

FINANCE AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

ABERDEEN, 12 February 2025. Minute of Meeting of the FINANCE AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE. Present:- Councillor McLellan, Convener; and Councillors Allard, Brooks, Cooke, Delaney (as substitute for Councillor Yuill upto and including article 5), Farquhar, Greig, Malik, Radley (as substitute for Councillor Yuill from article 6) and Watson.

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

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

DETERMINATION OF EXEMPT BUSINESS

1. The Convener proposed that the Committee consider item 14.1 (Work Plan and Business Cases – Exempt Appendices) with the press and public excluded from the meeting.

The Committee resolved:-

in terms of Section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, to exclude the press and public from the meeting during consideration of the above item so as to avoid disclosure of information of the classes described in the following paragraph of Schedule 7(A) to the Act:- article 18 (paragraph 8).

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND TRANSPARENCY STATEMENTS

2. Members were requested to intimate any declarations of interest or transparency statements in respect of the items on today's agenda, thereafter the following was intimated:-

(1) Councillor Cooke advised that he had a connection in relation to agenda item 9.1 (Council Financial Performance – Quarter 3, 2024/25) by virtue of him being a Council appointed observer on the Sport Aberdeen Board and the Chairperson of the Integration Joint Board. Having applied the objective test, he did not consider that he had an interest and would not be withdrawing from the meeting.

MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING OF 5 NOVEMBER 2024

3. The Committee had before it the minute of meeting of the Finance and Resources Committee of 5 November 2024.

The Committee resolved:-

to approve the minute.

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COMMITTEE PLANNER

4. The Committee had before it the Committee Business Planner prepared by the Interim Chief Officer - Governance.

Councillor Malik, seconded by Councillor Watson, moved as a procedural motion:-
that a report in relation to item 8 (Proposed Sale of Land at Denwood/Hazlehead) be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee for consideration.

On a division, there voted:- for the procedural motion (3) – Councillors Brooks, Malik and Watson; against the procedural motion (5) – the Convener, and Councillors Allard, Cooke, Delaney and Greig.

The Committee resolved:-

- (i) to reject the procedural motion;
- (ii) to note the reasons for deferral in relation to item 22 (School Estate Plan: Victorian School Building Improvements – Outline Business Case);
- (iii) to remove item 8 (Proposed Sale of Land at Denwood / Hazlehead) for the reason outlined within the planner; and
- (iv) to otherwise note the Committee Planner.

NOTICE OF MOTION BY COUNCILLOR MALIK - REFERRED FROM COUNCIL ON 11 DECEMBER 2024

5. The Committee had before it a Notice of Motion by Councillor Malik in the following terms:-

“That the Council:-

- (1) Notes the Planning Development Management Committee’s decision on 7 November 2024 to approve planning permission conditionally, subject to referral to the Scottish Ministers due to SEPA’s objection, over Land at Coast Road, St Fittick's Park/Gregness Headland/Doonies Farm, Aberdeen, following an application by ETZ Ltd who, at the time of the application, had no meaningful legal interest in the Land;
- (2) Notes Govan Law Centre has lodged a reclaiming motion (appeal) to the Inner House of the Court of Session in the environmental justice judicial review of McLean v. Aberdeen City Council. The appeal concerns a decision by Aberdeen City Council (ACC) to possibly industrialise St. Fittick’s Park as part of its Energy Transition Zone (ETZ) plan for the city;
- (3) Notes the decision of Council regarding Land Options Within the Energy Transition Zone 11.09.2023 “to recommend to the Planning Development Management Committee that any future reports of the ETZ Masterplan be reported to the earliest appropriate meeting of Full Council” and seeks clarification as to why the matter was raised at Planning Development Management Committee and not Full Council as agreed by Elected Members;

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- (4) Instructs the Chief Officer - Corporate Landlord to bring forward to Full Council, within two cycles, a plan as to how the Council intends to market the land owned by the Council which forms part of the Land noted above for the Council to obtain best value, rather than allow ETZ Ltd the opportunity to take over this land without competitive tenders; and
- (5) Agrees that Aberdeen City Council as landowner should remove St Fittick's Park from any proposed redevelopment."

Councillor Malik moved his motion and explained the rationale behind it and was seconded by Councillor Watson.

The Convener, seconded by Councillor Greig, moved as an amendment:-
that the Committee –

- (1) Note the undernoted decision of Full Council, 11 September 2023, in relation to the report "Land Options Within the Energy Transition Zone" (RES/23/287) and acknowledges a report will be forthcoming following the ongoing legal case:-

That Council, on 11 September 2023, agreed to:-

- (a) *instruct the Chief Officer - Corporate Landlord, in Aberdeen City Council's capacity as land owner, that St Fittick's OP56 and Doonies OP61 sites were only to be made available for lease and must remain in Council ownership and that, furthermore, any such lease agreement was only to be entered into at the point where an end user was agreed by Aberdeen City Council and financial close was reached;*
- (b) *instruct the Chief Officer - Corporate Landlord to enter formal dialogue with ETZ Ltd and PoA to discuss the optimum partnership arrangements to take forward the future development of the sites and ensure the delivery of the outcomes identified by ETZ Ltd in their masterplan and in the North East Regional Economic Strategy and in line with Best Value principles;*
- (c) *instruct the Chief Officer - Corporate Landlord, following consultation with the Chief Officer - Finance and Chief Officer – Governance, to consider as part of such potential partnership arrangements how a proportion of the lease income from the sites could be used for the benefit of the local community;*
- (d) *agree that approval of any leases was contingent on Council approval of the community benefit package, which was to progress, so far as was practical, parallel with the granting of leases;*
- (e) *note that in a recent briefing to elected members of Aberdeen City Council, the Chief Executive of ETZ Ltd wrote: "...we are in advanced discussions with a number of inward investors focused on cable manufacturing, moorings and anchorings, seeking to locate on the site (subject to planning) for these very reasons.";*
- (f) *instruct the Chief Officer - Corporate Landlord to engage with PoA, ETZ Ltd, and any other interested party, as to any proposals they had to develop the site, including full details of the development, the rationale*

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- for the location of their business and any mitigations proposed to minimise the impact on local residents;*
- (g) note community amenity and wellbeing were key considerations for Aberdeen City Council as the landowner; and instruct the Chief Officer - Corporate Landlord that individual lease agreements must include details of the community impact remediation steps that would be implemented at the termination of the lease;*
 - (h) instruct the Chief Officer - Early Intervention and Community Empowerment and Chief Officer - Commercial and Procurement to report through a service update on how the local community may participate in any decision-making process for the disbursement of funds that may be identified for the benefit of communities;*
 - (i) recommend to the Planning Development Management Committee that any future reports of the ETZ Masterplan be reported to the earliest appropriate meeting of Full Council; and*
 - (j) instruct the Chief Officer - Corporate Landlord to report the outcome of discussions regarding St Fittick's OP56 and Doonies OP61 sites to the earliest appropriate meeting of Full Council.*

On a division, there voted:- for the motion (2) – Councillors Malik and Watson; for the amendment (7) – the Convener and Councillors Allard, Brooks, Cooke, Delaney, Farquhar and Greig.

The Committee resolved:-

to adopt the motion.

TRANSPARENCY STATEMENTS

During discussion of the following item:-

- (1) The Convener advised that he had a connection in relation to the following item by virtue of him being a Council appointed Board member of Scotland Excel. Having applied the objective test, he did not consider that he had an interest and would not be withdrawing from the meeting; and**
- (2) Councillor Allard advised that he had a connection in relation to the following item by virtue of him being a Council appointed spokesperson for Anti-Poverty and Inequality matters including the Real Living Wage and by virtue of him being a member on the Aberdeen Living Wage Group. Having applied the objective test, he did not consider that he had an interest and would not be withdrawing from the meeting.**

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ANNUAL PROCUREMENT REPORT 2023-24 - CORS/24/354 - REFERRED FROM COUNCIL ON 11 DECEMBER 2024

6. The Committee had before it by way of referral from Council of 11 December 2024, a report by the Director of Corporate Services which presented the Annual Procurement Report 2023 - 2024 (Appendix A) to Council.

The report recommended:-

that the Committee note the Annual Procurement Report (Appendix A).

The Committee resolved:-

- (i) to approve the recommendation;
- (ii) to instruct the Chief Officer – Commercial and Procurement Services to circulate, by way of email, details relating to the lessons learned in respect of Covid Supplier Sustainability Scheme claims; and
- (iii) to instruct the Chief Officer – Commercial and Procurement Services to circulate a Service Update in relation to the specifications of the contract with Sheriff Officers and information relating to Advocacy Services.

TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY - MID-YEAR REVIEW - CORS/24/323 - REFERRED FROM COUNCIL ON 11 DECEMBER 2024

7. The Committee had before it, by way of referral from Council of 11 December 2024, a report by the Director of Corporate Services, which provided an update on Treasury Management activities undertaken to date during financial year 2024/25.

The report recommended:-

that the Committee note the Treasury Management activities undertaken to date in the 2024/25 financial year as detailed in this report.

The Convener, seconded by Councillor Greig, moved:-

that the Committee approve the recommendation contained within the report.

Councillor Malik, seconded by Councillor Watson, moved as an amendment:-

that the Committee –

- (1) note the report;
- (2) welcome the UK Government Chancellor of the Exchequer's announcement regarding the National Wealth Fund, noting that the Labour Manchester Mayor, Andy Burnham is working to develop the Old Trafford area which is beside Manchester United Football Club's stadium of that name; and
- (3) instruct the Chief Officer - City Development & Regeneration, following consultation with the Chief Officer - Finance and the Chief Officer - Commercial & Procurement Services, to bring a report to this Committee by the end of the calendar year on how the Council can access the UK Government's National Wealth Fund to help regeneration around Pittodrie,

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to include Council housing, an upgrade to the Beach Ballroom, new sport facilities at the beach and a new football stadium for Aberdeen Football Club.

On a division, there voted:- for the motion (7) – the Convener and Councillors Allard, Brooks, Cooke, Farquhar, Greig and Radley; for the amendment (2) – Councillors Malik and Watson.

The Committee resolved:-

to adopt the motion.

COUNCIL FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE – QUARTER 3, 2024/25 - CORS/25/036

8. With reference to article 8 of the minute of the previous meeting of 5 November 2024, the Committee had before it a report by the Director of Corporate Services, which provided the financial position of the Council as at Quarter 3 (31 December 2024) and the full year forecast position for the financial year 2024/25, including:-

- General Fund and Housing Revenue Account (HRA) and capital accounts; and associated Balance Sheet; and
- Common Good revenue account and Balance Sheet.

The report recommended:-

that the Committee –

- (a) note the cash position that has been achieved for the General Fund and HRA to the end of Quarter 3 as detailed in Appendix 1;
- (b) note the Common Good financial performance to the end of Quarter 3 as detailed in Appendix 3;
- (c) note that the General Fund full year forecast position remains on track to achieve a full year outturn of 'on budget' although there are a range of financial risks that exist for the financial year, including the financial position of the Aberdeen City Integration Joint Board (IJB). Continuing action and controls, as outlined in Appendix 2 will remain in place for the remainder of the financial year;
- (d) approve the use of the 'Resilience' earmarked reserve to fund the Council's £4m share of the deficit that is forecast for the IJB, after use of the available IJB reserves, at the end of the financial year;
- (e) note that the Council maintains financial resilience with the resources available on the Council Balance Sheet, the General Fund Reserves in particular. As at 31 March 2024 the uncommitted value of those reserves was £12m, the minimum that the Council Reserves Statement recommends and as approved by the Council;
- (f) note that the HRA full year forecast position, as detailed in Appendix 2, is forecasting a deficit of £4.6m at this time and continues to face challenging cost pressures as outlined in Appendix 2 and the HRA Budget Report 2024/25; and

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- (g) note that the forecast for General Fund Capital budget has been updated to include approved in-year virements. Housing Capital expenditure is currently forecast to be on budget for 2024/25.

The Convener, seconded by Councillor Greig, moved:-
that the Committee approve the recommendations contained within the report.

Councillor Malik, seconded by Councillor Watson, moved as an amendment:-
that the Committee –

- (1) note recommendations 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.5, 2.6 and 2.7 of the report;
- (2) agree it is unacceptable for the Council to find itself in a position where the IJB has overspent, and the Council will be obligated to bail them out. Notes the IJB forecast position reported in the Quarter 1 Financial Performance Report, which was presented to the Finance & Resources Committee in August 2024. The report set the expectation that IJB will be managed, and Council will not be called on for additional resources at year end;
- (3) agree serious questions must be asked regarding Councillor Cooke's competence to remain as Convener of the IJB, given the disaster of his financial management of the IJB; and
- (4) due to the assurances received within the Quarter 2 report and with so little weeks left in the financial year, the Council has been left exposed to a deficit not of its own making. Agree that the IJB gets its finances in order and calls upon the Chief Officer - Finance to bring forward a note in the Quarter 4 report highlighting why the Council did not pick up this deficit until it was too late.

On a division, there voted:- for the motion (5) – the Convener and Councillors Allard, Cooke, Greig and Radley; for the amendment (4) – Councillors Brooks, Farquhar, Malik and Watson.

The Committee resolved:-

to adopt the motion.

UNRECOVERABLE DEBT - CORS/25/015

9. The Committee had before it a report by the Director of Corporate Services which advised on the numbers and values of Council Tax, Penalty Charge Notices, Bus Lane Enforcement Charge Notices, Service Income and Council House Rent debts written off as unrecoverable during 2023/24 as required in terms of the Council's Financial Regulations.

The report recommended:-

that the Committee note the numbers and values of Council Tax, Penalty Charge Notices, Bus Lane Enforcement Charge Notices, Service Income and Council House Rent debts

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written off as unrecoverable during 2023/24 in terms of the Council's Financial Regulations and the reasons for such debts being written off.

The Committee resolved:-

- (i) to approve the recommendation contained within the report; and
- (ii) to instruct the Chief Officer – People and Citizen Service to circulate details to members relating to the figures for pursuing Bus Lane fines, where new information had come to light through DVLA.

A947 BUCKSBURN ROUNDABOUT TO PARKHILL JUNCTION MULTI-MODAL CORRIDOR STUDY OUTLINE BUSINESS CASE - CR&E/25/022

10. With reference to article 16 of the minute of meeting of the City Growth and Resources Committee of 21 September 2022, the Committee had before it a report by the Director of City Regeneration and Environment which sought approval of an Outline Business Case (for those elements within Aberdeen City) for a package of active travel improvements on the A947 Bucksburn Roundabout to Parkhill Junction corridor.

The report recommended:-

that the Committee -

- (a) note the preferred package of active travel improvements on the A947 Bucksburn Roundabout to Parkhill Junction corridor (relevant to Aberdeen City), agreed by the Net Zero, Environment and Transport Committee in September 2024;
- (b) approve the Outline Business Case for the preferred package of improvements within Aberdeen City (Appendix 1); and
- (c) subject to approval of recommendation 2.2, instruct the Chief Officer – Strategic Place Planning and the Chief Officer - Capital to work with partners to seek external funding to enable the various projects included within the Outline Business Case to proceed to Detailed Design and Full Business Case development, as required.

The Convener, seconded by Councillor Greig, moved:-

that the Committee approve the recommendations contained within the report.

Councillor Malik, seconded by Councillor Watson, moved as an amendment:-

that the Committee –

- (1) approve the recommendations contained within the report; and
- (2) agree this project is not an SNP priority given no budget has been identified.

On a division, there voted:- for the motion (5) - the Convener and Councillors Allard, Cooke, Greig and Radley; for the amendment (4) – Councillors Brooks, Farquhar, Malik and Watson.

The Committee resolved:-

to adopt the motion.

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FINAL FINANCIAL SETTLEMENT FROM TRANSPORT SCOTLAND FOR THE DE-TRUNKING OF THE A92/A96 - CR&E/25/020

11. The Committee had before it a report by the Director of City Regeneration and Environment which provided an update on the outcome of negotiations with Transport Scotland and the financial settlement achieved for investment in the de-trunked sections of the A92 and A96.

The report recommended:-

that the Committee –

- (a) note the summary of the full and final settlement proposed by Transport Scotland as detailed in Appendix A, including the additional amount of £2,884,051.88 for the work required to be carried out on the de-trunked sections of road, as of 1st April 2023, to bring them up to average national standards;
- (b) note the combined settlement figures in Appendix A, which amount to the full and final settlement total of £10,954,849.23;
- (c) delegate authority to the Chief Officer – Operations to accept from Transport Scotland the full and final settlement as detailed in Appendix A and, following consultation with the Chief Officer - Commercial and Procurement Services, to arrange for the execution of the Settlement Agreements issued by Transport Scotland (as detailed in paragraph 5.2);
- (d) instruct the Chief Officer – Operations to add the agreed repairs to the current works programme, as itemised in Appendix A, and implement the required repairs in order to maintain these roads to the required standards;
- (e) instruct the Chief Officer – Operations to, following consultation with the Chief Officer - Commercial and Procurement Services, undertake or instruct appropriate procedures in accordance with the Council's Procurement Regulations to procure the works, supplies and services (referenced in recommendation 2.1 above) and award contracts relating thereto;
- (f) note that Revenue and Capital expenditures for the maintenance of the detrunked road and new link road will be an annual requirement in future years ; and
- (g) note the floor adjustment to the Grant Aided Expenditure (GAE) awarded to Aberdeen City Council as detailed in section 4.4.

The Committee resolved:-

to approve the recommendations.

TRANSPARENCY STATEMENT

During discussion of the following item:-

- (1) **Councillor Radley advised that she had a connection in relation to the following item by virtue of her being a Council appointed member of VisitAberdeenshire Board. Having applied the objective test, she did not consider that she had an interest and would not be withdrawing from the meeting.**

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UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND - CR&E/25/027

12. With reference to article 10 of the minute of meeting of 7 August 2024, the Committee had before it a report by the Director of City Regeneration and Environment which sought approval for the proposed allocation of grant funding for the Local Business Support priority of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and provided an update on the 2025/26 extension to the programme.

The report recommended:-

that the Committee –

- (a) UK Shared Prosperity Fund 2022-25: Local Business Support
note that an underspend of £135,700 has been recorded from previously approved projects within the Local Business Support priority;
- (b) approve an amendment to the Investment Plan submitted in 2022 with the inclusion of an additional intervention “S14: Funding for the development of the visitor economy”;
- (c) approve an allocation to Aberdeen City Council of up to £115,000 for the Freebie Fortnight project;
- (d) approve an allocation to Aberdeen City Council in partnership with Aberdeen Inspired of up to £10,000 to support the development of online resources and marketing of the Love Local Card;
- (e) approve an allocation to Aberdeen City Council of up to £10,700 for the development of the travel trade tours offered by the Countryside Ranger Service;
- (f) UK Shared Prosperity Fund 2022-25
note that the £7.1m received from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund has again been fully allocated for delivery by March 31st 2025;
- (g) authorise the Chief Officer – City Development and Regeneration – to reallocate any future declared underspend to new projects up to a maximum of £30,000 per project, following consultation with the Convener and Vice Convener of this Committee, to ensure that the maximum UKSPF investment is retained within Aberdeen;
- (h) UK Shared Prosperity Fund 2025/26
note that UK Government have announced a one year extension to the programme with an allocation of £2,346,857 to the Council; and
- (i) approve the allocation of £93,874 to contribute towards management costs of the scheme, as per UKSPF regulations which details that 4% of funds can be retained by Local Authorities to ensure robust delivery and monitoring of the UKSPF Programme.

The Convener, seconded by Councillor Greig, moved:-

that the Committee approve the recommendations contained within the report.

Councillor Malik, seconded by Councillor Watson, moved as an amendment:-

that the Committee –

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- (1) approve the recommendations contained within the report; and
- (2) welcome the UK Government's announcement that Aberdeen City Council would receive £2,346,857, which includes a minimum capital allocation of £665,441 for 2025/26, agreeing this is devolution in action, monies coming direct to the Council from the Primary government of the UK.

On a division, there voted:- for the motion (7) – the Convener and Councillors Allard, Brooks, Cooke, Farquhar, Greig and Radley; for the amendment (2) – Councillor Malik and Watson.

The Committee resolved:-

to adopt the motion.

PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK REPORT - CORS/25/023

13. The Committee had before it a report by the Director of Corporate Services which presented the status of key operational performance measures and activity indicators relating to those Functions and Clusters within the remit of the Finance and Resources Committee at conclusion of Quarter 2, 2024/25.

The report recommended:-

that the Committee note the report and provide comments and observations on the performance information contained in the report Appendix.

The Committee resolved:-

to note the performance information contained within the report Appendix.

TRANSPARENCY STATEMENTS

During discussion of the following item:-

- (1) Councillor Radley advised that she had a connection in relation to the following item by virtue of her being a Council appointed member of VisitAberdeenshire Board. Having applied the objective test, she did not consider that she had an interest and would not be withdrawing from the meeting; and
- (2) Councillor Cooke advised that he had a connection in relation to the following item by virtue of him being a member of Friends of the Gordon Highlanders Museum. Having applied the objective test, he did not consider that he had an interest and would not be withdrawing from the meeting.

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VISITOR LEVY - CR&E/25/028

14. With reference to article 18 of the minute of meeting of 9 August 2024, the Committee had before it a report by the Director of City Regeneration and Environment which outlined the proposal for introducing a Visitor Levy in Aberdeen.

The report recommended:-

that the Committee –

- (a) note the various stages including the outline proposal, consultation, and public report that local authorities are required to engage in prior to a decision on whether to proceed with a visitor levy;
- (b) note the absolute earliest proposed date that Aberdeen City Council could introduce a visitor levy is 01 April 2027;
- (c) note the sector's key stakeholders (referenced in section 3.21 of this report) that have co-designed the outline proposal;
- (d) approve the Aberdeen visitor levy scheme outline proposal (A Visitor Levy for Aberdeen - Proposal for Consultation) in the Appendix hereto; and
- (e) instruct the Chief Officer - City Development and Regeneration to proceed with wider consultation and its subsequent evaluation and report back to the Finance and Resources Committee on the consultation, and seeking a decision on how to proceed, on 6 August 2025.

The Convener, seconded by Councillor Greig, moved:-

that the Committee approve the recommendations contained within the report.

Councillor Malik, seconded by Councillor Watson, moved as an amendment:-

that the Committee –

- (1) approve recommendations (a), (b), (c) and (e);
- (2) approve the Aberdeen Visitor Levy Scheme outline proposal (A Visitor Levy for Aberdeen - Proposal for Consultation), subject to amending the range of Levy Rates to be consulted upon to 2% - 10% rather than the proposed 5% - 10% outlined in the Appendix; and
- (3) note the report is void of the Council's position leading up to the introduction of the Visitor Levy (Scotland) Act 2024; therefore agree special mention must go to former Council Leader Jenny Laing who championed local authorities' ability to have the power should they wish to implement a Tourism levy as far back as 2015, which included a report to Council.

Councillor Brooks, seconded by Councillor Farquhar, moved as a further amendment:-

that the Committee –

- (1) note the various stages required by the Visitor Levy (Scotland) Act 2024, including an outline proposal, consultation and public report that local authorities are required to engage in prior to a decision on whether to proceed with a visitor levy (aka Tourist Tax);
- (2) note that the Council is not under any legal obligation to impose a Visitor levy;

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- (3) note the requirements of the Visitor Levy (Scotland) Act 2024 to reach a decision following consultation with people and bodies affected by the proposal;
- (4) note that (with reference to paragraph 3.21 of the report) the Council has not included the Scottish Tourism Alliance (STA) as a key stakeholder.
- (5) in reference to statements made by this administration in the City Council Delivery Plan, instruct the Executive Director - City Regeneration and Environment to consult with the public by asking the simple question of “Do you want to see a Tourist Tax (Visitors Levy) implemented in Aberdeen City?”; and
- (6) furthermore, instruct the Executive Director - City Regeneration and Environment to engage and consult the STA as a key stakeholder before further action is taken.

In terms of Standing Order 29.20, a vote was taken between the two amendments.

On a division, there voted:- for the amendment by Councillor Malik (2) – Councillors Malik and Watson; for the amendment by Councillor Brooks (2) – Councillors Brooks and Farquhar; declined to vote (5) – the Convener and Councillors Allard, Cooke, Greig and Radley.

As there was a tied vote, in terms of Standing Order 32.7, the Convener had the casting vote, however in terms of Standing Order 32.7.1, the Convener chose not to exercise his casting vote, therefore the Clerk advised that a lot would be drawn to decide the outcome of the tied vote. Following which, the amendment by Councillor Brooks was successful and would be put to the vote against the motion.

On a division, there voted:- for the motion (5) – the Convener and Councillors Allard, Cooke, Greig and Radley; for the amendment by Councillor Brooks (2) – Councillors Brooks and Farquhar; declined to vote (2) Councillors Malik and Watson.

The Committee resolved:-
to adopt the motion.

INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL 2025/26 - CR&E/25/021

15. The Committee had before it a report by the Director of City Regeneration and Environment which sought approval for travel to Stavanger in March 2025; and approval of proposed international travel by officers and elected members in order to support relevant City Development and Regeneration activities throughout 2025/26.

The report recommended:-

that the Committee –

- (a) approve the Lord Provost (or one other Elected Member) plus one officer to attend High Wind 2025 in Stavanger, Norway between 3 - 5 March 2025;

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- (b) approve international travel to support conference and event attendance related to City Development and Regeneration activity, and the maximum expenditure relating to such travel and attendance, as set out in Appendix 1;
- (c) approve international travel to support Tall Ships activity, and the maximum expenditure relating to such travel and attendance, as set out in Appendix 2;
- (d) delegate authority to the Chief Officer – City Development and Regeneration to
 - (1) approve necessary travel documentation, arrangements and associated expenditure for the travel noted in recommendations (a) and (c) above, provided costs do not exceed the budgets referred to in Section 4 of this report and that all arrangements are made in line with applicable Council travel policies;
 - (2) determine which officers should undertake such travel; and
 - (3) following consultation with the Co-Leaders, determine which elected members should undertake such travel, where either the members to undertake the relevant travel are not identified in the relevant minute of this Committee or where the Lord Provost is so identified as the member to undertake such travel but is unable to do so or elects not to do so; and
- (e) agree that the outcomes of overseas activity undertaken in 2025/26 will be provided to this Committee by way of an annual Service Update.

The Committee resolved:-

to approve the recommendations contained within the report.

During discussion of the following item, the Convener proposed to suspend Standing Order 40.2 (Length of Meetings) to enable the meeting to continue beyond six hours.

The Committee agreed unanimously to suspend Standing Order 40.2.

UPDATE ON UPPER FLOORS OF 101/103 UNION STREET - F&C/25/032

16. With reference to article 16 of the minute of meeting of Council of 14 December 2022, the Committee had before it a report by the Director of Families and Communities which provided an update on the position relating to Upper Floors of 101/103 Union Street, Aberdeen.

The report recommended:-

that the Committee –

- (a) note the updated position in relation to the financial viability of any redevelopment; and
- (b) instruct the Chief Officer – Corporate Landlord to continue to monitor market conditions and to take no further action with the upper floors of the property until the completion of the new market.

The Convener, seconded by Councillor Greig, moved:-

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that the Committee approve the recommendations contained within the report.

Councillor Malik, seconded by Councillor Brooks, moved as an amendment:-
that the Committee –

- (1) approve the recommendations contained within the report; and
- (2) agree the estimated deficit outlined at 3.5 of the report reflects the shocking mess the SNP has made of Union Street Central, noting that a Judicial Review into bus gates is likely and that pedestrianisation of Union Street Central should see the deficit turn into a surplus.

On a division, there voted:- for the motion (5) – the Convener and Councillors Allard, Cooke, Greig and Radley; for the amendment (4) – Councillors Brooks, Farquhar, Malik and Watson.

The Committee resolved:-
to adopt the motion.

WORK PLAN AND BUSINESS CASES - CORS/25/025

17. The Committee had before it a report by the Director of Corporate Services which (1) presented procurement work plans where expenditure was included for the Corporate Services, City Regeneration and Environment and Families and Communities Functions for review; and (2) sought approval of the total estimated expenditure for the proposed contracts as contained in the Procurement Business Cases appended to the report.

The Procurement Business Case related to the following:-

- Garden Waste Permits 2025;
- Food Waste Bags;
- Road & Pavement Weed Spraying;
- MS Licence Renewal 2025;
- Digital Transformation Support;
- ELC Training Framework;
- PE Equipment Testing; and
- Art Gallery Catering.

The report recommended:-

that the Committee –

- (a) review the workplan as detailed in the Appendices for the Corporate Services, City Regeneration and Environment and Families and Communities Functions;
- (b) approve the procurement business cases, including the total estimated expenditure for the proposed contract;
- (c) note the content of Appendix 3 – 3.10 Memo Approvals; and
- (d) note the content of Appendix 4 – 4.1.3 Technical Exemption Approvals.

FINANCE AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

12 February 2025

The Committee resolved:-

to approve the recommendations contained within the report.

In accordance with the decision taken at Article 1 of this minute, the following item was considered with the press and public excluded.

WORK PLAN AND BUSINESS CASES - EXEMPT APPENDICES

18. The Committee had before it exempt appendices relating to the Work Plan and Business Cases report. (Article 17 of this minute refers)

The Committee resolved:-

to note the information contained within the exempt appendices.

- **COUNCILLOR ALEX MCLELLAN, Convener**