - 2b - Structure and function of the habitat and the supporting environment on which it relies.
 - 2c - Distribution and viability of typical species of the habitat.
 - For bottlenose dolphin
 - 2a - The population of the bottlenose dolphin is a viable component of the site.
 - 2b - The distribution of bottlenose dolphin throughout the site is maintained by avoiding significant disturbance.

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- 2c - The supporting habitats and processes relevant to bottlenose dolphin and the availability of prey for bottlenose dolphin are maintained.

- Factors Influencing Site and Vulnerability to Changes / Potential Effects

- Dolphin watching
- Disturbance
- Harassment
- Contamination
- Death and injury
- Potential poaching
- Recreational impact
- Reduction of food availability
- Unviable population levels

3. Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie and Meikle Loch SPA

- To ensure that the qualifying features of Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie and Meikle Loch SPA are in favourable condition and make an appropriate contribution to achieving Favourable Conservation Status.

- To ensure that the integrity of Ythan Estuary, Sand of Forvie and Meikle Loch SPA is restored in the context of environmental; changes by meeting objectives 2a, 2b and 2c for each qualifying feature:

- 2a - The population of the qualifying features are viable components of the site.
- 2b - The distribution of the qualifying features throughout the site are maintained by avoiding significant disturbance of the species.
- 2c - The supporting habitats and processes relevant to the qualifying features and their prey/food resources are maintained, or where appropriate, restored.

- Factors Influencing Site and Vulnerability to Changes / Potential Effects

- Tourism / Leisure / Recreation
- Onshore Wind & Micro-renewables
- Development pressures on and/or edges of site
- Damage and disturbance to sensitive habitats and species.
- Predation
- Overtopping of shingle beds by sand
- Eutrophication and threats to invertebrates from algal mats
- Long term threats from climate change and sea level rise

4. Loch of Skene SPA

- To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species (Greylag goose, Goldeneye and Goosander) or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained; and

- To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long term:

- Population of the species as a viable component of the site
- Distribution of the species within site
- Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species
- Structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting the species
- No significant disturbance of the species

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- Factors Influencing Site and Vulnerability to Changes / Potential Effects
 - Off-shore wind
 - Tourism / Leisure impacts
 - Recreational pressures & maintenance of visitor numbers
 - Disturbance
 - Affects to mobile species
 - Impact on water quality
 - Pollution
 - Long term threats from fisheries and climate change

- 5. Buchan Ness to Collieston Coast SPA**
- To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species (listed below) or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained; and;
- To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long term:
 - Population of the species as a viable component of the site
 - Distribution of the species within site
 - Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species
 - Structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting the species
 - No significant disturbance of the species
- Factors Influencing Site and Vulnerability to Changes / Potential Effects
 - Pollution
 - Disturbance
 - Development pressures
 - Habitat loss/destruction
 - Affects to mobile species
 - Impact on water quality
 - Pollution
 - Recreational activities
 - Long term threats from overfishing, fisheries, climate change and sea level rise

- 6. Isle of May SAC (Grey seal)**
- To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species (listed below) or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and
- To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long term:
 - Population of the species as a viable component of the site
 - Distribution of the species within site
 - Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species
 - Structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting the species
 - No significant disturbance of the species
- Factors Influencing Site and Vulnerability to Changes / Potential Effects
 - Recreational pressure

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- Tourism / Leisure
- Managing visitor numbers and boat landings
- Disturbance to breeding season and prey
- Habitat modification
- Offshore wind farm
- Maritime activities (collisions)
- Impact on water quality
- Tele-communications
- Harbour infrastructure

7. Berwickshire and North Northumberland Coast SAC (Grey seal)

- To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species (listed below) or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and
- To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long term:
 - Population of the species as a viable component of the site
 - Distribution of the species within site
 - Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species
 - Structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting the species
 - No significant disturbance of the species
- Factors Influencing Site and Vulnerability to Changes / Potential Effects
 - Recreational pressure
 - Tourism / Leisure
 - Disturbance
 - Habitat loss
 - Offshore wind farm
 - Maritime activities
 - Impact on water quality
 - Infrastructure

8. PROPOSAL DETAILS

3a. Proposal Title

Energy Transition Zone (ETZ) Masterplan

3b. Details of proposal for both the construction (if relevant) and operational phase(s)

The **Aberdeen Local Development Plan (ALDP) 2023** was adopted on 19 June 2023. The ALDP 2023 contains Policy B5 (Energy Transition Zone) which identifies areas of land for development of an 'Energy Transition Zone', as well as specific 'Opportunity Sites' OP56 (St Fittick's Park), OP61 (Doonies) and OP62 (Bay of Nigg / Gregness) at and around Aberdeen South Harbour. The ALDP

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2023 sets out that OP56 and OP61 will support renewable energy transition related industries in association with Aberdeen South Harbour while OP62 relates to the Aberdeen Harbour expansion. The Local Development Plan also highlights the need for a joint Masterplan for all three Opportunity Sites – please see **Figure 1** below.

The ALDP further states that the **Energy Transition Zone** will support renewable energy transition related industries in association with Aberdeen South Harbour. Any development at the OP56 site must have a functional association with the South Harbour which precludes it being located elsewhere, such as the size of the infrastructure preventing transport from other locations or requiring ‘roll on / roll off’ level access to the South Harbour. Appropriate environmental assessments will be required, including a Habitats Regulations Appraisal to accompany development proposals in order to avoid adverse effects on the qualifying interests of a range of Natura sites. A Flood Risk Assessment is required. Other issues which need to be addressed include water quality, recreational access, habitat connectivity, compensatory planting and landscape buffering with residential areas. Joint Masterplan needed for OP56, OP61 and OP62.

To articulate ETZ Ltd.’s vision and objectives into a spatial framework, a masterplan for the Energy Transition Zone (ETZ) has been developed in line with Aberdeen City Council’s ‘Placemaking Process’ (formerly known as the ‘Masterplanning Process’).

The **Energy Transition Zone (ETZ) Masterplan** has been prepared by a consultant team on behalf of ETZ Ltd. A copy of the full ETZ Masterplan can be found in **Appendix 2**, however in broad terms the ETZ Masterplan has been prepared to provide a spatial framework for development across a wide area encompassing Aberdeen South Harbour, proposed ALDP ‘Opportunity Sites’ for Energy Transition Zone development, brownfield land within East Tullos and Altens, road and other infrastructures, areas of green and open space, and communities in Torry and Cove. It provides the basis for future development of energy transition industries, skills, innovation and investment in manufacturing. It also includes the delivery of wider benefits in terms of job-creation, place-making, and the local environment. It has been prepared in consultation with a wide range of statutory and non-statutory stakeholders and following an extensive period of local engagement including three community consultation events held in Torry and hosted by ETZ Ltd., and a period of 8 week Council-ran public consultation exercise. The Masterplan is structured around the development of a ‘campus model’, as outlined below and in **Figure 2**.

- *Community & Energy Coast* – a programme of investment in local greenspace, biodiversity, and community infrastructures to deliver tangible local benefits across the area.
- *Marine Gateway* – a hub of high-value manufacturing and port-integrated activity forming a catalyst for wider investment across ETZ – sited at Aberdeen South Harbour and a reduced development area within the OP56 Opportunity Site at St Fittick’s.
- *Hydrogen Campus* – a specialist Campus for manufacturing, R&D, and test & demonstration of hydrogen technologies, strengthening Aberdeen’s position as a sector leader – sited at the OP61 Opportunity Site (Doonies) and adjacent brownfield land for future expansion.
- *Offshore Wind Campus* – a cluster of manufacturing, supply-chain, R&D, and test & demonstration activity for offshore wind and wider energy transition uses – sited in Altens.
- *Innovation Campus* – a purpose-developed mix of flexible industrial and commercial units for innovative start-up and growing energy transition businesses – sited in Altens.

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- *Skills Campus* – a new net zero education & training facility to accelerate the next generation of energy skills and knowledge and support delivery of ETZ Jobs & Skills Plan – sited in Altens.

A Planning Permission in Principle application will also be submitted for development in Zones A , B and C over a total area of 34.99ha which includes land within the three areas of land allocated as OP56 (St Fittick’s Park), OP61 (Doonies) and OP62 (Bay of Nigg / Gregness) – please see **Figure 3 below**.

Overall, the proposals are for a range of flexible development within Class 4, 5, and 6 across three zones with associated infrastructure, active travel connections, landscaping, environmental works, utilities, services drainage and other ancillary works. Whilst it is recognised that the Masterplan is at a strategic level and the details of the proposed development are still being planned and developed, for the purposes of this HRA the development is expected to comprise of the following:

- Buildings in a combination of Class 4 (Business), Class 5 (General Industrial), and Class 6 (Storage & Distribution uses), suitable for a range of energy transition activities, across a range of serviced development plots.
- Provision of road infrastructure including creation of new road links, connected to the Coast Road.
- Retention and partial re-alignment of a section of the East Tullos Burn in order to enable formation of development plots, supporting renewable energy transition related industries in association with Aberdeen South Harbour.
- Active travel measures including integration of existing Core Path networks and provision of new and enhanced path connections.
- Measures to protect and enhance the local environment and biodiversity within and around areas of development through buffer zones, boundary treatment, development plot landscaping, tree and pollinator planting, and other blue-green infrastructures.
- External areas within development plots for parking, servicing, and storage.
- Associated infrastructure including SUDS, utilities and other ancillary works.

The surrounding area accommodates a range of land uses and features including locally important environmental and biodiversity features. This includes Local Nature Conservation Sites at Balnagask-Cove Coast (within which the site is partially situated), and Tullos Hill. Nigg Bay has a geological Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) at its southern edge, bordering the Zone B (Gregness) part of the site.

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Figure 1 – Aberdeen Local Development Plan 2023: Extract from Proposals Map

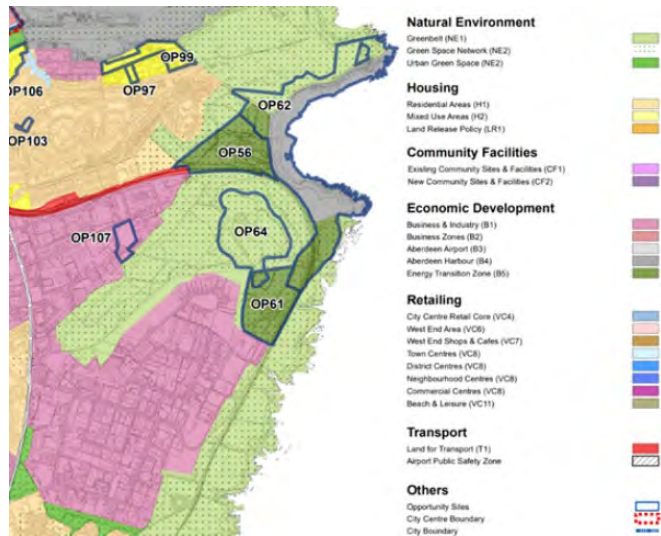


Figure 2. ETZ Masterplan Campus Model



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Figure 3. Location and extent of ETZ Development Zones, A, B and C



4. Is the proposal directly connected with or necessary to the nature conservation management of a European site?

No

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5. Is the proposal (either alone or in combination) likely to have a significant effect (LSE) on a European site?

YES – both for construction and operational phase, and in combination with other proposals in the south-east of Aberdeen, in particular the Aberdeen Harbour South (Port of Aberdeen); Aberdeen South Harbour Link Road (ASHLR), and other road infrastructure and development/land pressures from allocations of the ALDP and neighbouring authorities LDPs.

ALDP 2023 HRA Requirements

Policies B4 (Aberdeen Harbours) and B5 (Energy Transition Zone) were initially screened-in as part of this assessment as they outlined a presumption in favour of certain types of development within harbour-related areas, and depending on the specific nature of the development projects coming forward, there may be an impact on qualifying interests. The key issues identified were:

- Possible water abstraction and construction related impacts on qualifying interests of the River Dee SAC.
- Possible loss of foraging habitat impacts on SPA geese of Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie and Meikle Loch SPA, and Loch of Skene SPA.
- Possible impacts on eider (non-breeding) as a qualifying interest of Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie and Meikle Loch SPA through loss of supporting and foraging habitats or to water quality.

Appendix 1 contains a full itemised screening of the Draft Energy Transition Zone Masterplan (July 2023) for aspects which would have a likely significant effect on the aforementioned qualifying interests. The methodology used lists and assesses the vision, objectives, principles, policies and projects contained in the masterplan to determine whether it should be screened in or out.

Features of the Masterplan Screened In

(please read alongside **Appendix 1**)

	Masterplan Reference	Screened In
1	4.1 Community & Energy Coast	
	East Tullos Burn & Wetlands	In – water quality
	St Fittick’s Park, Greenspace & Green Networks	In – water quality / increased pressure from development / access / use
2	4.2 Marine Gateway (Opportunities & Constraints; Development Guidance)	
	Opportunities & Constraints: St Fittick’s Park & Aberdeen South Harbour	In – direct harbour / port access impacts / road construction
	Land Use	In – land development pressures
	Infrastructure	In – outfall to Nigg Bay retained / potential transference
	Landscape & Environment	In – loss of green and natural spaces / changes to water quality
3	St Fittick’s Park Preventative and Remediative Measures and Gretness Preventative and Remediative Measures	
	East Tullos Burn & Wetlands	In – hydrology / ecology
	Park, Greenspace & Green Networks	In – potential impacts on supporting coastal habitats

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	Indicative Masterplan (illustrative concept)	In – potential impacts on supporting coastal habitats
4	4.3 Hydrogen Campus (Development Guidance)	
	Land Use	In – potential impacts on supporting coastal habitats
	Transport & Connectivity	In – potential disturbance / increased accessibility
	Landscape & Environment	In – loss of green and natural spaces / supporting habitats
	Indicative Masterplan illustrative concept)	In – potential impacts on supporting coastal habitats

Summary of Potential Impacts of the Masterplan Features Screened In:

1. The River Dee SAC estuary is located at the existing Aberdeen Harbour and lies to the north of the Aberdeen South Harbour/Energy Transition Zone area. It is possible that Atlantic salmon might be impacted by construction related underwater noise.
2. While freshwater pearl mussel are not be present within Aberdeen Harbour or Nigg Bay, any impact upon migrating Atlantic salmon through the existing harbour or Nigg Bay could theoretically in turn affect Freshwater pearl mussels and Otters present in the Dee.
3. Removal and potential loss of supporting habitats for a range of species if grassland, wetlands, and coastal habitats are to be adversely impacted by proposed development – which could reduce foraging, feeding and/or breeding grounds and prevent or reduce the potential for species recovery at the identified sites.
4. Species disturbance or potential loss from the geographical area as a result of development impacts (both construction and operational phases) including noise, vibration, lighting, surface run-off, pollution and impacts on water quality and hydrology.
5. Potential for disturbance to aquatic and marine environment species to be impacted upon by development close to the coast and tide line, through noise transmission and/or impacts on water quality in terms of discharges and transference.
6. Enhanced access to the area will increase the use of the coastal area and create recreational pressures, causing potential disturbance to a range of species through noise, pollution, and physical interference such as through coastal path erosion and damage to habitats.
7. Spread of invasive non-native species through inappropriate planting.
8. Potential impacts on species through accidental pollution events associated with the development (both construction and operational phases), and/or through potential increase in pollutants adversely impacting on air/water quality.
9. Effects on aquatic environment and/or mobile species from loss of supporting habitats due to increase in amount of development and development affecting the coast (including areas vulnerable to recreational pressure).
10. Increased impacts from water abstraction and poor/unsustainable water management use and practices.
11. Potential vulnerabilities to grey seal include: underwater noise from construction with potential to result in disturbance, injury and death; vessel movements causing disturbance and possible risk of injury from collision; reduction in water quality which could be directly harmful to seals or impair their foraging; and impacts upon the seals' prey species.

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Features Screened Out

Aspects of the Masterplan are screened out on the basis of the following justification (*please read alongside Appendix 1*):

- *General policy / background info* – They are general policy statements or provide background information;
- *Too general with no info on where, how and when of development* – It is not possible to identify effects on any particular European site because proposals/policies are too general;
- *Preventive, enhancement and conservation policy* – They are elements of the Masterplan that are intended to protect the natural environment;
- *Not generated by this Masterplan* – Projects are referred to in, but not proposed by, the Masterplan;
- *Does not generate development and change* – Elements of the Masterplan which will not in themselves lead to development or other change;
- *Change with no pathway* – They are elements which make provision for change but which could have no conceivable effect because of the absence of a link or pathway between the plan and European sites;
- *Change with ‘no’ or minimal effects* – They are elements of the Masterplan which make provision for change but effects are likely to be minimal; or have no adverse effect on site integrity, alone or in combination with other aspects of the same plan, or with other plans or projects.

B: APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT (AA)

Note: An AA is a scientific appraisal of the impacts on a European site that needs to be able to ascertain whether the integrity of a European site will not be adversely affected. Aberdeen City Council, as a competent authority, can only give consent if they are certain as to the absence of such effects.

6a. Undertake Appropriate Assessment (AA) of the implications for the site in view of its conservation objectives.

The ALDP HRA process on Policies and Opportunity Sites concluded that there would be no adverse effect on any of the protected sites integrity, and that our experience is that there are a range of mitigation measures available that could effectively control the risk of any impacts likely to arise as a result of Policy B4 (Aberdeen Harbours) and Policy B5 (Energy Transition Zone), e.g. as demonstrated through the HRA process and accepted mitigation for the Aberdeen Harbour Expansion Project.

The ALDP HRA process also concluded that if future developments were likely to cause any adverse effects, then at that stage Project Level HRA would be required (as is also noted under Policy NE3 Natural Heritage). The need for Project Level HRA (such as this current assessment) was identified in relation to the ETZ area, and for this reason it concluded that there would be no adverse effect on sites integrity.

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The following sections outline the project level Appropriate Assessment associated to the ETZ Masterplan.

Assessment of risk and likely adverse effects on the integrity of the sites and conservation objectives for the qualifying interests/species:

Masterplan Reference Screened In	Site/qualifying interests/species	Risk of adverse effects on the integrity of the sites
<p>4.1 Community & Energy Coast</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - East Tullos Burn & Wetlands - St Fittick's Park, Greenspace & Green Networks 	<p>River Dee SAC: Otter <i>Lutra lutra</i> Freshwater pearl mussel <i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i> Atlantic salmon <i>Salmo salar</i></p>	<p>Atlantic salmon and freshwater pearl mussels are sensitive to disturbance to their river habitat. This includes silt and sediment entering the watercourse, as well as other forms of pollution. The greatest risk of pollution from development is usually at construction stage, especially if there is a clear connection between the development site and the river. Salmon and freshwater pearl mussels may also be adversely affected by abstraction which, if substantial enough, may expose and dry out available habitat, increase water temperatures, and reduce dilution of pollution. The qualifying interests are also potentially vulnerable to direct impacts, e.g. arising through river engineering works. These kind of changes might destroy or degrade habitat or can directly damage or stress the salmon or pearl mussels.</p> <p>There are considered to be no LSE to the Upper Dee catchment due to distance. Up to Peterculter marks the tidal limit. As such, any LSE are only considered to relate to the Outer/lower Dee catchment.</p> <p>Proposed development will not have any LSE on the freshwater pearl mussel due to distance with no direct pathways. Qualifying species populations located 6-30 km upstream of the mouth of the River Dee. There are no freshwater pearl mussel in the Outer Dee.</p> <p>Recent site-specific surveys 2021-23 (commissioned by ETZ Ltd.) have recorded no signs of use by Otter on any of the three development Zones, including surveying the St Fittick's wetlands and burn over the last three seasons. Zone C does not have habitat capable of supporting Otter. With regard to Zones A and B, it is also considered that Otter may make infrequent use of the mouth of East Tullos Burn, its surrounding wetland and the adjacent coast – specifically the mouth of the Dee mouth and Girdle Ness to Greg Ness section of coast. However it is recognised that this is not an optimal habitat and represents a relatively small</p>

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		<p>proportion of the designated area (2334.48ha). Habitat suitability will be increased in line with (i), (ii) and (iii) above. East Tullos Burn wetland habitat do not currently support prey species, notably amphibians appear to be absent. Neither frogs nor toads have been observed breeding in the wetland pools. There may be number of reasons which include poor water quality and absence of local populations for natural colonisation. Therefore, in the context of the overall Dee catchment and the likely identified construction and operational LSEs, development is not considered to adversely affect the status of Otter within the whole SAC. As such, the current site conditions for Otter will not be affected and the conservation objectives met during both construction and operation. However, given the proximity of the Masterplan site to these areas, there could be adverse effects on the qualifying species by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of potential breeding habitat in the East Tullos Burn and wetlands; • Denigration of water quality in all frequented areas; and; • Construction disturbance including noise and light pollution. The latter during construction and operation of the site. <p>However, the Masterplan includes relevant policies and mitigations to protect Otter (please see Mitigations section below).</p> <p>There is no watercourse connectivity with the River Dee and therefore no LSE on Atlantic salmon. Atlantic salmon do not make any use of the East Tullos Burn due low water volume, poor water quality, culvert impedances and lack of suitable spawning habitat. Breeding takes place in the upper Dee catchment which will not be directly or indirectly adversely impacted by the Masterplan. New drainage from zones A, B and C of the Masterplan area will partially discharge into Nigg Bay and surrounding coastal area where coastal migrating salmon could be locally adversely impacted by direct and diffuse pollution events via this pathway. However, adverse effects of localised pollution, sediment discharge and impedance through increased turbidity will not be a potentially adverse in impact because the level of suspension and volume of flow will both be low, and, would be discharged into a very high water volume for tidal dispersal.</p>
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		<p>In terms of the River Dee SAC, another sensitivity and pressure is water abstraction. The River Dee SAC and any potential receptors (qualifying species) are generally considered to be both geographically remote and topographically isolated from any potential new discharges arising from construction or operation. The Masterplan will seek to minimise water usage through compliance with relevant building regulations and water use and drainage will be agreed with the relevant utilities providers. No abstractions from watercourses or groundwater are proposed as part of the Masterplan. As such, in the context of the background levels in the catchment and existing city discharge any new additions would be considered negligible and, if required, consented and licensed by SEPA. Therefore, in the context of any likely new discharge arising from development any impact would be “de minimis” due to dilution and quick flushing and as such would avoid any LSE.</p>
	<p>Moray Firth SAC: Bottlenose dolphin <i>Tursiops truncatus</i></p>	<p>For proposed developments in coastal locations there may be a potential negative impact on bottlenose dolphins if underwater noise is generated that prevents or limits their use of the areas that help support them such as Aberdeen harbour. Such noise might be generated from piling or blasting works. Coastal pollution might also affect dolphins or their prey species.</p> <p>There is potential for localised water quality impacts from outfall to Nigg Bay from pollution events, thus potential to affect supporting food sources of the qualifying species; however due to geographical distance, discharges are regulated by SEPA, and the Masterplan includes policies to protect and enhance water quality of the East Tullos Burn which is the only direct pathway to the marine environment via the outfall at Nigg Bay, it concludes that there is no LSE.</p>
	<p>Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie and Meikle Loch SPA: Sandwich tern <i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>; Common tern <i>Sterna hirundo</i>; Little tern <i>Sterna albifrons</i>; Pink-footed goose <i>Anser</i></p>	<p>Theoretically, a proportion of the common eider in Nigg Bay is from different SPAs, indicating upwards of 97% are from the breeding population at the Ythan estuary and will form part of the wintering population of that SPA. It is possible that some aspects of development at could affect qualifying species of the SPA.</p> <p>In general, mobile bird species are well represented by common coastal birds, wetland birds and birds of young plantations. The conservation status of the recorded bird species is a typical assemblage for the</p>

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	<p><i>brachyrhynchus</i>; Common eider <i>Somateria mollissima mollissima</i>; Lapwing <i>Vanellus vanellus</i>; Redshank <i>Tringa tetanus</i>; Non-breeding waterbird assemblage.</p>	<p>habitats that were surveyed. Recent in-season bird surveys (commissioned by ETZ Ltd.) have only indicated visiting presence for common eider and Sandwich tern, however given the geographical distance from the site no LSE are anticipated. In addition, the coastline here (adjacent to Zone B) is not considered a high value resource for breeding birds, bare ground being the dominant habitat. Indirect effects through potential loss of supporting habitats, foraging land (inc. wetlands) and food sources for bird species, however the Masterplan contains policies to avoid/minimise habitat disturbance/fragmentation, and for biodiversity net-gain.</p>
	<p>Loch of Skene SPA: Goldeneye <i>Bucephala clangula</i>; Goosander <i>Mergus merganser</i>; Greylag goose <i>Anser anser.</i></p>	<p>Greylag geese are present on the SPA in very low numbers but the city boundary is within foraging range (20km) of the SPA, and so it is theoretically possible that the proposed development could result in some loss of foraging ground. Loss of foraging land to development is anticipated to be from the direct footprint of a development (as opposed to construction or recreation). This aspect can be appraised by considering the SPA goose foraging distribution data and take account of the availability of alternative habitat for the geese, and the potential for any in-combination effects alongside other plans and allocations (in this case the most relevant being the Aberdeenshire proposed LDP).</p> <p>Goosander and goldeneye are also qualifying features of the SPA. We have little information on in-winter movements of goosander in Scotland. Goosander only use Loch of Skene as a roost and there has been a strong decline in their numbers at the loch. Only three were observed in 2018 counts. However numbers on the Dee and the Don remain healthy, and it is unlikely that development would have any adverse effect on the SPA goosander and goldeneye populations.</p> <p>Our experience is that given the status of the relevant goose populations, the low land area for development, the geographical distance, no recorded recent species presence at the proposed development, and, the location of the development, it would not encroach on any known preferred SPA goose foraging area and therefore any loss of foraging habitat from the development will be negligible, concluding there will be no LSE on site integrity in relation to loss of foraging habitat for SPA geese.</p>

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	<p>Buchan Ness to Collieston Coast SPA: Fulmar <i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>;</p> <p>Guillemot <i>Uria aalge</i>; Herring gull <i>Larus argentatus</i>;</p> <p>Kittiwake <i>Rissa tridactyla</i>; Shag <i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>;</p> <p>Seabird assemblage.</p>	<p>In general, mobile bird species are well represented by common coastal birds, wetland birds and birds of young plantations. The conservation status of the recorded bird species is a typical assemblage for the habitats that were surveyed. Recent in-season bird surveys (commissioned by ETZ Ltd.) have only indicated visiting presence for and Herring gull and Shag, for feeding and foraging. Local breeding for Herring gull and Kittiwake has been recorded however this is in relation to the roof of the WWTW (Zone A) and on the Coastline outside Zone B. Indirect effects through potential loss of supporting habitats, foraging land (inc. wetlands) and food sources for bird species, however given the geographical distance from the site, and the Masterplan contains policies to avoid/minimise habitat disturbance/fragmentation, and for biodiversity net-gain, no LSE are anticipated.</p>
	<p>Isle of May SAC: Grey seal <i>Halichoerus grypus</i>.</p>	<p>Previous seal telemetry analysis (for Aberdeen harbour expansion in 2016) showed that although grey seals tagged at the Isle of May SAC and Berwickshire and North Northumberland Coast SAC used Nigg Bay, the degree of connectivity was only of a sufficient strength to warrant further assessment of the Isle of May SAC grey seal population (but not the Berwickshire and North Northumberland Coast SAC population). However, it is concluded that there will be no LSE on the distribution of the qualifying species or extent of the habitats supporting it due to geographical distance from the proposed Masterplan zone and that the development does not directly relate to harbour construction or operations beyond the shoreline.</p>
	<p>Berwickshire and North Northumberland Coast SAC: Grey seal <i>Halichoerus grypus</i>.</p>	<p>Previous seal telemetry analysis (for Aberdeen harbour expansion in 2016) showed that although grey seals tagged at the Isle of May SAC and Berwickshire and North Northumberland Coast SAC used Nigg Bay, the degree of connectivity was only of a sufficient strength to warrant further assessment of the Isle of May SAC grey seal population (but not the Berwickshire and North Northumberland Coast SAC population). No LSE on the distribution or extent of the habitats supporting the qualifying interest due to geographical distance from the proposed Masterplan zone.</p>
4.2 Marine Gateway	<p>River Dee SAC: Otter <i>Lutra lutra</i></p>	<p>No LSE, as per response to Ref 4.1 above.</p>

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<p>(Opportunities & Constraints; Development Guidance)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opportunities & Constraints: St Fittick's Park & Aberdeen South Harbour - Land Use - Infrastructure - Landscape & Environment 	<p>Freshwater pearl mussel <i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i></p> <p>Atlantic salmon <i>Salmo salar</i></p>	
	<p>Moray Firth SAC: Bottlenose dolphin <i>Tursiops truncatus</i></p>	<p>As per above. For proposed developments in coastal locations there may be a potential negative impact on bottlenose dolphins if underwater noise is generated that prevents or limits their use of the areas that help support them such as Aberdeen harbour. Such noise might be generated from piling or blasting works. Coastal pollution might also affect dolphins or their prey species.</p> <p>There is potential for localised water quality impacts from outfall to Nigg Bay from pollution events, thus potential to affect supporting food sources of the qualifying species; however due to geographical distance, discharges are regulated by SEPA, and the Masterplan includes policies to protect and enhance water quality of the East Tullos Burn which is the only direct pathway to the marine environment via the outfall at Nigg Bay, it concludes that there is no LSE.</p>
	<p>Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie and Meikle Loch SPA: Sandwich tern <i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>; Common tern <i>Sterna hirundo</i>; Little tern <i>Sterna albifrons</i>; Pink-footed goose <i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>; Common eider <i>Somateria mollissima mollissima</i>; Lapwing <i>Vanellus vanellus</i>; Redshank <i>Tringa tetanus</i>; Non-breeding waterbird assemblage.</p>	<p>As per above. Theoretically, a proportion of the common eider in Nigg Bay is from different SPAs, indicating upwards of 97% are from the breeding population at the Ythan estuary and will form part of the wintering population of that SPA. It is possible that some aspects of development at could affect qualifying species of the SPA.</p> <p>In general, mobile bird species are well represented by common coastal birds, wetland birds and birds of young plantations. The conservation status of the recorded bird species is a typical assemblage for the habitats that were surveyed. Recent in-season bird surveys (commissioned by ETZ Ltd.) have only indicated visiting presence for common eider and Sandwich tern, however given the geographical distance from the site no LSE are anticipated. In addition, the coastline here (adjacent to Zone B) is not considered a high value resource for breeding birds, bare ground being the dominant habitat. Indirect effects through potential loss of supporting habitats, foraging land (inc. wetlands) and food sources for bird species, however the Masterplan contains policies to avoid/minimise habitat disturbance/fragmentation, and for biodiversity net-gain.</p>

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	<p>Loch of Skene SPA: Goldeneye <i>Bucephala clangula</i>;</p> <p>Goosander <i>Mergus merganser</i>;</p> <p>Greylag goose <i>Anser anser</i>.</p>	<p>Greylag geese are present on the SPA in very low numbers but the city boundary is within foraging range (20km) of the SPA, and so it is theoretically possible that the proposed development could result in some loss of foraging ground. Loss of foraging land to development is anticipated to be from the direct footprint of a development (as opposed to construction or recreation). This aspect can be appraised by considering the SPA goose foraging distribution data and take account of the availability of alternative habitat for the geese, and the potential for any in-combination effects alongside other plans and allocations (in this case the most relevant being the Aberdeenshire proposed LDP).</p> <p>Goosander and goldeneye are also qualifying features of the SPA. We have little information on in-winter movements of goosander in Scotland. Goosander only use Loch of Skene as a roost and there has been a strong decline in their numbers at the loch. Only three were observed in 2018 counts. However numbers on the Dee and the Don remain healthy, and it is unlikely that development would have any adverse effects on the SPA goosander and goldeneye populations.</p> <p>Our experience is that given the status of the relevant goose populations, the low land area for development, the geographical distance, no recorded recent species presence at the proposed development, and, the location of the development, it would not encroach on any known preferred SPA goose foraging area and therefore any loss of foraging habitat from the development will be negligible, concluding there will be no LSE on site integrity in relation to loss of foraging habitat for SPA geese.</p>
	<p>Buchan Ness to Collieston Coast SPA: Fulmar <i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>;</p> <p>Guillemot <i>Uria aalge</i>; Herring gull <i>Larus argentatus</i>;</p> <p>Kittiwake <i>Rissa tridactyla</i>; Shag <i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>;</p>	<p>As per above. In general, mobile bird species are well represented by common coastal birds, wetland birds and birds of young plantations. The conservation status of the recorded bird species is a typical assemblage for the habitats that were surveyed. Recent in-season bird surveys (commissioned by ETZ Ltd.) have only indicated visiting presence for Herring gull and Shag, for feeding and foraging. Local breeding for Herring gull and Kittiwake has been recorded however this is in relation to the roof of the WWTW (Zone A) and on the Coastline outside Zone B. Indirect effects through potential loss of supporting habitats, foraging land (inc. wetlands) and food sources for bird species, however given the geographical distance from the site,</p>

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	<p>Seabird assemblage.</p>	<p>and the Masterplan contains policies to avoid/minimise habitat disturbance/fragmentation, and for biodiversity net-gain, no LSE are anticipated.</p>
	<p>Isle of May SAC: Grey seal <i>Halichoerus grypus.</i></p>	<p>Previous seal telemetry analysis (for Aberdeen harbour expansion in 2016) showed that although grey seals tagged at the Isle of May SAC and Berwickshire and North Northumberland Coast SAC used Nigg Bay, the degree of connectivity was only of a sufficient strength to warrant further assessment of the Isle of May SAC grey seal population (but not the Berwickshire and North Northumberland Coast SAC population). However, it is concluded that there will be no LSE on the distribution of the qualifying species or extent of the habitats supporting it due to geographical distance from the proposed Masterplan zone and that the development does not directly relate to harbour construction or operations beyond the shoreline.</p>
	<p>Berwickshire and North Northumberland Coast SAC: Grey seal <i>Halichoerus grypus.</i></p>	<p>Previous seal telemetry analysis (for Aberdeen harbour expansion in 2016) showed that although grey seals tagged at the Isle of May SAC and Berwickshire and North Northumberland Coast SAC used Nigg Bay, the degree of connectivity was only of a sufficient strength to warrant further assessment of the Isle of May SAC grey seal population (but not the Berwickshire and North Northumberland Coast SAC population). No LSE on the distribution or extent of the habitats supporting the qualifying interest due to geographical distance from the proposed Masterplan zone. There is potential disturbance to grey seals through increased maritime activities, such as through increased offshore wind and associated infrastructure, however this is not directly generated by the Masterplan and is regulated by others.</p>
<p>St Fittick's Park Preventative and Remediative Measures and Gregness Preventative and Remediative Measures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - East Tullos Burn & Wetlands - Park, Greenspace 	<p>River Dee SAC: Otter <i>Lutra lutra</i> Freshwater pearl mussel <i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i> Atlantic salmon <i>Salmo salar</i></p>	<p>No LSE, as per response to Ref 4.1 above and Mitigations section below.</p>
	<p>Moray Firth SAC: Bottlenose dolphin <i>Tursiops truncatus</i></p>	<p>As per above. For proposed developments in coastal locations there may be a potential negative impact on bottlenose dolphins if underwater noise is generated that prevents or limits their use of the areas that help support them such as Aberdeen harbour. Such noise</p>

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<p>& Green Networks</p> <p>- Indicative Masterplan (illustrative concept)</p>		<p>might be generated from piling or blasting works. Coastal pollution might also affect dolphins or their prey species.</p> <p>There is potential for localised water quality impacts from outfall to Nigg Bay from pollution events, thus potential to affect supporting food sources of the qualifying species; however due to geographical distance, discharges are regulated by SEPA, and the Masterplan includes policies to protect and enhance water quality of the East Tullos Burn which is the only direct pathway to the marine environment via the outfall at Nigg Bay, it concludes that there is no LSE.</p>
	<p>Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie and Meikle Loch SPA: Sandwich tern <i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>; Common tern <i>Sterna hirundo</i>; Little tern <i>Sterna albifrons</i>; Pink-footed goose Anser brachyrhynchus; Common eider <i>Somateria mollissima mollissima</i>; Lapwing <i>Vanellus vanellus</i>; Redshank <i>Tringa tetanus</i>; Non-breeding waterbird assemblage.</p>	<p>As per above. Theoretically, a proportion of the common eider in Nigg Bay is from different SPAs, indicating upwards of 97% are from the breeding population at the Ythan estuary and will form part of the wintering population of that SPA. It is possible that some aspects of development at could affect qualifying species of the SPA.</p> <p>In general, mobile bird species are well represented by common coastal birds, wetland birds and birds of young plantations. The conservation status of the recorded bird species is a typical assemblage for the habitats that were surveyed. Recent in-season bird surveys (commissioned by ETZ Ltd.) have only indicated visiting presence for common eider and Sandwich tern, however given the geographical distance from the site no LSE are anticipated. In addition, the coastline here (adjacent to Zone B) is not considered a high value resource for breeding birds, bare ground being the dominant habitat. Indirect effects through potential loss of supporting habitats, foraging land (inc. wetlands) and food sources for bird species, however the Masterplan contains policies to avoid/minimise habitat disturbance/fragmentation, and for biodiversity net-gain.</p>
	<p>Loch of Skene SPA: Goldeneye <i>Bucephala clangula</i>; Goosander <i>Mergus merganser</i>; Greylag goose <i>Anser anser</i>.</p>	<p>No LSE due to geographical distance, no direct pathway, and, in relation to the Masterplan's nature-positive and remediative policies. Indirect effects from the potential increase in off-shore wind activities affecting mobile species, however this is not directly generated by the Masterplan and would be regulated by others.</p>

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	<p>Buchan Ness to Collieston Coast SPA: Fulmar <i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>; Guillemot <i>Uria aalge</i>; Herring gull <i>Larus argentatus</i>; Kittiwake <i>Rissa tridactyla</i>; Shag <i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>; Seabird assemblage.</p>	<p>As per above. In general, mobile bird species are well represented by common coastal birds, wetland birds and birds of young plantations. The conservation status of the recorded bird species is a typical assemblage for the habitats that were surveyed. Recent in-season bird surveys (commissioned by ETZ Ltd.) have only indicated visiting presence for and Herring gull and Shag, for feeding and foraging. Local breeding for Herring gull and Kittiwake has been recorded however this is in relation to the roof of the WWTW (Zone A) and on the Coastline outside Zone B. Indirect effects through potential loss of supporting habitats, foraging land (inc. wetlands) and food sources for bird species, however given the geographical distance from the site, and the Masterplan contains policies to avoid/minimise habitat disturbance/fragmentation, and for biodiversity net-gain, no LSE are anticipated.</p>
	<p>Isle of May SAC: Grey seal <i>Halichoerus grypus</i>.</p>	<p>Previous seal telemetry analysis (for Aberdeen harbour expansion in 2016) showed that although grey seals tagged at the Isle of May SAC and Berwickshire and North Northumberland Coast SAC used Nigg Bay, the degree of connectivity was only of a sufficient strength to warrant further assessment of the Isle of May SAC grey seal population (but not the Berwickshire and North Northumberland Coast SAC population). However, it is concluded that there will be no LSE on the distribution of the qualifying species or extent of the habitats supporting it due to geographical distance from the proposed Masterplan zone and that the development does not directly relate to harbour construction or operations beyond the shoreline.</p>
	<p>Berwickshire and North Northumberland Coast SAC: Grey seal <i>Halichoerus grypus</i>.</p>	<p>Previous seal telemetry analysis (for Aberdeen harbour expansion in 2016) showed that although grey seals tagged at the Isle of May SAC and Berwickshire and North Northumberland Coast SAC used Nigg Bay, the degree of connectivity was only of a sufficient strength to warrant further assessment of the Isle of May SAC grey seal population (but not the Berwickshire and North Northumberland Coast SAC population). No LSE on the distribution or extent of the habitats supporting the qualifying interest due to geographical distance from the proposed Masterplan zone.</p>
<p>4.3 Hydrogen Campus</p>	<p>River Dee SAC: Otter <i>Lutra lutra</i> Freshwater pearl</p>	<p>No LSE due to lack of supporting habitats for qualifying species and no direct pathway. Indirect impacts</p>

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<p>(Development Guidance)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Land Use - Transport & Connectivity - Landscape & Environment - Indicative Masterplan illustrative concept) 	<p>mussel <i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i></p> <p>Atlantic salmon <i>Salmo salar</i></p>	through water abstraction and pollution events, please see above in this respect and below under mitigations.
	<p>Moray Firth SAC:</p> <p>Bottlenose dolphin <i>Tursiops truncatus</i></p>	No LSE due to geographical distance from site and no direct pathway.
	<p>Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie and Meikle Loch SPA: Sandwich tern <i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>;</p> <p>Common tern <i>Sterna hirundo</i>;</p> <p>Little tern <i>Sterna albifrons</i>; Pink-footed goose <i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>;</p> <p>Common eider <i>Somateria mollissima mollissima</i>;</p> <p>Lapwing <i>Vanellus vanellus</i>;</p> <p>Redshank <i>Tringa tetanus</i>; Non-breeding waterbird assemblage.</p>	No LSE due to geographical distance and no pathway i.e. no supporting feeding habitat.
	<p>Loch of Skene SPA: Goldeneye <i>Bucephala clangula</i>;</p> <p>Goosander <i>Mergus merganser</i>;</p> <p>Greylag goose <i>Anser anser</i>.</p>	No LSE due to geographical distance and no pathway i.e. no supporting feeding habitat.
	<p>Buchan Ness to Collieston Coast SPA: Fulmar <i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>;</p> <p>Guillemot <i>Uria aalge</i>; Herring</p>	No LSE due to geographical distance and no pathway i.e. no supporting feeding habitat.

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	gull <i>Larus argentatus</i> ; Kittiwake <i>Rissa tridactyla</i> ; Shag <i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i> ; Seabird assemblage.	
	Isle of May SAC: Grey seal <i>Halichoerus grypus</i> .	No LSE due to geographical distance from site and no pathway.
	Berwickshire and North Northumberland Coast SAC: Grey seal <i>Halichoerus grypus</i> .	No LSE due to geographical distance from site and no pathway.

6b. Mitigation or modifications required to ensure adverse effects are avoided & reasons for these.

The following section lists the relevant mitigations and modifications to the ETZ development proposal and Masterplan which are proposed to ensure no adverse effects on the integrity of the protected sites and their qualifying interests. In terms of delivery, these measures will be referenced in production of the final Draft ETZ Masterplan as an appendix. Furthermore, an additional HRA will be required on the subsequent PPiP application and the respective mitigation measures as per below will be carried through to this stage and thus secured through suitable conditions applied to any future PPiP consenting process.

Relevant overarching mitigations for the **development** include:

1. Development of the site would adhere to environmental legislation and best practice guidance in relation to protection of human health and groundwater (and the water environment), and also to the appropriate management of soils during construction.
2. Potential impacts in relation to the natural environment will be assessed and addressed through the development of technical assessments, including Contaminated Land Assessment, Construction Environmental Plan (CEMP), Construction Traffic Management Plan and Noise Impact Assessment.
3. Operationally, the proposals will include a Landscape Framework supported by a Site Biodiversity Action Plan.
4. Furthermore, it is however anticipated that detailed mitigation measures, if required, will be included as part of any detailed planning application for proposals within land covered by the Masterplan area. However, it is unlikely that any further such HRA assessments would be required in Zone C.

Key mitigations to minimise disturbance, loss and fragmentation to **habitats** includes:

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1. The East Tullos Burn crosses St Fittick's Park (Zone A) and is to be retained, with a partial section re-aligned in order to enable formation of development plots.
2. The proposals will also include measures to protect and enhance the local environment and biodiversity within and around areas of development through buffer zones, boundary treatments, development plot landscaping, tree and pollinator planting, and other blue-green infrastructures.
3. Importance of a Site Biodiversity Action Plan (SBAP) has been recognised to deliver 'no net loss' to biodiversity and promotion of 'nature-based solutions' in line with the SBAP.
4. Area-specific, over-arching CEMP, absorbing the AHEP CEMP for delivery of mitigation, and any follow-on compensation and enhancement – in order to capture the complexity of habitats and their intrinsic public appeal and biodiversity value in a semi-urban setting. Proposed to be delivered at the same time as, finalising the masterplan and any landscape plans.

Key mitigation measures for **Otter** are:

1. Protections and control measures implemented through a Construction Environmental Management Plan, with integral Pollution Plan.
2. Production of a Site Biodiversity Action Plan.
3. Maintenance and improvement of natural otter corridors at St Fittick's Park and East Tullos Burn.
4. Avoiding disturbance to inter-tidal habitat or coastal escarpment habitat in Zone B, as masterplanned.
5. Provision of two artificial breeding holts, constructed to the specification in NatureScot guidance.
6. Reduction of potential disturbance caused by construction noise, soft starts will be adopted in Zones A and B.
7. Wildlife friendly lighting, directed away from potential otter habitat during construction and operational phases in Zones A and B.
8. Retention of otter habitat at St Fittick's including, retention of open channel, reedswamp and pools for shelter and foraging.
9. Enhancement of St Fittick's Park wetland by upstream water treatment to improve water quality, primarily by removal of suspended sediments and nutrient stripping. Water quality discharges will be better than existing.
10. Proposed potential for otter food sources (amphibian) to be re-introduced to the wetland system by direct translocation of spawn during the construction period but only after the completion of the upstream measures to improve water quality.
11. Application of regular protected species survey updates (annual survey) to maintain records of otter interest and ensure appropriate mitigation. Consultation with NatureScot should otter features requiring licensing be identified.
12. Specific mitigation measures will be proposed to encourage spread of any local Otter into Zone A, the St Fittick's wetlands and burn, and to ensure that any future use of the coastline at Zone B is not adversely affected. These measures will include:
 - (i) Retention of all key habitat capable supporting the viability of otter e.g. retention of reedbeds, retention of reedswamp for above ground couching and avoidance of potentially adverse effects on the ponds so that they may support otter prey populations. There is one culvert crossing required and this would be limited in width as far as possible with mammal ledges designed in.
 - (ii) Improvements to the discharged water quality in the East Tullos Burn and wetlands and outfall

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(iii) Construction of an artificial holts in Zones A and B based on project ecologist's advice.

Key mitigations for **mobile bird species** include:

1. Avoid/minimise impacts on breeding birds – Where practical, time all groundworks, particularly tree and scrub clearance, outwith the bird breeding season. Any new disturbance to any habitats during the bird breeding season will require advance surveys to ensure that legal obligations are met. Findings and recommendations of such surveys should be fully implemented.
2. Key bird species mitigation – Red List SoCC and UK, Scottish and local BAP priorities will be adversely impacted in small numbers through displacement following development. Special measures must be included to minimise the local reduction in number, particularly in Zone C.
3. Bat Species Protection Plan (SPP) – Commission and implement a bat SPP which delivers Black Hill Ecology Ltd 2023 Bat Report recommendations. Only one species roosting – pipistrelle, but recommended inclusion of bat boxes as part of the overall development scheme.
4. Habitat / foraging wise, mitigation and enhancement as covered in the SBAP for the development zones.
5. Write and deliver SBAPs for Zones A, B and C – Each SBAP should assimilate all principle proposed measures as well as identifying new enhancements based on updating surveys, detailed site layouts, drainage and landscaping. An Ecological Clerk of Works (EcCOW) should be appointed to ensure delivery of the SBAP during the construction phase.

A detailed **Site Biodiversity Action Plan** has been drafted and includes a range of requirements that also relate to **mobile species**, including the following:

Zone A - East Tullos Burn and Wetlands

- Upstream interventions to improve water quality reaching the wetlands to encourage submerged plants.
- Re-alignment and enhancement of the East Tullos Burn. Enhancements to include meanders, mini-floodplains and small detention basins.
- Toad introduction scheme to establish a breeding population.
- Construction of a new artificial otter holt to encourage a more regular presence.
- Management of native invasives, for example reed sweet grass, to maintain open water.

Zone B – Gregness

- Protection of the coastal heath and species – rich grassland that has naturally regenerated.
- Enhancement of the coastal habitat through removal of invading scrub.
- Supporting the Pollinator Coast Project by encouraging the spread of kidney vetch, a larval food plant for the small blue butterfly.
- Coastal grassland seed mix sowing to encourage coastal butterflies in decline e.g. grayling.
- New native tree and scrub planting (species lists included within the PPIP Landscape Framework too).

Zone C – Doonies

- Protection of the integrity of the northern ecological corridor.
- Compensatory native tree and scrub planting for loss of gorse scrub (species mixes included).
- Grassland enhancement through sowing new native species rich swards for seed eating birds, invertebrates, pollinators and hedgehogs.

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- Installation of new native hedges and log-piles for hedgehogs and other fauna.
- Nestbox scheme for house sparrow, tree sparrow and starling.
- Bat box scheme to compensate for loss of non-breeding common pipistrelle roost.
- Breeding bumblebee homes/boxes.

Effects and consideration of alternatives:

Subject to the above mitigations consideration of alternative sites is not required. Nevertheless, the development site has been subject to the local development plan process which has considered alternative sites previously, and the 'Aberdeen Energy Transition Zone Feasibility Study' (February 2020) produced by Barton Wilmore/Opportunity North East and Invest Aberdeen also assessed suitability of alternative (Aberdeen-area sites). This site assessment criteria was based on:

- planning policy implications and environmental constraints,
- review of existing road infrastructure and potential new road provision/investment that could include site selection,
- to consider operational end-user requirements for land and proximity to the harbour etc; deliverability, availability, ownership, infrastructure constraints and servicing, and
- commentary received during technical workshops with key stakeholders which provided an extra level of insight on top of desktop reviews.

6c. Can it be ascertained that the proposal will not adversely affect the integrity of the site?

YES – In the light of the foregoing, we consider that it has been ascertained that the proposal will not adversely affect the integrity of any of the protected sites or their qualifying interests, and that the conservation objectives for will be met during and after construction and following implementation and delivery of the aforementioned mitigation measures.

Note: Seek advice from NatureScot as required at this point

7. Advice and conclusion received from NatureScot in relation to plan or project

NatureScot has been consulted at an early stage on the proposals through the SEA and HRA processes for the LDP allocations and were subsequently consulted by both the applicant and The Planning Authority on the developing Draft Masterplan.

NatureScot feedback letter dated 30/10/2023:

"Thank you for consulting us on the Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA) for the Aberdeen Energy Transition Zone Masterplan and for agreeing to an extension to our response deadline. We agree with the conclusions reached in the HRA, that from the information currently available, the masterplan should not adversely affect the integrity of any of the designated sites identified. This should be revisited through project level HRA once planning applications come forward to deliver the masterplan. We note the mitigation suggested in relation to the River Dee SAC population of otters and advise that an up to date survey for otter is provided with future planning applications for zone A. This can inform an HRA for those applications and allow consideration of otter as a European Protected Species.

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Additional Comments;

We would note that there is a lack of clarity between the stages of the assessment as conclusions in section 6a sometimes incorrectly refer to ‘no likely significant effect’ rather than ‘no adverse effect on site integrity’. Section 6a is the Appropriate Assessment and should determine whether or not the proposal will adversely affect the integrity of the site following a conclusion of ‘likely significant effect’ in section 5. Although we agree with the conclusions of the HRA, we would advise a change of wording and structure to ensure a clear reasoning can be followed to reach the conclusions of no adverse impact on site integrity.”

8. Tracking Checklist/ Sign off

Proposal directly for Nature Conservation of a European site – Section 4	No
Proposal Screened Out – Section 5	No
Appropriate Assessment Concludes Proposal Will Not Adversely Affect Any Site/ Qualifying Interest – Section 6c	Yes
Appropriate Assessment <u>Cannot</u> Conclude Proposal Will Not Adversely Affect Any Site/ Qualifying Interest – Section 6c	No

Date LDP HRA checked	July/August 2023
Date NatureScot consulted	Consulted 25/09/2023 Response received 30/10/2023
Date any other organisations consulted e.g. Dee Salmon Fishery Board, SEPA, Marine Scotland	n/a
Signature (author)	RKerr
Name and Job Title (author)	Rebecca Kerr (Planner – Development Management)
Date (author)	Draft v2 completed 15/09/2023 Revised final v3 completed 09/11/2023

Appendix 1. Screening of Energy Transition Zone Masterplan (July 2023) for aspects which would be likely to have a significant effects

List of vision, objective, principles, policies and projects in the Energy Transition Zone Masterplan	General policy / background info	Too general with no info on where, how and when of development	Preventive, enhancement and conservation policy	Not generated by this Masterplan	Does not generate development and change	Change with no pathway	Change with 'no' or minimal effects	Screen in / out
1. Introduction								
Contents & Executive Summary	Yes	Yes			Yes			Out
1.1 ETZ Vision & Objectives	Yes				Yes			Out – issues covered in more detail elsewhere in document
1.2 Strategic Context & Need		Yes			Yes			Out – issues covered in more detail elsewhere in document
1.3 Engagement & Consultation	Yes				Yes			Out
2. Place Context & Strategy								
Masterplan Study Area (Map / Plan)	Yes							Out – issues covered in more detail elsewhere in document
Land ownership	Yes			Yes	Yes			Out
2.1 Place Context: Planning History	Yes							Out – descriptive /scene setting
2.2 Place Context: Community & Social	Yes				Yes			Out – descriptive /scene setting
2.3 Place Context: Environment, Biodiversity & Landscape	Yes	Yes			Yes			Out
2.4 Place Context: Infrastructure & Development	Yes	Yes						Out – descriptive /scene setting
2.5 Place Context: Community Infrastructure & Local Development	Yes	Yes		Yes				Out – descriptive /scene setting
3. ETZ Masterplan Framework								
3.1 Masterplan Vision & Opportunity	Yes	Yes						Out – issues covered in more detail elsewhere in document
3.2 Masterplan Principles		Yes	Yes					Out
3.3 Core Masterplan	Yes							Out – issues covered in

Elements & Enabling Infrastructures								more detail elsewhere in document
Screening of plan or projects described in Development Framework document	General policy / background info	Too general with no info on where, how and when of development	Preventive, enhancement and conservation policy	Not generated by this Framework	Does not generate development and change	Change with no pathway	Change with 'no' or minimal effects	Screen in / out
4. ETZ Campuses								
4.1 Community & Energy Coast								
- East Tullos Burn & Wetlands								In – water quality
- St Fittick's Park, Greenspace & Green Networks								In – water quality / increased pressure from development / access / use
- Biodiversity Protection & Enhancement			Yes					Out
- Active Travel & Healthy Communities	Yes						Yes	Out
- Community Fund	Yes						Yes	Out
- Development & Delivery	Yes						Yes	Out
4.2 Marine Gateway								
- Visions, Planning & Policy Overview	Yes							Out
- Opportunities & Constraints: St Fittick's Park & Aberdeen South Harbour								In – direct harbour / port access impacts / road construction
- Investment & Development Proposition	Yes	Yes						Out
- Development Guidance: Land Use								In – land development pressures
- Development Guidance: Design Quality	Yes							Out
- Development Guidance: Transport & Connectivity	Yes							Out
- Development Guidance:								In – outfall to Nigg Bay retained / potential

Infrastructure								transference
- Development Guidance: Landscape & Environment								In – loss of green and natural spaces / changes to water quality
Screening of plan or projects described in Development Framework document	General policy / background info	Too general with no info on where, how and when of development	Preventive, enhancement and conservation policy	Not generated by this Framework	Does not generate development and change	Change with no pathway	Change with ‘no’ or minimal effects	Screen in / out
St Fittick’s Park Preventative and Remediative Measures								
- East Tullos Burn & Wetlands								In – hydrology / ecology
- Trees & Woodland						Yes		Out – no direct pathway for qualifying species / habitats
- Biodiversity Protection & Enhancement			Yes					Out
- Heritage						Yes		Out
- Park, Greenspace & Green Networks								In – potential impacts on supporting coastal habitats
- Local Amenity							Yes	Out – residential amenity factors
Gregness Preventative and Remediative Measures								
- Biodiversity Protection & Enhancement			Yes					In – potential impacts on supporting coastal habitats
- Park, Greenspace & Green Networks								In – potential impacts on supporting coastal habitats
- Local Amenity						Yes		Out – residential amenity factors
Key Masterplan Constraints, Opportunities & Considerations (illustrative plan)		Yes						Out
Strategic Mitigations & Compensations (illustrative plan)			Yes					Out
Indicative Masterplan – St Fittick’s (illustrative		Yes						In – potential impacts on supporting coastal

concept)								habitats
Indicative Masterplan – Gregness (illustrative concept)		Yes						In – potential impacts on supporting coastal habitats
Screening of plan or projects described in Development Framework document	General policy / background info	Too general with no info on where, how and when of development	Preventive, enhancement and conservation policy	Not generated by this Framework	Does not generate development and change	Change with no pathway	Change with ‘no’ or minimal effects	Screen in / out
4.3 Hydrogen Campus								
- Development Vision, Planning & Policy Overview	Yes							Out
- Site Opportunities & Constraints	Yes							Out
- Investment & Development Proposition	Yes	Yes						Out
- Development Guidance: Land Use								In – potential impacts on supporting coastal habitats
- Development Guidance: Design Quality	Yes							Out
- Development Guidance: Transport & Connectivity								In – potential disturbance / increased accessibility
- Development Guidance: Infrastructure	Yes						Yes	Out
- Development Guidance: Landscape & Environment								In – loss of green and natural spaces / supporting habitats
Doonies Preventative and Remediative Measures								
- Biodiversity Protection & Enhancement			Yes					Out
- Local Amenity						Yes		Out
Indicative Masterplan Hydrogen Campus (illustrative concept)		Yes						In – potential impacts on supporting coastal habitats
Screening of plan or projects described in	General policy /	Too general with no info on where, how	Preventive, enhancement	Not generated by	Does not generate	Change with no	Change with ‘no’	Screen in / out

Development Framework document	descriptive info	and when of development	and conservation policy	this Framework	development and change	pathway	or minimal effects	
4.4 Offshore Wind Campus								
- Development Vision, Planning & Policy Overview	Yes						Yes	Out – existing business industrial zoning
- Site Opportunities & Constraints	Yes						Yes	Out – existing business industrial zoning
- Investment & Development Proposition	Yes	Yes						Out
- Development Guidance: Land Use	Yes							Out – existing business industrial zoning
- Development Guidance: Design Quality	Yes	Yes						Out
- Development Guidance: Transport & Connectivity	Yes						Yes	Out
- Development Guidance: Infrastructure	Yes						Yes	Out
- Development Guidance: Landscape & Environment							Yes	Out – limited pathways to qualifying species
Offshore Wind Campus (indicative masterplan)		Yes						Out
4.5 Innovation Campus								
- Vision, Planning & Policy Review	Yes					Yes		Out
- Investment & Development Proposition	Yes					Yes		Out
- Development Guidance: Land Use	Yes					Yes		Out
- Development Guidance: Design Quality	Yes					Yes		Out
- Development Guidance: Transport & Connectivity	Yes					Yes		Out

Screening of plan or projects described in Development Framework document	General policy / descriptive info	Too general with no info on where, how and when of development	Preventive, enhancement and conservation policy	Not generated by this Framework	Does not generate development and change	Change with no pathway	Change with 'no' or minimal effects	Screen in / out
- Development Guidance: Infrastructure	Yes	Yes				Yes		Out – infrastructure in existing brownfield and industrial zonings
- Development Guidance: Landscape & Environment	Yes		Yes					Out – supports brownfield land remediation
Innovation Campus (indicative masterplan)	Yes					Yes		Out – existing industrial land
4.6 Skills Campus								
- Vision, Planning & Policy Overview	Yes					Yes		Out
- Opportunities & Constraints	Yes					Yes		Out
- Investment & Development Proposition	Yes					Yes		Out
- Advance Manufacturing Skills Hub	Yes					Yes		Out
- Development Guidance: Land Use	Yes					Yes		Out
- Development Guidance: Design Quality	Yes					Yes		Out
- Development Guidance: Transport & Connectivity	Yes					Yes		Out
- Development Guidance: Infrastructure	Yes					Yes		Out
- Development Guidance: Landscape & Environment	Yes					Yes		Out
Skills Campus (indicative masterplan)	Yes					Yes		Out
5. Supporting Infrastructure								
5.1 Brownfield Land	Yes					Yes		Out

Renewal								
5.2 Road Infrastructure	Yes						Yes	Out
5.3 Rail Freight Infrastructure	Yes						Yes	Out
5.4 Energy & Net-Zero Infrastructure	Yes						Yes	Out
5.5 Utilities Infrastructure & Waste Management	Yes						Yes	Out
6. Masterplan Delivery								
Planning & EIA	Yes							Out
Phasing & Development Timeline	Yes							Out
- Years 0-3	Yes							Out
- Years 3-6	Yes							Out
- Years 6-10	Yes							Out
Project Partnerships & Delivery	Yes							Out

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Council
DATE	13 December 2023
EXEMPT	No
CONFIDENTIAL	No
REPORT TITLE	Council Annual Effectiveness Report and Committee Annual Effectiveness Reports
REPORT NUMBER	COM/23/380
DIRECTOR	Gale Beattie, Director of Commissioning
CHIEF OFFICER	Vikki Cuthbert, Interim Chief Officer - Governance (Assurance)
REPORT AUTHOR	Martyn Orchard
TERMS OF REFERENCE	14

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to present the annual effectiveness report for Council to enable Members to provide comment on the data contained within, as well as the annual effectiveness reports of the various committees, which have been considered by those committees.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That Council:-

- 2.1 provide comments and observations on the data contained within the Council annual report as contained at Appendix A; and
- 2.2 note the annual reports of the various committees as contained at Appendices B to J.

3. CURRENT SITUATION

Annual Reports on Terms of Reference

- 3.1 The annual committee effectiveness reports were introduced in 2018/19 following a recommendation from the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) as part of the Council's work towards securing that organisation's accreditation in governance excellence. The Terms of Reference set out that each committee will review its effectiveness against its Terms of Reference through the mechanism of the annual report.
- 3.2 The annual effectiveness reports were mentioned by CIPFA in their report which awarded the Mark of Excellence in Governance accreditation to Aberdeen City Council. CIPFA highlighted the implementation of the annual effectiveness reports as a matter of good practice in governance and were

encouraged that, during consideration of the reports at Committee and Council, Members had made suggestions for improvements to the reports in future years.

- 3.3 Data from the annual effectiveness reports is used to inform the review of the Scheme of Governance, ensuring that Committee Terms of Reference are correctly aligned, and identifying any areas of the Terms of Reference which had not been used throughout the year in order that they can be reviewed and revised if necessary. The information from the effectiveness reports has also been used in the past to feed into the Annual Governance Statement.
- 3.4 The reports provide a mechanism for each committee to annually review its effectiveness, including data on attendance, any late reports, referrals to Council and the number of times officer recommendations were amended, and to ensure that it is following its Terms of Reference.
- 3.5 Similarly, recording the sections or stretch outcomes of the Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) which apply to each report allows Members to be aware of the direct impact of any proposals before them on the LOIP, and gives a general overview at the end of each year of the number of reports which have had an impact on the LOIP stretch outcomes.
- 3.6 The annual effectiveness reports were delayed to allow the newly established committees to have a full year of data to report.
- 3.7 Any comments from Members on areas of data that should be considered would be welcomed to ensure that Members are presented with meaningful data.
- 3.8 The annual effectiveness report for 2022/2023 is therefore appended for Council's consideration.
- 3.9 Also appended are the annual effectiveness reports for the various committees which have been (or shortly will be) considered by the respective committees. At the time of publication of this report, the annual reports have been considered by eight of the ten committees, with the Licensing and Pensions Committee still to meet on 12 and 15 December 2023 respectively. The Pensions Committee annual report is not appended to this report due to its meeting taking place after the Council meeting.
- 3.10 The annual effectiveness reports have been noted at all committee meetings where they have been considered to date.
- 3.11 Section 14 of the Council annual effectiveness report provides combined data for all committees during the reporting period.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

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

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

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

6. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

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

7. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

Category	Risk	Low (L) Medium (M) High (H)	Mitigation	*Does Target Risk Level Match Appetite Set?
Strategic Risk	N/A			Yes
Compliance	Failure to submit this report would mean that the Council would not be complying with its instruction that all committees and Full Council receive such a report each year.	L	Council is given the opportunity to consider the reports and provide feedback on any amendments Members would wish to see in the content so that this can be taken on board for next year's Scheme of Governance review.	Yes
Operational	N/A			Yes
Financial	N/A			Yes
Reputational	N/A			Yes
Environment / Climate	N/A			Yes

8. OUTCOMES

There are no links to the Council Delivery Plan, however the committee effectiveness reports link to the Scheme of Governance, by ensuring that each committee is fulfilling its Terms of Reference.

9. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Assessment	Outcome
Impact Assessment	It is confirmed by Interim Chief Officer - Governance (Assurance), Vikki Cuthbert, that no impact assessment is required.
Data Protection Impact Assessment	Not required

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

11. APPENDICES

- A Council Annual Effectiveness Report 2022/23
- B Net Zero, Environment and Transport Committee Annual Effectiveness Report 2022/23
- C Anti-Poverty and Inequality Committee Annual Effectiveness Report 2022/23
- D Planning Development Management Committee Annual Effectiveness Report 2022/23
- E Staff Governance Committee Annual Effectiveness Report 2022/23
- F Communities, Housing and Public Protection Committee Annual Effectiveness Report 2022/23
- G Education and Children's Services Committee Annual Effectiveness Report 2022/23
- H Finance and Resources Committee Annual Effectiveness Report 2022/23
- I Audit, Risk and Scrutiny Committee Annual Effectiveness Report 2022/23
- J Licensing Committee Annual Effectiveness Report 2022/23

11. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

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Council Annual Effectiveness Report 2022/2023



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1. Introduction from the Lord Provost

- 1.1 I am pleased to present the fourth annual effectiveness report for Full Council. During 2022/23, the Council made a number of significant decisions, for example the adoption of the Aberdeen Local Development Plan and the progression of the City Centre and Beach Masterplans. It is also pleasing to see the progress that has been made in relation to the Scheme of Governance and particularly the commitment to the budget protocol with regard to consultation.
- 1.2 On a personal level, one of the biggest highlights of 2022/23 was in May 2023 when I had the great honour of bestowing the Freedom of the City on Aberdeen Football Club and the Gothenburg Greats in recognition of their outstanding contribution to sport in the city, including winning the European Cup Winners Cup in 1983. It truly was a magnificent day for the city and I wish the football club the very best of luck as they pursue further honours in the Scottish League Cup final at Hampden on 17 December.
- 1.3 It is fair to say that there have been some challenging Council meetings during the reporting period. However, as we enter the season of goodwill, I am hopeful that there can be more goodwill across the Chamber for the remainder of 2023 and beyond. Whilst there is, of course, room for disagreement in a healthy democracy, we must remember to treat each other with respect and set an example to the city and our citizens who elected us. On that note, I wish you all the best for the festive season and good wishes for 2024.



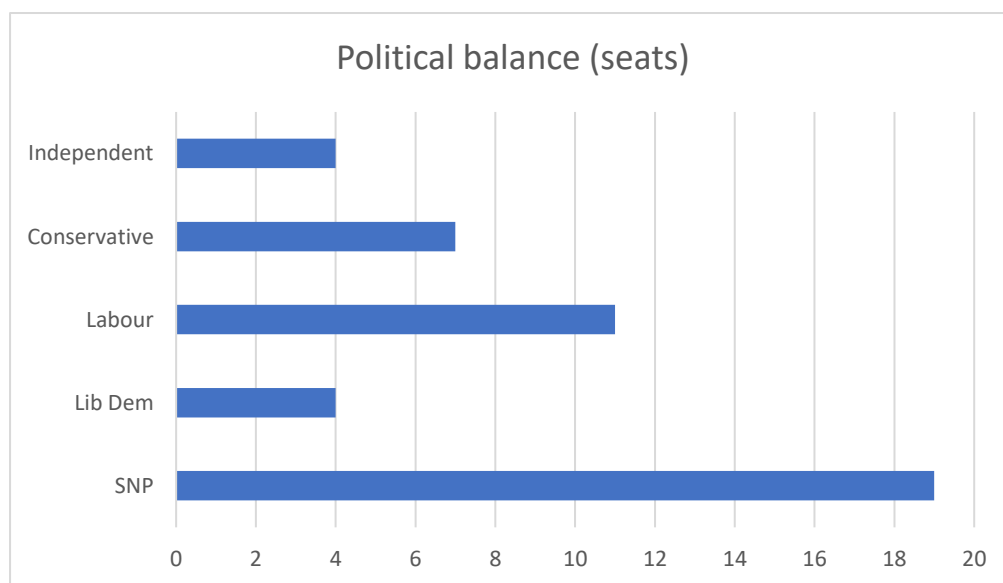
Councillor David Cameron
Lord Provost

2. The Role of the Council

- 2.1 The Council is the overall decision-making body of the organisation. It is responsible for agreeing the Council's budget and setting Council Tax. Council delegates the discharge of its functions to various committees and joint committees, as well as officers under the terms of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973. However, any delegation to a committee or an officer does not prevent the Council from determining the matter, or exercising the power so delegated.
- 2.2 The Terms of Reference for Council, as approved by Council in June 2023, are appended to the report.

3. Membership of the Council

- 3.1 The Council has 45 Elected Members, and the current composition is:-



4. Membership Changes

- 4.1 There was one membership change during 2022/23. Sadly, Councillor Avril MacKenzie passed away in December 2022 which resulted in a by-election in the Dyce/Bucksburn/Danestone ward. Councillor Graeme Lawrence was duly elected on 24 February 2023.

5. Member Attendance

Member	Total Anticipated Attendances	Total Attendances
Lord Provost	14	14
Depute Provost	14	14
Councillor Al-Samarai	14	14
Councillor Ali	14	14
Councillor Allard	14	14
Councillor Alphonse	14	13
Councillor Blake	14	14
Councillor Bonsell	14	14
Councillor Boulton	14	14
Councillor Bouse	14	14
Councillor Brooks	14	13
Councillor Hazel Cameron	14	14
Councillor Clark	14	14
Councillor Cooke	14	12
Councillor Copland	14	14
Councillor Cormie	14	14
Councillor Crockett	14	14
Councillor Cross	14	10
Councillor Davidson	14	14
Councillor Fairfull	14	14
Councillor Farquhar	14	14
Councillor Graham	14	14
Councillor Grant	14	14
Councillor Greig	14	14
Councillor Henrickson	14	14
Councillor Houghton	14	12
Councillor Hutchison	14	14
Councillor Kuznir	14	12
Councillor Lawrence	11	10
Councillor Macdonald	14	14
Councillor MacGregor	14	14
Councillor McLellan	14	14
Councillor McLeod	14	13

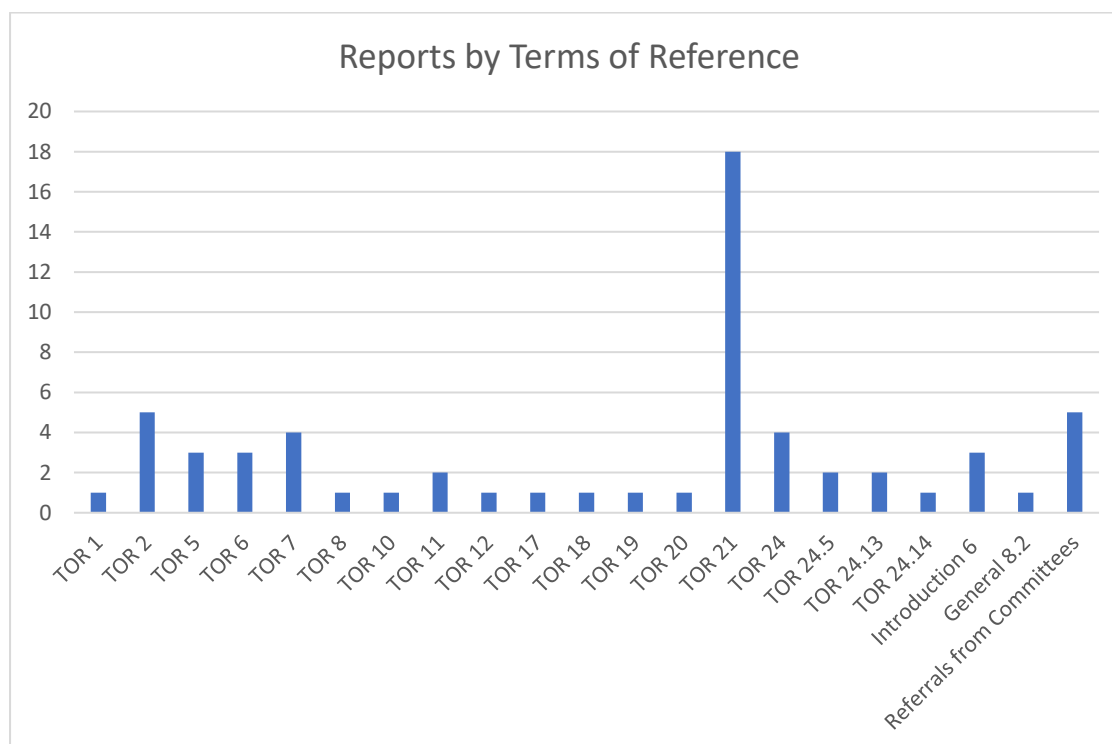
Member	Total Anticipated Attendances	Total Attendances
Councillor McRae	14	14
Councillor Malik	14	13
Councillor Massey	14	14
Councillor Mennie	14	14
Councillor Nicoll	14	14
Councillor Radley	14	14
Councillor Mrs Stewart	14	8
Councillor van Sweeden	14	14
Councillor Thomson	14	14
Councillor Tissera	14	10
Councillor Watson	14	13
Councillor Yuill	14	13

6. Meeting Content

6.1 During the 2022/2023 reporting period (14 October 2022 to 14 October 2023), the Council had 14 meetings and considered a total of 53 reports. This is a higher number of meetings than in previous years. Of the 14 meetings, 7 were scheduled meetings, 3 were requisitioned meetings, 1 was a special meeting for the Freedom of the City, 1 was a special meeting for Community Council Governance, and 2 were re-convened meetings. It should be noted that data for the Council meeting of 11 October 2023 is included in this report, however as the meeting had to be adjourned until 3 November 2023, data relating to that meeting is not included.

6.2 Terms of Reference

6.2.1 The following chart details how reports aligned to the Terms of Reference for Council. A small number of reports (3) did not fall within Specific Terms of Reference and were reported to Council in accordance with Introduction 6 within the Terms of Reference document – “in accordance with Standing Order 47.8, Council can determine any matter which would otherwise fall to be determined by a committee or sub committee”. It should be noted that the combined total is more than 53 as some reports fell within more than one of the Terms of Reference.



- 6.2.2 During the course of 2022/2023 the Council received reports under 18 of the 38 sections of the Terms of Reference, with the highest number (18) of reports falling under Terms of Reference 21 – “to consider any matter which the Council has previously considered and agreed to receive a further report on”. This is predominantly due to reports relating to the City Centre and Beach Masterplans having been considered, which previously would have been considered by the Finance and Resources Committee, however Council agreed that they should be considered by Full Council instead.
- 6.2.3 Of the sections of the Terms of Reference where there were no reports, no reports were required in 2022/2023 – for example no working groups needed to be established and no reports needed to be considered relating to the Standards Commission for Scotland with regard to the overseeing of members’ standards of conduct. However, those Terms of Reference need to remain in place as reports will fall under those Terms of Reference in the future.
- 6.2.4 As the committee structure was reviewed in late 2022, very few changes to the Terms of Reference were made following the June 2023 Scheme of Governance review. Any changes made were generally to provide clarity where required and ensure consistency between committees. The new Terms of Reference will continue to be monitored throughout the year, in preparation for the 2024 Scheme of Governance review.

7. Reports and Decisions

- 7.1 The following information relates to the reports and Notices of Motion presented to Council throughout the reporting period, as well as the use of Standing Orders and engagement with members of the public.

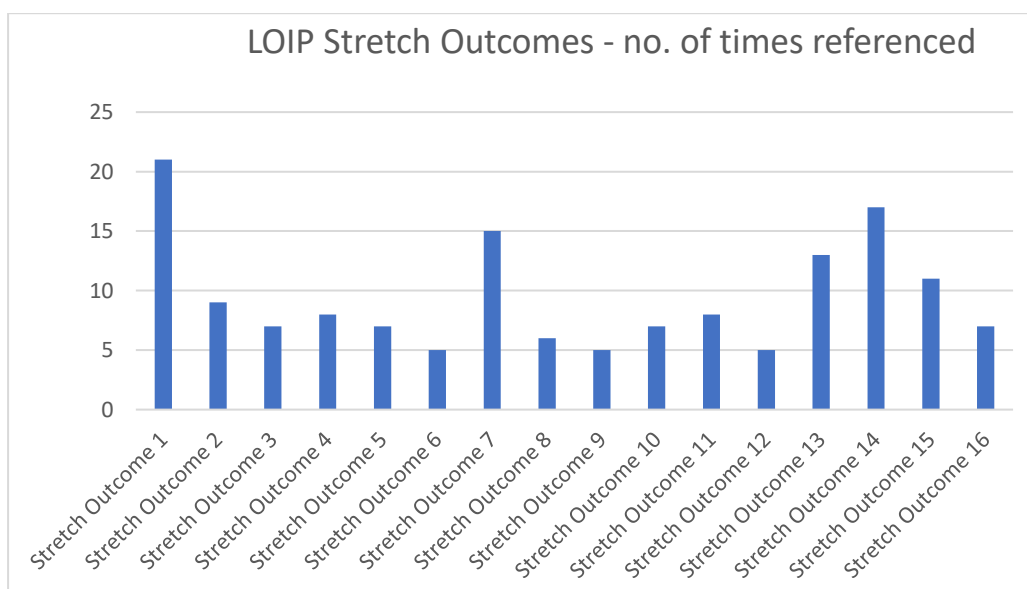
	Total	Total Percentage of Reports
Confidential Reports	0	0%
Exempt Reports	2	4%
Number of reports where the Council amended officer recommendations	12	23%
Number of reports approved unanimously	26	49%
Number of reports or service updates requested during the consideration of another report to provide additional assurance and not in business planner	5	9%
Number of reports delayed for further information	0	0%
Number of times the Convener has had to remind Members about acceptable behaviour in terms of the Member Officer	8	

Relations Protocol/Councillors' Code of Conduct		
Late reports received (i.e. reports not available for inspection at least 3 clear days before the meeting)	2	4%
Number of referrals to Council under SO 34.1	5	

Notices of Motion, Suspension of Standing Orders, Interface with the Public	
Number of Notices of Motion to Council	31
Number of times Standing Orders suspended	8
Specific Standing Orders suspended	14.3 40.2 - 6 times 42.1
Number of deputations heard	7
Number of petitions considered	0

8. Reports with links to the Local Outcome Improvement Plan

8.1 The following table details, of the 53 reports, how each report linked to the Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP Stretch Outcomes are appended to this report for reference at Appendix 1). As can be seen from the chart below, the most common Stretch Outcomes referred to were Stretch Outcomes 1 (No one will suffer poverty by 2026), 7 (95% of children living in our priority neighbourhoods will sustain a positive destination upon leaving school by 2026) and 14 (Increase sustainable travel: 38% of people walking and 5% of people cycling as main mode of transport by 2026).



9. Training and Development

- 9.1 Committee specific training opportunities for Members during the reporting period are covered within the committee annual effectiveness reports. Further development opportunities will be considered for next year based on committee business throughout the year, Executive Lead proposals and Member feedback on what may be required to assist them in performing their roles.
- 9.2 More generally, training sessions for all elected members were offered in 2022/23 on topics such as NPF4 (National Planning Framework), Data Reporting and the Aberdeen Health Determinants Research Collaborative (AHDRC).
- 9.3 Induction training covering a wide variety of topics was delivered to Councillor Lawrence upon his election in February 2023.

10. Code of Conduct Declarations and Transparency Statements

- 10.1 7 declarations of interest and 116 transparency statements were made by Members during the reporting period. Information in respect of declarations of interest and transparency statements is measured to evidence awareness of the requirements to adhere to the Councillors' Code of Conduct and the responsibility to ensure fair decision-making.

11. Civic Engagement

- 11.1 Civic leadership and engagement are at the heart of the Council's Operating Model. The values and principles of civic leadership and engagement are being driven through the Council's transformation programme.
- 11.2 There have been good examples of civic engagement in the course of business submitted to Council in 2022/23, for example in relation to the Aberdeen Local Development Plan, the City Centre Masterplan and Beach Masterplan. In relation to the Beach Masterplan, at the Council meeting on 14 December 2022, 3 pupils from 3 city secondary schools (and on behalf of one primary school), made deputations to Council following their involvement in the project.
- 11.3 Further civic engagement activities are set out in each committee's individual annual effectiveness report.

12. Executive Lead - Commentary

- 12.1 Following the local government elections in May 2022, the Council appointed a new Lord Provost and a new administration (the Partnership) was formed between the SNP and Liberal Democrats. Members received a comprehensive induction in their initial weeks, and training and development opportunities have been delivered in the period since then.
- 12.2 The Scheme of Governance received its annual review in June 2023 to allow the Partnership an opportunity to propose any changes to decision-making structures to reflect their own priorities as an administration. New Committees were introduced, including an Anti-Poverty and Inequality Committee and a Communities, Housing and Public Protection Committee. These structures will continue to mature and flex around our operating model.
- 12.3 The Council's Delivery Plan and service standards were approved as part of the 2022/23 budget. These will be refreshed in March 2024 and our committee reporting and business planners have continued to be closely aligned to the Delivery Plan.
- 12.4 Members have continued to make of declarations of interest and transparency statements with the required rigour, with the support and advice of officers. The number of exempt reports remains low, which reinforces the transparent nature of how we do our business.

13. The Year Ahead

- 13.1 In December 2023, the Council will consider a report on Phase 2 of the Budget consultation which follows on from the Council decision of 14 June 2023 in terms of approving the Budget Protocol as part of the Scheme of Governance.
- 13.2 In February 2024, the Council will be asked to consider proposals with regard to the organisational structure.
- 13.3 During the 2023/24 annual reporting period, officers will progress the transformation programme to allow the Council to set a budget in a manner that strategically allocates resources against the Local Outcome Improvement Plan. The outcome focused approach will be set out in the budget report and associated delivery plan due to come before Full Council in March 2024.

14. Combined Committee Data

During the reporting period, 354 reports were considered by the 10 committees which are the subject of annual effectiveness reports. This data does not include reports relating to planning or licensing applications which are subject to a separate reporting process, however these are covered in the annual reports for the Planning Development Management and Licensing Committees.

	Total	Total Percentage of Reports
Confidential Reports	2	0.5%
Exempt Reports	16	4.5%
Number of reports where the Committee amended officer recommendations	7	2%
Number of reports approved unanimously	321	91%
Number of reports or service updates requested during the consideration of another report to provide additional assurance and not in business planner	34	
Number of reports delayed for further information	2	0.5%
Number of times the Convener has had to remind Members about acceptable behaviour in terms of the Code of Conduct	0	
Late reports received (i.e. reports not available for inspection at least 3 clear days before the meeting)	2	0.5%
Number of referrals to Council under SO 34.1	5	

Number of notices of motion	20
Number of times Standing Orders were suspended	2
Number of deputations	6
Number of petitions considered	1

Appendix 1 – Local Outcome Improvement Plan Stretch Outcomes

Economy	
1.	No one will suffer due to poverty by 2026
2.	400 unemployed people supported into fair work by 2026
3.	500 people skilled/ reskilled to enable them to move into, within and between economic opportunities as they arise by 2026
People (Children & Young People)	
4.	95% of children will reach their expected developmental milestones by their 27-30 month review by 2026
5.	90% of children and young people report they feel listened to all of the time by 2026
6.	By meeting the health and emotional wellbeing needs of our care experienced children and young people they will have the same levels of attainment in education and positive destinations as their peers by 2026
7.	95% of children living in our priority neighbourhoods (Quintiles 1 & 2) will sustain a positive destination upon leaving school by 2026
8.	83.5% fewer young people (under 18) charged with an offence by 2026
9.	100% of our children with Additional Support Needs/disabilities will experience a positive destination
People (Adults)	
10.	25% fewer people receiving a first ever Court conviction and 2% fewer people reconvicted within one year by 2026
11.	Healthy life expectancy (time lived in good health) is five years longer by 2026
12.	Rate of harmful levels of alcohol consumption reduced by 4% and drug related deaths lower than Scotland by 2026
Place	
13.	Addressing climate change by reducing Aberdeen's carbon emissions by at least 61% by 2026 and adapting to the impacts of our changing climate
14.	Increase sustainable travel: 38% of people walking and 5% of people cycling as main mode of travel by 2026
15.	Addressing the nature crisis by protecting/ managing 26% of Aberdeen's area for nature by 2026
Community Empowerment	
16.	100% increase in the proportion of citizens who feel able to participate in decisions that help change things for the better by 2026

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

The Council reserves the following functions:

1. The setting of council tax in accordance with s93(1) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 or the setting of a reduced amount of council tax under s94 of that Act or paragraph 3 of Schedule 7 to that Act.
2. The setting of a balanced budget annually, including the setting of fees and charges, including the approval of commissioning intentions and service standards.
3. The approval of the capital programme.
4. The borrowing of money as provided for in s56(6)(d) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.
5. The approval of any annual investment strategy or annual investment report required by any consent issued by Scottish Ministers under s40 of the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003.
6. The approval of the Council's Treasury Management Policy and Strategy.
7. The appointment of committees, including external members, and the number and allocation of committee places, the appointment and removal from office of the Lord Provost, Depute Provost, Leader or Co Leaders and/ or Depute Leader, Business Manager and Depute Business Manager, a convener for each committee and a vice convener as appropriate and the approval of senior councillor allowances.
8. The election of members to the Licensing Board.
9. The review of polling districts and polling places.
10. Subject to the Powers Delegated to Officers, the administration of trusts in respect of which the Council is sole trustee or the only trustees are elected members of the Council.
11. The approval of the Local Development Plan.
12. The approval of an Administration's political priorities.
13. The consideration of the Council's Delivery Plan.
14. The consideration of its annual report of its effectiveness and each committee's annual report of its effectiveness.
15. The consideration, where required, of reports by both the Standards Commission for Scotland and the Financial Conduct Authority, and the overseeing of members' standards of conduct.
16. The establishment of the Appointment Panel in accordance with the Standing Orders for Council, Committees and Sub Committees.
17. The approval of the Council's Scheme of Governance.
18. The approval of the Council/Committee Diary.
19. The approval of Schemes for the Establishment for Community Councils and the review or amendment of such Schemes in terms of sections 52 and 53 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973; and the revocation of such Schemes (or amended Schemes) and the making of new Schemes in accordance with section 22 of the Local Government etc. (Scotland) Act 1994.
20. The establishment of Working Groups.

21. To consider any matter which the Council has previously considered and agreed to receive a further report on.
22. To consider Monitoring Officer reports under Section 5 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.
23. Making schemes for the reorganisation of educational endowments under section 112(2) or 112(3) of the Education (Scotland) Act 1980.

24. ANALYSIS

- 24.1 to receive a bi-annual Population Needs Assessment to understand the needs which public bodies must address;
- 24.2 to receive, as appropriate, an in-depth analysis of key groups, priorities and challenges across public services to identify and action potential efficiencies and improvements to help ensure that the needs of customers and citizens are met and commissioning intentions are delivered; and
- 24.3 to receive, as appropriate, sufficiency and market analyses to understand existing and potential provider strengths and weaknesses, and identify and take action in respect of any opportunities for improvement or change in providers.

PLANNING

- 24.4 to endorse the refresh of the Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) including recommending any changes which may be required; and
- 24.5 to approve annual procurement workplans, reflecting the LOIP, the Population Needs Assessment, the Council's commissioning intentions, the Council's service standards, the views of customers and citizens, and the best evidence of effective interventions to ensure a preventative focus on demand reduction.

DOING

- 24.6 to establish Arm's Length External Organisations (ALEOs) where it is determined that services should not be provided in-house;
- 24.7 to decommission services, including ALEOs, that do not meet the Council's commissioning intentions and outcomes;
- 24.8 to take such action to ensure that appropriate supply management and capacity building (market facilitation) is in place to ensure a good mix of resilient service providers, that offer customers an element of choice in how their needs are met; and
- 24.9 to approve the Strategy Framework to facilitate the delivery of agreed outcomes.

REVIEWING

- 24.10 to approve amendments to the Council's Performance Management Framework (PMF);
- 24.11 to receive annual reports on the LOIP and Locality Partnership Plans;
- 24.12 to consider and monitor performance associated with the Council's agreed commissioning intentions and ultimate contribution to the LOIP outcomes;
- 24.13 to receive annual reports from each of the Council's ALEOs to enable scrutiny of performance;

24.14 to receive an annual procurement performance report to enable scrutiny of performance; and

24.15 to receive reports on any changes in legislative requirements, policy and population needs which may facilitate opportunities to work differently to improve outcomes or may require revisions to existing commissioning intentions and outcomes.

For the avoidance of any doubt, this reservation 24 does not affect the Terms of Reference of the Pensions Committee, Aberdeen City Region Deal Joint Committee or Aberdeen City Integration Joint Board, and it does not prevent the exercise of delegated powers where authority is delegated to officers under the Powers Delegated to Officers, Procurement Regulations or otherwise.

EXECUTIVE LEADS: CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND CHIEF OFFICER – GOVERNANCE

Net Zero, Environment & Transport Committee Annual Effectiveness Report 2022/2023



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1. Introduction from Convener

- 1.1 I am pleased to present the first annual effectiveness report for the Net Zero, Environment and Transport Committee (NZET). The annual effectiveness reports have been in place since 2017, following a recommendation made by CIPFA in their review of the Council's governance arrangements, namely that Committees review the extent to which they had operated within their Terms of Reference, through an annual report. The annual effectiveness report represents good practice in governance and also informs the annual review of the Council's Scheme of Governance, enabling officers to identify if any changes are required, for example, to the Committee Terms of Reference. The presentation of the annual reports was temporarily paused due to the disruption to committee meetings as a result of the pandemic, and then to allow time for the new committee structure to bed in following the local government elections in May 2022.
- 1.2 The Council is committed to meeting the challenges facing our local and global environments and playing our part in building a greener and sustainable city. That is why it is so important that we now have a Net Zero, Environment and Transport Committee. The Council has a key role to play in the city's journey to a just energy transition; net zero climate emissions; and climate, nature and community resilience.
- 1.3 As a new Committee, there were no changes made to the NZET Terms of Reference as part of the 2023 Scheme of Governance Review, however we will continue to monitor them over the next year to ensure they remain fit for purpose.
- 1.4 I would like to thank the Committee Vice Convener Councillor Miranda Radley, Members, and officers for their contributions during the first year of the Committee. I look forward to continuing to work with them all next year.



Councillor Ian Yuill
Convener – Net Zero, Environment and Transport Committee

2. The Role of the Committee

PURPOSE OF COMMITTEE

To monitor the delivery of all services and functions relating to net zero, the environment and transport; to scrutinise performance and approve options within set budgets to ensure best value and delivery of the Council's agreed outcomes; and to ensure that the Council has robust arrangements for the delivery of the Council's environmental targets and the meeting of its related statutory obligations.

REMIT OF COMMITTEE

The Committee will:

1. Monitor the Council's compliance with its environmental targets, including its carbon budget, and statutory obligations, and any charters or memorandums of understanding which it enters, in relation to matters such as net zero, climate change, environmental sustainability, food growing and biodiversity.
2. Approve the annual Climate Change Report for submission to the Scottish Government.
3. Approve the Council's Climate Change Plan and monitor its delivery.
4. Approve the Council's Biodiversity Duty Report.
5. Monitor key performance indicators in relation to, and progress towards, the Council's decarbonisation pathway, climate adaptation and the 2045 target for zero carbon.
6. Consider environmental evidence and advice from the widest possible range of sources.
7. Oversee, and make decisions relating to, service delivery in respect of transport and roads matters, and approve options to improve/transform service delivery. This includes scrutiny of operational performance and service standards in line with the Performance Management Framework and considering recommendations for improvements where required.
8. Approve and oversee all transport and roads related policies, strategies, programmes, and projects.
9. Receive risk registers relative to its remit and scrutinise to ensure assurance of the controls in place.
10. Receive reports on inspections and peer reviews in order to ensure best practice and note any actions arising from those inspections and reviews.
11. Make recommendations to the appropriate Committee(s) or Sub Committee(s) on matters affecting its remit where the authority to approve sits within the remit of another Committee or Sub Committee.

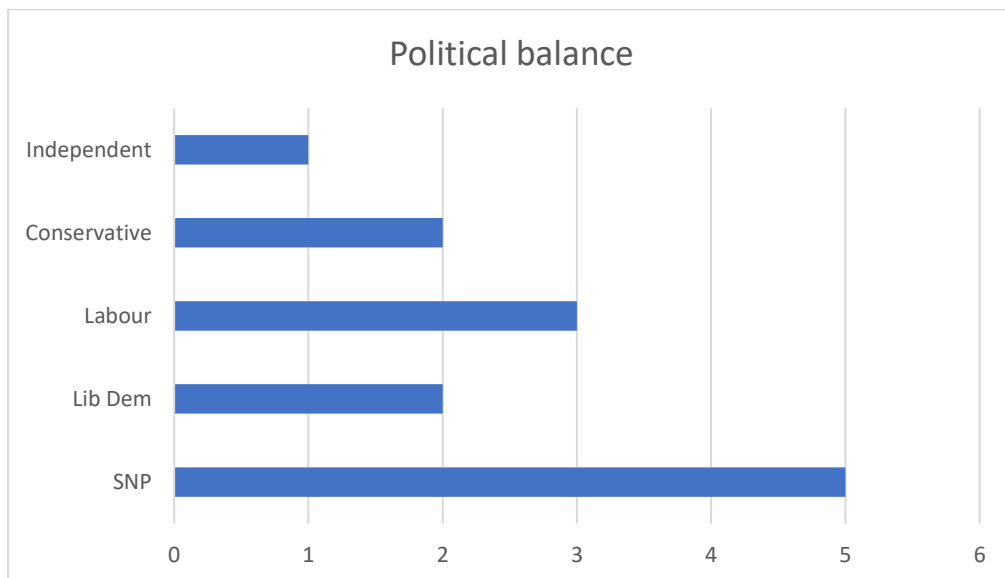
12. In undertaking its remit, ensure that it is acting within the budget set by Council and is supporting the delivery of the Council's agreed outcomes, commissioning intentions and service standards.

Executive Leads: Director of Commissioning and Chief Officer – Strategic Place Planning

3. Membership of the Committee during 2022/2023

3.1 The Net Zero, Environment and Transport Committee has 13 members.

3.2 The Committee composition is presented below:-



4. Membership Changes

- 4.1 Councillor Kusznr was a member of the Committee until the March 2023 meeting. Following the change of committee places as a result of the May 2023 by-election, Councillor Lawrence became a member of the Committee from the May 2023 meeting onwards. Councillor Hazel Cameron was a member of the Committee until the special meeting of the Committee in May 2023, following which Councillor McRae joined the Committee from the June meeting onwards.
- 4.2 Following the meeting of Council in August 2023, Councillors Lawrence and Macdonald stepped down from the Committee and Councillors Bonsell and Crockett joined.

5. Member Attendance

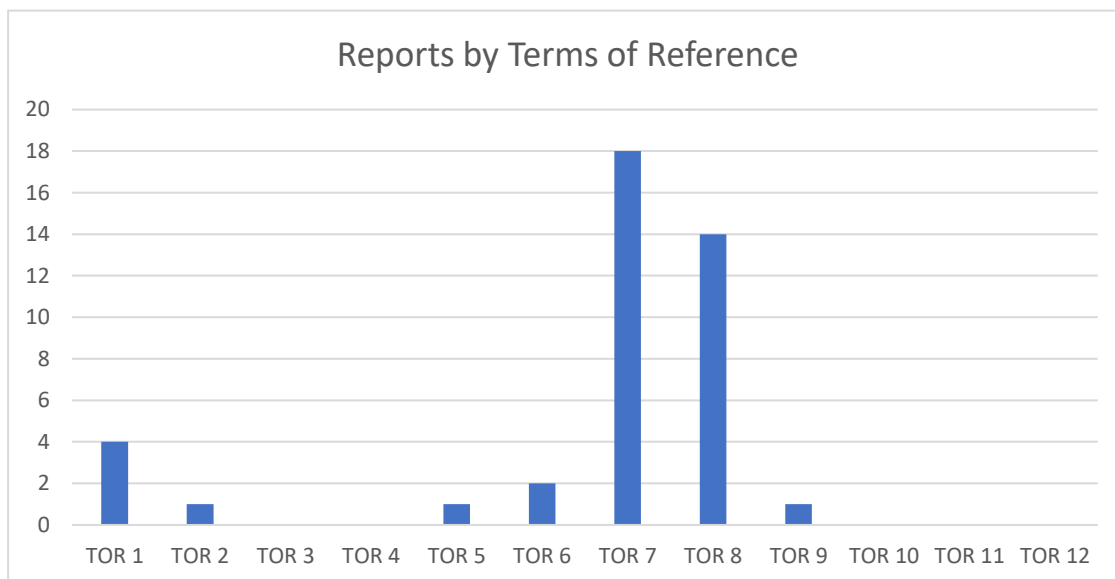
Member	Total Anticipated Attendances	Total Attendances	Substitutions
Councillor Nurul Hoque Ali	7	7	
Councillor Kate Blake	7	6	Councillor Crockett
Councillor Jennifer Bonsell	1	0	Councillor Lawrence
Councillor Hazel Cameron	5	5	
Councillor Barney Crockett	1	0	Councillor Grant
Councillor Lee Fairfull	7	7	
Councillor Emma Farquhar	7	7	
Councillor Dell Henrickson	7	6	Councillor Al-Samarai
Councillor Michael Hutchison	7	6	Councillor McLellan
Councillor Michael Kusznr	3	3	
Councillor Graeme Lawrence	3	3	
Councillor Sandra Macdonald	6	6	
Councillor Duncan Massey	7	7	
Councillor Ciaran McRae	2	2	
Councillor Miranda Radley	7	7	
Councillor Kairin van Sweeden	7	7	
Councillor Ian Yuill	7	7	

6. Meeting Content

6.1 During the 2022/2023 reporting period (14 October 2022 to 14 October 2023), the Committee had 7 meetings and considered a total of 29 reports.

6.2 Terms of Reference

6.2.1 The following chart details how reports aligned to the Terms of Reference (set out at section 2 above) for the Committee.



6.2.2 During the course of 2022/2023 the Committee received reports across a range of its Terms of Reference, with the majority relating to roads and transport issues.

6.2.3 There were no reports received under TOR 3 and 4, however these specifically relate to the approval of the Council's Climate Change Plan and Biodiversity Duty, both of which will be considered at future meetings of the Committee.

6.2.4 Similarly, there were no reports under TOR 10, 11 and 12. TOR 10 relates to reports on inspections and peer reviews, which tend not to be reported to NZET Committee. The Committee did not require to make any recommendations to the appropriate Committee(s) or Sub Committee(s) on matters affecting its remit where the authority to approve sits within the remit of another Committee or Sub Committee (TOR 11). TOR 12 relates to the Committee, in undertaking its remit, ensuring that it is acting within the budget set by Council and is supporting the delivery of the Council's agreed outcomes, commissioning intentions and service standards. The majority of reports to the Committee could be argued to fall under this TOR, however more specific TOR relating to for example, roads and transport or net zero were selected as the main TOR.

6.2.5 As the committee structure was reviewed in late 2022, very few changes to the Terms of Reference were made following the June 2023 Scheme of Governance review. Any

changes made were generally to provide clarity where required and ensure consistency between committees. The new Terms of Reference will continue to be monitored throughout the year, in preparation for the 2024 Scheme of Governance review, and consideration will be given to whether those TOR which have not been used in reports require to be amended.

7. Reports and Decisions

7.1 The following information relates to the committee reports and Notices of Motion presented to Committee throughout the reporting period, as well as the use of Standing Orders and engagement with members of the public.

	Total	Total Percentage of Reports
Confidential Reports	0	0%
Exempt Reports	0*	0%
Number of reports where the Committee amended officer recommendations	1**	3%
Number of reports approved unanimously	27	93%
Number of reports or service updates requested during the consideration of another report to provide additional assurance and not in business planner	1 report 3 service updates	N/A
Number of reports delayed for further information	1***	3%
Number of times the Convener has had to remind Members about acceptable behaviour in terms of the Code of Conduct	0	N/A
Late reports received (i.e. reports not available for inspection at least 3 clear days before the meeting)	0	0%

* There were no exempt reports presented to Committee, however there was one exempt appendix in relation to the Roads and Transport Related Capital Budget Programme 2023-2024.

** Three of the four recommendations were approved, but one of the recommended traffic schemes was amended by the Committee. This indicator relates to reports where officer recommendations were not accepted by the Committee.

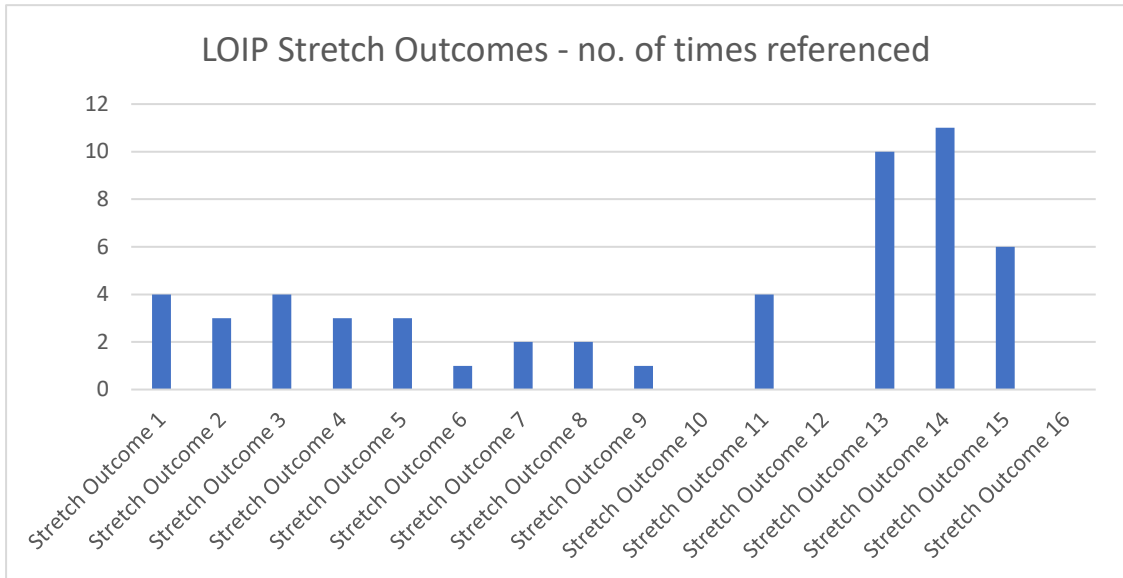
***The Bus Lane Enforcement report was withdrawn and considered at a special meeting

7.2 The additional report requested was an annual report on progress with the objectives of the Tree and Woodland Strategic Implementation Plan. The three service updates requested were in relation to bus patronage, the Reuse facility at Hazlehead Recycling Centre and an update on the progress with Bus Lane Enforcement Scheme projects.

Notices of Motion, Suspension of Standing Orders, Interface with the Public	
Number of Notices of Motion to Committee	6
Number of times Standing Orders suspended	0
Specific Standing Orders suspended	N/A
Number of deputations requested	0
Number of deputations heard	N/A
Number of petitions considered	0

8. Reports with links to the Local Outcome Improvement Plan

- 8.1 The chart below details of the 29 reports how each report linked to the Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP Stretch Outcomes are appended to this report for reference at Appendix 1). As can be seen from the chart below, reports to the Net Zero, Environment and Transport Committee had links to most of the stretch outcomes, with the exception of 10, 12 and 16.
- 8.2 Stretch outcome 10 relates to 25% fewer people receiving a first ever Court conviction and 2% fewer people reconvicted within one year; and stretch outcome 12 relates to Rate of harmful levels of alcohol consumption reduced by 4% and drug related deaths lower than Scotland, therefore it is unlikely that there would be reports considered at NZET Committee which have links to those stretch outcomes. Stretch Outcome 16 was a new addition and therefore has not been mentioned to date in reports to this committee. There is however a wide spread across the other stretch outcomes, and as would be expected, most reports have had a connection with stretch outcomes 13, 14 and 15, which relate to climate change, sustainable travel, and nature.
- 8.3 Some reports considered by Committee this year have had no connection with specific LOIP stretch outcomes; these tend to be items such as the regular performance report, which do however still have a general impact on the outcomes of the LOIP by monitoring key indicators impacting on the lives of all citizens of Aberdeen and enable Members to assess the measures of already implemented and consider future actions which may be required to ensure an improvement in outcomes.



9. Training and Development

9.1 Training and development is always important to assist Members in performing their role on Committees, but particularly in this case as the Net Zero, Environment and Transport Committee was a newly established Committee for 2022.

9.2 Aside from the general induction training provided to Members following the May 2022 local government elections, the following has been made available to Members over the reporting period.

- A presentation at the first meeting of the committee on climate and environment
- Carbon Literacy training
- University of Aberdeen and NESCAN Hub 'North East Communities for a Just Transition' event
- Provision of a winter briefing session for 2022. This will be followed in 2023 with a joint winter/emergency planning/storm response briefing
- 'Our Climate, Energy and Just Transition Commitments' – a virtual session which explained the energy and climate priorities for the City and Council, including compliance obligations; the collaborative approach for the city through the Net Zero Aberdeen Routemap, 6 Strategies and Aberdeen Adapts; and detail on the Council Climate Change Plan
- A Climate Emergency Training for Biodiversity and Nature webinar
- Information from the Improvement Service was shared with Members in relation to the launch of a new Climate Emergency Checklist
- Members have been provided with access to the Green Workplace section of the Intranet, containing information on a range of environmental issues
- Engagement sessions for Members in relation to the development of the draft Local Transport Strategy

9.2 Service updates were also provided to Members throughout the year to provide additional information on topics which were not reported to Committee. These included:-

- Air Quality Progress Report 2022
- Updates on the Altens East Fire and the contingency arrangements and the rebuild progress
- Information on the Council's Building performance criteria to ensure that it is compliant with the Scottish Government's voluntary Net Zero Public Buildings Standards for all new build or significant refurbishment projects
- Aberdeen City Council contribution to Climate Week North-East 2023
- North East Local Flood Risk Management Plan publication
- Hazlehead Household Waste & Recycling Centre: Re-use Facility Update
- Recycling Improvement Fund Update on projects for which the Council has secured funding
- Strategic Active Travel Network Study

- An update on policy and legislative changes which would impact the Council's waste management services

9.3 Further development opportunities will be considered for next year based on Committee business throughout the year, Executive Lead proposals and Member feedback on what may be required to assist them in performing their roles.

10. Code of Conduct Declarations and Transparency Statements

10.1 0 declarations of interest and 14 transparency statements were made by Members during the reporting period. Information in respect of declarations of interest and transparency statements is measured to evidence awareness of the requirements to adhere to the Councillors' Code of Conduct and the responsibility to ensure fair decision-making.

11. Civic Engagement

11.1 During the course of the reporting period, there has been consultation with the public in relation to the following, prior to the reports being presented to Committee:-

- Aberdeen Cross City Connections - Active Travel Scheme Development
- A93 Banchory to Aberdeen Multi-Modal Corridor Study
- Consultation in relation to various Traffic Orders
- Consultation on the Aberdeen City Council Air Quality Action Plan

11.2 At the August 2023 meeting, the Committee further agreed that an eight week period of public and stakeholder consultation be undertaken in relation to the draft Aberdeen Local Transport Strategy (2023-2030) and its appendices and supporting documents.

12. Executive Lead to the Committee - Commentary

12.1 Over the last twelve months the committee has overseen a significant body of work, across a broad range of projects and topic areas. As a new Committee, focused around the steps the Council can and must play in addressing the twin crises of climate change and nature loss, it has been fantastic to see Members take the opportunity to delve into and consider important related issues on the Council's work on Net Zero, Environment and Transport.

12.2 The Committee has overseen and scrutinised important statutory and non-statutory reports outlining the Council's past efforts and future plans on climate and nature, including the Council's admirable tree and woodland response and recovery efforts following several severe storms. Also, exciting forward-looking plans to improve green infrastructure for communities, nature and climate resilience, such as the Denburn Restoration Project.

- 12.3 A key piece of work presented to Committee this year was the Place Based Strategy Framework (May 2023) which set out how the matrix of place-based plans and strategies fit together and relate to other strategies and plans prepared by the Council and its partners. This report provided excellent context for the subsequent reports on the Draft Local Transport Strategy and Roads Hierarchy which were presented to Committee in August 2023.
- 12.4 A significant range of transport projects have been overseen by the Committee this year, including progress on a range of public transport projects associated with the Scottish Government's Bus Partnership Fund. The Committee also has had an important role in overseeing and deciding on the Bus Lane Enforcement funding programme.
- 12.5 In addition to the added value through training and development approaches (ref. Section 9), in the year ahead Officers will continue to respond to feedback from Members of the Committee to ensure that reports are presented in an informative way to allow effective decision making to take place.

13. The Year Ahead

- 13.1 As mentioned above, the 2024 Scheme of Governance review will look at the operation of this committee over the last 12 months and take on board any amendments to Terms of Reference which may be needed.
- 13.2 In line with the NZET Committee Terms of Reference, the new Pupil Climate Change President will be invited to attend a meeting of the committee.
- 13.3 The business planner sets out a range of pieces of work which are due to come back before Committee in 2024/25 for consideration, namely:-
 - Net Zero Aberdeen Routemap & Aberdeen Adapts
 - Net Zero Aberdeen Partnership Leadership Board / Delivery Unit Structure
 - Aberdeen Cross City Connections - Active Travel Scheme Development
 - A93 Banchory to Aberdeen Multi-Modal Corridor Study
 - Aberdeen Hydrogen Integration – Governance
 - Place Based Strategy Framework
 - Locality Based Approach to Deliver Net Zero
 - Transport Delivery Programme
 - Road Safety Plan Annual Update towards 2030 casualty reduction targets
 - Annual Report - Northern Roads Collaboration Joint Committee
- 13.4 There will also be consideration of the outcomes of the consultation on the draft Local Transport Strategy.

13.5 Officers will continue to identify suitable training and information to share with Members throughout the year.

Appendix 1 – Local Outcome Improvement Plan Stretch Outcomes

Economy	
1.	No one will suffer due to poverty by 2026
2.	400 unemployed people supported into fair work by 2026
3.	500 people skilled/ reskilled to enable them to move into, within and between economic opportunities as they arise by 2026
People (Children & Young People)	
4.	95% of children will reach their expected developmental milestones by their 27-30 month review by 2026
5.	90% of children and young people report they feel listened to all of the time by 2026
6.	By meeting the health and emotional wellbeing needs of our care experienced children and young people they will have the same levels of attainment in education and positive destinations as their peers by 2026
7.	95% of children living in our priority neighbourhoods (Quintiles 1 & 2) will sustain a positive destination upon leaving school by 2026
8.	83.5% fewer young people (under 18) charged with an offence by 2026
9.	100% of our children with Additional Support Needs/disabilities will experience a positive destination
People (Adults)	
10.	25% fewer people receiving a first ever Court conviction and 2% fewer people reconvicted within one year by 2026
11.	Healthy life expectancy (time lived in good health) is five years longer by 2026
12.	Rate of harmful levels of alcohol consumption reduced by 4% and drug related deaths lower than Scotland by 2026
Place	
13.	Addressing climate change by reducing Aberdeen's carbon emissions by at least 61% by 2026 and adapting to the impacts of our changing climate
14.	Increase sustainable travel: 38% of people walking and 5% of people cycling as main mode of travel by 2026
15.	Addressing the nature crisis by protecting/ managing 26% of Aberdeen's area for nature by 2026
Community Empowerment	
16.	100% increase in the proportion of citizens who feel able to participate in decisions that help change things for the better by 2026

Anti Poverty and Inequality Committee Annual Effectiveness Report 2022/2023



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1. Introduction from Convener

- 1.1 I am pleased to present the first annual effectiveness report for the Anti Poverty and Inequality Committee. The annual effectiveness reports have been in place since 2017, following a recommendation made by CIPFA in their review of the Council's governance arrangements, namely that Committees review the extent to which they had operated within their Terms of Reference, through an annual report. The annual effectiveness report represents good practice in governance and also informs the annual review of the Council's Scheme of Governance, enabling officers to identify if any changes are required, for example, to the Committee Terms of Reference. The presentation of the annual reports was temporarily paused due to the disruption to committee meetings as a result of the pandemic, and then to allow time for the new committee structure to bed in following the local government elections in May 2022.
- 1.2 The Anti Poverty and Inequality Committee Terms of Reference were considered as part of the 2023 Scheme of Governance Review. As a new Committee, no changes were made as part of that piece of work. The use of the Terms of Reference will continue to be monitored over the next year to identify if any changes require to be made in 2024.
- 1.3 Aberdeen City Council stands firm in its commitment to help people and communities affected by the cost of living crisis and alleviate suffering due to poverty where it exists across the city. The Council's Anti-Poverty and Inequality Committee is clear that tackling poverty requires more than treating the short-term symptoms. Looking ahead to the future it seeks to improve the quality of life for all citizens and tackle poverty and disadvantage at its root cause.
- 1.4 Committee welcomes the expertise and input from our External Advisers, informing the development of committee business as well as the formation of a working group to support the Anti-Poverty and Inequality Committee. The working group brings together the external advisers and the members of the Community Planning Aberdeen Anti-Poverty Outcome Improvement Group to ensure a joined up approach to tackling poverty.
- 1.5 The External Advisers have supported the Committee since it was established in November 2022 and report the following:
 - It has been helpful participating in the discussions on papers presented at Committee, having seen them in advance to allow due consideration;
 - The opportunity to highlight issues and help shape future Committee business through the external advisers reports and working group is welcomed; and
 - The development of clearer links with the Anti-Poverty Outcome Improvement Group is a welcome development.
- 1.6 An Anti-Poverty Workshop was held on 30 May 2023 with the External Advisers of the Anti-Poverty and Inequality Committee and members of the CPA Anti-Poverty Outcome Improvement Group, to explore how they could work together and with wider partners to achieve their shared outcomes. Organisations represented at the

Workshop included: Aberdeen City Council, ACVO, Aberdeen Foyer, CFINE, Instant Neighbour, NHS Grampian, SCARF and the University of Aberdeen.

- 1.7 The Committee has received six-monthly reports for assurance on the Memorandum of Understanding between Aberdeen City Council and the Department of Work and Pensions.
- 1.8 A key piece of work this year was progression on Citizens' Assemblies. The Committee has received three reports on this subject, with the most recent resolution to approve the approach to deliver an assembly on poverty and gender inequality in Aberdeen. A procurement exercise will now be undertaken in line with the Council's Procurement Regulations, to secure the services of two organisations to support the delivery of the process.
- 1.9 Committee Members have been getting out to visit our Communities and the organisations supporting them, with quarterly visits organised. So far we have been to SHMU, CFINE and Aberdeen Foyer, with further visits planned. The visits have been extremely helpful for the Committee in learning about the work of organisations across the city, hearing at first hand the issues and difficulties faced by people experiencing poverty, as well as from staff and volunteers on the challenges of supporting vulnerable people. This builds on input to the Committee from our external advisers. The commitment of the organisations in organising and hosting the visits is very much appreciated.
- 1.10 In addition, the reports to committee following the visits have been welcomed as an opportunity for organisations to further share information about their work and for committee to reflect on the learning.
- 1.11 I would like to thank Members – both Elected and External - and officers for their contributions during the first year of the Committee and look forward to working with them, and my Vice Convener, Councillor Desmond Bouse, next year.



Councillor Christian Allard
Convener – Anti Poverty and Inequality Committee

2. The Role of the Committee

PURPOSE OF COMMITTEE

To monitor and determine the Council's contribution to alleviating and mitigating all forms of poverty and inequality in the city.

The Committee will develop an Anti-Poverty Strategy.

REMIT OF COMMITTEE

1. The Committee will, in respect of poverty and inequality issues in the city:

- 1.1 Consider the impact of poverty on the city as a whole and targeted population levels, including on key groups such as children, minority ethnic communities and those of pensionable age who are known to be particularly disadvantaged by poverty;
- 1.2 Consider the evidence from Citizen's Assemblies on poverty and inequality matters;
- 1.3 Seek the views and involvement of those experiencing poverty and inequality;
- 1.4 Consider the effect of In-work Poverty and the Living Wage, including by receiving reports on Living Wage accreditation rates;
- 1.5 Consider evidence of "what's worked" in combating poverty and inequality;
- 1.6 Consider the impact of ongoing Welfare Reform measures, including by receiving reports on benefit access and uptake;
- 1.7 Consider the impact of poverty on Employability and Youth Employment, including by receiving reports on employment rates and positive destinations;
- 1.8 Consider the impact of Food Insecurity and Fuel Poverty, including by receiving reports on community food provision and energy cost impacts;
- 1.9 Consider the impact of stigma and discrimination on those experiencing poverty;
- 1.10 Consider the impact of poverty on the health and wellbeing of those experiencing it;
- 1.11 Monitor the progress of research relevant to poverty and inequality, including in relation to health determinants;
- 1.12 Consider matters relating to the provision of Credit Unions, fair and affordable banking and advice services;
- 1.13 Examine the nature of institutional and systemic discrimination in Aberdeen, and consider the steps required to eradicate such discrimination;
- 1.14 Monitor the performance of Council-funded community programmes and projects which seek to address poverty or inequality.

2. The Committee will:

- 2.1 agree the submission of Child Poverty Action Plans and Reports to the Scottish Government;
- 2.2 agree the submission of the Council's Equalities Mainstreaming Outcomes Reports to the Scottish Government; and
- 2.3 monitor the Memorandum of Understanding between the Council and the Department for Work and Pensions through receipt of an annual report.

- 3.1 In undertaking the aspects at 1 and 2, the Committee will ensure that it is acting within the budget set by Council and is supporting the delivery of the Council's agreed outcomes, commissioning intentions and service standards.
- 3.2 The Committee may make recommendations to the appropriate Committee(s) or Sub Committee(s) on matters affecting its remit where the authority to approve sits within the remit of another Committee or Sub Committee.

EXTERNAL MEMBERSHIP

Emphasising the close links with Community Planning Aberdeen's Anti-Poverty Group, the Committee has appointed advisers who are not members of the Council. These external advisers were appointed by the Council at its statutory meeting as follows:

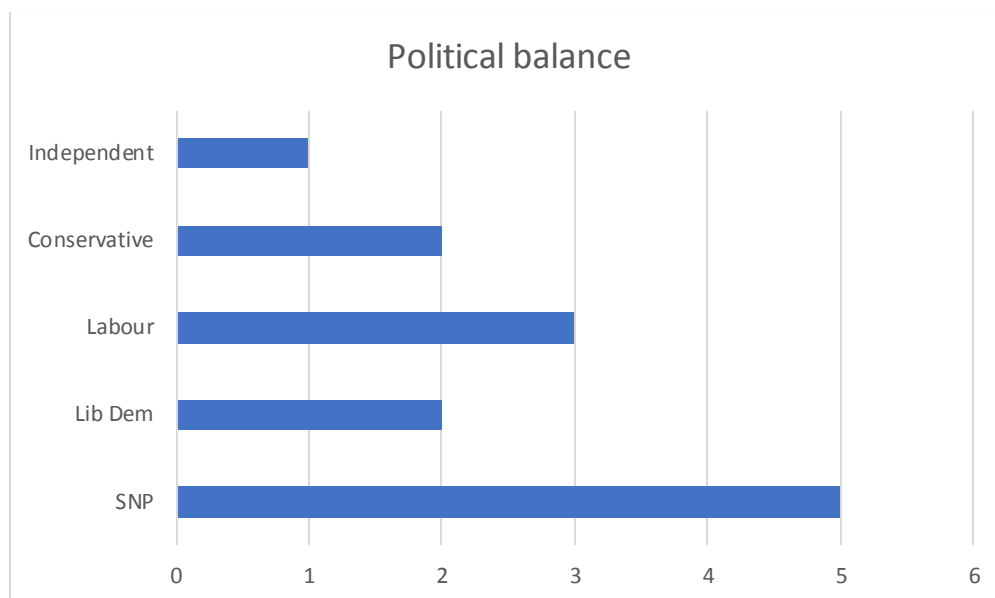
- 1 resident of Aberdeen with lived experience of poverty;
- Up to 2 people representing the charitable sector of Reference in Aberdeen;
- 1 person representing higher and further education in Aberdeen;
- 1 person representing key interest groups in Aberdeen (that may be appointed for a defined period of time); and
- 1 public health professional/practitioner who works in Aberdeen.

Executive Leads: Director of Customer Services and Chief Officer - Early Intervention and Community Empowerment.

3. Membership of the Committee during 2022/2023

3.1 The Anti Poverty and Inequality Committee has 13 members.

3.2 The Committee composition is presented below:-



3.3 The Committee also has five External Members who attend the meeting. The Advisers can ask questions and participate in any debate, but do not have the ability to move or second motions or amendments, nor to vote. These Members are:-

Dr John Bone	University of Aberdeen
Sophy Green	Instant Neighbour
Maggie Hepburn	ACVO
Phil Mackie	Public Health, NHS Grampian
Evan Adamson (until July 2023)	Instant Neighbour
Vacancy from July 2023	

4. Membership Changes

4.1 Councillor McLeod was a member of the Committee until the January 2023 meeting, after which time Councillor Kuszniir joined. Following the change of committee places as a result of the May 2023 by-election, Councillor Houghton left and Councillor Lawrence became a member of the Committee from the May 2023 meeting. Following the meeting of Council in August 2023, Councillors Bonsell and Lawrence stepped down from the Committee and Councillors Crockett and Tissera joined.

5. Member Attendance

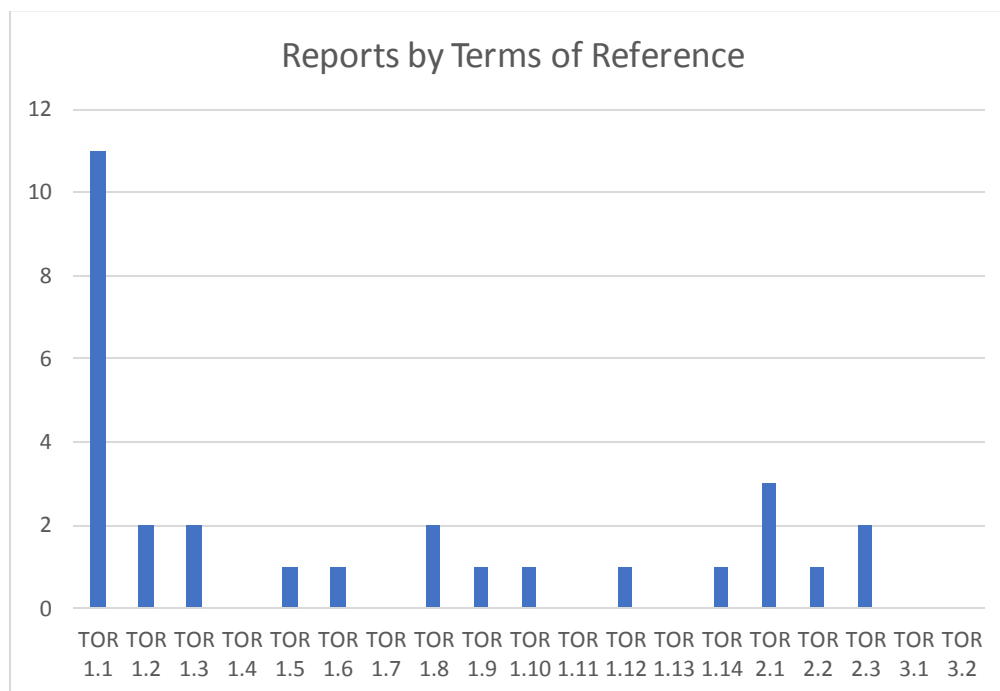
Member	Total Anticipated Attendances	Total Attendances	Substitutions
Councillor Christian Allard	6	6	
Councillor Desmond Bouse	6	5	Councillor Steve Delaney
Councillor Jennifer Bonsell	5	4	Councillor M. Tauqeer Malik
Councillor Richard Brooks	6	6	
Councillor Donna Clark	6	6	
Councillor Barney Crockett	1	0	Councillor Graeme Lawrence
Councillor Derek Davidson	6	6	
Councillor Gordon Graham	6	5	Councillor Jennifer Bonsell
Councillor Martin Greig	6	6	
Councillor Ryan Houghton	3	2	Councillor Mrs Stewart
Councillor Michael Hutchison	6	5	Councillor Miranda Radley
Councillor Michael Kuznir	4	3	Councillor Emma Farquhar
Councillor Graeme Lawrence	2	1	Councillor Deena Tissera
Councillor Jessica Mennie	6	5	Councillor Miranda Radley
Councillor Ken McLeod	2	0	Councillor Michael Kuznir Councillor Emma Farquhar
Councillor Deena Tissera	1	0	Councillor Kate Blake
Councillor Simon Watson	6	5	Councillor Kate Blake

6. Meeting Content

6.1 During the 2022/2023 reporting period (14 October 2022 to 14 October 2023), the Committee had six meetings and considered a total of 24 reports.

6.2 Terms of Reference

6.2.1 The following chart details how reports aligned to the Terms of Reference (set out at section 2 above) for the Committee.



6.2.2 During the course of 2022/2023 the Committee received reports under the majority of the main Terms of Reference which indicates that the Committee has discharged its role effectively throughout the course of the reporting period.

6.2.3 As the committee structure was reviewed in late 2022, very few changes to the Terms of Reference were made following the June 2023 Scheme of Governance review. Any changes made were generally to provide clarity where required and ensure consistency between committees. The new Terms of Reference will continue to be monitored throughout the year, in preparation for the 2024 Scheme of Governance review, and consideration will be given to whether those Terms Of Reference which have not been used in reports require to be amended

6.2.4 The majority of reports fell under Terms of Reference 1.1 - Consider the impact of poverty on the city as a whole and targeted population levels, including on key groups such as children, minority ethnic communities and those of pensionable age who are known to be particularly disadvantaged by poverty - which indicates that the Committee is fulfilling its purpose of monitoring and determining the Council's

contribution to alleviating and mitigating all forms of poverty and inequality in the city.

- 6.2.5 Other Terms Of Reference that featured regularly were consistent with the purpose of the committee, namely: 1.2 - Consider the evidence from Citizen's Assemblies on poverty and inequality matters; 1.3 - Seek the views and involvement of those experiencing poverty and inequality and those with knowledge or expertise in relation to these issues; and 1.8 - Consider the impact of Food Insecurity and Fuel Poverty, including by receiving reports on community food provision and energy cost impacts.
- 6.2.6 Reports referring to Terms Of Reference 2.1 and 2.3 were also reported to the Committee. Terms Of Reference 2.1 states that the Committee will approve for publication the Local Child Poverty Action Reports in terms of the Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017 and Child Poverty Action Plans. These have been agreed by the Committee. Child Poverty has now been integrated into the Children's Services Plan, as reported to the Education and Children's Services Committee in March 2023. Going forward, annual Local Child Poverty Action Reports will be presented to the Education and Children's Services Committee and the Anti-Poverty and Inequality Committee, thereafter for approval by the Community Planning Management Board. Statutory reporting to the Anti Poverty and Inequality Committee will therefore align with this reporting cycle. TOR 2.3 relates to the monitoring of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Council and the Department for Work and Pensions through receipt of an annual report. The Committee has received two 6-monthly update reports in this regard.
- 6.2.7 Terms Of Reference 1.4, 1.7, 1.11 and 1.13 were not explicitly identified in reports throughout the year, however their topics were covered in other reports and through Service Updates. Terms Of Reference 1.4 relates to reports on in-work poverty and the Living Wage, Terms Of Reference 1.7 relates to employment rates and positive destinations. Terms Of Reference 1.11 refers to monitoring research relevant to poverty and inequality and Terms Of Reference 1.13 is examining institutional and systemic discrimination in the city.
- 6.2.8 In addition, there were no reports under Terms Of Reference 3.1 or 3.2. Terms Of Reference 3.1 relates to the Committee, in undertaking its remit, ensuring that it is acting within the budget set by Council and is supporting the delivery of the Council's agreed outcomes, commissioning intentions and service standards. The majority of reports to the Committee could be argued to fall under this Terms Of Reference, however more specific Terms Of Reference relating to poverty and inequality were selected as the main Terms Of Reference. Terms Of Reference 3.2 states that the Committee may make recommendations to the appropriate Committee(s) or Sub Committee(s) on matters affecting its remit where the authority to approve sits within the remit of another Committee or Sub Committee. This has not arisen during the reporting period.

7. Reports and Decisions

7.1 The following information relates to the committee reports and Notices of Motion presented to Committee throughout the reporting period, as well as the use of Standing Orders and engagement with members of the public.

	Total	Total Percentage of Reports
Confidential Reports	0	0
Exempt Reports	0	0
Number of reports where the Committee amended officer recommendations	0	0
Number of reports approved unanimously	21	87.5%
Number of reports or service updates requested during the consideration of another report to provide additional assurance and not in business planner	1 report 13 Service Updates	N/A
Number of reports delayed for further information	0	0
Number of times the Convener has had to remind Members about acceptable behaviour in terms of the Code of Conduct	0	0
Late reports received (i.e. reports not available for inspection at least 3 clear days before the meeting)	0	0
Number of referrals to Council under SO 34.1	1	4%

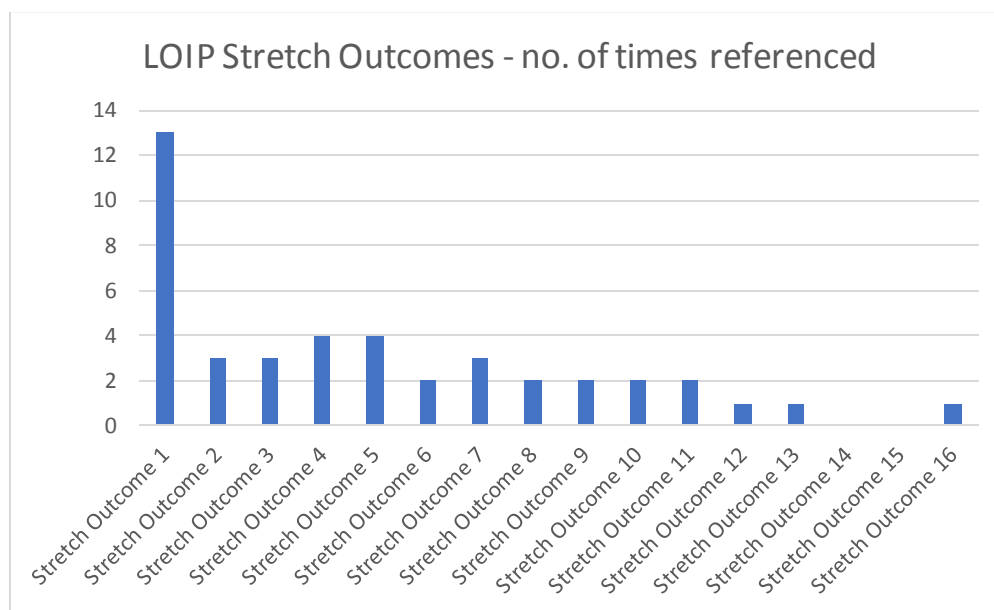
7.2 The additional report requested was regarding issues faced by people in poverty in relation to accessing advice services and financial services.

Notices of Motion, Suspension of Standing Orders, Interface with the Public	
Number of Notices of Motion to Committee	0
Number of times Standing Orders suspended	0
Specific Standing Orders suspended	N/A
Number of deputations requested	0
Number of deputations heard	N/A
Number of petitions considered	0

8. Reports with links to the Local Outcome Improvement Plan

8.1 The chart below details of the 24 reports how each report linked to the Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP Stretch Outcomes are appended to this report for reference at Appendix 1). As can be seen from the chart below, the majority of reports have addressed Stretch Outcome 1 (No one will suffer due to poverty by 2026) which supports the purpose and remit of the Committee. There is however a wide spread across the other stretch outcomes, and as would be expected, most reports also have had a connection with stretch outcomes 4, 5 and 7, which relate to (i) 95% of children will reach their expected developmental milestones by their 27-30 month review by 2026; (ii) 90% of children and young people report they feel listened to all of the time by 2026; and (iii) 95% of children living in our priority neighbourhoods (Quintiles 1 & 2) will sustain a positive destination upon leaving school by 2026 – and more recently, stretch outcome 16 - 100% increase in the proportion of citizens who feel able to participate in decisions that help change things for the better by 2026 with a report on the Citizens' Assembly.

As can be seen from the chart below, reports to the Anti Poverty and Inequality Committee had links to most of the stretch outcomes, with the exception of 14 and 15.



8.2 Stretch outcome 14 relates to increasing sustainable travel and stretch outcome 15 relates to addressing the nature crisis, therefore it is unlikely that there would be reports considered at the Anti Poverty and Inequality Committee which have links to those stretch outcomes.

9. Training and Development

9.1 An Anti-Poverty Workshop was held on 30 May 2023 with the external advisers of the Anti-Poverty and Inequality Committee and members of the Community Planning Aberdeen Anti Poverty Outcome Improvement Group, to explore how they could work together and with wider partners to achieve their shared outcomes. Organisations represented at the Workshop included:

- Aberdeen City Council
- ACVO
- Aberdeen Foyer
- CFINE
- Instant Neighbour
- NHS Grampian
- SCARF
- University of Aberdeen

Workshop attendees explored the outcomes that they were aiming to achieve in their respective organisations and collectively as a group. There was great commonality across the group and key outcomes included the following:

- Reducing fear
- Breaking the cycle of crisis, cash and repeat poverty
- Ensuring a sustainable approach to providing support for those that need it most
- Tackling poverty as a whole rather than breaking it down into different types of poverty (fuel, food, bed etc)
- Eliminating poverty through equity and equality of opportunity

Looking ahead to the future, the group considered what factors might impact and influence a collective approach to tackling poverty.

9.2 Further development opportunities will be considered for next year based on Committee business throughout the year, Executive Lead proposals and Member feedback on what may be required to assist them in performing their roles.

10. Code of Conduct Declarations and Transparency Statements

10.1 No declarations of interest and 18 transparency statements were made by Members during the reporting period. Information in respect of declarations of interest and transparency statements is measured to evidence awareness of the requirements to adhere to the Councillors' Code of Conduct and the responsibility to ensure fair decision-making.

11. Civic Engagement

11.1 During the reporting period, the Service has engaged in a wide variety of engagement and consultation. The following bullet points list some, but not all, of the engagement undertaken to give a flavour of the work throughout the year.

- Visit to SHMU
- Visit to CFINE
- Visit to Aberdeen Foyer
- Anti Poverty Workshop: External Advisers of the Anti-Poverty and Inequality Committee and members of the Community Planning Aberdeen Anti Poverty Outcome Improvement Group met to explore how they could work together and with wider partners to achieve their shared outcomes.
- Challenge Poverty Week event at Aberdeen Music Hall: Where three films made by SHMU, Abernecessities and Cyrenians were screened highlighting the lived experience of individuals and communities in Aberdeen, with input from CFINE on Food Poverty Action Aberdeen, and ACVO around some key policy issues.



Photo: Norman Adams - Aberdeen City Council

Anti Poverty and Inequality Committee Vice Convener Councillor Desmond Bouse and Convener Councillor Christian Allard meet Aberdeen Foyer CEO Leona McDermid.



Photo: Norman Adams - Aberdeen City Council

Anti Poverty and Inequality Committee Convener Councillor Christian Allard, Vice Convener Councillor Desmond Bouse and Aberdeen Foyer CEO Leona McDermid chat with a Foyer Service User.



Photo: Norman Adams - Aberdeen City Council

On 8 March 2023, the Anti Poverty Committee visited CFINE as part of their programme of visits to key organisations.

12. Executive Lead to the Committee – Commentary

- 12.1 Officers have presented a wide range of reports to the Anti Poverty and Inequality Committee over the year, highlighting the very broad range of work to tackle poverty undertaken by services across the Council, including education, housing and homelessness, employability through City Growth and the Financial Inclusion Team. In addition, the Scottish Welfare Fund managed by the Revenues and Benefits Team provides key support in tackling poverty.
- 12.2 It has been particularly pleasing to see how areas of work, such as Tackling infant food insecurity work to address family and child poverty remains a key priority with Dr Flora Douglas presenting to respond to questions from Members. This is thought to be a very positive step.
- 12.3 Officers continue to respond to feedback from Members of Committee to ensure that reports presented provide information and analysis in a transparent and accessible format. Officers continue to appreciate both the scrutiny and high level of interest in our work across the city.
- 12.4 A key piece of work presented to Committee this year was the Child Poverty Action Report, a statutory requirement to report on local child poverty work. The Child Poverty Action Plan has been integrated in the Children’s Services Plan, ensuring effective integrated delivery.
- 12.5 Members have also heard about the outcomes delivered in supporting people through the cost of living which included further support through the Scottish Welfare Fund, support for food procurement to ensure supplies of emergency food, further development of food pantry membership and support with increasing energy costs through the provision of fuel vouchers. In addition, early work on exploring cash first approaches has been highlighted to committee.
- 12.6 Given the nature of the Committee business will often be of interest to the public, it is vital that reports are open and transparent and I am pleased to note that all business this year was considered in public session, with no exempt reports presented.

13. The Year Ahead

- 13.1 Although there were no changes to the Anti Poverty And Inequality Committee Terms of Reference in 2023, in accordance with the usual practice of an annual review of the Scheme of Governance, the Terms of Reference will be reviewed and officers will reflect on whether any areas require further refinement moving forward to ensure the continued efficient operation of the Committee.
- 13.2 Aside from the regular annual reports and performance reports received for assurance, a selection of the business for the next year is listed below:-
- Population Needs Assessment

- Further reports from the External Advisers
- Issues faced by people in poverty in relation to accessing advice services and financial services

Appendix 1 – Local Outcome Improvement Plan Stretch Outcomes

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4.	95% of children will reach their expected developmental milestones by their 27-30 month review by 2026
5.	90% of children and young people report they feel listened to all of the time by 2026
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7.	95% of children living in our priority neighbourhoods (Quintiles 1 & 2) will sustain a positive destination upon leaving school by 2026
8.	83.5% fewer young people (under 18) charged with an offence by 2026
9.	100% of our children with Additional Support Needs/disabilities will experience a positive destination
People (Adults)	
10.	25% fewer people receiving a first ever Court conviction and 2% fewer people reconvicted within one year by 2026
11.	Healthy life expectancy (time lived in good health) is five years longer by 2026
12.	Rate of harmful levels of alcohol consumption reduced by 4% and drug related deaths lower than Scotland by 2026
Place	
13.	Addressing climate change by reducing Aberdeen's carbon emissions by at least 61% by 2026 and adapting to the impacts of our changing climate
14.	Increase sustainable travel: 38% of people walking and 5% of people cycling as main mode of travel by 2026
15.	Addressing the nature crisis by protecting/ managing 26% of Aberdeen's area for nature by 2026
Community Empowerment	
16.	100% increase in the proportion of citizens who feel able to participate in decisions that help change things for the better by 2026

Planning Development Management Committee Annual Effectiveness Report 2022/2023



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1. Introduction from Convener

- 1.1 I am pleased to present the fourth annual effectiveness report for the Planning Development Management Committee (PDMC). The annual effectiveness reports have been in place since 2017, following a recommendation made by CIPFA in their review of the Council's governance arrangements, namely that Committees review the extent to which they had operated within their Terms of Reference, through an annual report. The annual effectiveness report represents good practice in governance and also informs the annual review of the Council's Scheme of Governance, enabling officers to identify if any changes are required, for example, to the Committee Terms of Reference.
- 1.2 The Council is committed to ensuring effective access for our communities to engage with the planning process, which shapes their communities and the wider city. We will continue to seek views on our masterplans to ensure our city is safeguarded in changes to the regions industrial and tourism outlook. I thank all those who have engaged with the committee over the past year, I will continue to ensure increased transparency and encourage residents to continue to make representation directly at our Planning Development Management Committee in person, online or by proxy.
- 1.3 The annual report is a good mechanism for the Committee to support the Council's improvement journey by demonstrating the ways that the Committee contributes to the Council Delivery Plan and Local Outcome Improvement Plan, whilst also providing the opportunity to reflect on the business of the Committee over the past year and to look to the Committee's focus for the year ahead.
- 1.4 There were no changes made to the PDMC Terms of Reference as part of the 2023 Scheme of Governance Review, however we will continue to monitor them over the next year to ensure they remain fit for purpose.
- 1.5 Throughout the year, the Committee has worked to determine all applications for consent or permission except those local applications which fall to be determined by an appointed officer under the adopted Scheme of Delegation.
- 1.6 I would like to thank Members and officers for their contributions during my time as Convener of the Committee and look forward to working with them next year.



Councillor Ciaran McRae
Convener – (Planning Development Management Committee)

2. The Role of the Committee

PURPOSE OF COMMITTEE

To ensure the effective undertaking of the Development Management and Building Standards duties of the Council.

REMIT OF COMMITTEE

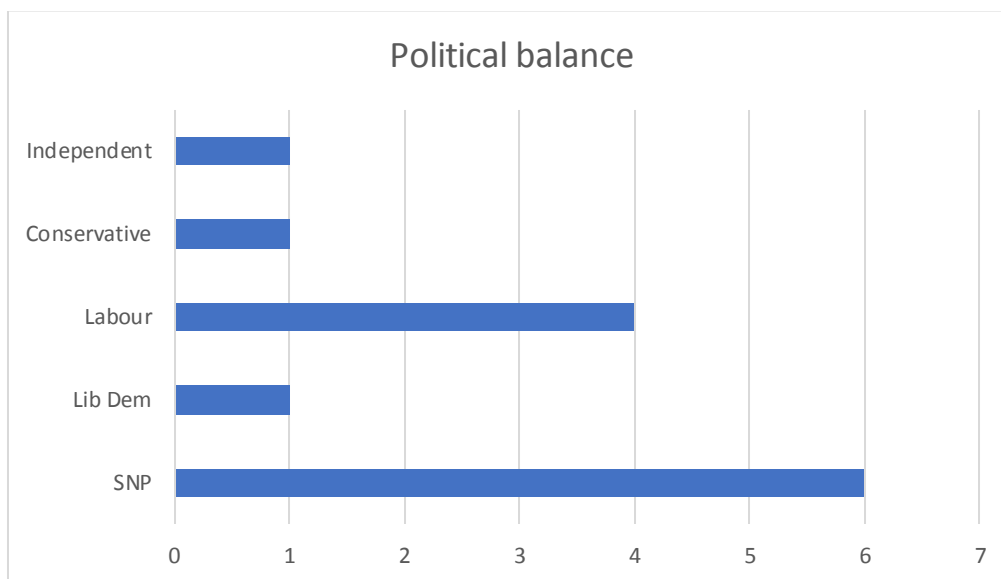
The Committee will:

1. determine all applications for consent or permission except those local applications which fall to be determined by an appointed officer under the adopted Scheme of Delegation or for which a Pre-Determination Hearing has been held;
2. visit application sites where agreed;
3. make Orders and issue Notices;
4. approve development briefs and masterplans;
5. adopt non-statutory planning guidance;
6. conduct pre-determination hearings in pursuance of the provisions contained within s38A of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997; and
7. determine an application for planning permission for a development where a pre determination hearing is held in terms of s38A of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997.

3. Membership of the Committee during 2022/2023

3.1 The Planning Development Management Committee has 13 members.

3.2 The Committee composition is presented below:-



4. Membership Changes

- Councillor McRae became Convener of the Committee in June 2023. As Councillor McRae was already a member of the Committee, Councillor Henrickson was replaced by Councillor Radley at the same time;
- Following the change of committee places as a result of the May 2023 by-election, Councillor Lawrence became a member of the Committee from the May 2023 meeting onwards;
- Councillor Farquhar replaced Councillor Houghton in February 2023;
- Councillor Macdonald replaced Councillor Crockett, following him becoming an Independent Councillor and the place on the Committee being a Labour allocation;
- Councillor Tissera replaced Councillor Blake in September 2023;

5. Member Attendance

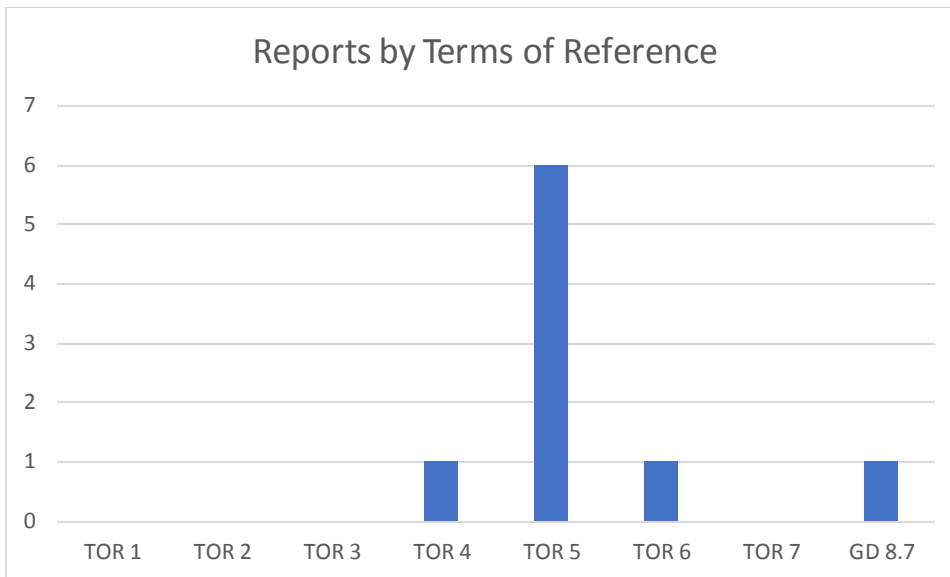
Member	Total Anticipated Attendances	Total Attendances	Substitutions
Councillor McRae	10	7	Councillors Nicoll and van Sweeden
Councillor Bouse	10	9	Councillor van Sweeden
Councillor Alphonse	10	7	Councillors Allard, MacGregor and van Sweeden
Councillor Clark	10	9	Councillor Allard
Councillor Boulton	10	8	Councillors Houghton and Massey
Councillor Cooke	10	9	Councillor van Sweeden
Councillor Copland	10	10	
Councillor Farquhar	7	7	
Councillor Lawrence	4	4	
Councillor Macdonald	1	1	
Councillor Radley	2	2	
Councillor Thomson	10	10	
Councillor Tissera	0	0	

6. Meeting Content

6.1 During the 2022/2023 reporting period (14 October 2022 to 14 October 2023), the Committee had 10 meetings and considered a total of 8 reports. There were also 38 planning applications considered. Of the 38 applications, 33 were approved/refused in line with the officer recommendation and 5 were determined against officer recommendation.

6.2 Terms of Reference (TOR)

6.2.1 The following chart details how reports aligned to the Terms of Reference (set out at section 2 above) for the Committee.



- 6.2.2 During the course of 2022/2023 the Committee received reports under various Terms of Reference. In regards to TOR 1 (determine all applications for consent or permission except those local applications which fall to be determined by an appointed officer under the adopted Scheme of Delegation or for which a Pre Determination Hearing has been held) – 38 applications were considered and determined. Two applications were determined after a site visit which relates to TOR 2.
- 6.2.3 As the committee structure was reviewed in late 2022, very few changes to the Terms of Reference were made following the June 2023 Scheme of Governance review. Any changes made were generally to provide clarity where required and ensure consistency between committees. The new Terms of Reference will continue to be monitored throughout the year, in preparation for the 2024 Scheme of Governance review.
- 6.2.4 As this is a quasi judicial committee, the majority of the business carried out by PDMC are planning applications rather than reports.

7. Reports and Decisions

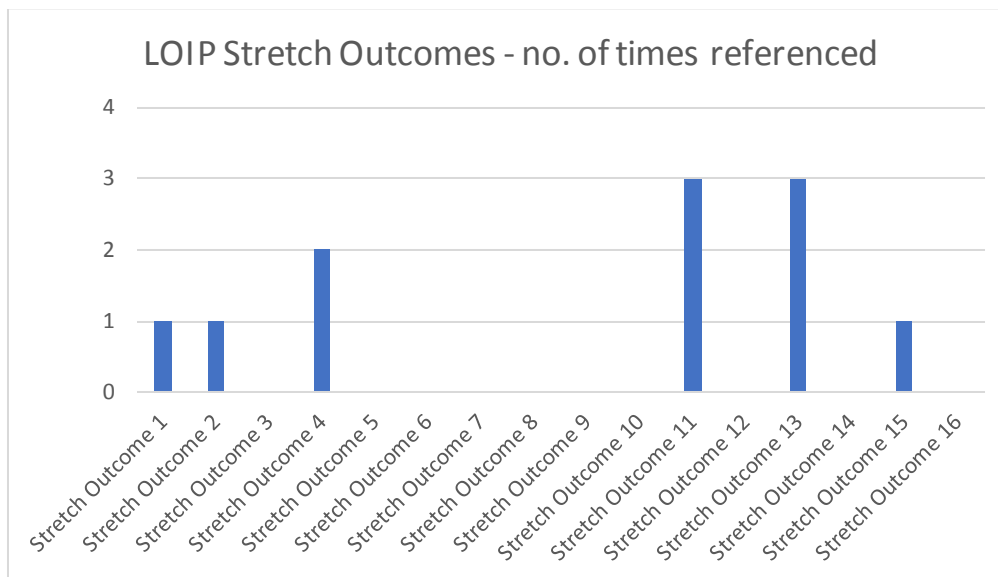
7.1 The following information relates to the committee reports and Notices of Motion presented to Committee throughout the reporting period, as well as the use of Standing Orders and engagement with members of the public.

	Total	Total Percentage of Reports
Confidential Reports	0	N/A
Exempt Reports	0	N/A
Number of reports where the Committee amended officer recommendations	2	25%
Number of reports approved unanimously	6	75%
Number of reports or service updates requested during the consideration of another report to provide additional assurance and not in business planner	0	N/A
Number of reports delayed for further information	0	N/A
Number of times the Convener has had to remind Members about acceptable behaviour in terms of the Code of Conduct	0	N/A
Late reports received (i.e. reports not available for inspection at least 3 clear days before the meeting)	0	N/A
Number of referrals to Council under SO 34.1	0	N/A

Notices of Motion, Suspension of Standing Orders, Interface with the Public	
Number of Notices of Motion to Committee	1
Number of times Standing Orders suspended	1
Specific Standing Orders suspended	40.2 – time of meeting to go past 6 hours
Number of representations requested to speak	63
Number of representations heard	63
Number of petitions considered	0

8. Reports with links to the Local Outcome Improvement Plan

8.1 The following table details of the 8 reports how each report linked to the Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP Stretch Outcomes are appended to this report for reference at Appendix 1).



9. Training and Development

9.1 Training opportunities for Members during the reporting period were as follows:-

- National Planning Framework
- Developer Obligations
- Community Planning Aberdeen and the Local Outcome Improvement Plan
- Planning Committee
- Local Review Body

9.2 Further development opportunities will be considered for next year based on Committee business throughout the year, Executive Lead proposals and Member feedback on what may be required to assist them in performing their roles.

10. Code of Conduct Declarations and Transparency Statements

- 10.1 3 declarations of interest and 7 transparency statements were made by Members during the reporting period. Information in respect of declarations of interest and transparency statements is measured to evidence awareness of the requirements to adhere to the Councillors' Code of Conduct and the responsibility to ensure fair decision-making.

11. Civic Engagement

- 11.1 During the course of the year there has been consultation with the public in relation to draft Aberdeen Planning Guidance: Resources for New Development, Space Standards and Outdoor Seating. Consultation was also carried out for the Energy Transition Zone Masterplan.

12. Executive Lead to the Committee - Commentary

- 12.1 Planning Development Management Committee continues to be available as a hybrid option for Members which means that Members can join the meeting and participate remotely if required. Webcasting is also available for each meeting so members of the public can view the proceedings of the committee.
- 12.2 A new procedure was also introduced in April 2023, which meant that all Members on PDMC would participate in a rota system for the Local Review Body, with each Member requiring to sit on three or four meetings a year. Local members are not permitted to sit on reviews which fall in their ward.

13. The Year Ahead

- 13.1 In December 2022, a new procedure was established for PDMC which allowed interested parties who had submitted a representation to speak at a relevant PDMC meeting, where an application was to be considered. After a year of operation, this procedure will be reviewed and taken back to committee in December 2023, to reflect on how the procedure has operated and any changes that may be necessary.
- 13.2 The Committee will continue to determine planning applications which fall to be determined under the Scheme of Delegation and planning training will continue to be part of the scheduled elected member development programme.

Appendix 1 – Local Outcome Improvement Plan Stretch Outcomes

Economy	
1.	No one will suffer due to poverty by 2026
2.	400 unemployed people supported into fair work by 2026
3.	500 people skilled/ reskilled to enable them to move into, within and between economic opportunities as they arise by 2026
People (Children & Young People)	
4.	95% of children will reach their expected developmental milestones by their 27-30 month review by 2026
5.	90% of children and young people report they feel listened to all of the time by 2026
6.	By meeting the health and emotional wellbeing needs of our care experienced children and young people they will have the same levels of attainment in education and positive destinations as their peers by 2026
7.	95% of children living in our priority neighbourhoods (Quintiles 1 & 2) will sustain a positive destination upon leaving school by 2026
8.	83.5% fewer young people (under 18) charged with an offence by 2026
9.	100% of our children with Additional Support Needs/disabilities will experience a positive destination
People (Adults)	
10.	25% fewer people receiving a first ever Court conviction and 2% fewer people reconvicted within one year by 2026
11.	Healthy life expectancy (time lived in good health) is five years longer by 2026
12.	Rate of harmful levels of alcohol consumption reduced by 4% and drug related deaths lower than Scotland by 2026
Place	
13.	Addressing climate change by reducing Aberdeen's carbon emissions by at least 61% by 2026 and adapting to the impacts of our changing climate
14.	Increase sustainable travel: 38% of people walking and 5% of people cycling as main mode of travel by 2026
15.	Addressing the nature crisis by protecting/ managing 26% of Aberdeen's area for nature by 2026
Community Empowerment	
16.	100% increase in the proportion of citizens who feel able to participate in decisions that help change things for the better by 2026

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Staff Governance Committee Annual Effectiveness Report 2022/2023



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1. Introduction from Convener

- 1.1 I am pleased to present the annual effectiveness report for the Staff Governance Committee (SGC). The annual effectiveness reports have been in place since 2018/19, following a recommendation made by CIPFA in their review of the Council's governance arrangements, namely that Committees review the extent to which they had operated within their Terms of Reference, through an annual report. The annual effectiveness report represents good practice in governance and also informs the annual review of the Council's Scheme of Governance, enabling officers to identify if any changes are required, for example, to the Committee Terms of Reference. The presentation of the annual reports was temporarily paused due to the disruption to committee meetings as a result of the pandemic, and then to allow time for the new committee structure to bed in following the local government elections in May 2022.
- 1.2 During the reporting period, the Committee has approved some particularly important pieces of work, two such examples being the agreement to sign up to the Menopause Workplace Pledge and the Pregnancy Loss Pledge, ensuring that the Council continues to be a supportive and understanding place for employees going through the menopause or suffering the heartbreak of pregnancy loss.
- 1.3 2024 will be a busy year for the Committee, with a number of key staffing policies due to be presented for consideration, as well as an update on the Zero Tolerance work, and I look forward to working with Members, Trade Union colleagues and officers to ensure that we continue to deliver the best outcomes for our staff.
- 1.4 I am also pleased to note from this year's effectiveness report that the Committee has been unanimous in approving all the reports presented, as it demonstrates the ongoing positive working relationships between Members, Trade Union Advisers and officers which ensure that the Committee continues to operate effectively.



Councillor Neil Copland
Convener – Staff Governance Committee

2. The Role of the Committee

PURPOSE OF COMMITTEE

To act as a consultative forum for discussion between management, elected members and trade unions, on matters relating to staff in the pursuit of a workplace culture that reflect the requirements of a 21st Century public sector organisation.

Through partnership working, the committee will support the Council becoming an employer of choice by promoting positive values, behaviours, training and recruitment and ways of working.

The Committee also acts as safety committee within s2(7) of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 and keeps under review measures taken to ensure the health and safety at work of employees. The committee provides a channel of communication, co-operation and involvement between the Council and trade union representatives on all relevant health and safety matters.

REMIT OF COMMITTEE

1. Partnership approach arrangements

The Committee will:

- 1.1 seek to maintain good relationships and model a partnership approach between the Council and trade unions;
- 1.2 provide a decision making forum, for the resolution of staffing matters that cannot be resolved through normal processes including but not restricted to conditions of service (except teachers¹); and
- 1.3 consider reports by the Chief Officer – People and Organisational Development on matters following a request by a trade union advisor provided always that the Chief Officer – People and Organisational Development is satisfied that the matter is appropriate and relevant to the remit of the Committee and that it raises no question of individual employee issues.

2. Strategic Workforce Plans and Policies

The Committee will:

- 2.1 approve the Framework Agreement for Industrial Relations (the FAIR agreement);
- 2.2 approve strategic workforce plans which reflect the requirements of a 21st Century Council in terms of staff, skills and attributes;
- 2.3 approve framework documentation in relation to workforce culture;
- 2.4 approve strategic training and development plans for the whole organisation;
- 2.5 approve all staff policies, these being policies where the predominant factor affects the expected behaviour and actions of staff;

- 2.6 monitor equality in employment and ensure that the Council, as an employer, complies with its statutory equal pay and other equality responsibilities; and
- 2.7 receive people performance data to enable the monitoring of the wellbeing of our staff including but not limited to absence data.

3. Health, Safety & Wellbeing of Staff

The Committee will:

- 3.1 approve health, safety and wellbeing policies
- 3.2 monitor performance and compliance across all functions of the Council in respect of
 - i. Health and safety legislation
 - ii. Health, safety and wellbeing policies
 - iii. Health and safety recommendations, including those from external inspection bodies

4. Employment Appeals and Disputes

The Committee will:

- 4.1 approve the procedure for the Appeals Sub Committee.

MEMBERSHIP

Elected members

Local trades union representatives as advisers – two named advisers from each of the following trades unions:

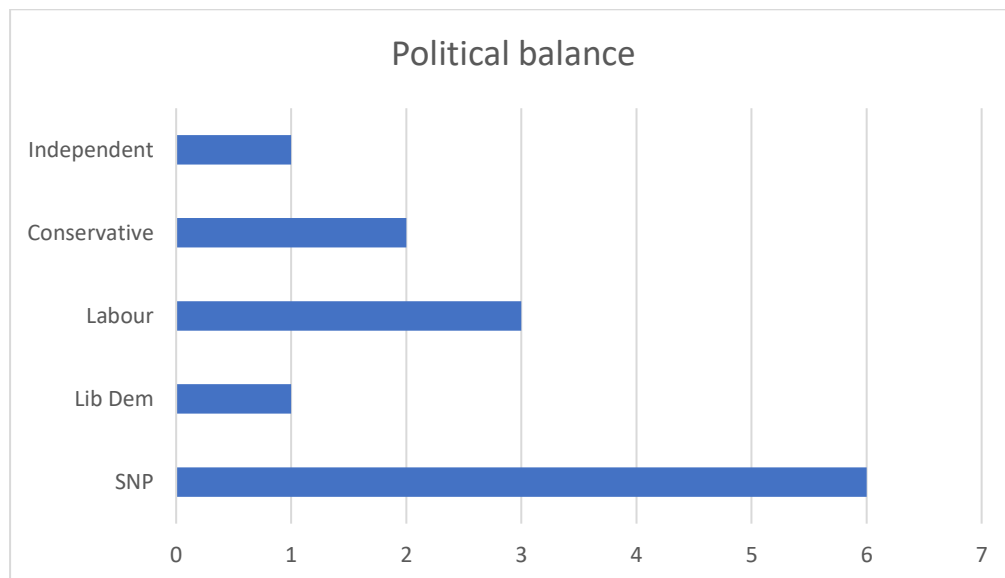
- Unison
- Unite
- GMB
- Educational Institute of Scotland (EIS)
- Scottish Secondary Teachers' Association (SSTA); and
- VOICE

Executive Lead: Chief Officer – People and Organisational Development

3. Membership of the Committee during 2022/2023

3.1 The Staff Governance Committee has 13 members.

3.2 The Committee composition is presented below:-



3.3 The Committee also has Trade Union Advisers who attend the meeting, but are not members of the Committee. The Advisers can however ask questions and participate in any debate, but do not have the ability to move or second motions or amendments, nor to vote.

4. Membership Changes

- 4.1 Former Councillor Avril MacKenzie was in attendance at the November 2022 Committee meeting, however sadly passed away in December 2022. Councillor Massey joined the Committee from the meeting of 13 March 2023.
- 4.2 Councillors Boulton and Graham were members of the Committee to the meeting of 26 June 2023 and were then replaced by Councillors Crockett and Ali respectively.

5. Member Attendance

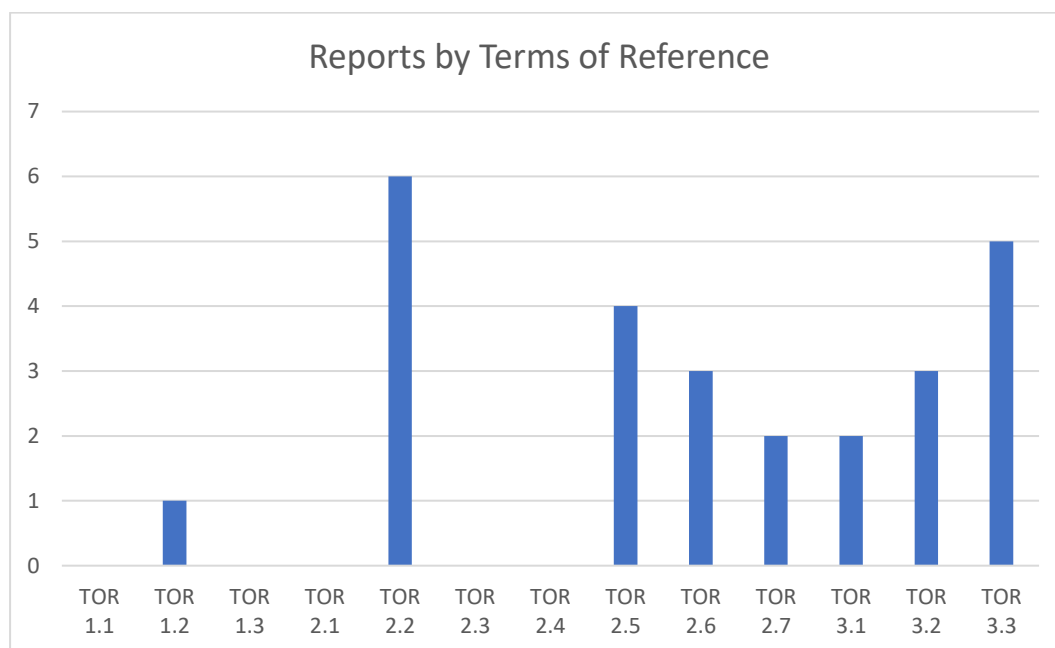
Member	Total Anticipated Attendances	Total Attendances	Substitutions
Councillor Neil Copland	5	5	
Councillor Gill Al-Samarai	5	5	
Councillor Nurul Hoque Ali	1	1	
Councillor Marie Boulton	4	4	
Councillor David Cameron	5	3	Councillor Kairin van Sweeden Councillor Michael Hutchison
Councillor Barney Crockett	1	0	
Councillor Derek Davidson	5	5	
Councillor Steve Delaney	5	3	Councillor Miranda Radley Councillor Ian Yuill
Councillor Lee Fairfull	5	5	
Councillor Gordon Graham	4	4	
Councillor Sandra Macdonald	5	4	Councillor Kate Blake
Councillor Neil MacGregor	5	4	Councillor Miranda Radley
Councillor Avril MacKenzie	1	1	
Councillor Duncan Massey	3	3	
Councillor Ken McLeod	5	5	
Councillor Lynn Thomson	5	5	

6. Meeting Content

6.1 During the 2022/2023 reporting period (14 October 2022 to 14 October 2023), the Committee had five meetings and considered a total of 21 reports.

6.2 Terms of Reference

6.2.1 The following chart details how reports aligned to the Terms of Reference (set out at section 2 above) for the Committee.



6.2.2 During the course of 2022/2023 the Committee received reports under the majority of its main Terms of Reference.

6.2.3 As the committee structure was reviewed in late 2022, very few changes to the Terms of Reference were made following the June 2023 Scheme of Governance review. Any changes made were generally to provide clarity where required and ensure consistency between committees. The new Terms of Reference will continue to be monitored throughout the year, in preparation for the 2024 Scheme of Governance review.

6.2.4 The Staff Governance Committee Terms of Reference were slightly amended in 2023, and so the figures in the table above reflect a mixture of the current and previous Terms of Reference. For example, the reports listed under TOR 3.3 reflect the quarterly corporate health and safety reports which previously fell under TOR 3.3, but now sit under TOR 3.2 in the new Terms of Reference.

6.2.5 The majority of reports fell under Terms of Reference 2.2, namely “approve strategic workforce plans which reflect the requirements of a 21st Century Council in terms of

staff, skills and attributes” and Terms of Reference 3.2 / 3.3, which relate to the monitoring of performance and compliance in respect of health and safety.

- 6.2.6 There were no reports under TOR 1.3 “consider reports by the Chief Officer – People and Organisational Development on matters following a request by a trade union advisor provided always that the Chief Officer – People and Organisational Development is satisfied that the matter is appropriate and relevant to the remit of the Committee and that it raises no question of individual employee issues” which suggests that the ongoing close working between officers and Trade Union colleagues outwith the committee meetings is helping to resolve any matters raised.
- 6.2.7 Similarly, there has been no requirement during the reporting period to approve the Framework Agreement for Industrial Relations (the FAIR agreement); nor approve framework documentation in relation to workforce culture; (Terms of Reference 2.1 and 2.3 respectively) but both remain relevant Terms of Reference to be retained as they will likely be reported to future meetings. While TOR 2.3 “approve strategic training and development plans for the whole organisation” has not specifically been used for any of the reports to Committee, many of the reports have referenced existing training which is being provided to officers.

7. Reports and Decisions

7.1 The following information relates to the committee reports and Notices of Motion presented to Committee throughout the reporting period, as well as the use of Standing Orders and engagement with members of the public.

	Total	Total Percentage of Reports
Confidential Reports	0	0
Exempt Reports	0	0
Number of reports where the Committee amended officer recommendations	0*	0
Number of reports approved unanimously	21**	100%
Number of reports or service updates requested during the consideration of another report to provide additional assurance and not in business planner	0***	0
Number of reports delayed for further information	0	0
Number of times the Convener has had to remind Members about acceptable behaviour in terms of the Code of Conduct	0	0
Late reports received (i.e. reports not available for inspection at least 3 clear days before the meeting)	0	0
Number of referrals to Council under SO 34.1	0	0

*Officer recommendations were accepted, however the Committee asked for the report recommendation to read that a report was due back by June 2024, instead of Summer 2024 as listed in the report.

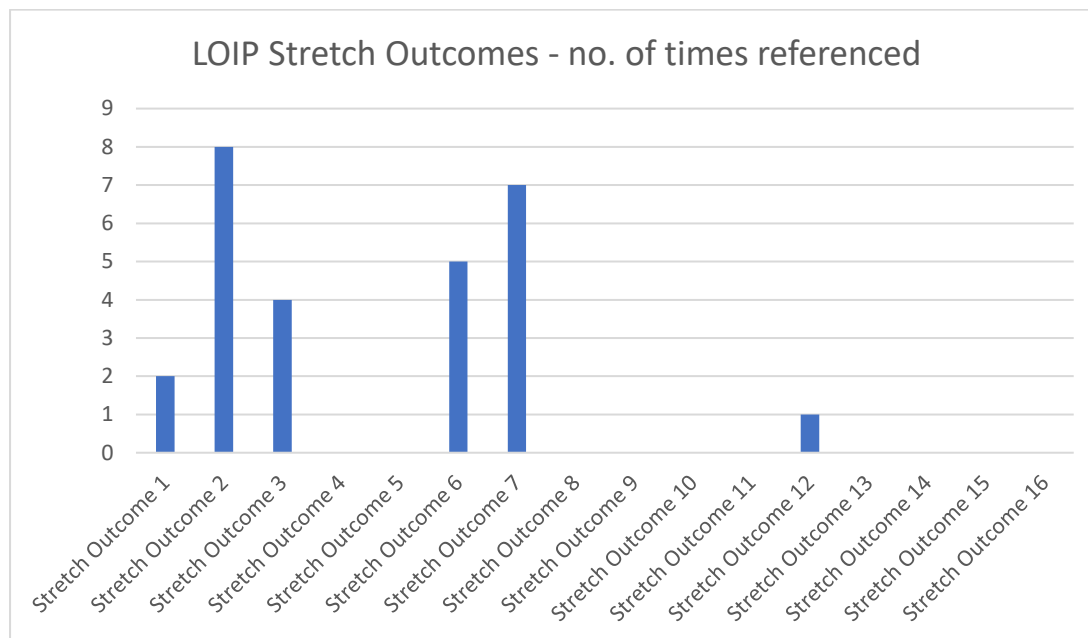
**There was one vote during the reporting period, in relation to a Notice of Motion, however there was no report relating to this motion, and all reports presented by officers were approved unanimously

***Several pieces of data were requested in relation to a few of the reports, however these were simply provided by email following the meeting, and no service update was required.

Notices of Motion, Suspension of Standing Orders, Interface with the Public	
Number of Notices of Motion to Committee	One from Councillor Tissera, referred to the Committee
Number of times Standing Orders suspended	None
Specific Standing Orders suspended	Not applicable
Number of deputations requested	None
Number of deputations heard	Not applicable
Number of petitions considered	None

8. Reports with links to the Local Outcome Improvement Plan

8.1 The following table details of the 21 reports how each report linked to the Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP Stretch Outcomes are appended to this report for reference at Appendix 1).



8.2 Reports to the Staff Governance Committee had links to a number of the stretch outcomes, particularly those relating to economy and care experienced young people.

8.3 Many of the reports relate to initiatives which impact on the stretch outcomes which look to improve opportunities for supporting people into work, skilling and reskilling, and helping children and young people to reach their developmental milestones and have positive destinations. These include the Developing the Young Workforce and Employability Programmes reports.

8.4 Some reports considered by Committee this year have had no direct connection with specific LOIP stretch outcomes; these tend to be items such as the regular corporate health and safety report. Such reports do however have a general impact on the outcomes of the LOIP, for example, a healthy and safe workplace assists the overarching principles of the stretch outcomes within the LOIP by ensuring that resource is directed at the services required by the city. Mitigating the risk of financial penalties incurred through the Civil and Criminal Courts and from the Regulators allows available resource to be best used to ensure funding of the growth sectors of the local economy.

9. Training and Development

9.1 Training opportunities for Members relating to the Committee during the reporting period were as follows:-

- Training for Appeals Sub Committee members ahead of any employee appeals to be considered. Trade Unions were also invited to attend this training to enable them to have an understanding of the role of the Sub Committee.
- Recruitment: training for appointment chairs and panel members
- Health and Safety: lone working, personal safety, trade unions - An informal session of around 30 minutes to 1 hour covering the following: risk management, safety procedures, lone working and personal safety
- Integrated Impact Assessment - a session to provide an overview on the purpose of an Integrated Impact Assessment and how Elected Members can use this for the decision making and gauging the impact of policies and proposals.

9.2 Further development opportunities will be considered for next year based on Committee business throughout the year, Executive Lead proposals, Member feedback, Elected members Personal Development plans and any training highlighted by Subject Matter experts on what may be required to assist them in performing their roles.

10. Code of Conduct Declarations and Transparency Statements

- 10.1 There were no declarations of interest nor transparency statements made by Members during the reporting period. Information in respect of declarations of interest and transparency statements is measured to evidence awareness of the requirements to adhere to the Councillors' Code of Conduct and the responsibility to ensure fair decision-making.

11. Civic Engagement

- 11.1 Due to the nature of the Staff Governance Committee business, there are fewer opportunities for civic engagement, however if appropriate, elements of civic engagement would be introduced.
- 11.2 The Consultation Protocol allows for a minimum period of 2 weeks for Trade Union consultation. Throughout the reporting period this 2 week period has been applied as the formal consultation period, however informal consultation and engagement with the Unions has proved to be extremely advantageous in terms of early interventions and formulating policy. There are weekly Director / Union Engagement meetings, allowing Trade Union colleagues to raise issues with Directors and the Chief Officer People and Organisational Development as well as regular weekly meetings with Trade Unions and the Employee Relations and Wellbeing Manager.
- 11.3 Extensive consultation has been undertaken throughout the year in preparation for a number of reports to the Committee. For example, in the development of job families and refreshed capability framework; the development of Dynamics365, including end-user co-design, and the engagement with team members prior to the move of Aberdeen Scientific Services Labs' (ASSL) to the James Hutton Institute.

12. Executive Lead to the Committee - Commentary

- 12.1 The Committee continues to work effectively and collaboratively, and I am pleased to note that all reports were approved or noted unanimously. This is in line with the aim that there be consensus in relation to the Committee's business, and much effort has been undertaken to ensure that there is proper consultation with Trade Unions and consideration given to their views prior to items being discussed at the Committee.
- 12.2 A key piece of work presented to Committee this year was the workforce delivery plan, which was built with consideration of the external environment and the need to continue to adapt over the next 5 years in response to the changing external and internal environment and any key government policy drivers and upcoming legislative changes. Members heard about the extensive engagement with staff, through methods such as staff working groups, surveys and face to face discussions.

- 12.3 Members have also heard about the progress made with developing our young workforce, specifically around initiatives in place to support care experienced young people in the city, including an apprenticeship programme, Young Employee Network modern apprenticeships, foundation apprenticeships, guaranteed interview schemes internships such as Kickstart, traineeships and the ABZ Campus – Employment Pathways Work Experience Programme.
- 12.4 Given the nature of the Committee business will often be of interest to employees, it is vital that reports are open and transparent and I am pleased to note that all business this year was considered in public session, with no exempt reports presented.

13. Trade Union Comments

- 13.1 **EIS** - The EIS is Aberdeen City's largest teacher trade union with a membership of around 80% of all teachers employed by the City.

The EIS places great value in representing the voices of its members at this valuable forum particularly issues relating to Health and Safety.

The inclusion of TU representatives in the Staff Governance Committee underlines the successful partnership that the EIS has enjoyed with officers and elected members at this level.

It is noted that the Convener underlines this importance by always including the TU voice in policies and reports that are presented to the Staff Governance Committee.

I have represented the EIS since the committee was formed and while I will continue in my role as Joint EIS LA Secretary, I have now stood down from the committee but would like it to be noted that it has been a pleasure to serve on this forum, which I am sure my successor, Ms Zem Chefeke will find to be a similar experience.

Ron Constable
Joint EIS LA Secretary

14. The Year Ahead

- 14.1 Although there were small changes made to the SGC Terms of Reference in 2023, in accordance with the usual practice of an annual review of the Scheme of Governance, the Terms of Reference will be reviewed and officers will reflect on whether any areas require further refinement moving forward to ensure the continued efficient operation of the Committee.
- 14.2 The Committee will continue to receive any policies which are due for update or which require to be refreshed. Some of the policies due to Committee over 2024 include the Equality and Diversity Policy; Managing Performance Policy; People Development

Policy; Supporting Attendance and Wellbeing Policy; and the suite of Family Friendly Policies.

- 14.3 The Committee will also receive its regular reports on corporate health and safety data, as well as employee assistance, occupational health and sickness absence information. There will be an update on the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan and the Employee Mental Health Action Plan Annual Progress Update. Another important report will be the work in relation to the Zero Tolerance Pledge, ensuring there is support for our staff and elected members.

Appendix 1. Local Outcome Improvement Plan Stretch Outcomes

Economy	
1.	No one will suffer due to poverty by 2026
2.	400 unemployed people supported into fair work by 2026
3.	500 people skilled/ reskilled to enable them to move into, within and between economic opportunities as they arise by 2026
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12.	Rate of harmful levels of alcohol consumption reduced by 4% and drug related deaths lower than Scotland by 2026
Place	
13.	Addressing climate change by reducing Aberdeen's carbon emissions by at least 61% by 2026 and adapting to the impacts of our changing climate
14.	Increase sustainable travel: 38% of people walking and 5% of people cycling as main mode of travel by 2026
15.	Addressing the nature crisis by protecting/ managing 26% of Aberdeen's area for nature by 2026
Community Empowerment	
16.	100% increase in the proportion of citizens who feel able to participate in decisions that help change things for the better by 2026

Communities, Housing and Public Protection Committee Annual Effectiveness Report 2022/2023



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1. Introduction from Convener

- 1.1 I am pleased to present the first annual effectiveness report for the Communities, Housing and Public Protection Committee (CHPPC). The annual effectiveness reports have been in place since 2017, following a recommendation made by CIPFA in their review of the Council's governance arrangements, namely that Committees review the extent to which they had operated within their Terms of Reference, through an annual report. The annual effectiveness report represents good practice in governance and also informs the annual review of the Council's Scheme of Governance, enabling officers to identify if any changes are required, for example, to the Committee Terms of Reference. The presentation of the annual reports was temporarily paused due to the disruption to committee meetings as a result of the pandemic, and then to allow time for the new committee structure to bed in following the local government elections in May 2022.
- 1.2 Aberdeen's diverse communities have made the city what it is today and the views of our communities should be at the heart of all we do as a Council. The Council is committed to listening to, and engaging with, communities throughout Aberdeen to ensure that we deliver the best possible outcomes for our citizens. High quality, affordable social housing for all who require it, is also key to ensuring we have a city which thrives and we are committed to providing housing which will meet the needs of citizens for years to come. The safety of the citizens of Aberdeen is a priority for the Council and the Committee allows a public forum for scrutiny, engagement and oversight of both Police Scotland and the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.
- 1.3 As a new Committee, there were no changes made to the CHPPC Terms of Reference as part of the 2023 Scheme of Governance Review, however we will continue to monitor them over the next year to ensure they remain fit for purpose.
- 1.4 I would like to thank Members and officers for their contributions during the first year of the Committee. I would also like to thank my Vice Convener, Dell Henrickson, for his help and support and representatives of Police Scotland and the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service for their valuable input this year and we look forward to working with them next year.



Councillor Miranda Radley
Convener – Communities, Housing and Public Protection Committee

2. The Role of the Committee

PURPOSE OF COMMITTEE:

To monitor and oversee the delivery of:

- services provided by the Customer Function;
- services provided by the Operations Function (excluding services within the remit of the Net Zero, Environment and Transport Committee and the Education and Children's Services Committee); and
- all other Council housing functions (with the exception of capital building programmes).

To promote the health and wellbeing of the residents of Aberdeen and inclusive, equal communities.

To receive assurance on the statutory and regulatory duties placed on the Council for public protection in relation to:

- Adult Support and Protection;
- Protective Services;
- Civil Contingency responsibilities for local resilience and prevention; and
- Building Control.

To undertake the Council's duties in relation to the Police and Fire and Rescue Services under the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012.

REMIT OF COMMITTEE

1. Service Delivery and Performance

1.1. The Committee will, for the Customer Function, the Operations Function (subject to the exclusions noted above) and the Council housing functions described above:

1.1.1 oversee, and make decisions relating to, service delivery;

1.1.2 approve options to improve/transform service delivery;

1.1.3 scrutinise operational performance and service standards in line with the Performance Management Framework and consider recommendations for improvements where required (including in relation to the Housing Revenue Account);

1.1.4 receive risk registers relative to its remit and scrutinise to ensure assurance of the controls in place;

1.1.5 approve all policies and strategies relative to its remit; and

- 1.1.6 receive reports on inspections and peer reviews in order to ensure best practice and note any actions arising from those inspections and reviews.
- 1.2 In undertaking the aspects at 1.1, the Committee will ensure that it is acting within the budget set by Council and is supporting the delivery of the Council's agreed outcomes, commissioning intentions and service standards.
- 1.3 The Committee may make recommendations to the appropriate Committee(s) or Sub Committee(s) on matters affecting its remit where the authority to approve sits within the remit of another Committee or Sub Committee.
- 1.4 In particular, the Committee will:
 - 1.4.1 consider and determine Asset Transfer Requests made under the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015;
 - 1.4.2 review and oversee the management of council-managed open spaces, and oversee the development and operation of a Community Environmental Improvement Fund;
 - 1.4.3 monitor the work of leased community centres and work with the management committees of these community centres to enhance the important services and activities they provide with their allocated budget; and
 - 1.4.4 monitor the establishment and operation of Citizens' Assemblies, receiving a report on each Assembly meeting (noting that any such Assembly related to Poverty or Inequality comes under the responsibility of the Anti-Poverty and Inequality Committee); and

PUBLIC PROTECTION

- 2. The Committee will receive, amongst other reports relating to the Council's statutory and regulatory duties for public protection, reports:
 - 2.1 providing assurance on the Council's duty to deliver an effective adult justice service as determined by statutory inspections;
 - 2.2 summarising findings from statutory sampling and analysis work carried out by or on behalf of the Environmental Health and Trading Standards services to ensure compliance with required standards;
 - 2.3 providing assurance in respect of the Council's performance in relation to Trading Standards, Environmental Health (including the Public Mortuary) and Scientific Services, including external inspection and audit reports relating to these services;

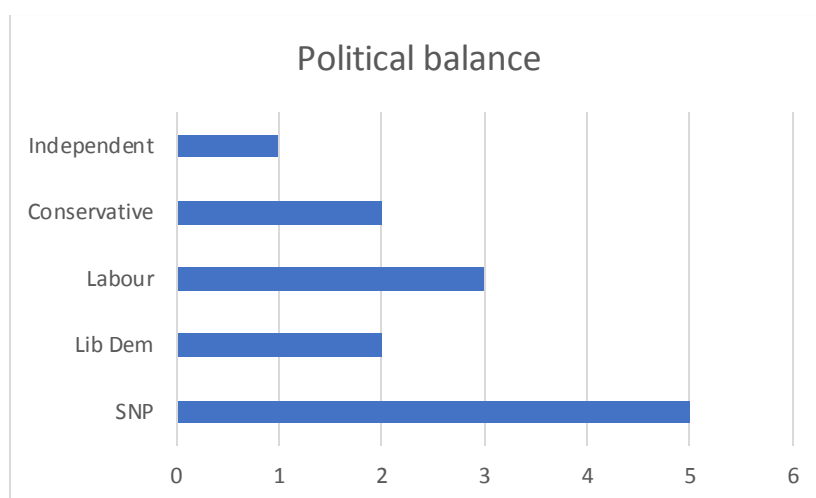
- 2.4 to monitor compliance with the Council’s duties relating to the provision of mortuary facilities and their adequacy for responding to mass fatalities;
- 2.5 on any work taken to tackle underage sales in the city;
- 2.6 on major incidents and fatal accident inquiries and any resulting impact and responsibilities placed on the Council;
- 2.7 outlining activity by Building Standards in relation to public safety and dangerous buildings;
- 2.8 outlining activity by Building Standards in relation to public safety and unauthorised building work and the unauthorised occupation of buildings;
- 2.9 providing assurance from the Adult Protection Committee on the impact and effectiveness of adult support and protection improvement initiatives, including: delivery of national initiatives and local implications;
- learning from learning reviews;
 - quality assurance;
 - training and development;
 - local evidence-based initiatives;
 - effective working on adult protection; and
 - statistics relating to the Adult Protection Register (whilst noting that it has no remit to challenge entries);
- 2.10 relating to the Chief Social Work Officer’s Annual Report insofar as it relates to adult services, for assurance purposes;
- 2.11 on the nature of institutional and systemic discrimination in the City of Aberdeen, and the steps required to eradicate such discrimination;
- 2.12 to monitor compliance with the Council’s duties relating to resilience and local emergencies;
- 2.13 concerning relevant local, regional and national ‘lessons learnt’ reports and recommendations in respect of civil contingency matters and monitor their implementation;
- 2.14 to monitor the Council’s preparedness in relation to the National CONTEST strategy and associated plans relating to Counter Terrorism;
- 2.15 to contribute to and comment on the Strategic Police Plan and the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Strategic Plan when consulted by the relevant national authority, in terms of the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012 and the Fire (Scotland) Act 2005 respectively;

- 2.16 to respond to consultations by the Chief Constable on the designation of local commanders and by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service on the designation of local senior officers;
- 2.17 to be involved in the setting of priorities and objectives, both for the policing of Aberdeen and for the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service in the undertaking of its functions in Aberdeen;
- 2.18 to specify policing measures the Council wishes the local commander to include in a Local Police Plan;
- 2.19 to approve a Local Police Plan submitted by the local commander and approve a Local Fire and Rescue Plan (including a revised plan) submitted by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service;
- 2.20 on police and fire and rescue service provision and delivery in Aberdeen and provide feedback to the local commander and the local senior officer;
- 2.21 to consider reports, statistical information and other information about the policing of Aberdeen and the undertaking of the Fire and Rescue function in Aberdeen provided in response to the Council's reasonable requests;
- 2.22 to agree, with the local commander, modifications to an approved Local Police Plan at any time;
- 2.23 to liaise with the local commander and local senior officer with regard to the undertaking by them of the community planning duties of the Chief Constable and the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service; and
- 2.24 on the establishment and operation of a Road Safety Fund, in order to agree and monitor the implementation of measures funded (note: decisions on transport are reserved to the Net Zero, Environment and Transport Committee).

3. Membership of the Committee during 2022/2023

3.1 The Communities, Housing and Public Protection Committee has 13 members.

3.2 The Committee composition is presented below:-



4. Membership Changes

- Councillor Henrickson replaced Councillor McRae as the Vice Convener in June 2023;
- Councillor Lawrence replaced Councillor Thomson in August 2023;
- Councillor Davidson replaced Councillor Nicoll in June 2023;
- Councillor Cross became a member following the death of Councillor MacKenzie.
- Councillor Tissera became a member in September 2023.

5. Member Attendance

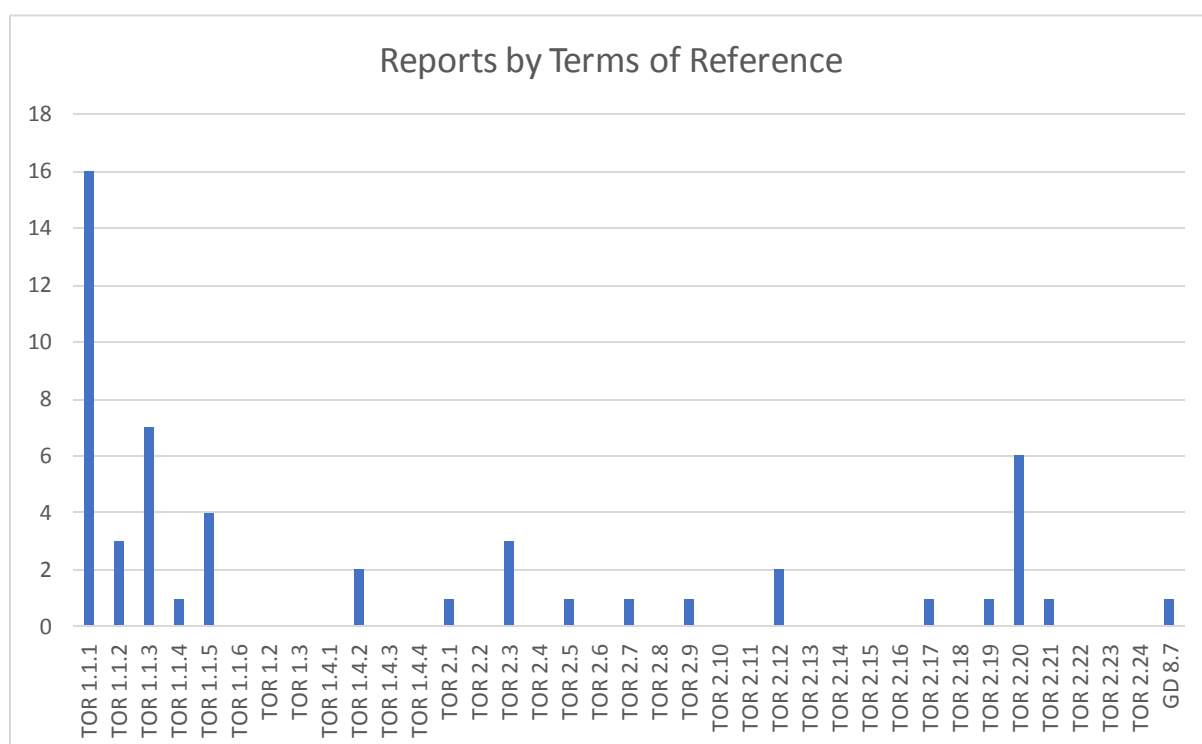
Member	Total Anticipated Attendances	Total Attendances	Substitutions
Councillor Radley	6	6	
Councillor Henrickson	2	2	
Councillor Brooks	6	5	CLlr Kusznr
Councillor Copland	6	6	
Councillor Cross	4	2	CLlrs Houghton and Farquhar
Councillor Davidson	2	2	
Councillor Delaney	6	4	CLlr Bouse for both meetings.
Councillor Graham	6	6	
Councillor Greig	6	5	CLlr Bouse
Councillor Lawrence	1	1	
Councillor McLellan	6	6	
Councillor Mrs Stewart	6	5	No substitute.
Councillor Tissera	1	0	Councillor Macdonald

6. Meeting Content

6.1 During the 2022/2023 reporting period (14 October 2022 to 14 October 2023), the Committee had six meetings and considered a total of 49 reports.

6.2 Terms of Reference

6.2.1 The following chart details how reports aligned to the Terms of Reference (set out at section 2 above) for the Committee.



6.2.2 During the course of 2022/2023 the Committee received reports under most of the main Terms of Reference which indicates that the Committee has discharged its role effectively throughout the course of the reporting period. As is visible from the table, 16 reports fell under TOR 1.1.1, which is to oversee, and make decisions relating to, service delivery. There were also 6 reports which fell under TOR 2.20, which were reports from Scottish Fire and Rescue Service and Police Scotland in relation to service provision and delivery in Aberdeen.

6.2.3 As the committee structure was reviewed in late 2022, very few changes to the Terms of Reference were made following the June 2023 Scheme of Governance review. Any changes made were generally to provide clarity where required and ensure consistency between committees. The new Terms of Reference will continue to be monitored throughout the year, in preparation for the 2024 Scheme of Governance review.

7. Reports and Decisions

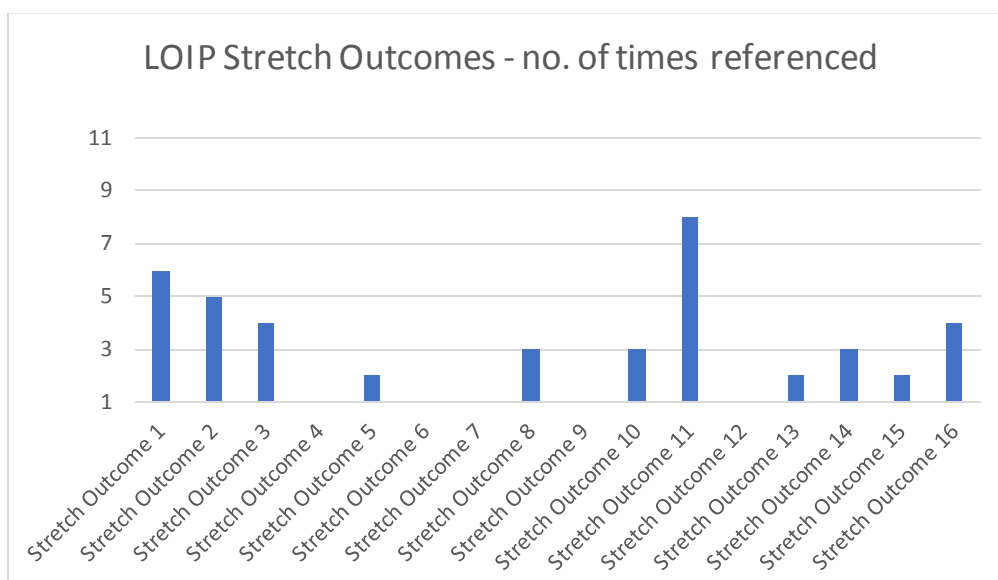
7.1 The following information relates to the committee reports and Notices of Motion presented to Committee throughout the reporting period, as well as the use of Standing Orders and engagement with members of the public.

	Total	Total Percentage of Reports
Confidential Reports	1	2%
Exempt Reports	1	2%
Number of reports where the Committee amended officer recommendations	2	4%
Number of reports approved unanimously	47	95%
Number of reports or service updates requested during the consideration of another report to provide additional assurance and not in business planner	3 Service Updates 1 report requested from Police Scotland	N/A
Number of reports delayed for further information	0	0
Number of times the Convener has had to remind Members about acceptable behaviour in terms of the Code of Conduct	0	0
Late reports received (i.e. reports not available for inspection at least 3 clear days before the meeting)	0	0
Number of referrals to Council under SO 34.1	1	2%

Notices of Motion, Suspension of Standing Orders, Interface with the Public	
Number of Notices of Motion to Committee	4
Number of times Standing Orders suspended	0
Specific Standing Orders suspended	N/A
Number of deputations requested	2
Number of deputations heard	2
Number of petitions considered	0

8. Reports with links to the Local Outcome Improvement Plan

8.1 The following table details, of the 49 reports, how each report linked to the Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP Stretch Outcomes are appended to this report for reference at Appendix 1). As can be seen from the chart below, stretch outcome 11 was referenced in 8 reports, with the aim that healthy life expectancy be five years longer by 2026.



9. Training and Development

9.1 Development opportunities for Members will be considered for next year based on Committee business throughout the year, Executive Lead proposals and Member feedback on what may be required to assist them in performing their roles.

9.2 Service updates were also provided to Members throughout the year to provide additional information on topics which were not reported to Committee or were requested at Committee from Members. These included:-

- Building Standards Service Update
- Void Housing Update
- Protests and Processions
- Water Safety
- Police Scotland – Professional Standards
- Park and Management Rules
- Choice Based Letting.

10. Code of Conduct Declarations and Transparency Statements

- 10.1 No declarations of interest were intimated and one transparency statement was made by a Member during the reporting period. Information in respect of declarations of interest and transparency statements is measured to evidence awareness of the requirements to adhere to the Councillors' Code of Conduct and the responsibility to ensure fair decision-making.

11. Civic Engagement

- 11.1 During the course of the year there has been ongoing consultation with the public in respect of future library provision, as well as rent levels. Consultation is also to be undertaken in regards to city centre multi storey blocks.
- 11.2 Civic engagement is at the forefront of much of the business of the committee, particularly in respect of reports from Police Scotland and the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service and the Council working in partnership with them. Members have engaged with both Police Scotland and Scottish Fire and Rescue Service at meetings, requesting further information or reports to be brought back as necessary.

12. Executive Lead to the Committee – Commentary

- 12.1 Given the nature of the Committee business will often be of interest to the public, it is vital that reports are open and transparent and I am pleased to note that only one report was exempt and one report was confidential, which highlights that the vast majority of business was considered in the public domain.
- 12.2 The Committee will continue to work closely with Police Scotland and Scottish Fire and Rescue Service in order to undertake the Council's role in relation to the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012.
- 12.3 The Committee will also continue to receive assurance on the statutory and regulatory duties placed on the Council for public protection for areas such as Adult Support and Protection, Protective Services, Civil Contingency responsibilities for local resilience and prevention and also Building Control.

13. The Year Ahead

- 13.1 As mentioned above, the 2024 Scheme of Governance review will look at the operation of this Committee over the last 12 months and consider any amendments to Terms of Reference which may be needed.
- 13.2 The business planner sets out a range of pieces of work which are due to come back before Committee in 2024/25 for consideration, namely:-

- Library Provision
- Police Scotland – 12 week pilot review
- City Centre Multi Storey Blocks
- Review of Establishing a Trusted Trader Scheme
- Review of the Aberdeen City Retailers Charter for the Responsible Sale of Tobacco and Vaping Products
- Annual Assurance Report
- Cost Neutral Environmental Enforcement Review
- Resilience Report
- Housing Strategy Report
- Housing Improvement Group
- Modern Slavery

Appendix 1 – Local Outcome Improvement Plan Stretch Outcomes

Economy	
1.	No one will suffer due to poverty by 2026
2.	400 unemployed people supported into fair work by 2026
3.	500 people skilled/ reskilled to enable them to move into, within and between economic opportunities as they arise by 2026
People (Children & Young People)	
4.	95% of children will reach their expected developmental milestones by their 27-30 month review by 2026
5.	90% of children and young people report they feel listened to all of the time by 2026
6.	By meeting the health and emotional wellbeing needs of our care experienced children and young people they will have the same levels of attainment in education and positive destinations as their peers by 2026
7.	95% of children living in our priority neighbourhoods (Quintiles 1 & 2) will sustain a positive destination upon leaving school by 2026
8.	83.5% fewer young people (under 18) charged with an offence by 2026
9.	100% of our children with Additional Support Needs/disabilities will experience a positive destination
People (Adults)	
10.	25% fewer people receiving a first ever Court conviction and 2% fewer people reconvicted within one year by 2026
11.	Healthy life expectancy (time lived in good health) is five years longer by 2026
12.	Rate of harmful levels of alcohol consumption reduced by 4% and drug related deaths lower than Scotland by 2026
Place	
13.	Addressing climate change by reducing Aberdeen's carbon emissions by at least 61% by 2026 and adapting to the impacts of our changing climate

14.	Increase sustainable travel: 38% of people walking and 5% of people cycling as main mode of travel by 2026
15.	Addressing the nature crisis by protecting/ managing 26% of Aberdeen's area for nature by 2026
Community Empowerment	
16.	100% increase in the proportion of citizens who feel able to participate in decisions that help change things for the better by 2026

Education and Children's Services Committee Annual Effectiveness Report 2022/2023



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1. Introduction from Convener

- 1.1 This is the first annual effectiveness report for Aberdeen City Council's Education and Children's Services Committee (ECS). These reports inform the review of the Council's Scheme of Governance. They enable officers to identify any changes that are required, for example, to the Committee Terms of Reference.
- 1.2 The ECS Terms of Reference were considered earlier this year as part of the 2023 Scheme of Governance Review. No changes were made as a result of the 2023 review. The use of the Terms of Reference will be monitored in the coming year in order to continue the review process into 2024.
- 1.3 Over the reporting period, the Committee has worked together in an effective and constructive way. It is important to recognise and appreciate the powerful spirit of cooperation that is shared by everyone involved in the care of young people in the city. Thank you.

Councillor Martin Greig

Convener – Education and Children's Services Committee

2. The Role of the Committee

PURPOSE OF COMMITTEE

To advise on and discharge the Council's functions as:

- an education authority as set out in the Education (Scotland) Act 1980 and all other relevant legislation and regulations where not otherwise delegated; and
- a social work authority as set out in the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968 and all other relevant legislation and regulations where not otherwise delegated, in relation to children.

The Committee will also:

- monitor the delivery of educational services undertaken as education authority (including community learning and development) and children's services provided by Integrated Children's and Family Services;
- receive assurance on the statutory and regulatory duties placed on the Council for Child Protection and Corporate Parenting;
- make recommendations in respect of school property matters to the Finance and Resources Committee;
- scrutinise performance; and
- agree changes such as school zoning arrangements (within set budgets), or make recommendations to another committee, for improvements to functions related to education in order to ensure best value and delivery of the Council's agreed outcomes, commissioning intentions, service specifications and service standards.

REMIT OF COMMITTEE

1. Service Delivery and Performance

1.1 The Committee will, in respect of educational services (early years, schools and community learning and development) and children's services provided by Integrated Children's and Family Services and services delivered within the school estate:-

- 1.1.1 oversee, and make decisions relating to, service delivery (such decisions including those relating to population changes);
- 1.1.2 approve options to improve/transform service delivery relative to the functions of the Council as education authority and social work authority;
- 1.1.3 scrutinise operational performance and service standards in line with the Performance Management Frameworks and consider recommendations for improvements where required;
- 1.1.4 receive the cluster risk registers relative to its remit and scrutinise to ensure assurance of the controls in place;
- 1.1.5 approve all policies and strategies relative to its remit; and
- 1.1.6 receive reports on school inspections and peer reviews in order to ensure best practice and note any resultant improvement actions arising from those inspections and reviews.

- 1.2 In undertaking the aspects at 1.1, the Committee will ensure that it is acting within the budget set by Council and is supporting the delivery of the Council's agreed outcomes, commissioning intentions and service standards.
- 1.3 The Committee may make recommendations to the appropriate committee(s) or sub committee(s) on matters affecting its remit where the authority to approve sits within the remit of another committee or sub committee.

2. Child Protection

The Committee will receive assurance from the Child Protection Committee and the Children's Services Board on:

- 2.1 Services delivered to children and young people in need of care and protection including care experienced young people, including:
 - 2.1.1 delivery of national initiatives and local implications;
 - 2.1.2 learning from learning reviews;
 - 2.1.3 quality assurance;
 - 2.1.4 training and development; and
 - 2.1.5 local evidence-based initiatives;
- 2.2 effective working across child protection; and
- 2.3 statistics relating to the Child Protection Register and children and young people for whom the Council has Corporate Parenting responsibilities, whilst noting that it has no remit to challenge entries.

The Committee will also:

- 2.4 receive assurance on the Council's compliance with statutory duties in respect of child poverty; and
- 2.5 consider the Chief Social Work Officer's Annual Report.

EXTERNAL MEMBERSHIP

3. The Committee's membership will include seven persons who are not members of the Council but who have full membership of the Committee and voting rights in connection with advising on and discharging the functions of the Council as Education Authority only. The seven external members will be appointed by the Council at its statutory meeting (or other meeting as appropriate) as follows:-
 - 3.1 three persons representing religious bodies in accordance with the requirements of s124(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973; and
 - 3.2 in accordance with the discretion conferred by s124(3) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973:

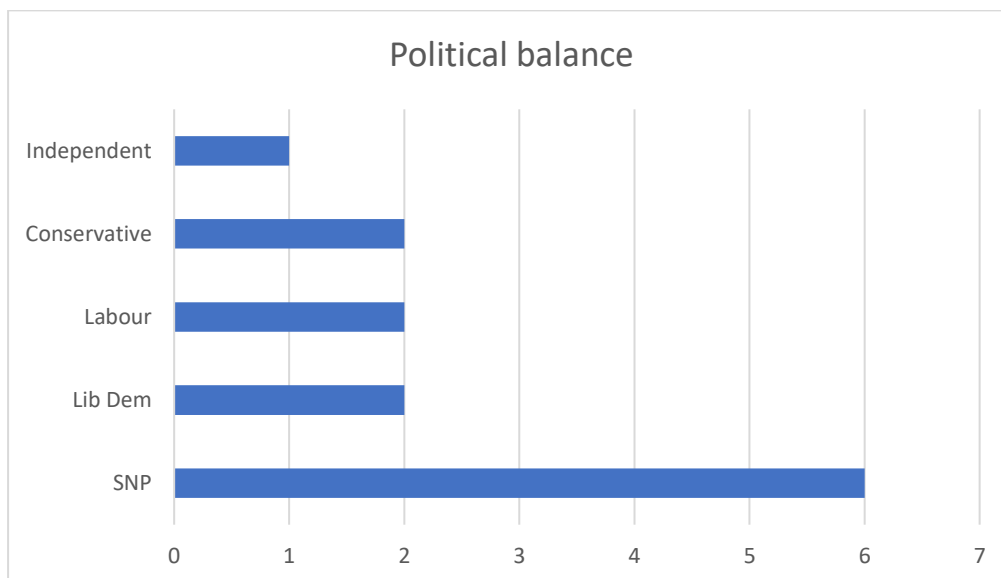
- 3.2.1 two teachers employed in educational establishments managed by the Council and nominated by the Teachers' Consultative Forum, comprising one representative from primary (including nursery) and one representative from secondary; and
- 3.2.2 two parent representatives, selected by the Aberdeen City Parent Council Forum from within its own membership, comprising one representative from primary (including nursery) and one representative from secondary.

Executive Lead: Interim Director of Children's and Family Services

3. Membership of the Committee during 2022/2023

3.1 The Education and Children’s Services Committee has 20 members - 13 Elected Members and 7 External Members.

3.2 The Committee composition is presented below:-



3.3 The Committee has seven External Members (who have full voting rights) as set out below:-

Mrs Frances Cardno	Parent Representative (Primary / ASN)
Mir Michael Crawford	Parent Representative (Secondary/ASN)
Mr John Murray	Roman Catholic Representative
Mr Mike Paul	Teacher Representative (Secondary)
Mr Madhav Regmi	Third Religious Representative
Miss Pamela Scott	Teacher Representative (Primary)
Mrs Hilda Smith	Church of Scotland Representative

4. Membership Changes

- 4.1 Councillor Macdonald was a member of the Committee until the meeting of 24 January 2023, following which Councillor Lawrence joined the Committee. Councillor Lawrence stepped down from the Committee following the meeting of 4 July 2023. Councillor Boulton joined the Committee from the meeting of 12 September 2023.

5. Member Attendance

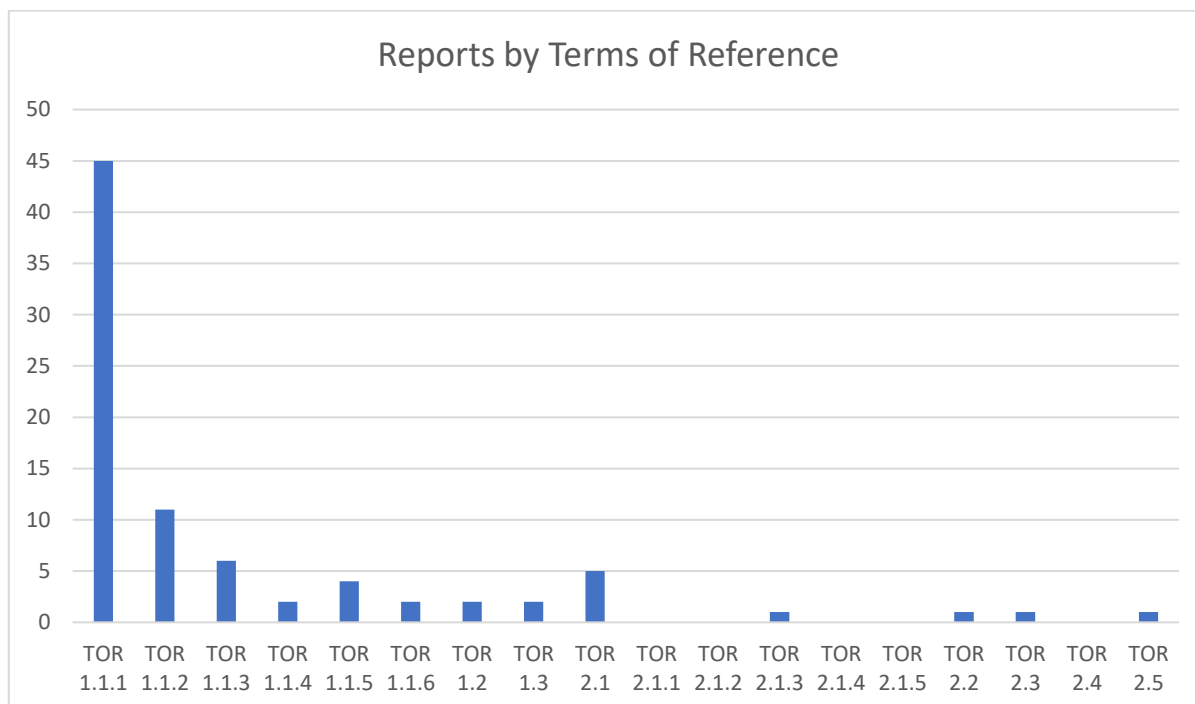
Member	Total Anticipated Attendances	Total Attendances	Substitutions
Councillor Martin Greig	7	7	
Councillor Jessica Mennie	7	7	
Councillor Gill Al-Samarai	7	6	Councillor Alex Nicoll
Councillor Kate Blake	7	7	
Councillor Marie Boulton	1	1	
Councillor Desmond Bouse	7	7	
Councillor Richard Brooks	7	7	
Councillor Hazel Cameron	7	7	
Councillor Ross Grant	7	6	Councillor Gordon Graham
Councillor Graeme Lawrence	4	3	Councillor Barney Crockett
Councillor Sandra Macdonald	2	2	
Councillor Neil MacGregor	7	7	
Councillor Ken McLeod	7	6	Councillor Emma Farquhar
Councillor Miranda Radley	7	7	
Councillor Kairin van Sweeden	7	5	Councillor Derek Davidson Councillor Alex McLellan
Mrs Frances Cardno	7	7	
Mr Michael Crawford	7	6	
Mr John Murray	7	6	
Mr Mike Paul	7	3	
Mr Madhav Regmi	7	6	
Miss Pamela Scott	7	5	Mr Doug Haywood
Mrs Hilda Smith	7	6	

6. Meeting Content

6.1 During the 2022/2023 reporting period (14 October 2022 to 14 October 2023), the Committee had 7 meetings and considered a total of 69 reports.

6.2 Terms of Reference

6.2.1 The following chart details how reports aligned to the Terms of Reference (set out at section 2 above) for the Committee.



6.2.2 During the course of 2022/2023 the Committee received reports under the majority of the main Terms of Reference which indicates that the Committee has discharged its role effectively throughout the course of the reporting period. The majority of reports fell under TOR 1.1.1 – “Oversee, and make decisions relating to, service delivery (such decisions including those relating to population changes)”, which is understandable given the nature of reports presented to Committee this year and the vast amount of work being undertaken by officers to review various aspects of Education and Children’s Services.

6.2.3 It is noted that a number of reports have been listed under more general Terms of Reference, for example, 1.1.1 as set out above, when some of the more specific TOR could have also applied. Officers have undertaken to monitor this next year to ensure that all applicable TOR are reflected. Although there are some TOR which have not been utilised this year, it is not anticipated that these require to be reviewed and altered, as the monitoring work should ensure that they are used in future.

6.2.4 As the committee structure was reviewed in late 2022, very few changes to the Terms of Reference (TOR) were made following the June 2023 Scheme of Governance review,

and no changes were made to the Education and Children’s Services Committee TOR. The new Terms of Reference will continue to be monitored throughout the year, in preparation for the 2024 Scheme of Governance review.

7. Reports and Decisions

7.1 The following information relates to the committee reports and Notices of Motion presented to Committee throughout the reporting period, as well as the use of Standing Orders and engagement with members of the public.

	Total	Total Percentage of Reports
Confidential Reports	0	0%
Exempt Reports	0*	0%
Number of reports where the Committee amended officer recommendations	2	3%
Number of reports approved unanimously	63	96%
Number of reports or service updates requested during the consideration of another report to provide additional assurance and not in business planner	3**	N/A
Number of reports delayed for further information	0	0
Number of times the Convener has had to remind Members about acceptable behaviour in terms of the Code of Conduct	0	N/A
Late reports received (i.e. reports not available for inspection at least 3 clear days before the meeting)	1***	1%
Number of referrals to Council under SO 34.1	0	0

* There were no exempt reports, however there were two exempt appendices – the Newhills and Oldmachar business cases

** Three additional reports were requested – a report on the scope for an evaluation of the Early Learning and Childcare service; a follow-up report on the evaluation of Early Learning and Childcare; and a report back in relation to the MCR Pathways schools and Pupil Equity Funding (PEF) allocation

***The late report was presented to the Special Education and Children’s Services Committee meeting of 30 March 2023, and could not be issued in line with usual deadlines due to an embargo on the inspection report to be considered

Notices of Motion, Suspension of Standing Orders, Interface with the Public	
Number of Notices of Motion to Committee	3*
Number of times Standing Orders suspended	None
Specific Standing Orders suspended	N/A
Number of deputations requested	0
Number of deputations heard	N/A
Number of petitions considered	0

*The three notices of motion to Committee during the reporting period were as follows:-

Urgent Notice of Motion by Convener – Northfield Academy

Urgent Notice of Motion by Councillor Brooks and the Convener – Kingsford School

Urgent Notice of Motion by Convener – Dalguise Adventure Centre

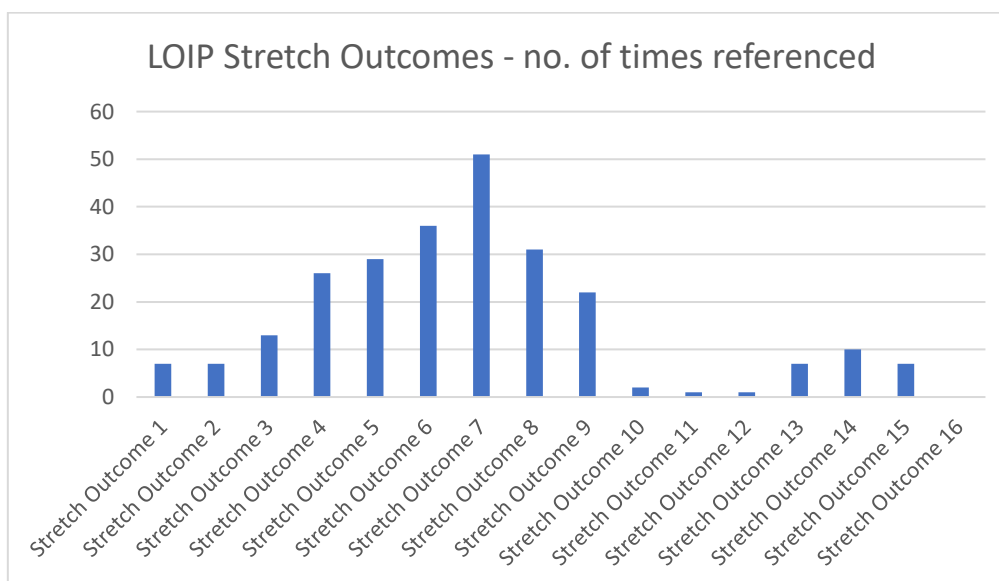
8. Reports with links to the Local Outcome Improvement Plan

- 8.1 The following table details of the 69 reports how each report linked to the Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP Stretch Outcomes are appended to this report for reference at Appendix 1). As can be seen from the chart below, reports to Education and Children’s Services Committee span across all of the Stretch Outcomes, although the greatest number of reports linked to the following, which would be expected for the nature of the business.

Stretch Outcome 6 - By meeting the health and emotional wellbeing needs of our care experienced children and young people they will have the same levels of attainment in education and positive destinations as their peers by 2026.

Stretch Outcome 7 - 95% of children living in our priority neighbourhoods (Quintiles 1 & 2) will sustain a positive destination upon leaving school by 2026.

- 8.2 It is encouraging to see that the Stretch Outcomes have been used so frequently in reports presented, as it demonstrates that the reports are closely tied to meeting the objectives of the Local Outcome Improvement Plan.



9. Training and Development

9.1 Training opportunities for Members during the reporting period were as follows:-

- A workshop on adolescent brain development
- A workshop to explore the findings of the SHINE data
- Integrated Children's Services Plan – briefing
- Child Protection Committee – briefing
- Health and Wellbeing data – briefing
- Invitation to meet with the Northfield Advisory Group
- Briefings were also given to Members at Committee meetings on the Aberdeen Computing Collaborative and ABZCampus
- A demonstration of data reporting / Power BI

9.2 As with previous years, officers have continued to support the Committee's External Members through hosting pre-Committee briefing sessions which enable them to ask officers questions about any aspect of education along with seeking clarity on reports within the committee business planner. This approach has strengthened the role of External Members and encouraged scrutiny through questioning at Committee.

9.3 Further development opportunities will be considered for next year based on Committee business throughout the year, Executive Lead proposals and Member feedback on what may be required to assist them in performing their roles.

10. Code of Conduct Declarations and Transparency Statements

- 10.1 0 declarations of interest and 29 transparency statements were made by Members during the reporting period. Information in respect of declarations of interest and transparency statements is measured to evidence awareness of the requirements to adhere to the Councillors' Code of Conduct and the responsibility to ensure fair decision-making.

11. Civic Engagement

- 11.1 During the reporting period, the Service has engaged in a wide variety of engagement and consultation. The following bullet points list some, but not all, of the engagement undertaken to give a flavour of the work throughout the year.

- An online consultation on the School Estate Plan, aimed at children and young people, was launched.
- Statutory consultation undertaken with the public on proposals to establish a city-wide catchment area for Gaelic Medium Education
- Consultation on 'Let's Talk Scottish Education', undertaken with children, young people, families and wider communities; school communities; Head Teachers; and Committee members and wider stakeholders.
- Consultation with school communities on the Hayward Review to reform qualifications and approaches to assessment
- Engagement with parents and carers in respect of the expansion of Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) and the biannual review of ELC.
- Collaboration with children and young people in relation to how the Council supports and promotes Children's Rights
- Engagement with children and young people and stakeholders for the production of the Integrated Children's Services Plan
- Statutory public consultation on proposals in relation to Greenbrae School / Glashieburn School Catchment Areas and Walker Road School Relocation
- Engagement with young people, staff and the school community following the inspection at Northfield Academy, as well as engagement with staff involved in other inspections
- Regular engagement between officers and the Aberdeen City Parent Forum

- Promotion of the Aberdeen Computing Collective through engagement, curriculum support and professional learning
- Consultation with pupils, parents, staff and partners in relation to the naming of Greyhope School
- Consultation with children and young people, parents and carers, Grampian Regional Equality Council, and staff on the Anti-Bullying Policy
- Consultation and engagement in respect of the Edge of Care Pilot
- Consultation with learners, children’s services staff, voluntary organisations and a range of Council functions on the review of the Accessibility Plan.

12. Executive Lead to the Committee - Commentary

- 12.1 Officers have presented a wide range of reports to the Education and Children’s Services Committee over the year, highlighting the very broad range of work undertaken by Education, Children’s Social Work and most recently by Community Learning and Development.
- 12.2 It has been particularly pleasing to see how areas of work, such as the development of the Music Service, work to support mental health and wellbeing and on-going delivery of The Promise have progressed over successive reports to Committee demonstrating the clear and positive impact of the Education and Children’s Services Committee. Work to address variation in education outcomes remains a key priority with Head Teachers now attending Committee to respond to questions from Members on published HMIe and Care Inspectorate Inspection reports. This is thought to be a very positive step.
- 12.3 Officers continue to respond to feedback from Members of Committee to ensure that reports presented provide information and analysis in a transparent and accessible format. Officers continue to appreciate both the scrutiny and high level of interest in our work with children and young people across the city.

13. The Year Ahead

- 13.1 Although there were no changes to the ECS Terms of Reference in 2023, in accordance with the usual practice of an annual review of the Scheme of Governance, the Terms of Reference will be reviewed and officers will reflect on whether any areas require further refinement moving forward to ensure the continued efficient operation of the Committee.
- 13.2 Aside from the regular annual reports and performance reports received for assurance, a selection of the business for the next year is listed below:-

- Autism Strategy and Action Plan
- A progress report on Keeping the Promise
- An update on the Secure Care Pathway Review inspection
- An update on the Inspection of Regulatory Care Services
- Various business cases and reports as a result of the School Estate Plan
- Continued updates on Education and Children's Services Reforms
- A report back on the impact of the arrangements on evaluations of core Quality Indicators over school session 2023/24
- An update on ABZCampus

Appendix 1 – Local Outcome Improvement Plan Stretch Outcomes

Economy	
1.	No one will suffer due to poverty by 2026
2.	400 unemployed people supported into fair work by 2026
3.	500 people skilled/ reskilled to enable them to move into, within and between economic opportunities as they arise by 2026
People (Children & Young People)	
4.	95% of children will reach their expected developmental milestones by their 27-30 month review by 2026
5.	90% of children and young people report they feel listened to all of the time by 2026
6.	By meeting the health and emotional wellbeing needs of our care experienced children and young people they will have the same levels of attainment in education and positive destinations as their peers by 2026
7.	95% of children living in our priority neighbourhoods (Quintiles 1 & 2) will sustain a positive destination upon leaving school by 2026
8.	83.5% fewer young people (under 18) charged with an offence by 2026
9.	100% of our children with Additional Support Needs/disabilities will experience a positive destination
People (Adults)	
10.	25% fewer people receiving a first ever Court conviction and 2% fewer people reconvicted within one year by 2026
11.	Healthy life expectancy (time lived in good health) is five years longer by 2026
12.	Rate of harmful levels of alcohol consumption reduced by 4% and drug related deaths lower than Scotland by 2026
Place	
13.	Addressing climate change by reducing Aberdeen's carbon emissions by at least 61% by 2026 and adapting to the impacts of our changing climate
14.	Increase sustainable travel: 38% of people walking and 5% of people cycling as main mode of travel by 2026
15.	Addressing the nature crisis by protecting/ managing 26% of Aberdeen's area for nature by 2026
Community Empowerment	
16.	100% increase in the proportion of citizens who feel able to participate in decisions that help change things for the better by 2026

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Finance and Resources Committee Annual Effectiveness Report 2022/2023



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1. Introduction from Convener

- 1.1 The Committee has overseen the approval and progression of a number of the Council's commitments set out in the Council's policy document 'Working in Partnership for Aberdeen'.
- 1.2 This has been done within an incredibly challenging economic environment with finite resources stretched because of high inflation, supply chain volatility, high energy costs and issues caused by Brexit. However, the Committee has maintained an effective scrutiny and monitoring of the financial performance of the Council and in doing so has ensured sound financial management, which has led to an unmodified external audit opinion on our 2022/23 Annual Accounts.
- 1.3 The Committee has also received and reviewed business cases, and continued to make decisions to invest in our city where possible to ensure it is an attractive place to live, work, study or visit. We have approved capital business cases which has ensured projects move forward, including business cases as part of the School Estates Programme, the City Centre Masterplan, the delivery of council housing, as well as monitoring the delivery of the wider capital programme. During the year we also approved the events programme for the City and the roads and property maintenance plans.
- 1.4 The Committee has approved funding awards through a range of schemes, such as the Place Based Investment Programme funded by the Scottish Government, or the UK Shared Prosperity Funding, as well as creating a new fund, the Empty Shop Grant Scheme for Union Street, which remains open to businesses. This has provided money to progress projects in our city.
- 1.5 I would like to thank Officers and members of the Finance and Resources Committee, in particular the Vice-Convener Cllr Ian Yuill, for their contributions over the last year. I would also like to acknowledge that 88% of business was heard in public session allowing for the public to view the business as much as possible.



Councillor Alex McLellan
Convener – Finance and Resources Committee

2. The Role of the Committee

Purpose of the Committee:-

- 2.1 to approve and monitor financial strategies, budgets and financial performance in light of available funding, including the development and delivery of the Council's capital programme as well as monitoring the development of the Local Development Plan.
- 2.2 The Committee will also consider:
 - strategies to support the city's economic growth;
 - additions to the Capital Programme; and
 - recommendations regarding the Council's property and estates portfolio.
- 2.3 The Committee monitors the delivery of all services provided by the Resources Function (with the exception of those within the remit of the Communities, Housing and Public Protection Committee and the Education and Children's Services and the Commissioning Functions). It scrutinises performance and approves options to improve services within those Functions, set budgets to ensure best value and delivery of the Council's agreed outcomes.

Remit of the Committee:-

1. Budgets

The Committee will:

- 1.1 approve recommendations regarding the Council's resources including finance, staffing structures and property; and monitor all Council budgets including all Useable Reserves, and in particular:
 - 1.1.1 scrutinise function budget monitoring reports and make decisions to ensure that Council spending is delivered on budget;
 - 1.1.2 hold budget holders to account for the proper control of the budget for which they are responsible;
 - 1.1.3 approve changes to the budget including vire between function budgets where this is in excess of the amount delegated to officers in the Financial Regulations and Powers Delegated to Officers;
 - 1.1.4 consider and approve Outline and Full Business Cases for projects added to the Capital Programme outwith the budget process;
 - 1.1.5 approve all non-capital programme procurement activity, and capital programme procurement activity, including Procurement Business Cases submitted in accordance with the Procurement Regulations;
 - 1.1.6 approve annual procurement workplans in respect of the Capital Programme;
 - 1.1.7 approve Procurement Business Cases in respect of projects added to the Capital Programme outwith the budget process, submitted in accordance with Procurement Regulations;
 - 1.1.8 approve the allocation of additional funding to, or removal of funding from, existing projects, both capital and revenue;

- 1.1.9 approve the addition of new projects to the Capital Programme outwith the budget process;
- 1.1.10 approve use of the Council's Useable Reserves;
- 1.1.11 monitor the Code of Guidance on Funding External Bodies and Following the Public Pound and take such action as is required to ensure that the Council meets its duties;
- 1.1.12 receive formal credit rating reassessment;
- 1.1.13 approve financial guarantees, including requests received from relevant Admitted Bodies of the Pension Fund;
- 1.1.14 consider numbers and values of Council Tax, Non-Domestic Rates, Housing Benefit overpayments and Rent made unrecoverable, as required in terms of the Financial Regulations, and approve Non-Domestic Rates write-offs;
- 1.1.15 scrutinise the progress and delivery of capital projects against the approved business cases;
- 1.1.16 review progress in the delivery of the benefits of the Capital Programme, including through the receipt and scrutiny of Post Project Evaluations (PPEs) and Post Occupancy Evaluations (POEs); and
- 1.1.17 request a report to allow for the detailed consideration of any project which is of particular concern or interest.

2. Service Delivery

- 2.1 The Committee will, for the Resources Function and the Commissioning Function:-
 - 2.1.1 oversee and make decisions relating to service delivery;
 - 2.1.2 approve options to improve/transform service delivery;
 - 2.1.3 scrutinise operational performance and service standards in line with the Performance Management Framework and consider recommendations for improvements where required;
 - 2.1.4 receive the cluster risk registers relative to its remit and scrutinise to ensure assurance that efficient controls are in place;
 - 2.1.5 approve all policies and strategies relative to its remit; and
 - 2.1.6 receive reports on inspections and peer reviews in order to ensure best practice and note any actions arising from those inspections and reviews.
- 2.2 In undertaking the aspects at 2.1, the Committee will ensure that it is acting within the budget set by Council and overseen by this Committee and in accordance with best value and supporting delivery of the Council's agreed outcomes, commissioning intentions, service specifications and service standards.

3. City Growth and Strategic Place Planning

The Committee will:

- 3.1 approve reports to support the annual re-assessment of the Council's credit rating;

- 3.2 approve the Council’s actions for city growth and place planning except in relation to major infrastructural planning ;
- 3.3 oversee and approve the preparation of the Local Development Plan, subject to final approval thereon being given by Council; and
- 3.4 approve key actions required by the Council to facilitate the delivery of strategies (including partnership strategies) and the Inward Investment Plan to support city growth and place planning.

4. Property and Estates

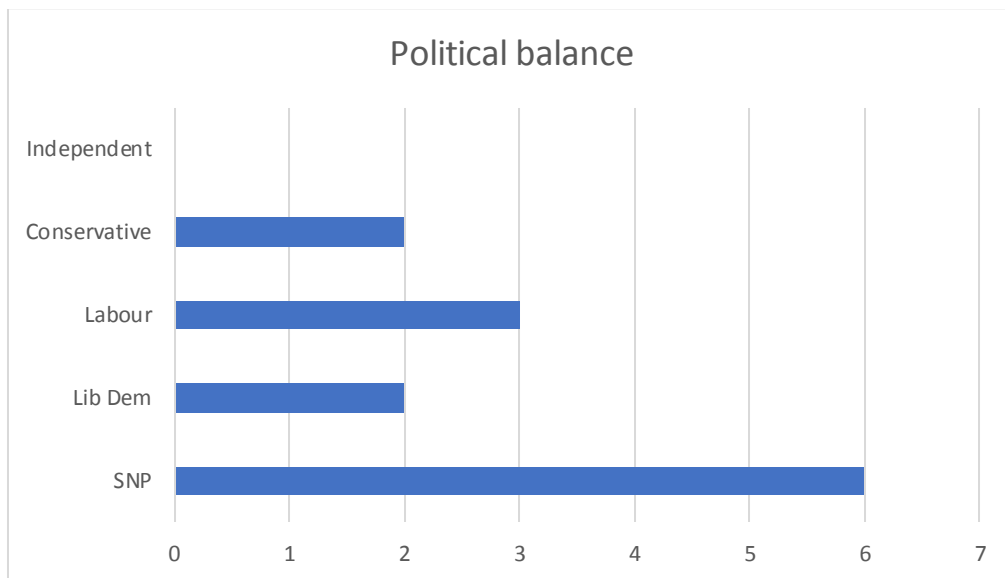
The Committee will:

- 4.1 approve recommendations regarding the Council’s assets, property and estates;
- 4.2 hear and determine requests for review under s86(10) of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 of decisions taken in respect of community asset transfer requests;
- 4.3 approve the procedure for the Community Asset Transfer Review Sub Committee; and
- 4.4 approve the acquisition and disposal of land and property.

3. Membership of the Committee during 2022/2023

3.1 The Finance and Resources Committee has 13 members.

3.2 The Committee composition is presented below:-



4. Membership Changes

- 4.1 There were a number of changes to the membership throughout the reporting period. Councillor Crockett replaced Councillor Grant in May 2023; Councillor Allard replaced Councillor Nicoll in June 2023; Councillor Malik replaced Councillor Crockett also in June 2023; and Councillor Thomson replaced Councillor Macdonald in August 2023.

5. Member Attendance

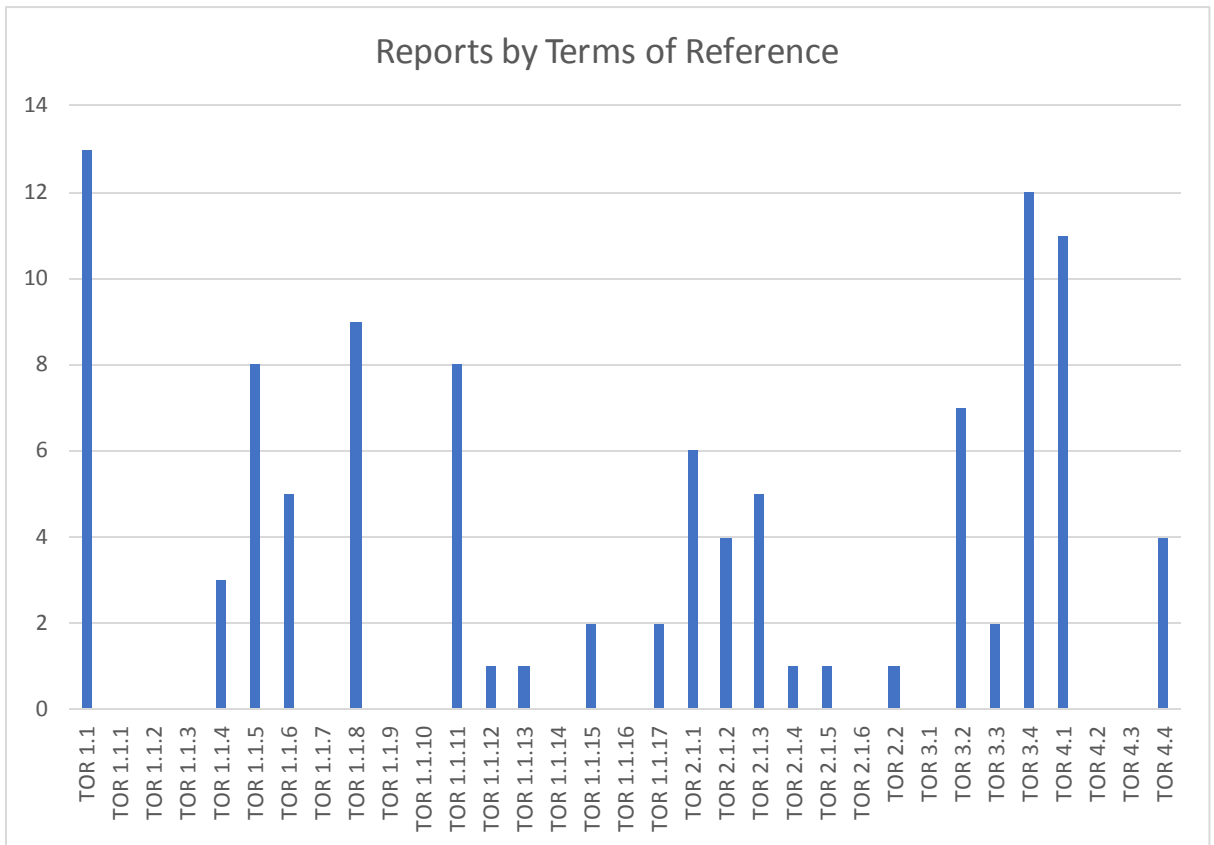
Member	Total Anticipated Attendances	Total Attendances	Substitutions
Councillor McLellan (Conv)	9	9	
Councillor Yuill (VC)	9	8	Cllr Bouse
Councillor Allard	4	4	
Councillor Cooke	9	8	Cllr Van Sweeden
Councillor Crockett	1	1	
Councillor Fairfull	9	9	
Councillor Farquhar	9	9	
Councillor Grant	4	3	Cllr Bonsell
Councillor Greig	9	9	
Councillor Houghton	9	4	Cllrs Massey (4) & Brooks (1)
Councillor Hutchison	9	5	Cllrs Van Sweeden (2) & Al-Samarai (1)
Councillor Macdonald	8	8	
Councillor Malik	4	3	Cllr Tissera
Councillor Nicoll	5	5	
Councillor Radley	9	9	
Councillor Thomson	1	1	
Councillor Watson	9	7	Cllrs Blake & Bonsell/Crockett

6. Meeting Content

- 6.1 During the 2022/2023 reporting period (14 October 2022 to 14 October 2023), the Committee had 8 meetings including 2 Special Meetings and considered a total of 69 reports.

6.2 Terms of Reference

- 6.2.1 The following chart details how reports aligned to the Terms of Reference (set out at section 2 above) for the Committee.



- 6.2.2 During the course of 2022/2023 the Committee received reports under most of the main Terms of Reference which indicates that the Committee has discharged its role effectively throughout the course of the reporting period.
- 6.2.3 As the committee structure was reviewed in late 2022, very few changes to the Terms of Reference were made following the June 2023 Scheme of Governance review. Any changes made were generally to provide clarity where required and ensure consistency between committees. The new Terms of Reference will continue to be monitored throughout the year, in preparation for the 2024 Scheme of Governance review.
- 6.2.4 The majority of reports fell under Terms of Reference 1.1 (approve recommendations regarding the Council’s resources including finance, staffing structures and property; and monitor all Council budgets including all Useable Reserves; 3.4 (approve key actions required by the Council to facilitate the delivery of strategies (including partnership strategies) and the Inward Investment Plan to support city growth and place planning; and 4.1 (approve recommendations regarding the Council’s assets, property and estates).

7. Reports and Decisions

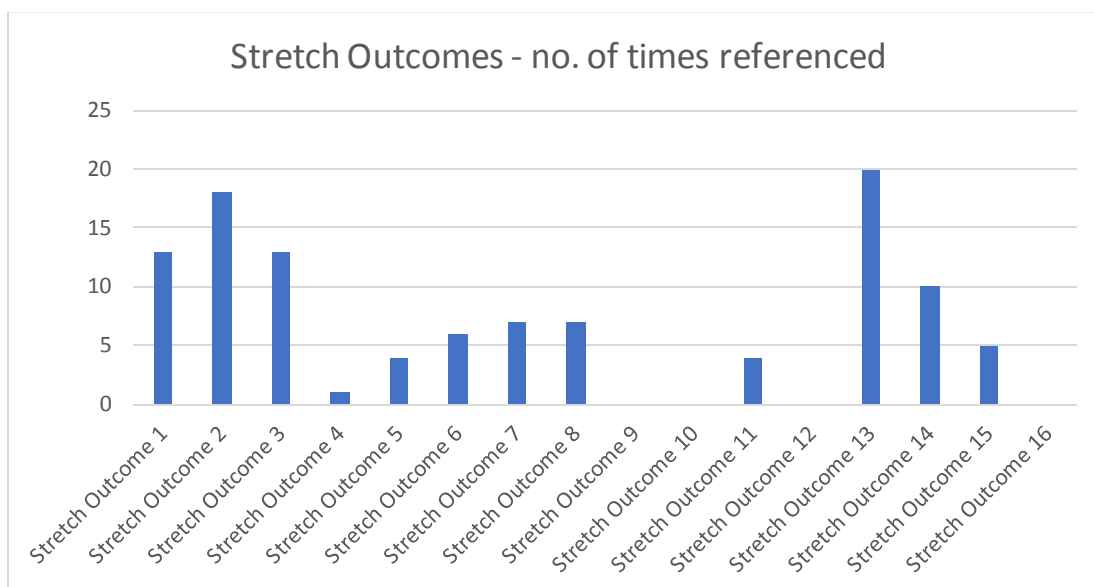
7.1 The following information relates to the committee reports and Notices of Motion presented to Committee throughout the reporting period, as well as the use of Standing Orders and engagement with members of the public.

	Total	Percentage of Total Number of Reports
Confidential Reports	1	1.4%
Exempt Reports	7	10.1%
Number of reports where the Committee amended officer recommendations	0	n/a
Number of reports approved unanimously	53	76.8%
Number of reports or service updates requested during the consideration of another report to provide additional assurance and not in business planner	7	10.1%
Number of reports delayed for further information	1	1.4%
Number of times the Convener has had to remind Members about acceptable behaviour in terms of the Code of Conduct	0	n/a
Late reports received (i.e. reports not available for inspection at least 3 clear days before the meeting)	0	n/a
Number of referrals to Council under SO 34.1	2	2.9%

Notices of Motion, Suspension of Standing Orders, Interface with the Public	
Number of Notices of Motion to Committee	6
Number of times Standing Orders suspended	1
Specific Standing Orders suspended	SO 40.2 (Length of Meetings)
Number of deputations requested	4
Number of deputations heard	2
Number of petitions considered	1

8. Reports with links to the Local Outcome Improvement Plan

- 8.1 The following table details of the 69 reports how each report linked to the Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP Stretch Outcomes are appended to this report for reference at Appendix 1).



9. Training and Development

- 9.1 Training opportunities for Members during the reporting period were limited as a comprehensive training and development programme was put in place for the councillors following the May 2022 elections. This training took place through the first two to three months of the new Council term.
- 9.2 Further development opportunities will be considered for next year based on Committee business throughout the year, Executive Lead proposals and Member feedback on what may be required to assist them in performing their roles.

10. Code of Conduct Declarations and Transparency Statements

- 10.1 Eleven declarations of interest and thirty seven transparency statements were made by Members during the reporting period. Information in respect of declarations of interest and transparency statements is collected to evidence awareness of the requirements to adhere to the Councillors' Code of Conduct and the responsibility to ensure fair decision-making.

11. Civic Engagement

- 11.1 Statutory consultation was undertaken in terms of the Wallace Tower report, specifically as it related to the purchase of Common Good property by way of a

Community Asset Transfer. There was also reference to statutory consultation undertaken in terms of two reports which were presented to the Committee, namely Newhills Additional Primary School Provision and Tillydrone Primary School.

- 11.2 In terms of the preparation of the Events 365 Plan 2023-2026, external consultation was undertaken with EventScotland, Visit Scotland, ASM Global (P&J Live operators), and Visit Aberdeenshire (including Aberdeen Convention and Events Bureau).
- 11.3 There was extensive consultation and engagement undertaken during development and preparation of the City Centre and Beach Masterplans.
- 11.4 In relation to the fourth Aberdeen Local Development Plan the Committee on 5 July 2023, agreed to approve the content of the Development Plan Scheme and Draft Participation Statement (Appendix 1) and instruct the Chief Officer – Strategic Place Planning to, subject to any minor drafting changes, publish the Development Plan Scheme and Draft Participation Statement for an eight-week period of public consultation, seeking comment only upon the Draft Participation Statement; and Instruct the Chief Officer – Strategic Place Planning to report the results of the public consultation and any proposed revisions to the Draft Participation Statement to this Committee on 22 November 2023.
- 11.5 Although not directly related to a report on the Finance and Resources Committee agenda, as it was reported to Full Council (August 2023), budget engagement is relevant to this Committee. The phase 1 budget public consultation feedback that was included in the Medium Term Financial Strategy report was carried out during July 2023. The phase 2 budget consultation exercise went live online on 11 October 2023 and will remain open until 12 November 2023.
- 11.6 Engagement with individual stakeholder organisations happens on a regular basis through the Council’s representation on a number of external boards.

12. Executive Lead to the Committee - Commentary

- 12.1 It was a busy year for the Committee with the statistics indicating, on average, nine reports considered at each meeting, although this is a little understated as two of the Committee meetings were Special meetings for the Quarterly Financial Performance reports, which means that each regular meeting of the Committee considered on average eleven reports. Often a considerable commitment in time for both Members and officers, following changes to the Scheme of Governance one of the meetings was adjourned and reconvened the next day, to facilitate the completion of Committee business.
- 12.2 Committee business has been varied, covering subjects as diverse as planning for the City’s events programme, to the approval of the Joint Procurement Strategy, which is shared with Aberdeenshire Council and The Highland Council. Regular monitoring of key Council measures, including financial performance, capital programme progress and approval of programmes of work for fleet and property investment was all

undertaken during the year. During the period the Committee approved the purchase and disposal of land and properties.

- 12.3 The Committee approved funding awards under the Place Based Investment programme, UK Shared Prosperity Funding, and approved the Empty Shop Grant Scheme for Union Street. Further approval of Capital business cases ensured that projects moved forward through the business case process, with the Committee overseeing progress being made in the City Centre Masterplan, the Beach Masterplan and the Council Housing programme.
- 12.4 The committee engaged with the public, with direct access to speak to the Committee being taken up by deputations on the City Centre Masterplan and also by petitioners in respect of possibility of exercise equipment being deployed in the Duthie Park.
- 12.5 A substantial amount of business was undertaken in public (88% of reports), which assists in maintaining transparency in the democratic process. Given the nature of the Committee and specifically the financial nature of some of the subjects there was a proportion of business conducted in private. Exempt and confidential reports are only used where they meet the legal definitions set out in the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1973 (Schedule 7A). Where appropriate reports have been split so that exempt information is considered separately from information that can be included in a public report.
- 12.6 Compliance with London Stock Exchange (LSE) reporting requirements have been maintained throughout the year, notice being given to the LSE ahead of Quarterly financial reports being published for the Committee.
- 12.7 As a committee of thirteen Members it is noted that a small number of changes in membership were made during the period. Seventeen different Members sat on the Committee in the year, most attended all the meetings they were invited to attend, and fourteen out of seventeen Members missing no more than a single meeting. In each case of absence a substitute Member was provided. This provides evidence of strong continuity in the membership of the Committee with Members rarely being absent enabling knowledge to build up over time to assist in the effective operation of the Committee.
- 12.8 In general, Committee business has resulted in decisions being agreed unanimously, with 77% of the reports in the period being agreed together.
- 12.9 Giving due consideration and making fully informed decisions are founded upon having access to reports in line with the approved Scheme of Governance. In pursuit of this late reports are not helpful and it is welcome to see that no reports were issued without sufficient time to provide 3 clear days notice prior to the meeting.

13. The Year Ahead

- 13.1 On 1 March 2023 the Council approved budgets for financial year 2023/24, and on 6 March 2024 will approve budgets for financial year 2024/25. In order to effectively and efficiently monitor the progress of the budget and the forecast for the year a continued emphasis will be placed on presenting comprehensive quarterly reports approx. one month after the quarter end.
- 13.2 Regular reporting on the progress of the Capital Programme is another feature of the Committee going forward, and decisions will have to be taken by the Committee as Capital project business cases are presented at the various stages of the green-book business case model.
- 13.3 The Business Planner shows a focus on Strategic Place Planning, City Growth, Capital and Resources. The Committee expects to receive reports on the City Centre and Beach Masterplanning work; the condition and suitability of Council buildings/properties; Invest Aberdeen; the UK Shared Prosperity Fund; and the Medium-Term Financial Strategy. Regular reports on performance, quarterly financial monitoring reports and an update on the Credit Rating annual review will also be prepared for the Committee.
- 13.4 Council on 14 June 2023 approved the latest Scheme of Governance, including Committee Terms of Reference and a further review will be reported to Council in 2024. Throughout the next reporting year, we will review the Terms of Reference in line with the business submitted to the Committee and reflect on whether any areas require refinement moving forward to ensure the efficient operation of the Committee.

Appendix 1 – Local Outcome Improvement Plan Stretch Outcomes

Economy	
1.	No one will suffer due to poverty by 2026
2.	400 unemployed people supported into fair work
3.	500 people skilled/ reskilled
People (Children & Young People)	
4.	95% of children will reach their expected developmental milestones
5.	90% of children and young people will report that their experiences of mental health and wellbeing have been listened to
6.	95% of care experienced children and young people will have the same levels of attainment in education, health and emotional wellbeing, and positive destinations as their peers
7.	95% of children living in our priority neighbourhoods will sustain a positive destination upon leaving school
8.	Child friendly city where all decisions which impact on children and young people are informed by them
9.	30% fewer young people (under 18) charged with an offence
People (Adults)	
10.	25% fewer people receiving a first ever Court conviction and 2% fewer people reconvicted within one year
11.	Healthy life expectancy (time lived in good health) is 5 years longer
12.	Rate of harmful levels of alcohol consumption reduced by 4% and drug related deaths lower than Scotland
Place	
13.	Addressing climate change by reducing Aberdeen's carbon emissions by at least 61% and adapting to the impacts of our changing climate
14.	Increase sustainable travel: 38% of people walking and 5% of people cycling as main mode of travel
15.	Addressing the nature crisis by protecting/ managing 26% of Aberdeen's area for nature by 2026
Community Empowerment	
16.	100% increase in the proportion of citizens who feel able to participate in decisions that help change things for the better by 2026

Audit, Risk and Scrutiny Committee Annual Effectiveness Report 2022/2023



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1. Introduction from Convener

- 1.1 I am pleased to present the annual effectiveness report for the Audit, Risk and Scrutiny Committee. The annual effectiveness reports have been in place since 2017, following a recommendation made by CIPFA in their review of the Council's governance arrangements, namely that Committees review the extent to which they had operated within their Terms of Reference, through an annual report. The annual effectiveness report represents good practice in governance and also informs the annual review of the Council's Scheme of Governance, enabling officers to identify if any changes are required, for example, to the Committee Terms of Reference.
- 1.2 As we look forward as an organisation, it is essential that Council has confidence in the way it scrutinises its business. As Convener of Audit, Risk and Scrutiny, it is incumbent upon me to ensure that we receive assurance from management, internal audit, and external audit on the effectiveness of our systems, particularly where there is any risk of weakness in our controls. This will allow the Council to learn lessons from previous control failures.
- 1.3 I want to see the Council make better use of the Committee to improve council services and I would like the public to have confidence that we will do so. The Committee has overseen a reduction in the number of overdue internal audit recommendations this year and has worked closely with the Chief Internal Auditor to complete their internal audit plan, which will bring about improvements in our services. I look forward to receiving the Internal Audit Plan for 2024/25 in February, alongside our Risk Appetite Statement. Both are key tools for us to have confidence in our system of risk management.
- 1.4 Finally, I have instructed a management assurance report to the February meeting of the Committee on the Council's compliance with the requirements under the Equalities Act 2010 to meet our Public Sector Equality Duty. It is then the role of our auditors to undertake their own scrutiny through internal and external reports. Together, these will help us to understand the extent of any control weaknesses in relation to the closing of libraries and Bucksburn pool, and provide assurance to that we are transparent about lessons to be learned as a result.



Councillor M. Tauqeer Malik
Convener – Audit, Risk and Scrutiny Committee

2. The Role of the Committee

Purpose of the Committee

To ensure that the Council has robust arrangements for:

- Good governance including information governance, surveillance, fraud, bribery and corruption;
- Maintaining an effective control environment through an effective approach to risk management; and
- Reporting on financial and performance reporting.

The Committee also monitor the effectiveness of the Internal Audit function and the Council's implementation of its recommendations, as well as the implementation of the recommendations of its external auditors.

Remit of the Committee

1. Risk Management

The Committee will ensure the effectiveness of the Council's risk management system and will:

- 1.1 receive an annual review of the system of risk management and an annual report on the corporate risk register and related action plans;
- 1.2 receive assurance that services are maintaining and reviewing Business Continuity Plans in accordance with the priorities allocated to them;
- 1.3 monitor the implementation of the Council's ALEO Assurance Framework by receiving reports from the ALEO Assurance Hub on the monitoring and mitigation of risks to the Council associated with its ALEOs;
- 1.4 receive an annual report in respect of the Council's information governance; and
- 1.5 approve all relevant policies.

2. Internal Audit

The Committee will:

- 2.1 approve the Internal Audit Annual Plan;
- 2.2 consider reports prepared by Internal Audit (with the exception of reports related to Pensions);
- 2.3 monitor compliance with Internal Audit recommendations (with the exception of reports related to Pensions); and
- 2.4 monitor the performance of Internal Audit.

3. External Audit

The Committee will:

- 3.1 consider reports prepared by the Council's External Auditor;
- 3.2 monitor the Council's relationship with the External Auditor;
- 3.3 receive reports from the Local Area Network; and
- 3.4 monitor compliance with External Audit recommendations.

4. Governance, Accounts and Finance

The Committee will:

- 4.1 approve the Council's Annual Report and Annual Accounts;
- 4.2 approve the annual governance statement;
- 4.3 approve and monitor the Council's Code of Corporate Governance and approve such action as appropriate; and
- 4.4 monitor the integrity of financial reporting, and governance processes and internal control functions and approve such action as appropriate.

5. Legal obligations

The Committee will:

- 5.1 consider reports in respect of the whistle blowing policy; and
- 5.2 monitor the Council's compliance with its statutory obligations relating to surveillance, information governance, bribery, corruption and fraud, including the approval of all relevant policies.

6. Scrutiny

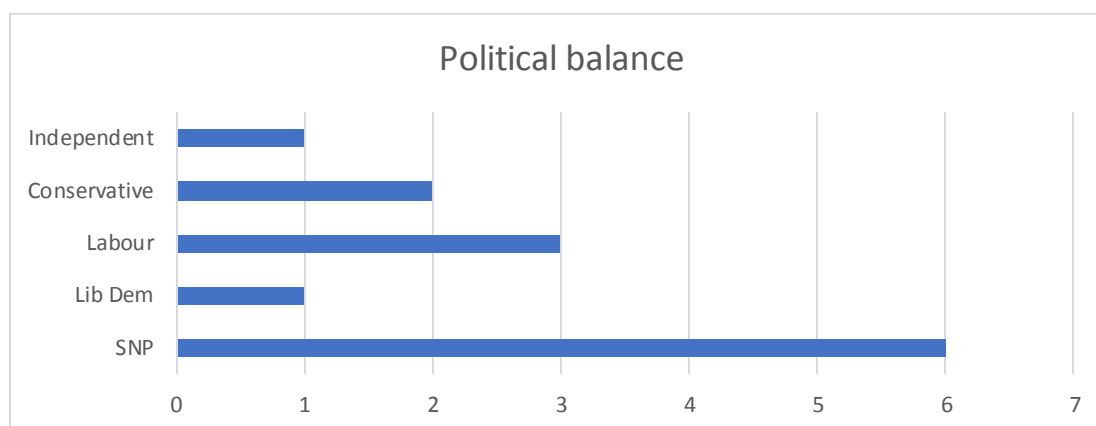
The Committee will:

- 6.1 once a matter, process or practice has been the subject of a report to Council or committee (including internal and external audits) and the consideration of the matter concluded by Council or said committee action (with the exception of quasi judicial matters and the Appeals, Business Rates Appeals and Community Asset Transfer Review Sub Committees), the committee, to ensure good practice, can determine that further consideration is required. It will not prevent, or alter, any decision being taken and will only review the effectiveness of decision making, or monitoring and may make recommendations to the relevant committee or Council;
- 6.2 on occasion, where appropriate and as it sees fit, seek information from partner organisations, contractors or other stakeholders such as Community Councils or groups of interest on any particular issue;
- 6.3 request, where appropriate and in terms of any contract or agreement, representatives of external organisations to attend and contribute to meetings; and
- 6.4 receive reports from regulatory bodies and those providing external assurance such as the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman and Inspector of Crematoria, ensure that the Council responds appropriately and monitor compliance with recommendations.

3. Membership of the Committee during 2022/2023

3.1 Audit, Risk and Scrutiny Committee has 13 members.

3.2 The Committee composition is presented below:-



4. Membership Changes

4.1 Councillor Macdonald was appointed as the Convener of the Committee until 22 February 2023.

4.2 Councillor Crockett was appointed as the Convener of the Committee from 22 February until 27 June 2023 however due to Cllr Crockett's resignation from the Labour Group, Cllr Malik became Convener a day earlier than had been anticipated.

4.3 Councillor Malik was appointed as the Convener of the Committee officially from 28 June 2023 however was voted as Convener for the meeting on 27 June 2023.

4.4 Councillor Nicoll was replaced by Councillor McRae from the 11 May 2023 Committee.

4.5 Councillor Ali was replaced by Councillor Graham from the 14 September 2023 Committee.

5. Member Attendance

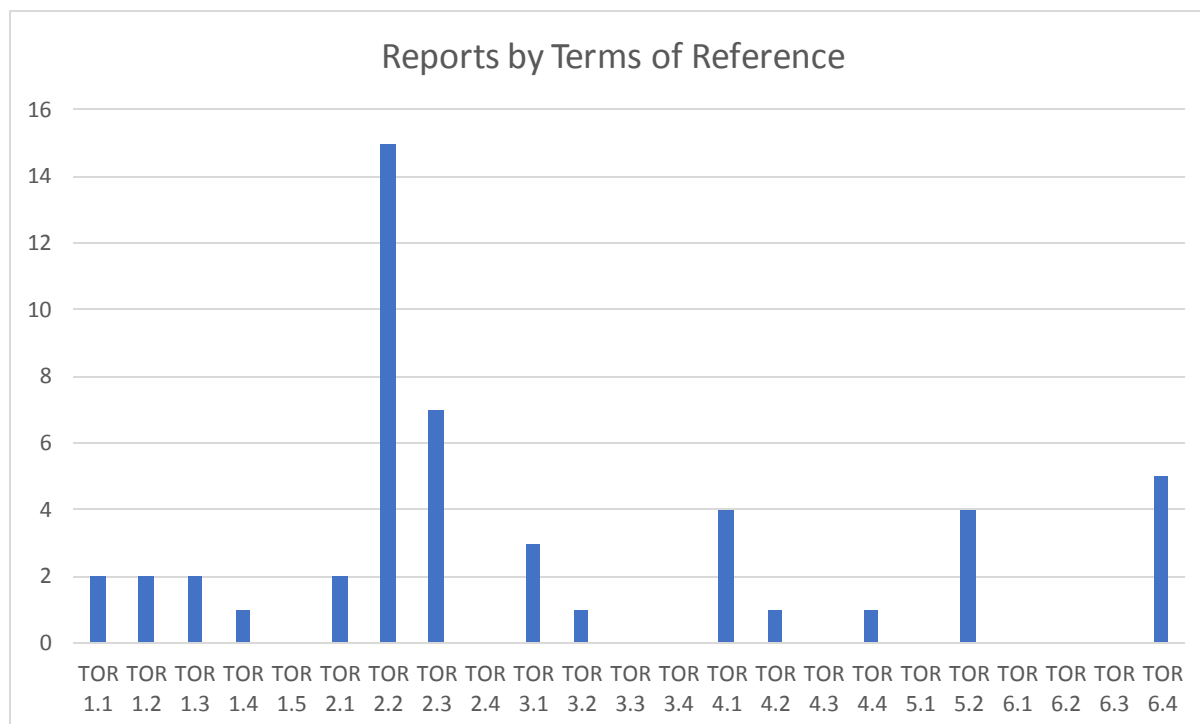
Member	Total Anticipated Attendances	Total Attendances	Substitutions
Councillor Macdonald	2	2	
Councillor Crockett	2	2	
Councillor Malik	3	3	
Councillor Houghton	7	4	Councillors Farquhar and Kusznir
Councillor Ali	6	6	
Councillor Allard	7	6	Councillor MacGregor
Councillor Bonsell	7	7	
Councillor Bouse	7	6	Councillor Yuill
Councillor Fairfull	7	7	
Councillor Graham	1	1	
Councillor McLellan	7	6	Councillor Copland
Councillor McRae	3	2	Councillor Henrickson
Councillor Massey	7	6	Councillor Farquhar
Councillor Nicoll	4	4	
Councillor Radley	7	6	Councillor Al-Samarai
Councillor Mrs Stewart	7	6	Councillor Crockett
Councillor van Sweeden	7	5	Councillors Yuill and Hutchison

6. Meeting Content

6.1 During the 2022/2023 reporting period (14 October 2022 to 14 October 2023), the Committee had seven meetings and considered a total of 50 reports.

6.2 Terms of Reference

6.2.1 The following chart details how reports aligned to the Terms of Reference (set out at section 2 above) for the Committee.



6.2.2 During the course of 2022/2023 the Committee received reports under the main Terms of Reference which indicates that the Committee has discharged its role effectively throughout the course of the reporting period.

6.2.3 Following the June 2023 Scheme of Governance review, one change was made to the Committee Term's of Reference which was to incorporate reporting on Business Continuity Planning. This was previously reported to the Public Protection Committee.

6.2.4 The majority of reports fell under Terms of Reference 2.2, which were the Internal Audit reports presented by the Chief Internal Auditor. These reports provide independent and objective assurance on the Council's risk management, control and governance processes across all of its functions.

6.2.5 There were no reports under Terms of Reference 1.5, 2.4, 3.3, 3.4, 4.3, 5.1, 6.1, 6.2 or 6.3 as there was no cause to report on these or reporting was incorporated in other reports. On 2.4, internal audit performance is included in the Chief Internal Auditor's progress report. On 3.3 (Local Area Network), Committee was advised that these reports are no longer produced and as such the terms of reference will be amended within the next Scheme of Governance review. On 3.4, external audit recommendations are monitored via the Annual Governance Statement. On 4.3, this

is now incorporated into the Scheme of Governance, so will also be removed from the terms of reference.

7. Reports and Decisions

- 7.1 The following information relates to the committee reports and Notices of Motion presented to Committee throughout the reporting period, as well as the use of Standing Orders and engagement with members of the public.
- 7.2 During the reporting period there was one report was voted on and referred to Council which is the first time in the Committee's operation.

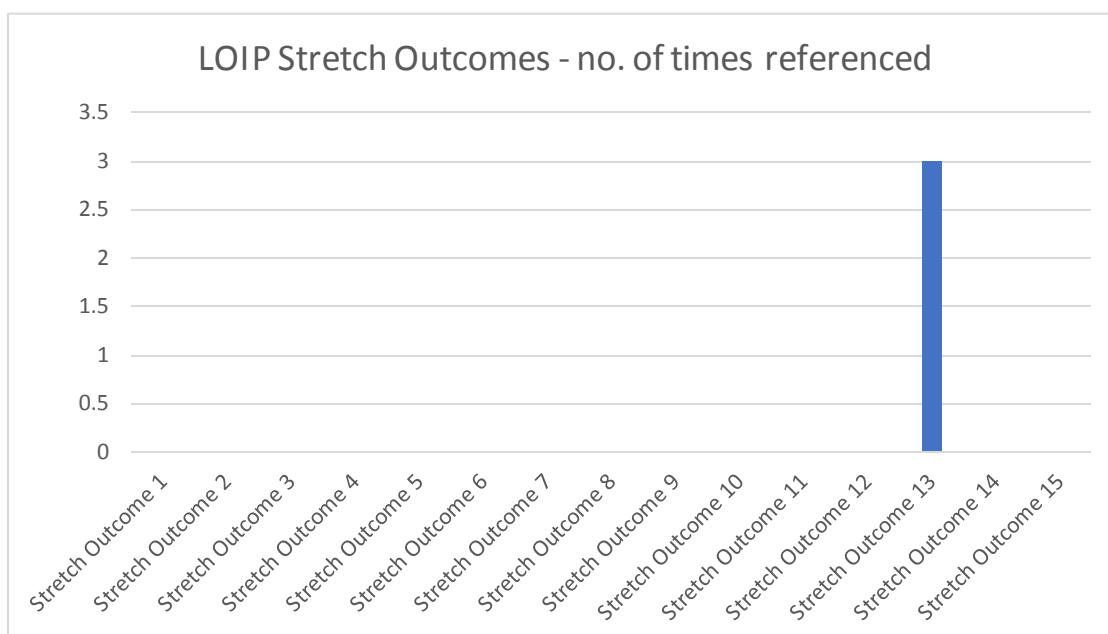
	Total	Total Percentage of Reports
Confidential Reports	0	
Exempt Reports	0	
Number of reports where the Committee amended officer recommendations		
Number of reports approved unanimously	49	98%
Number of reports or service updates requested during the consideration of another report to provide additional assurance and not in business planner	0	
Number of reports delayed for further information	0	
Number of times the Convener has had to remind Members about acceptable behaviour in terms of the Code of Conduct	0	N/A
Late reports received (i.e. reports not available for inspection at least 3 clear days before the meeting)	0	
Number of referrals to Council under SO 34.1	1	

Notices of Motion, Suspension of Standing Orders, Interface with the Public	
Number of Notices of Motion to Committee	None
Number of times Standing Orders suspended	None
Specific Standing Orders suspended	Not applicable
Number of deputations requested	None
Number of deputations heard	Not applicable
Number of petitions considered	None

8. Reports with links to the Local Outcome Improvement Plan

- 8.1 The following table details of the 50 reports how each report linked to the Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP Stretch Outcomes are appended to this report for reference at Appendix 1). As can be seen from the chart below only one stretch outcome has been referenced.

- 8.2 It should be noted that the stretch outcome selected should be number 1 rather than 13. The reports that reference the stretch outcome refer to the Scottish Welfare Fund which would contribute to the reduction of poverty.



9. Training and Development

- 9.1 Training opportunities for Members during the reporting period were as follows:-
- Convener training on the role of the Committee 2 March 2023 and 10 July 2023
 - Internal Audit reporting methodology on 13 December 2023
- 9.2 Further development opportunities will be considered for next year based on Committee business throughout the year, Executive Lead proposals and Member feedback on what may be required to assist them in performing their roles. In particular, training on “How to Scrutinise” is planned for committee members.

10. Code of Conduct Declarations and Transparency Statements

- 10.1 There were no declarations of interest and seven transparency statements were made by Members during the reporting period. Information in respect of declarations of interest and transparency statements is measured to evidence awareness of the requirements to adhere to the Councillors’ Code of Conduct and the responsibility to ensure fair decision-making.

11. Civic Engagement

- 11.1 Due to the nature of the Audit, Risk and Scrutiny Committee business, there are fewer opportunities for civic engagement, however if appropriate, elements of civic engagement would be introduced.
- 11.2 The committee’s focus, by its very nature, has largely been on monitoring the Council’s control environment through compliance with the Council’s governance framework. It’s focus is on the risks to the organisation rather than focus on the risks to the place of Aberdeen. Nonetheless, it has worked in partnership with outside bodies such as the

Council's Arm's Length External Organisations (ALEOs) through the ALEO Assurance Hub and external audit.

12. Executive Lead to the Committee - Commentary

- 12.1 A robust governance framework supported by an effective control environment provides the necessary platform for the Council to be a success. The Audit, Risk and Scrutiny Committee plays a key role by ensuring that the Council's governance arrangements remain appropriate and adhered to. It is noted that members robustly challenge and scrutinise management with a clear focus on the communities and citizens they represent, in respect of governance, process and matters presented for decision.
- 11.2 The committee approved the revised Risk Appetite Statement. The statement is a key element to the Council's Risk Management Framework and will allow the organisation to establish and embed the culture required to become a 'risk intelligent organisation.' It provides staff and members with guidance on the types and levels of risk the Council is willing to accept in the pursuit of its strategic outcomes.
- 11.3 The total number of recommendations made by the Council's internal audit team was as follows:
- 2019-20: 218
 - 2020-21: 114
 - 2021-22: 104
 - 2022-23: 148
- 11.4 The total number of outstanding recommendations was as follows:
- March 2020: 67
 - March 2021: 37
 - March 2022: 17
 - March 2023: 23

13. The Year Ahead

- 13.1 The Committee's terms of reference were adjusted in March 2023 to incorporate reporting on Business Continuity Planning, which had previously reported to the Public Protection Committee. In accordance with the usual practice of an annual review of the Scheme of Governance, the Terms of Reference will be reviewed and officers will reflect on whether any areas require further refinement moving forward to ensure the continued efficient operation of the Committee. Two are noted at paragraph 6.2.5 above.
- 13.2 The Committee will continue to receive reports from the Chief Internal Auditor in relation to the approved Internal Audit Plan.

Appendix 1 – Local Outcome Improvement Plan Stretch Outcomes

Economy	
1.	No one will suffer due to poverty by 2026
2.	400 unemployed people supported into fair work by 2026
3.	500 people skilled/ reskilled to enable them to move into, within and between economic opportunities as they arise by 2026
People (Children & Young People)	
4.	95% of children will reach their expected developmental milestones by their 27-30 month review by 2026
5.	90% of children and young people report they feel listened to all of the time by 2026
6.	By meeting the health and emotional wellbeing needs of our care experienced children and young people they will have the same levels of attainment in education and positive destinations as their peers by 2026
7.	95% of children living in our priority neighbourhoods (Quintiles 1 & 2) will sustain a positive destination upon leaving school by 2026
8.	83.5% fewer young people (under 18) charged with an offence by 2026
9.	100% of our children with Additional Support Needs/disabilities will experience a positive destination
People (Adults)	
10.	25% fewer people receiving a first ever Court conviction and 2% fewer people reconvicted within one year by 2026
11.	Healthy life expectancy (time lived in good health) is five years longer by 2026
12.	Rate of harmful levels of alcohol consumption reduced by 4% and drug related deaths lower than Scotland by 2026
Place	
13.	Addressing climate change by reducing Aberdeen's carbon emissions by at least 61% by 2026 and adapting to the impacts of our changing climate
14.	Increase sustainable travel: 38% of people walking and 5% of people cycling as main mode of travel by 2026
15.	Addressing the nature crisis by protecting/ managing 26% of Aberdeen's area for nature by 2026
Community Empowerment	
16.	100% increase in the proportion of citizens who feel able to participate in decisions that help change things for the better by 2026

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Licensing Committee Annual Effectiveness Report 2022/2023



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1. Introduction from Convener

- 1.1 It is with great pleasure I present the fourth annual effectiveness report for the Licensing Committee. This annual report is a good mechanism for the Committee to reflect on the business of the Committee over the past year.
- 1.2 In terms of the business over the last year, the Committee has managed to work on line and in person, working collectively to ensure that its decision-making process was open and transparent, and all parties treated fairly and equally. It was also encouraging to see the responses to the public consultations as a result of greater use of all media channels.
- 1.3 The Committee has also been proactive in reviewing Policy and seeking assurance that it was operating in accordance with legislation and best practice and I am confident that this will continue into the year ahead.



Councillor Gill Al-Samarai
Convener – Licensing Committee

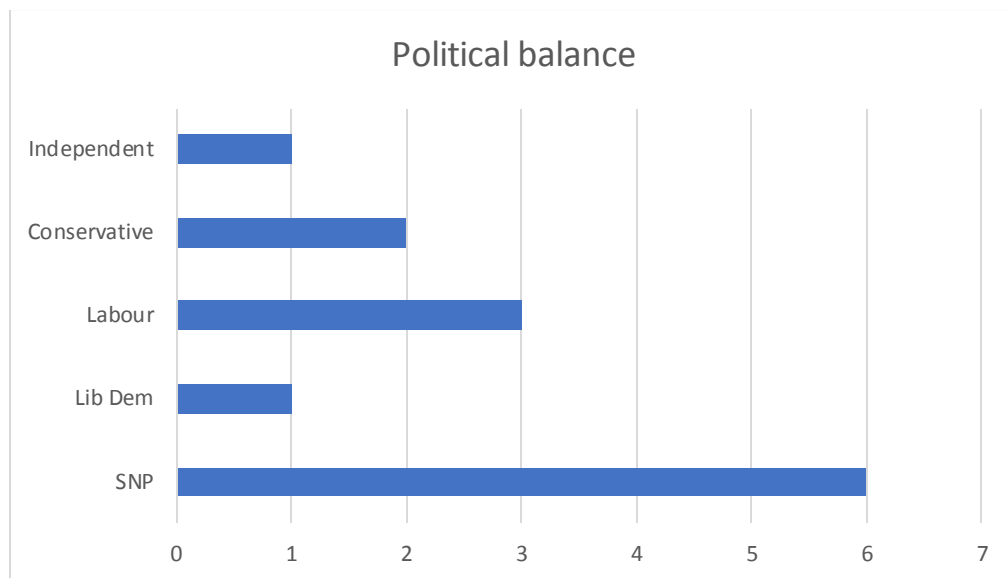
2. The Role of the Committee

- 2.1 The Purpose of the Licensing Committee is to deal with the functions of the Council in relation to all licensing matters under the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 and all other Acts (not falling specifically within the remit of the Licensing Board or any other Committee) covering personal or other licences, certificates and permits. This includes but is not restricted to applications for Mandatory and Discretionary Licences under Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982; and Miscellaneous Licences under other Legislation.
- 2.2 The Remit of the Committee is as follows:-
1. determine applications for the grant, renewal, revocation, variation or suspension of any licence as appropriate;
 2. determine applications and reviews for Houses in Multiple Occupation under the Housing (Scotland) Act 2006 (the responsibility for all other matters relating to the licensing of Houses in Multiple Occupation resting with the Communities, Housing and Public Protection Committee);
 3. determine all other matters relating to licensing including the setting of taxi fares and the designation of taxi stances;
 4. approve and monitor the Council's functions under the Safety of Sports Grounds Act 1975;
 5. determine landlord registration applications under the Antisocial Behaviour Etc (Scotland) Act 2004;
 6. determine film classifications under the Cinemas Act 1985;
 7. determine theatre licences under the Theatres Act 1968; and
 8. determine which of the optional licences they will invoke and which categories of activity within those licence categories shall be licenced under the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982.

3. Membership of the Committee during 2022/2023

3.1 The Licensing Committee has 13 members.

3.2 The Committee composition is presented below:-



4. Membership Changes

- 4.1 There were a number of changes to the membership throughout the reporting period. Councillor Malik replaced Councillor Crockett on 27 June 2023 and Councillors Ali, Grant and Lawrence replaced Councillors Graham, Malik and Tissera from 29 August 2023.

5. Member Attendance

Member	Total Anticipated Attendances	Total Attendances	Substitutions
Councillor Al-Samarai (Convener)	7	7	
Councillor Delaney (VC)	7	7	
Councillor Ali	1	1	
Councillor Boulton	7	6	
Councillor Clark	7	7	
Councillor Fairfull	7	7	
Councillor Farquhar	7	7	
Councillor Grant	1	0	
Councillor Henrickson	7	7	
Councillor Lawrence	1	1	
Councillor MacGregor	7	6	
Councillor McLeod	7	7	
Councillor Van Sweeden	7	5	Councillor McRae & Cooke
Councillor Crockett	6	5	
Councillor Graham	6	5	
Councillor Tissera	6	4	Councillor Malik
Councillor Malik	1	0	

6. Meeting Content

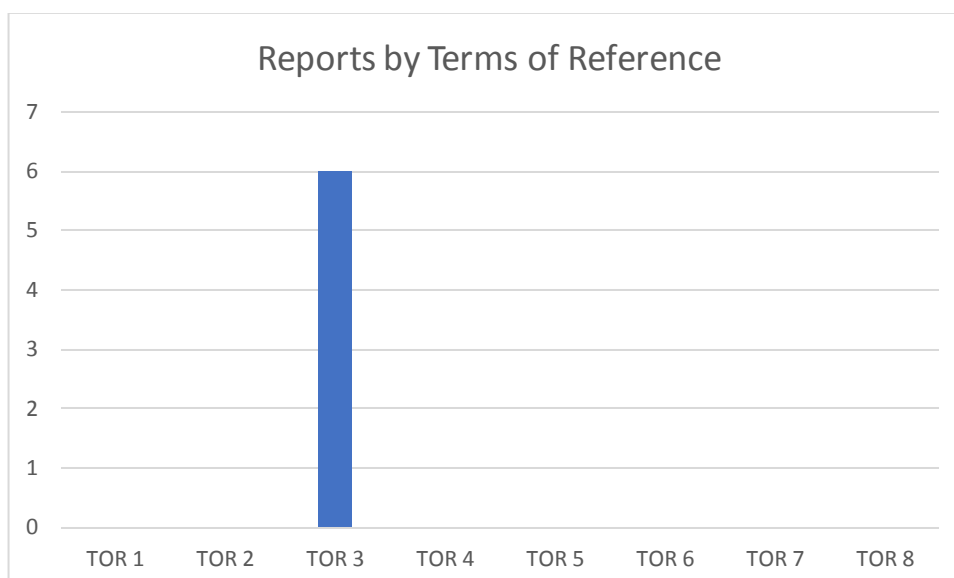
6.1 During the 2022/2023 reporting period (14 October 2022 to 14 October 2023), the Committee had 7 meetings, 1 of which was a Special Meeting and considered a total of 6 reports.

6.1.1 The Committee also considered 63 applications, 23 Requests for Exemption from Committee Policy and 6 Complaints made against licence holders.

6.1.2 There was only 1 meeting of the Licensing Sub Committee during the reporting period which was held on 7 August 2023 to consider a relaxation of taxi zones for Offshore Europe 2023.

6.2 Terms of Reference

6.2.1 The following chart details how reports aligned to the Terms of Reference (set out at section 2 above) for the Committee.



6.2.2 During the course of 2022/2023 the Committee received reports under only one of its main Terms of Reference (TOR 3 – to determine all other matters relating to licensing including the setting of taxi fares and the designation of taxi stances).

6.2.3 As you would expect, the majority of the other remits of the Committee’s Terms of Reference were reported to the Committee by means of licensing applications, requests for exemption from Policy and Complaints. This would indicate that the Committee has discharged its role throughout the course of the reporting period.

6.2.4 As the committee structure was reviewed in late 2022, very few changes to the Terms of Reference were made following the June 2023 Scheme of Governance review. Any changes made were generally to provide clarity where required and ensure consistency between committees. The new Terms of Reference will continue to be

monitored throughout the year, in preparation for the 2024 Scheme of Governance review.

7. Reports and Decisions

7.1 The following information relates to the committee reports and Notices of Motion presented to Committee throughout the reporting period, as well as the use of Standing Orders and engagement with members of the public.

	Total	Total Percentage of Reports
Confidential Reports	0	N/A
Exempt Reports	0	N/A
Number of reports where the Committee amended officer recommendations	0	N/A
Number of reports approved unanimously	5	83.3%
Number of reports or service updates requested during the consideration of another report to provide additional assurance and not in business planner	1	16.7%
Number of reports delayed for further information	0	N/A
Number of times the Convener has had to remind Members about acceptable behaviour in terms of the Code of Conduct	0	N/A
Late reports received (i.e. reports not available for inspection at least 3 clear days before the meeting)	0	N/A
Number of referrals to Council under SO 34.1	0	N/A

Notices of Motion, Suspension of Standing Orders, Interface with the Public	
Number of Notices of Motion to Committee	0
Number of times Standing Orders suspended	0
Specific Standing Orders suspended	N/A
Number of deputations requested	2
Number of deputations heard	2
Number of petitions considered	0

8. Reports with links to the Local Outcome Improvement Plan

- 8.1 All six reports considered by the Committee had no impact to the Local Outcome Improvement Plan.

9. Training and Development

- 9.1 Training was provided for Councillors prior to their first meeting as members of the Committee.
- 9.2 Further development opportunities will be considered for next year based on Committee business throughout the year, Executive Lead proposals and Member feedback on what may be required to assist them in performing their roles.

10. Code of Conduct Declarations and Transparency Statements

- 10.1 8 declarations of interest and 2 transparency statements were made by Members during the reporting period. Information in respect of declarations of interest and transparency statements is measured to evidence awareness of the requirements to adhere to the Councillors' Code of Conduct and the responsibility to ensure fair decision-making.

11. Civic Engagement

- 11.1 The Committee's focus throughout the reporting period has largely been on compliance with the licensing legislation. A number of public consultations have been undertaken by the Committee in order to engage with the wider public to inform the development and approval of policy, in particular regarding Street Trading at the beachfront and various taxi policies. In doing so, there has been greater use of all available media channels to increase participation and ensure a wider audience and range of responses.
- 11.2 The Committee also liaises directly with representatives of the taxi and private hire car vehicle trade by way of the Council's Taxi and Private Hire Car Consultation Group throughout the year to discuss matters of interest to the trade. The Committee agreed to increase the frequency of those meetings starting next year. Any recommendations from the Consultation Group were considered by the Committee.
- 11.3 The Committee has also engaged with statutory partners such as Police Scotland, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, Roads Authority, Environmental Health and Building Standards to ensure all public safety matters are being brought to the Committee's attention.

12. Executive Lead to the Committee - Commentary

- 12.1 The Committee would appear to be working effectively noting that:-

- Any delays in considering reports were as a result of additional information being requested to ensure all decisions are fully informed;
 - One of the main terms of reference was engaged;
 - All applications were considered by the Committee in accordance with the statutory requirements; and
 - All committee reports were able to be considered in public;
- 12.2 No late reports were submitted to the Committee showing evidence that Committee business was being appropriately managed and scheduled.
- 12.3 All applications were determined under delegated powers or referred to Committee within statutory time limits. Additional online facilities have been introduced to assist applicants to minimise any disruption caused by licensing officers having to work outwith the Council offices.
- 12.4 Throughout the next reporting period we will continue to review the Committee's business against the Terms of Reference and any changes proposed will be considered as part of the annual review of the Council's Scheme of Governance.

13. The Year Ahead

- 13.1 The Committee will continue to discharge functions by licensing legislation with any changes to existing legislation, or new legislation being reported to the Committee in a timely manner. Policies will also be kept under review and consulted upon, where applicable, to ensure they remain fit for purpose; comply with legislation and align to the Council's strategies (including the refreshed Local Outcome Improvement Plan).
- 13.2 In considering the review of policies when required by legislative changes as well as matters arising from the business planner the Committee will continue to consider how those decisions can integrate with and support the Council's Policy Statement. This will include ensuring the taxi and private hire trade play an important part in the local transport strategy and are well placed to contribute to the accessibility of all parts of the city to visitors and residents alike, and that all licensable activity is carried out in a manner designed to safeguard public safety.
- 13.3 In terms of legislation, licensing income must be generally equivalent to licensing expenditure. The Committee is responsible for the setting of taxi fares and a report on the review of the existing taxi fare formula, including surcharges, was submitted for the Committee's consideration in 2023.
- 13.4 Annual refresher training covering all areas of the Committee's Terms of Reference will be provided.
- 13.5 A new licensing regime for Short Term Lets came into force on 1 October 2023 and this will result in new applications coming before Committee and the regime will be monitored to ensure the licensing objectives are being upheld.

Appendix 1 – Local Outcome Improvement Plan Stretch Outcomes

Economy	
1.	No one will suffer due to poverty by 2026
2.	400 unemployed people supported into fair work
3.	500 people skilled/ reskilled
People (Children & Young People)	
4.	95% of children will reach their expected developmental milestones
5.	90% of children and young people will report that their experiences of mental health and wellbeing have been listened to
6.	95% of care experienced children and young people will have the same levels of attainment in education, health and emotional wellbeing, and positive destinations as their peers
7.	95% of children living in our priority neighbourhoods will sustain a positive destination upon leaving school
8.	Child friendly city where all decisions which impact on children and young people are informed by them
9.	30% fewer young people (under 18) charged with an offence
People (Adults)	
10.	25% fewer people receiving a first ever Court conviction and 2% fewer people reconvicted within one year
11.	Healthy life expectancy (time lived in good health) is 5 years longer
12.	Rate of harmful levels of alcohol consumption reduced by 4% and drug related deaths lower than Scotland
Place	
13.	Addressing climate change by reducing Aberdeen's carbon emissions by at least 61% and adapting to the impacts of our changing climate
14.	Increase sustainable travel: 38% of people walking and 5% of people cycling as main mode of travel
15.	Addressing the nature crisis by protecting/ managing 26% of Aberdeen's area for nature by 2026
Community Empowerment	
16.	100% increase in the proportion of citizens who feel able to participate in decisions that help change things for the better by 2026

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