Public Document Pack

To: Councillor McLellan, Convener; Councillor Yuill, Vice-Convener; and Councillors Allard, Brooks, Cooke, Farquhar, Greig, Malik and Watson.

Town House,
ABERDEEN 28 October 2025

FINANCE AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The Members of the **FINANCE AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE** are requested to meet in **Committee Room 2 - Town House on WEDNESDAY, 5 NOVEMBER 2025 at 10.00 am. This is a hybrid meeting and Members may also attend remotely.**

The meeting will be webcast and a live stream can be viewed on the Council's website. https://aberdeen.public-i.tv/core/portal/home

JENNI LAWSON
CHIEF OFFICER – GOVERNANCE

B U S I N E S S

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5.2. Minute of the Special Meeting of 31 July 2025 (Pages 21 - 24)

COMMITTEE PLANNER

6.1. Committee Planner (Pages 25 - 30)

NOTICES OF MOTION

7.1. Notice of Motion by Councillor Macdonald - Frederick Street Car Park - Referred from Council on 1 October 2025

That Committee -

Note the Frederick Street Car Park lift has been out of order for two years due to persistent vandalism causing significant damage;

Note that four ground floor standard parking bays were reserved by fitting signage asking drivers to be considerate to people with less mobility as part of the parking pilot;

Note a lift condition survey was completed and unfortunately concluded that repair and recommissioning of the lift is not a viable option, because the survey deemed the lift to be beyond economical repair;

Note quotations have been sought from multiple contractors for a full lift replacement, including options to mitigate risks from vandalism; and that the Capital team have reviewed the replacement lift quotes and repair costs from over the last five years to assess likely lifecycle costs;

Note that users of the Aberdeen Health Village, many of whom have physiotherapy needs but are not blue badge owners, are finding it very difficult to access services; and

Note that officers intend to include an allocation for the lift replacement in the updated Condition and Suitability Programme, to be considered by the Finance and Resources Committee on 5th November 2025, and agree that this should be considered a top priority in the updated programme.

REFERRALS FROM COUNCIL, COMMITTEES AND SUB COMMITTEES

8.1. Annual Performance Reports - 2024/25 for all Tier 1 ALEOS: Aberdeen Performing Arts, Aberdeen Sports Village, Bon Accord Care and Sport Aberdeen - CORS/25/222 - Referred from Council on 1 October 2025 (Pages 31 - 132)

BUDGETS

9.1. Council Financial Performance – Quarter 2, 2025/26 - CORS/25/243 (Pages 133 - 192)

There is an exempt appendix in the Exempt Appendices section below.

9.2. Medium Term Financial Strategy for the Council's General Fund, 2025 - CORS/25/239 (Pages 193 - 302)

9.3. Condition & Suitability 3 Year Programme - F&C/25/232 (Pages 303 - 324)

There is an exempt appendix in the Exempt Appendices section below.

9.4. Capital Programme Delivery:Projects Update - CR&E/25/240 (Pages 325 - 378)

9.5. Place Based Investment Programme/UK Shared Prosperity Fund - CR&E/25/241 (Pages 379 - 396)

SERVICE DELIVERY

10.1. Performance Management Framework Report - CORS/25/225 (Pages 397 - 432)

10.2. Annual Procurement Report 2024-25 - CORS/25/237 (Pages 433 - 482)

CITY DEVELOPMENT AND REGENERATION AND STRATEGIC PLACE PLANNING

11.1. Tall Ships Aberdeen 2025 Evaluation - CR&E/25/245 (Pages 483 - 550)

11.2. World Rally Championship Bid - CR&E/25/252 (Pages 551 - 576)

There is an exempt appendix in the Exempt Appendices section below.

11.3. Silver City Heritage and Place Programme - CR&E/25/235 (Pages 577 - 588)

11.4. Aberdeen eBike Hire Scheme - CR&E/25/238 (Pages 589 - 596)

There is an exempt appendix in the Exempt Appendices section below.

PROPERTY AND ESTATES

12.1. Northfield Area Asset Review - Strategic Outline Business Case - F&C/25/233 (Pages 597 - 622)

WORK PLAN AND BUSINESS CASES

13.1. Work Plan and Business Cases - CORS/25/234 (Pages 623 - 636)

There are exempt appendices in the Exempt Appendices section below.

EXEMPT/CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS

14.1. Aberdeen City H2 Programme - CR&E/25/244 (Pages 637 - 648)

14.2. Proposed Sale of Land at Granitehill Road - F&C/25/236 (Pages 649 - 660)

EXEMPT APPENDICES

15.1. Council Financial Performance – Quarter 2, 2025/26 - Exempt Appendix (Pages 661 - 676)

15.2. Condition & Suitability 3 Year Programme - Exempt Appendix (Pages 677 - 680)

15.3. World Rally Championship Bid - Exempt Appendix (Pages 681 - 742)

15.4. Aberdeen eBike Hire Scheme - Exempt Appendix (Pages 743 - 748)

15.5. Work Plan and Business Cases - Exempt Appendices (Pages 749 - 798)

Integrated Impact Assessments related to reports on this agenda can be viewed here

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Should you require any further information about this agenda, please contact Mark Masson, mmasson@aberdeencity.gov.uk or 01224 067556

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FINANCE AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

ABERDEEN, 6 August 2025. Minute of Meeting of the FINANCE AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE. Present:- Councillor McLellan, Convener; and Councillors Allard, Brooks, Cooke, Farquhar, Greig, Malik, Radley (as substitute for Councillor Yuill, Vice Convener) 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 15.1 (Opportunity to Host the World Rally Championships in North East Scotland - Exempt Appendix) and item 15.2 (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 items so as to avoid disclosure of information of the classes described in the following paragraph of Schedule 7(A) to the Act:- article 17 (paragraph 6) and 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 Radley advised that she had a connection in relation to agenda items 11.2 (Visitor Levy) and 11.3 (Opportunity to Host the World Rally Championships in North East Scotland) by virtue of her being a Council appointed board member on VisitAberdeensire. Having applied the objective test, she did not consider that she had an interest and would not be withdrawing from the meeting;

(2) Councillor Cooke advised that he had a connection in relation to agenda item 9.1 (Council Financial Performance – Quarter 1, 2025/26) by virtue of him being a Council appointed member of Sport Aberdeen, as the Vice Chair of the Integration Joint Board and as a member of the Pensions Committee. Having applied the objective test, he did not consider that he had an interest and would not be withdrawing from the meeting;

(3) Councillor Cooke further advised that he had a connection in relation to agenda item 9.2 (Castlegate Public Realm Update) by virtue of him being a Friend 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;

(4) Councillor Cooke further advised that he had a connection in relation to agenda item 10.2 (Contributing to Your Care and Support (Adult Social Care (Non-

Residential) Charging Policy 25-26) by virtue of him being the Vice Chair 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;

(5) Councillor Greig advised that he had a connection in relation to agenda items 9.1 (Council Financial Performance – Quarter 1, 2025/26) and 10.2 (Contributing to Your Care and Support (Adult Social Care (Non-Residential) Charging Policy 25-26) by virtue of him being a Council appointed member 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; and

(6) Councillor Malik advised that he had a connection in relation to agenda items 9.1 (Council Financial Performance – Quarter 1, 2025/26) and 10.2 (Contributing to Your Care and Support (Adult Social Care (Non-Residential) Charging Policy 25-26) by virtue of him being a Council appointed member 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 7 MAY 2025

3. The Committee had before it the minute of meeting of the Finance and Resources Committee of 7 May 2025.

The Committee resolved:-
to approve the minute.

MINUTE OF SPECIAL MEETING OF 11 JULY 2025

4. The Committee had before it the minute of meeting of the Special Finance and Resources Committee of 11 July 2025.

The Committee resolved:-
to approve the minute.

COMMITTEE PLANNER

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

The Committee resolved:-

(i) to remove item 6 (South College Street Phase 2 – Outline Business Case) for the reason outlined in the planner;

(ii) to note the reasons for deferral in relation to item 9 (Bucksburn and Dyce Long Term Secondary School Provision: Outline Business Case) and item 10 (Wellington Road Junction Improvements – Progress Report); and

(iii) to otherwise note the Committee Planner.

At this juncture, the Convener advised that he was moving item 7.1 (Notice of Motion by Councillors Allard and Yuill – Aberdeen FC) to the end of the public part of the agenda.

COUNCIL FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE – QUARTER 1, 2025/26 - CORS/25/181

6. The Committee had before it a report by the Executive Director of Corporate Services which provided the financial position of the Council as at Quarter 1 (30 June 2025) and the full year forecast position for the financial year 2025/26, 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 1 as detailed in Appendix 1;

(b) note the Common Good financial performance to the end of Quarter 1 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. Continuing action and controls, as outlined in Appendix 2 will remain in place for the remainder of the financial year;

(d) 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 2025 the uncommitted value of those reserves was £12m, the minimum that the Council Reserves Statement recommends and as approved by the Council;

(e) approve inclusion of the Den Burn Restoration project in the General Fund Capital Programme as detailed in Appendix 5, with funding being provided from SEPA, additional Scottish Government Capital Grant (Climate Emergency) and Bus Lane Enforcement money received, and instructs the Chief Officer – Capital to ensure the project is delivered;

(f) note that the HRA full year forecast position, as detailed in Appendix 2, is 'on budget', but continues to face challenging cost pressures as outlined in Appendix 2 and the HRA Budget Report 2025/26; and

(g) note that the forecast for General Fund Capital budget has been updated to include approved in-year virements, carry forward commitments and a reprofiling exercise. General Fund and Housing Capital expenditure is currently forecast to be as per the revised profiles for 2025/26;

FINANCE AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE
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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 the report;
(2) agree that the UK Government provided the Scottish Government with a record £50 billion financial settlement for 2025/26;
(3) agree the report highlights the risks associated with the IJB, meaning if the IJB has an overspend position, then the deficit will have to be met by the IJB partners. This means that the Council would have to contribute from the General Fund to bring the IJB back to a balanced position;
(4) agree the £4m of contingencies could be at risk of being insufficient given the overspend risks confirmed within the report;
(5) agree with the Labour Group's view that the Energy from Waste Plant (EfW) fiasco will impact on revenue, given council is now using landfill, transporting refuse to Peterhead and beyond, whilst maintaining the EfW;
(6) note the decision made on the 31st July 2025 in relation to the Energy from Waste Plant;
(7) agree the HRA remains under significant pressure from repair and maintenance costs and also from lost income, noting the position adopted by Aberdeen Labour at the budget last December;
(8) agree in respect of the Common Good Fund, the Chief Officer - Finance must confirm to the Committee, the relationship between Aberdeen Arts Centre, the Council and Castlegate Arts Ltd and confirm if the £8,000 paid in rent from the Common Good Fund was an internal transfer for the rent agreed between the Council and Castlegate Arts Ltd or for something different, given the Chief Officer - Finance was instructed with no diligence carried out to pay out £8,000 for Aberdeen Arts Centre not to Castlegate Arts Ltd as per appendix 6 of the Administrations 2025/26 budget; and
(9) agree inclusion of the Den Burn Restoration project in the General Fund Capital Programme as detailed in Appendix 5, with funding being provided from SEPA, additional Scottish Government Capital Grant (Climate Emergency) and Bus Lane Enforcement money received.

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

<u>The Committee resolved</u>:-
(i) to adopt the motion; and
(ii) that in relation to the Housing Revenue Account, the Chief Officer – Finance would circulate details relating to the lost income from voids in Quarter 1.

FINANCE AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE
6 August 2025

CASTLEGATE PUBLIC REALM UPDATE - CR&E/25/178

7. With reference to article 21 of the minute of meeting of 7 August 2024, the Committee had before it a report by the Executive Director of City Regeneration and Environment which provided an update on the final design and layout for public realm improvements in the Castlegate.

The report recommended:-
that the Committee –
(a) approve the design and layout of the public realm improvements as detailed in Appendix A; and
(b) instruct the Chief Officer – Capital, following consultation with the Chief Officer – Commercial & Procurement Services, to negotiate and execute contracts for delivery of the construction programme in line with the previously approved total project budget as detailed in paragraph 4.1, reporting progress through the Chief Officer – Capital's regular capital programme monitoring reports to this committee.

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

Councillor Brooks, seconded by Councillor Farquhar, moved as an amendment:-
that the Committee –
(1) note the current general lack of maintenance and weed control across the city;
(2) further note the state of Aberdeen's Green Spaces and garden areas - namely Union Terrace Gardens;
(3) instruct the Chief Officer - Capital to report back to the next meeting of the Finance and Resource Committee in November, the projected additional operational expenditure burden (Operation & Maintenance) of the plant and greenery design as a supplement to the capital expenditure costs outlined in today's committee papers; and
(4) thus, agree that any approval of the design and layout of the 'public realm improvements' must wait until the projected operational expenditure burden is made available.

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:-
(i) to adopt the motion; and
(ii) to instruct the Chief Officer – Operations to circulate to Councillor Brooks, a statement of the work planned to be carried out to improve the maintenance in Union Terrace Gardens.

FINANCE AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE
6 August 2025

BEACHFRONT PEDESTRIAN SPINE – DESIGN UPDATE - CORS/25/177

8. With reference to article 2 of the minute of meeting of the Council of 11 September 2023, the Committee had before it a report by the Executive Directors of Corporate Services and City Regeneration and Environment, which provided final proposed design layouts for the Beachfront Pedestrian Spine.

The report recommended:-
that the Committee –
(a) approve the final design layout as shown in Appendices 1 to 4 and detailed within this report for the Pedestrian Spine on the Beach Boulevard; and
(b) instruct the Chief Officer – Capital, following consultation with the Chief Officer – Commercial and Procurement Services, to negotiate and execute contracts for delivery of the construction programme in line with the previously approved total project budget as detailed in paragraph 4, reporting progress through the Chief Officer – Capital's regular capital programme monitoring reports to this committee.

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

Councillor Brooks, seconded by Councillor Farquhar, moved as an amendment:-
that the Committee -
(1) note that the current officer recommendations do not represent what has been agreed for Phase A of the Beach Master Plan;
(2) note again, as with item 9.2 (Castlegate Public Realm Update), that various plants have been included in the design;
(3) note that once again, public consultation has been performed as nothing more than a tick-box exercise to satisfy minimum statutory obligations;
(4) further note that since the publication of these committee papers last week, the public at large are disgusted with spending over £3m on this;
(5) further note that since the citizens of Aberdeen have become aware of this matter that they are rightly concerned by the Council Administration's behaviour in this;
(6) instruct the Chief Officer – Commercial and Procurement to report back to the next meeting of the Finance and Resource Committee in November, the projected additional OPEX burden (O&M) of the plant and greenery design as a supplement to the CAPEX costs outlined in today's committee papers;
(7) instruct the Chief Officer – Capital to stop all further progress on these plans until the citizens of Aberdeen have been "fully" consulted, following a process that is designed to engage with the public; and
(8) agree to reject this 'Final Design Layout' until it is clear how vehicular access and good vehicular circulation in the area is maintained (giving consideration of 18,000 visitors from all over Europe coming to the adjacent football stadium).

Councillor Malik, seconded by Councillor Watson, moved as a further amendment:-

that the Committee -

(1) agree the Council should not proceed at this time, holding over the decision until the Finance and Resources Committee meeting in November due to the limited legal implications within the report regarding Planning and the Stopping up order;

(2) agree the report does not provide any evidence as to what was advertised in respect of the Stopping up Notice or if the local authority has granted such a request given Planning is not being requested; and

(3) agree without the reassurance from legal, the Council could find themselves back into a position whereby they are having to defend an action in Court over these matters, thereby Committee should defer matters until the November meeting to allow legal to provide Elected Members with the full implications of statutory requirements.

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 Brooks (2) – Councillors Brooks and Farquhar; for the amendment by Councillor Malik (2) – Councillors Malik and Watson; 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 Malik 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 Malik (4) – Councillors Brooks, Farquhar, Malik and Warson.

The Committee resolved:-

(i) to adopt the motion;

(ii) to instruct the Chief Officer – Commercial and Procurement Services, to circulate to members of the Committee (1) the independent consultant's Traffic Management Modelling Report; (2) the costs relating to the Certificate of Lawfulness; and (3) the advice provided by the Planning Authority confirming that works would be undertaken without the need for planning permission; and

(iii) to instruct the Chief Officer – Strategic Place Planning to clarify why the report made no reference to sections 207 and 208 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997, regarding the powers of planning authorities to stop up roads.

FINANCE AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE
6 August 2025

PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK REPORT - CORS/25/176

9. The Committee had before it a report by the Executive Director of Corporate Services which provided the status of (1) 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 the 2024/25 fiscal period; and (2) year-to-year comparisons against a series of core data derived from recent national publications, and Statutory Performance Indicators linked to these organisational structures.

The report recommended:-
that the Committee note the report and provide comments and observations on the performance information contained in the Appendix to the report.

The Committee resolved:-
to note the performance information contained in the Appendix.

CONTRIBUTING TO YOUR CARE AND SUPPORT (ADULT SOCIAL CARE (NON-RESIDENTIAL) CHARGING POLICY 25-26 - ACHSCP/25/180

10. With reference to article 14 of the minute of meeting of 7 August 2024, the Committee had before it a report by the Chief Officer - Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership, which presented a revised Charging Policy for adult non-residential social care services for its approval.

The report recommended:-
that the Committee –
(a) approve the 'Contributing to Your Care and Support – Adult Social Care (Non-Residential) Charging Policy 25-26 and agree that it should be implemented as of 01 April 2026;
(b) agree that a taper of 67% will continue to be applied to an individual's personal allowance in the application of charges; and
(c) agree an initial percentage charge on the chargeable elements of an individual budget of 70%, rising 10% each financial year, before reaching an 100% charge in 2029-30.

The Committee resolved:-
(i) to approve the recommendations contained within the report; and
(ii) to note that the Chief Officer - Finance would circulate to Councillor Watson, for context, details of the budgeted income figures regarding non-residential income charges.

FINANCE AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE
6 August 2025

DEVELOPMENT PLAN SCHEME 2025 - CR&E/25/174

11. With reference to article 17 of the minute of meeting of 7 August 2024, the Committee had before it a report by the Executive Director of City Regeneration and Environment which sought approval of the second annual update to the Development Plan Scheme for the Aberdeen Local Development Plan 2028.

The report recommended:-
that the Committee approve the content of the updated Development Plan Scheme 2025 (Appendix 1) and instruct the Chief Officer – Strategic Place Planning to, subject to any minor drafting changes which he considers necessary, publish it in accordance with relevant legislation.

The Committee resolved:-
to approve the recommendation contained within the report.

VISITOR LEVY - CR&E/25/179

12. With reference to article 14 of the minute of meeting of 12 February 2025, the Committee had before it a report by the Executive Director of City Regeneration and Environment which sought a decision on whether and how to proceed with the visitor levy in Aberdeen.

The report recommended:-
that the Committee –
(a) note the public consultations and key stakeholders that have been consulted on the outline proposal in section 3.22;
(b) note the key points from these consultations in section 3.23-3.25 with a full summary provided in Appendix B - Aberdeen City Council Consultation response July 2025;
(c) note the absolute earliest date that Aberdeen City Council could introduce a visitor levy is 01 April 2027;
(d) note the timeline and actions in section 3.5 if a decision is made to proceed with the visitor levy proposals or with modifications to those proposals;
(e) decide whether or not to take forward a Visitor Levy for Aberdeen and decide upon a rate in the range of 5% to 10% in line with the scheme outlined, or with modifications; and
(f) instruct the Chief Officer – City Development and Regeneration to take any actions necessary to implement the decision made under recommendation 2.5; and in accordance with the Visitor Levy (Scotland) Act 2024.

The Convener, seconded by Councillor Greig, moved:-
that the Committee –
(1) welcome the Visitor Levy (Scotland) Act 2024, which allows local authorities in Scotland to charge a fee on overnight stays in some types of

accommodation calculated as a percentage of the chargeable transaction for accommodation;

(2) note the public and stakeholders consultation carried out by Aberdeen City Council;

(3) instruct the Chief Officer - City Development & Regeneration to take any actions necessary to introduce the visitor levy across Aberdeen at 7%, in accordance with the Visitor Levy (Scotland) Act 2024, from 01 April 2027;

(4) instruct the Chief Officer - City Development & Regeneration to continue to engage with businesses during the implementation period to better understand the costs of compliance with the Visitor Levy scheme;

(5) agree as part of the above mentioned engagement, the Council will review the appropriateness of the proposed administrative retention rate to ensure it remains fair, proportionate, and is evidence-based and delegates authority to the Chief Officer - City Development & Regeneration to set the retention rate in consultation with the Convener of the Finance and Resources Committee; and

(6) instruct the Chief Officer - City Development & Regeneration to establish a Visitor Levy Forum within six months in line with the requirements of the Visitor Levy (Scotland) Act 2024.

Councillor Brooks, seconded by Councillor Farquhar, moved as an amendment:-

that the Committee –

(1) note that the premise and term "Visitor Levy" makes no exemption for Aberdeen citizens using city accommodation after a night out (Weddings, Xmas parties, etc);

(2) note in Appendix B, the summary outcome is that a majority of respondents disagreed with Aberdeen City Council implementing a visitor levy, and a plurality of residents were not in favour;

(3) further note that only 119 individuals took part in the public consultations;

(4) further note that, in para 3.23 opposition came especially from smaller providers;

(5) acknowledge the overwhelming lack of support for the Aberdeen Visitor Levy, with the majority, (for the avoidance of doubt, over 50%) disagreed with introducing a visitor levy in Aberdeen; and

(6) Thus, in valuing the opinion of Aberdeen citizens, together with the financial and administrative burdens on our accommodation/hospitality sector agree to act on behalf of the public and in favour of small business owners in this sector, and reject the introduction of a Visitor Levy.

Councillor Malik, seconded by Councillor Watson, moved as a further amendment:-

that the Committee –

(1) note the report;

(2) agree to take forward a Visitor Levy for Aberdeen at a rate of 5%; and

(3) instruct the Chief Officer – City Development and Regeneration to take any actions necessary to implement the decision made under above

recommendation and in accordance with the Visitor Levy (Scotland) Act 2024.

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 Brooks (2) – Councillors Brooks and Farquhar; for the amendment by Councillor Malik (2) – Councillors Malik and Watson; 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.

OPPORTUNITY TO HOST THE WORLD RALLY CHAMPIONSHIPS IN NORTH EAST SCOTLAND - CR&E/25/184

13. The Committee had before it a report by the Executive Director of City Regeneration and Environment which informed of the opportunity to host the World Rally Championships across the Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire and Moray Council areas for three consecutive years and sought approval to undertake planning and engagement exercises.

The report recommended:-
that the Committee –

(a) welcome the opportunity for the North East of Scotland to host the World Rally Championships (WRC);
(b) instruct the Chief Officer - City Development & Regeneration to prepare a detailed project proposal for hosting the WRC, including engagement with relevant partners;
(c) instruct the Chief Officer - City Development & Regeneration to report the project proposal back to this Committee in November, with detailed costings and partnership feedback, including potential funding options and risk mitigation; and
(d) authorise the Chief Officer – City Development & Regeneration to approve travel for up to two officers for a scoping visit to a World Rally Championship event, to

be funded from the International Trade Budget and/or the City Promotions budget, should the opportunity arise in this financial year.

The Convener, seconded by Councillor Greig, moved:-
that the Committee –
(1) approve recommendations (a) to (c); and
(2) delegate authority to the Chief Officer – City Development & Regeneration, in consultation with Co-leaders, to approve international travel to attend a World Rally Championship event, to be funded from the International Trade Budget and/or the City Promotions budget, should the opportunity arise in this 2025/26 financial year.

Councillor Malik, seconded by Councillor Watson, moved as an amendment:-
that the Committee –
(1) note the report agreeing recommendations (b), (c) and (d); and
(2) agree to ask the Chief Executive why Urgent Business Committee was not called in respect of 3.5 of the report, noting Events Scotland must wonder if Aberdeen City Council is serious about this event given it missed a glorious opportunity to understand the logistics in real time.

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.

FERRYHILL SCHOOL AND HARLAW ACADEMY SUITABILITY IMPROVEMENTS - CR&E/25/173

14. With reference to article 3 of the minute of meeting of Council of 5 March 2025, the Committee had before it a report by the Executive Director of City Regeneration and Environment which provided an update on progress and confirmed future reporting arrangements for Ferryhill School and Harlaw Academy Suitability projects identified within the approved Capital Programme.

The report recommended:-
that the Committee –
(a) note the advance and enabling development works undertaken to date to reduce risk to the main construction works and mitigate educational disruption;
(b) note that the works carried out to date remain within the Capital Plan budget envelope and that work continues towards collating the main costs that will allow completion of the full business case; and
(c) instruct the Chief Officer – Capital to continue to progress all necessary procurements, approvals, permissions, licenses, agreements and consents

required to develop and implement the projects within the Capital Programme budget, reporting progress through the regular capital programme monitoring reports to this committee and to circulate for information the full business Cases for each project to committee members once completed.

The Committee resolved:-
(i) to approve the recommendations contained within the report; and
(ii) to note that the Director of City Regeneration and Environment would raise Councillor Watson's concerns regarding the speeding buses on Caledonian Place at the next meeting of the Aberdeen Bus Partnership, which includes within its membership, representation from FirstBus.

WORK PLAN AND BUSINESS CASES - CORS/25/175

15. The Committee had before it a report by the Executive Director of Corporate Services which presented procurement work plans where expenditure was included for the Corporate Services and the Families and Communities Functions for review and sought approval of the total estimated expenditure for the proposed contracts as contained in the work plans and Procurement Business Cases appended to the report.

The Procurement Business Case related to the following:-
- Employee Benefits;
- Keyholding & Out of Hours;
- PIV Installations;
- Children with Disabilities Support;
- Strategic Demolitions;
- Fostering & Continuing Care; and
- Water Audit 2025

The report recommended:-
that the Committee –
(a) review the workplan as detailed in the Appendices for the Corporate Services and Families and Communities Functions;
(b) approve the procurement business cases, including the total estimated expenditure for the proposed contracts; and
(c) note the content of Appendix 3 – 3.10 Memo Approvals and Appendix 4 – 4.1.3 Technical Exemption Approvals.

The Committee resolved:-
to approve the recommendations contained within the report.

FINANCE AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE
6 August 2025

NOTICE OF MOTION BY COUNCILLORS ALLARD AND YUILL - ABERDEEN FC - REFERRED FROM COUNCIL ON 2 JULY 2025

16. The Committee had before it a Joint Notice of Motion by Councillors Allard and Yuill, Vice Convener in the following terms:-

that this Council congratulates Aberdeen FC on winning the Scottish Cup.

Councillor Allard moved the joint motion and explained the rationale behind it and was seconded by Councillor Greig.

Councillor Malik, seconded by Councillor Brooks, moved as a joint amendment:-

that the Committee:-

(1) agree the Notice of Motion, adding;

(2) agree observing over 100,000 citizens in Aberdeen watch with pride as Aberdeen Football Club paraded the Scottish Cup down Union Street to the Town House shows the power of football in this city;

(3) agree that the second phase of the Masterplan incorporating a new stadium for Aberdeen Football Club with ancillary sporting facilities to ensure any purpose-built sport centre is suitable for local, regional, national and international events is fundamental if Aberdeen is to remain the Energy Capital of Europe; and

(4) agree to set up a working group comprising the 4 group leaders, Aberdeen Football Club and Senior Officers with terms of reference to be agreed after the first meeting to discuss how best the Council can proceed with phase two of the Beach Masterplan on a consensual basis.

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

The Committee resolved:-
to adopt the motion.

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

OPPORTUNITY TO HOST THE WORLD RALLY CHAMPIONSHIPS IN NORTH EAST SCOTLAND - EXEMPT APPENDIX

17. The Committee had before it an exempt appendix relating to the Opportunity to Host the World Rally Championships in North East Scotland report. (Article 13 of this minute refers)

The Committee resolved:-

to note the information contained within the exempt appendix.

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 15 of this minute refers)

The Committee resolved:-
to note the information contained within the exempt appendices.
- COUNCILLOR ALEX MCLELLAN, Convener

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FINANCE AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

ABERDEEN, 31 July 2025. Minute of Meeting of the FINANCE AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE. Present:- Councillor McLellan, Convener; and Councillors Allard, Cooke, Farquhar, Greig, Malik, Nicoll (as substitute for Councillor Brooks), Radley (as substitute for Councillor Yuill, the Vice Convener) and Tissera (as substitute for Councillor 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.

URGENT BUSINESS

1. The Committee were advised that two urgent Notices of Motion had been submitted and accepted as urgent by the Convener in terms of Standing Order 12.9. In terms of Standing Order 12.11, the reasons for urgency were provided by members as follows:-

(1) Urgent Notice of Motion by Councillor Tissera - Energy from Waste

Councillor Tissera believed that refuse collection had failed, and residents were not receiving statutory services they paid council tax for. There had also been no explanation for the closure of the Energy from Waste Plant, which raised serious governance concerns.

Councillor Tissera stated that under Section 45(1)(a) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, the Council had a legal duty to collect household waste. Furthermore, under Section 1 of the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003, the Council was also bound to deliver Best Value, that meant transparency and effective service delivery.

Councillor Tissera stated that these were urgent failures of statutory duties and that delaying discussion would put the Council at legal and reputational risk.

(2) Urgent Joint Notice of Motion by the Convener and Councillor Greig – Tall Ships 2025

The Convener advised that the Tall Ships 2025 Event had concluded out with the deadlines for submitting a Notice of Motion.

The Committee resolved:-
to note the reasons for urgency outlined above in terms of Standing Order 12.11, and that the Convener had also accepted the urgent notice of motion regarding the Tall Ships in terms of Section 50B(4)(b) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

FINANCE AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE
31 July 2025

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND TRANSPARENCY STATEMENTS

2. There were no declarations of interest or transparency statements intimated.

URGENT NOTICE OF MOTION BY COUNCILLOR TISSERA - ENERGY FROM WASTE

3. The Committee had before it an urgent Notice of Motion by Councillor Tissera in the following terms:-

that the Committee:-

(1) agree it was simply outrageous for Elected Members to find out via the press regarding the ongoing closure of the Energy from Waste Plant;

(2) agree it has now been established that Council officers knew about this closure on 27 June 2025, yet despite there being a Council meeting on 2 July 2025 all Elected Members were not informed;

(3) agree that most if not all of the problems the Council currently has to face such as Bus gates, Energy from Waste, and RAAC has come through either the Net Zero Environment and Transport Committee or through Urgent Business Committee both convened by Councillor Ian Yuill;

(4) agree officers must inform Elected Members when they advised Administration leaders on the closure of the plant and explain why all Elected Members were not appraised of the reasons for closure before it made its way to the press;

(5) agree that changes to staff terms and conditions as part of the 35-hour week may have contributed to bin collections not being undertaken as before and instructs the Chief Officer - Operations to bring forward a report to the relevant committee, into any impacts that the 35-hour week has had on the management of bin collections following its implementation; and

(6) instruct the Chief Officer - Operations to bring forward a report to the Council meeting on 20 August 2025, providing Elected members with information as to how the Council intends to ensure the Energy for Waste Plant gets back up running and the knock-on effects it the closure is having on residents and communities throughout Aberdeen.

Councillor Tissera moved her motion and explained the rationale behind it and was seconded by Councillor Malik.

The Convener, seconded by Councillor Greig, moved as an amendment:-

that the Committee:-

(1) note the North East Scotland Shared (NESS) Energy from Waste Project (EfW) is a shared service between Aberdeen City Council, Aberdeenshire Council and Moray Council to treat the residual waste from the three Councils;

(2) note that EFW Ness Ltd (Acciona) is the contractor responsible for delivering that service for the three authorities and it has sub-contracted the operation

of the facility to Indaver, and that EFW Ness Ltd recently notified Indaver of their intention to terminate the operating sub-contract;

(3) note the ongoing contractual negotiations between Council officers and Acciona to ensure the Energy from Waste facility is fully operational as soon as possible;

(4) note that any changes in the delivery of waste management will be reported to the Net Zero, Environment and Transport Committee, through the performance report; and

(5) instruct the Chief Officer – Operations to provide an update to the Net Zero, Environment and Transport Committee when the Energy from Waste facility is operational, outlining any potential environmental impact and any contractual implications for the Council.

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

The Committee resolved:-

(i) to adopt the amendment; and

(ii) to note that officers would report back on any environmental/financial impacts.

URGENT JOINT NOTICE OF MOTION BY THE CONVENER AND COUNCILLOR GREIG - TALL SHIPS 2025

4. The Committee had before it an urgent Joint Notice of Motion by the Convener and Councillor Greig in the following terms:-

that the Committee:-

(1) celebrate the success of Tall Ships Aberdeen 2025, delivered by Team Aberdeen led by Aberdeen City Council, Port of Aberdeen and Aberdeen Inspired working in partnership, which saw over 400,000 visits to Aberdeen;

(2) thank all the hundreds of staff, volunteers, corporate sponsors, and young people;

(3) note an evaluation report is being prepared to allow partners to fully understand the positive impact the Tall Ships has had on our city; and

(4) in the meantime, instruct the Chief Officer - City Development and Regeneration, working with the Port of Aberdeen and Aberdeen Inspired, to engage with Sail Training International around the options to bring the Tall Ships back to Aberdeen in the future, noting that an evaluation report on Tall Ships 2025 will be prepared for November's Finance and Resources Committee.

The Convener moved the joint motion and explained the rationale behind it and was seconded by Councillor Greig.

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

that the Committee:-

(1) agree Motion then add;

(2) agree Aberdeen Labour were the only political party to include bringing the Tall Ships event back to Aberdeen in its political manifesto, therefore congratulates the SNP on delivering on an Aberdeen Labour manifesto commitment that has brought pride and well-being back to the City of Aberdeen; and

(3) recognise the efforts of the late Richard Sweetnam (Chief Officer – City Growth) and ex-Councillor Willie Young who added the Tall Ships event to the Labour Manifesto.

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

The Committee resolved:-
to adopt the motion.

- COUNCILLOR ALEX MCLELLAN, Convener

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1	**FINANCE AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE BUSINESS PLANNER** The Business Planner details the reports which have been instructed by the Committee as well as reports which the Functions expect to be submitting for the calendar year.								
2	**Report Title**	**Minute Reference/Committee Decision or Purpose of Report**	**Update**	**Report Author**	**Chief Officer**	**Directorate**	**Terms of Reference**	**Delayed or Recommended for removal or transfer, enter either D, R, or T**	**Explanation if delayed, removed or transferred**
3			**05 November 2025**						
4	Council Financial Performance – Quarter 2, 2025/26	to present the Council Financial Performance - Quartely report to Committee for consideration		Lesley Fullerton	Finance	Corporate Services	1.1		
5	Work Plan & Business Cases	To seek approval of the estimated expenditure on the procurement business cases.		Mel Mackenzie	Commercial and Procurement	Corporate Services	1.1.5 1.1.6		
6	Condition & Suitability 3 Year Programme (Annual Report)	This report seeks approval of an updated 3-year Condition and Suitability (C&S) Programme.		Andrew Jones	Corporate Landlord	Families and Communities	1.1.5, 1.1.8 4.1		
7	Fleet Replacement Programme (Annual Report)	To present the current position of the programme for Fleet Vehicles and Assets		John Weir/Derek Jamieson	Operations	City Regeneration & Environment	1.1.6	**D**	Due to the approvals sought in the report on this agenda, Aberdeen City H2 Programme, the work being undertaken to bring the Hydrogen refuelling stations back into production and discussions ongoing with our EV partner, this report has been delayed to the next cycle to reflect the impact of these on the fleet programme.
8	Performance Management Framework Report	To present Committee with 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		Alex Paterson	Data Insights	Corporate Services	2.1.3		
9	Northfield Area Asset Review – Strategic Outline Business Case	To seek approval of an outline business case for reducing the number of primary schools in the Northfield ASG, as detailed in the School Estate Plan. The E&CS Committee on 16/9/25 agreed to note the findings of the Northfield Area Asset Review as set out within the Strategic Outline Case at Appendix A of this report, and refer the document to the Finance and Resources Committee for approval		Andrew Jones	Corporate Landlord	Families and Communities	4.1		

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2	**Report Title**	**Minute Reference/Committee Decision or Purpose of Report**	**Update**	**Report Author**	**Chief Officer**	**Directorate**	**Terms of Reference**	**Delayed or Recommended for removal or transfer, enter either D, R, or T**	**Explanation if delayed, removed or transferred**
10	Capital Programme Delivery:Projects Update	The purpose of this report is to summarise the general progress of delivery of key capital expenditure projects identified within the approved Capital Programme from the General Fund and Housing Revenue Accounts.		Alan McKay	Capital	City Regeneration & Environment	1.1		
11	Beachfront Shoreline Regeneration (Phase C) - Full Business Case	At its meeting of 8 February 2024, the Council, subject to the outcome of the budget process, instructed the Chief Officer - Commercial and Procurement to progress the Beachfront Shoreline Regeneration (Phase C) work to the completion of a Full Business Case (FBC) to Council, reporting back in October 2025 (on the short-medium interventions) and June 2026 (on the medium-long interventions).		Craig Innes	Commercial and Procurement	Corporate Services	1.1	**R**	Beachfront Shoreline Regeneration of Phase C has been put on hold since the Council Budget meeting of March 2025. Should future funding from either/and the Budget process, or from external sources become available, then a report will be submitted to Committee as appropriate.
12	Medium Term Financial Strategy for the Council's General Fund, 2025	The Council at its meeting on 5/3/25 agreed to instruct the Chief Officer - Finance to report to the Finance and Resource Committee with an updated Medium Term Financial Strategy no later than December 2025		Jonathan Belford	Finance	Corporate Services	1.1 2.1.5		
13	Beach Masterplan – Beach Ballroom Update	The Council at its meeting on 5/3/25 agreed to note the importance of the Beach Ballroom, both to the heritage of Aberdeen and as a key cornerstone project in the wider City Centre and Beach Masterplans, and instruct the Chief Officer - City Development and Regeneration and Chief Officer - Commercial and Procurement to bring back an investment plan to the Finance and Resources Committee no later than December 2025, which maintains the cultural heritage of the building, but also ensures that the building meets modern standards, to allow it to become commercially viable		Craig Innes	Commercial and Procurement	Corporate Services/ City Regeneration & Environment	1.1.17	**D**	Initial soft market testing has confirmed limited appetite for a single-site solution. Consequently, this will be addressed within the broader Alternative Delivery Model work in partnership with ALEOs and other stakeholders. This would allow an options appraisal to identify potential alternative funding routes to inform a robust investment strategy. To ensure this strategy is fully evidence-based, finalisation of the investment plan will be slightly delayed and concluded by year-end. A report will likely be submitted to the meeting in February 2026.

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2	**Report Title**	**Minute Reference/Committee Decision or Purpose of Report**	**Update**	**Report Author**	**Chief Officer**	**Directorate**	**Terms of Reference**	**Delayed or Recommended for removal or transfer, enter either D, R, or T**	**Explanation if delayed, removed or transferred**
14	District Heating – Network Expansion / Waste Heat Utilisation (City Centre Link)	The Committee on 13/9/23 agreed to instruct the Head of Commercial and Procurement to explore external funding sources to support the capital delivery of this project and to report the outcomes of recommendations 2.1 and 2.2 to this Committee during Q3 2024		Barry Davidson	Commercial and Procurement	Corporate Services	1.1.5	**D**	The report has been delayed to allow Officers to explore recent grant funding opportunities and to progress heat offtake discussions with key stakeholders. It is anticipated that the report will now be submitted in February 2026
15	Bus Lane Enforcement and Low Emission Zone Projects 2025/26 - Place Lighting and Guild Street Improvement projects	The NZET Committee on 10/6/25 agreed to instruct the Chief Officer – Strategic Place Planning, following consultation with the Chief Officer – Capital, to progress the Place Lighting and Guild Street Improvement projects listed in paragraph 3.2.1 of the report, and to bring detailed proposals to a meeting of the Finance and Resources Committee before the end of 2025 for consideration by Members prior to any works taking place		Claire McArthur/ Will Hekelaar	Strategic Place Planning	City Regeneration & Environment		**D**	Work is currently being undertaken to align this work with wider City Centre Masterplan projects and, in particular, the development of the new Market building. Report likely to be submitted to February meeting.
16	Annual Procurement Report 2024-25	To present the Annual Procurement Report 2024-2025 to Council.		Mel Mackenzie	Commercial and Procurement	Corporate Services	2.18		
17	Tall Ships Aberdeen 2025 Evaluation	The Special Committee meeting on 31/7/25 agreed to instruct the Chief Officer - City Development and Regeneration, working with the Port of Aberdeen and Aberdeen Inspired, to engage with Sail Training International around the options to bring the Tall Ships back to Aberdeen in the future, noting that an evaluation report on Tall Ships 2025 will be prepared for November's Finance and Resources Committee.		Matthew Williams	City Development and Regeneration	City Regeneration & Environment	1.1.2 1.1.3 1.1.8 2.1.1		
18	World Rally Championship Bid	The Committee on 6/8/25 agreed to instruct the Chief Officer - City Development & Regeneration to report the project proposal back to this Committee in November, with detailed costings and partnership feedback, including potential funding options and risk mitigation		Matthew Williams	City Development and Regeneration	City Regeneration & Environment	3.2		
19	Proposed Sale of Land at Granitehill Road	To recommend the disposal of the subjects.		Debbie Wyllie	Corporate Landlord	Families and Communities	4.1 4.4		

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2	**Report Title**	**Minute Reference/Committee Decision or Purpose of Report**	**Update**	**Report Author**	**Chief Officer**	**Directorate**	**Terms of Reference**	**Delayed or Recommended for removal or transfer, enter either D, R, or T**	**Explanation if delayed, removed or transferred**
20	Silver City Heritage and Place Programme	To advise on the Heritage and Place Programme bids and seek approval for the Subsidy Control Scheme for the third party grants		Sian Loftus	Strategic Place Planning	City Regeneration & Environment	3.2 3.4		
21	Aberdeen eBike Hire Scheme	To advise Members of the outcome of the procurement exercise undertaken to identify a preferred supplier for the delivery and operation of an eBike scheme in Aberdeen, and to seek approval to proceed with the appointment of the successful bidder.		Jane Obi	Strategic Place Planning	City Regeneration & Environment	1.1.5 2.1.1		
22	Place Based Investment Programme/UK Shared Prosperity Fund	The purpose of this report is to seek the committee's approval for the proposed allocation of grant funding of the Place Based investment Programme (PBIP)		Charlotte Farquhar	City Development and Regeneration	City Regeneration & Environment	1.1.8 1.1.11		
23	Aberdeen City H2 Programme	This report provides an update to members on the implementation of the Aberdeen City Region Hydrogen Strategy 2015–2025 and outlines key achievements to date, including success of the H2 Valley Th2istle bid progressing to grant agreement stage and receipt of Transport Scotland funding to enable technician training. The report highlights the steps required to ensure operations of both the hydrogen infrastructure and vehicles, detailing any approval requirements necessary.		Claire Stevenson	City Development and Regeneration	City Regeneration & Environment	1.1 3.4		
24			**11 February 2026**						
25	Council Financial Performance – Quarter 3, 2025/26	to present the Council Financial Performance - Quartely report to Committee for consideration		Lesley Fullerton	Finance	Corporate Services	1.1		
26	Christmas Village Feedback Report (Annual Report)	The Committee on 26/3/25 agreed to instruct the Chief Officer – City Development and Regeneration to report back to the Finance and Resources Committee in March 2026 with the evaluation report of the 2025 event.		Matthew Williams	City Development and Regeneration	City Regeneration & Environment	2.1 3.2		
27	Transfer of Business & Community Support Officer role via TUPE to Aberdeen City Council Staff	The report details the proposal and justification for the role of Business & Community Support Officer (BCSO)		Mark Jones	Education & Lifelong Learning	Families and Communities	1.1		
28			**13 May 2026**						

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
2	**Report Title**	**Minute Reference/Committee Decision or Purpose of Report**	**Update**	**Report Author**	**Chief Officer**	**Directorate**	**Terms of Reference**	**Delayed or Recommended for removal or transfer, enter either D, R, or T**	**Explanation if delayed, removed or transferred**
29	Council Financial Performance – Quarter 4, 2025/26	to present the Council Financial Performance - Quartely report to Committee for consideration		Lesley Fullerton	Finance	Corporate Services	1.1		
30	Wellington Road Junction Improvements – Progress Report	The NZET Committee on 12/11/24 agreed to instruct the Chief Officer - Capital and the Chief Officer Strategic Place Planning to investigate funding opportunities for the future development and implementation of the project and report an Outline Business Case and conclusion of Stage 3 Scheme Assessment to the Finance and Resources Committee in Autumn 2025	At the Committee on 6/8/25, it was noted on the Planner that the appointment of technical advisors to undertake the DMRB Stage 3 is ongoing, currently not be in a position to report on the outcome of DMRB Stage 3 Scheme Assessment or prepare an Outline Business Case until the Spring of 2026.	Ross Stevenson	Capital/ Strategic Place Planning	City Regeneration & Environment			
31			**05 August 2026**						
32	Council Financial Performance – Quarter 1, 2026/27	to present the Council Financial Performance - Quartely report to Committee for consideration		Lesley Fullerton	Finance	Corporate Services	1.1		
33			**30 September 2026**						
34	No Reports at this Stage								
35			**04 November 2026**						
36	Council Financial Performance – Quarter 2, 2026/27	to present the Council Financial Performance - Quartely report to Committee for consideration		Lesley Fullerton	Finance	Corporate Services	1.1		
37	Condition & Suitability 3 Year Programme (Annual Report)	This report seeks approval of an updated 3-year Condition and Suitability (C&S) Programme.		Andrew Jones	Corporate Landlord	Families and Communities	1.1.5, 1.1.8 4.1		
38	Fleet Replacement Programme (Annual Report)	To present the current position of the programme for Fleet Vehicles and Assets		John Weir/Derek Jamieson	Operations	City Regeneration & Environment	1.1.6		
39			**TBC**						

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
2	**Report Title**	**Minute Reference/Committee Decision or Purpose of Report**	**Update**	**Report Author**	**Chief Officer**	**Directorate**	**Terms of Reference**	**Delayed or Recommended for removal or transfer, enter either D, R, or T**	**Explanation if delayed, removed or transferred**
40	School Estate Plan: Denominational Primary Schools	To seek approval of an outline business case for considering future arrangements for denominational primary school provision, as detailed in the School Estate Plan. The ECS Committee on 20/02/24 agreed a revised programme for implementing projects within the School Estate Plan. The revised programme includes an updated timescale for the submission of an outline business case (should this be required) for the Denominational Schools options, which would be expected to be submitted to the Finance and Resources Committee for approval on 12/09/24.	After considering a report on the denominational primary schools feasibility study, which was referred to it from the September ECS Committee, Council agreed on 02/10/24 to approve the recommendation in the report, which was to instruct the Chief Officer - Corporate Landlord to continue to monitor pupil numbers at the schools and to include recommendations in the 2025 School Estate Plan annual update report on any required actions to be taken. An update will therefore be provided to the Committee after the School Estate Plan update report has been considered by the ECS Committee in September 2025.	Andrew Jones	Corporate Landlord	Families and Communities	1.1.4		
41	Bucksburn and Dyce Long Term Secondary School Provision: Outline Business Case	To seek approval of an outline business case for future secondary school provision for Bucksburn and Dyce, as detailed in the School Estate Plan	At the Committee on 6/8/25, it was noted on the Planner that following the instruction from E&CS Committee on 24/06/25, for officers to engage with colleagues at Aberdeenshire Council to discuss proposed changes to catchment areas prior to any action being taken, there is no requirement for the Outline Business Case to be approved by the F&R Committee, until the outcomes of those discussions are known. Any recommendations following those discussions which require F&R Committee approval will be reported to the Committee at the appropriate time.	Andrew Jones	Corporate Landlord	Families and Communities	4.1		
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ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Council
DATE	1 October 2025
EXEMPT	No
CONFIDENTIAL	No
REPORT TITLE	Annual Performance Reports - 2024/2025 for all Tier 1 ALEOs: Aberdeen Performing Arts; Aberdeen Sports Village; Bon Accord Care; Sport Aberdeen
REPORT NUMBER	CORS/25/222
DIRECTOR	Andy MacDonald
CHIEF OFFICER	Craig Innes
REPORT AUTHOR	Craig Innes
TERMS OF REFERENCE	24.13

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 This report presents the annual performance reporting of the Council's four Tier one Arm's Length External Organisations (ALEOs) covering financial year 2024/2025: Aberdeen Performing Arts (APA); Aberdeen Sports Village (ASV); Bon Accord Care and Sport Aberdeen (SA). An ALEO is a term used to describe an organisation that is formally separate from the council but is subject to its control or influence. That level of control or influence can vary.

2. RECOMMENDATION

2.1 That the Council notes the Annual Performance Reports for each of the Tier one ALEOs.

3. CURRENT SITUATION

3.1 The undernoted paragraphs, 4 to 7, provide a brief overview of each of the four ALEOs. Individual Annual Performance Reports for each organisation are appended to this report.

4. Aberdeen Performing Arts

4.1 Aberdeen Performing Arts (APA) stands as a vibrant cultural beacon in the heart of Scotland, known for its dynamic programming, community engagement, and artistic excellence. The organisation manages several of Aberdeen's key venues, including His Majesty's Theatre, the Music Hall, and the Lemon Tree, each playing a pivotal role in the city's cultural landscape.

4.1.1 Artistic Excellence and Diverse Programming

- A hallmark of APA is the breadth and quality of its programming. From world-class touring productions and acclaimed West End shows at His Majesty's

Theatre to innovative music events and festivals at the Music Hall and Lemon Tree, APA consistently delivers a rich tapestry of performances. The organisation supports and showcases local talent alongside international artists, ensuring a balance between accessibility and excellence. Highlights often include classical concerts, contemporary music gigs, drama, dance, comedy, and family-friendly events.

4.1.2 Community Engagement and Educational Initiatives

- APA excels in creating opportunities for local participation in the arts. Through workshops, outreach programmes, and partnerships with schools and community groups, APA fosters creativity and learning for all ages. Signature projects often include youth theatre workshops, artist development schemes, and collaborative productions that celebrate and nurture local voices. The organisation's commitment to inclusivity ensures that everyone, regardless of background, has the chance to experience and participate in the arts.

4.1.3 Major Festivals and Special Events

- APA is renowned for curating and hosting major cultural festivals and events, such as Granite Noir, the city's festival of crime writing, the Light the Blue youth arts festival, and the International Season. These attract national and international attention, bringing together artists, writers, performers, audiences, and community members for unique and memorable experiences. Festivals and events provide platforms for new work, participation, and innovation, further enhancing Aberdeen's reputation as a centre for creativity.

4.1.4 Audience Growth and Accessibility

- APA has consistently demonstrated growth in audience numbers across its venues. Audience augmentations and engagement initiatives, such as pre-show talks, post-show discussions, and creative learning programmes, strengthen connections between artists and audiences. Accessibility remains a priority, with relaxed performances, signed and captioned shows, improved venue facilities, and community ticket initiatives helping to make performances open and welcoming to all.

4.1.5 Economic and Social Impact

- As a key cultural leader in the region, APA contributes significantly to the local economy, supporting jobs, creative industries, and tourism. The venues are not only arts hubs but also social and economic catalysts, drawing residents and visitors alike into the city centre.

4.1.6 Award Recognition and Partnerships

- The organisation's commitment to excellence and inclusion is recognised through awards, positive audience feedback, and strong relationships with cultural partners, funders, and local authorities. APA's collaborative approach ensures sustainable growth and resilience.

- In summary, APA's performance highlights reflect a balanced focus on artistic innovation, community cohesion, accessibility, and economic vitality, establishing it as a cornerstone of Aberdeen's cultural life.

4.1.7 Contribution to the Determinants of Population Health

- Community Cohesion & Social Change: 783 performances, 5 festivals, and 484 workshops, engaging over 416,000 audience members and 13,900 participants.
- Mental Wellbeing & Social Inclusion: Creative engagement for all ages, including youth theatre, music, hip hop, and inclusive community choir. Projects for care-experienced young people, disabled children, and those from low-income backgrounds.
- Education & Talent Development: Partnerships with schools (e.g., Skene Square Primary, Aberdeen Grammar), internships, and creative assistant roles for young people.
- Economic Impact: Major investment in city centre venues, supporting regeneration and local employment (291 artists employed).
- Equality, Diversity & Inclusion: Extensive accessible programming (BSL, captioned, audio described), festivals for BPOC and LGBT+ communities, and pay-what-you-can ticketing.
- Climate Action: Carbon literacy training, energy-efficient upgrades, and sustainable travel initiatives.

5. Aberdeen Sports Village

5.1 Aberdeen Sports Village (ASV) stands as the North-East of Scotland's flagship centre for sports excellence, community activity, and athletic development, serving the University of Aberdeen sport and active heath, elite athletes, community groups, and the general public. ASV's mission is to inspire activity, foster achievement, and promote wellbeing across all ages and backgrounds. The following overview explores the key performance highlights that have shaped Aberdeen Sports Village's reputation for excellence in the past year.

5.1.1 Facility Utilisation and Community Engagement

- ASV has consistently demonstrated strong engagement with the local and regional community. In the last operating year, the facility welcomed an impressive number of visitors, with attendance figures exceeding 1 million visits. These visitors included general public, school and university students, professional athletes, amateur sports enthusiasts, and families seeking recreational activities.
- Membership Growth: Aberdeen Sports Village saw an increase in membership income whilst maintaining member levels, reaching new highs in over 60's and corporate sign-ups. Flexible membership options make ASV accessible to a broader demographic, including concessionary rates for students, seniors, and those on low incomes.

  Community Partnerships: ASV has expanded its partnerships with local schools, sports clubs, and non-profit organisations. Joint programmes have facilitated access to world-class facilities for groups who might otherwise be excluded, deepening ASV's impact on the city's wellbeing and social cohesion.

ASV's community partnership: The Home of Community Sport delivers free sports coaching sessions to over 460 local children each week. The ASV Energisers programme, in partnership with CNOOC and Serica Energy, delivers free sport, food, access to warm, safe spaces and showering facilities, after school to 559 children each week.

- Event Hosting: The venue hosted over 200 events in 2024-25, including 30 of national status. These events included regional championships to national competitions, including the inspirational Parasport Festival, Scottish championships in athletics, diving and swimming, and the Katoni Cup 2025. These events not only bring competitive sport to Aberdeen but also stimulate the local economy via visitor spending.
- Two Scottish national swimming events were selected as events to calculate indirect economic impact to the region. These events had a total estimated impact of over £2 million to the local economy.

5.1.2 Sports Excellence and Athlete Development

- Aberdeen Sports Village has continued to be a breeding ground for sporting excellence. The centre's coaching, strength, and conditioning facilities are among the best in Scotland, supporting athletes across a variety of disciplines.
- Elite Athlete Support: ASV's High Performance Centre has been home to a number of Scotland's top athletes, providing bespoke training programmes, physiotherapy, nutrition advice, and sports science support.
- Pathways for Young Talent: Partnership initiatives with the University of Aberdeen and local schools have helped nurture the next generation of talent, particularly in swimming, diving, athletics, table tennis and football. Several ASV-trained athletes have progressed to represent Scotland and Great Britain at international levels.
- Coaching and Training Programmes: The centre offers a diverse suite of coaching certification courses, first-aid training, and continued professional development for sports coaches and teachers.

5.1.3 Facility Investment and Expansion

- To maintain its position as a premier sports destination, ASV has invested heavily in its infrastructure which include maintenance on its swimming pools, and enhanced fitness studio spaces, including the creation of a Reformer Pilates studio. All upgrades have placed accessibility, sustainability, and customer safety at the forefront of design.
- Innovation in Technology: Investments in access control systems have allowed ASV to look at using automation in their normal operating environment.
- Environmental Initiatives: ASV has taken significant steps toward sustainability, implementing energy-saving measures and waste reduction schemes that underline its commitment to environmentally responsible operations. ASV invested over £200k in energy-saving LED lights in 2024-25.

5.1.4 Health and Wellbeing Impact

- ASV's contribution to the health and wellbeing of Aberdeen residents cannot be overstated. Through targeted programmes, the ASV has helped address critical health issues such as physical inactivity, obesity, and mental health challenges:
- Inclusive Fitness Programmes: Specially designed sessions for children, older adults, and people with disabilities ensure that everyone can participate, regardless of their ability level. Examples of this good work include the partnership with the Aberdeen School for the deaf which sees all children who attend the school receive free swim lessons.
- Health Awareness Campaigns: Regular workshops and seminars promote healthy living — covering topics from nutrition to stress and injury prevention.
- Rehabilitation Services: The on-site sports medicine clinic offers physiotherapy and rehabilitation, supporting recovery and long-term health for both competitive and recreational users.

5.1.5 Customer Satisfaction and Feedback

- Maintaining high levels of user satisfaction is at the heart of ASV's operational ethos. Recent customer surveys indicate:
- Over 90% satisfaction rate among regular customers and visitors.
- Particular praise for the friendliness and expertise of staff, the cleanliness of facilities, and the centre's inclusiveness.
- Feedback channels — including digital surveys and suggestion boxes — ensure that ASV can quickly respond to user needs and ideas for improvement.

5.1.6 Financial Sustainability and Value for Money

- Aberdeen Sports Village has maintained strong financial oversight, balancing prudent management with strategic investment. This approach ensures long-term value for the city and its residents.
- Diversified Income Streams: Revenue is generated from memberships, pay-as-you-go activities, event hosting, corporate sponsorship, and grants.
- Charitable Support: Subsidised programmes and community grants enable access to those experiencing financial hardship, keeping ASV's ethos of inclusivity alive.
- Efficient Operations: Cost control measures, resource optimisation, and regular audits have contributed to the centre's financial resilience.

5.1.7 Contribution to the Determinants of Population Health

- Physical Activity & Accessibility: Over 1 million visits, with inclusive programmes for all ages and backgrounds. Evergreens membership for older adults increased by 13%, with 31+ specialised sessions weekly.
- Health & Wellbeing: Cardiac rehabilitation, stable & able classes, and health referral participations. Programmes address inactivity, obesity, and mental health.
- Community Engagement: Free sports camps for children, partnership projects with local schools, and targeted initiatives for SIMD areas.
- Social Inclusion: Programmes for disabled people, ethnic minorities, and those from deprived areas. 302 disabled participants and 56,358 ethnic minority visits.

- Education & Workforce Development: Vocational training, apprenticeships, and mentoring for young staff (over 50% of workforce under 25).

6. Bon Accord Care

6.1 Bon Accord Care is a prominent provider of social care and support services in Aberdeen, delivering high-quality care to older people and vulnerable adults within the community. The following overview of key performance highlights reflect recent progress, outcomes, and ongoing commitment to excellence.

6.1.1 Service Quality and Inspection Outcomes

- Care Inspectorate Ratings: Bon Accord Care has received mixed inspection reports from the Care Inspectorate. Areas such as safety, dignity, and effectiveness of care are regularly praised. However, consistently delivering standards of excellence is impacted by increasing financial challenges as health and social care funding envelopes are reduced.
- Quality Improvement Programmes: Structured improvement initiatives have been implemented to continually enhance person-centred care, focusing on feedback from service users, families, and partners.

6.1.2 Workforce Development and Wellbeing

- Investing in Staff: Bon Accord Care has prioritised staff training, offering ongoing opportunities for professional development, qualifications, and specialist training in dementia, palliative, and complex care.
- Employee Engagement: High levels of staff engagement and low turnover rates reflect a positive working environment, supported by employee wellbeing initiatives and open communication.

6.1.3 Operational Efficiency and Innovation

- Digital Transformation: The introduction of new digital care planning systems and remote monitoring tools has improved efficiency, accuracy, and responsiveness in care delivery.
- Resource Management: Effective resource planning has enabled Bon Accord Care to maximise frontline service delivery while maintaining budgetary control and transparency.

6.1.4 Community Engagement and Outcomes

- User Satisfaction: Feedback from service users and their families consistently reports high satisfaction, citing supportive staff, respectful treatment, and the promotion of independence.
- Partnership Working: Collaboration with health services, voluntary organisations, and the Aberdeen City Council has expanded service reach and improved care transitions.

6.1.5 Response to Challenges

- The Health and Social Care sector faces significant challenges, including meeting increasing demand and population need with reducing funding streams.

- Continuous Learning: The organisation regularly reviews and evolves its practices in response to changing needs, new regulations, and external reviews, to promote ongoing quality and relevance.

6.1.6 Contribution to the Determinants of Population Health

- Health & Social Care: Early intervention and preventative measures to enhance health and wellbeing, with a focus on older people and vulnerable adults.
- Quality of Care: High inspection ratings, person-centred care, and enablement frameworks to support independence.
- Workforce Development: Staff training, wellbeing initiatives, and professional development programmes.
- Digital Transformation: Rollout of KPI dashboards and digital care planning systems.
- Community Empowerment: Rehabilitation and reablement services, assistive technologies, and occupational therapy supporting independence and mental health.
- Education & Employability: Apprenticeships, learning hub, and partnerships with schools for career development.
- Social Inclusion: Programmes for children with disabilities, care-experienced young people, and support for informal carers.
- Economic Value: £36.2m income, with significant investment in care and support services

7. Sport Aberdeen

7.1 Sport Aberdeen has continued to pursue its mission of promoting recreational, sporting, cultural, and social activities across the city, ensuring that facilities are accessible to all members of the community.

7.2 Key Achievements This Year

7.2.1. Expanding Access to Leisure Facilities

- The refurbishment of several community sports halls, resulting in more modern, safe, and welcoming environments.
- Introduction of extended opening hours at key facilities, allowing greater flexibility for users with varying schedules.
- Launch of a new digital booking platform, streamlining the process for accessing facilities and registering for activities.

7.2.2. Community Engagement and Outreach

- Delivery of free or subsidised sports sessions in areas of social deprivation, supporting children, young people, and families.
- Collaboration with partner organisations to host community sports festivals, drawing hundreds of participants and fostering community spirit.

- Implementation of targeted campaigns to encourage inactive or hard-to-reach groups to participate in regular exercise.

7.2.3. Promoting Inclusive Sport

- Launched new adaptive sports classes for individuals with disabilities, improving access and opportunity for all.
- Trained staff in equality, diversity, and inclusion, ensuring a welcoming environment across all facilities.
- Supported local clubs and disability sport groups with facility access, coaching support, and promotion of their activities.

7.2.4. Youth Development and Education

- Expansion of school sports partnership programmes, delivering coaching and extracurricular activities to a record number of pupils.
- Introduction of leadership initiatives for teenagers, including training sessions and volunteering opportunities.
- Recognition of outstanding young athletes and volunteers through annual awards and public events.

7.2.5. Health and Wellbeing Initiatives

- Rollout of community walking groups, supporting social connection and gentle exercise for older adults and those with long-term health conditions.
- Development of exercise referral schemes in partnership with NHS Grampian, enabling individuals with health challenges to access tailored physical activity programmes.
- Running mental health awareness workshops within sports settings, supporting both staff and participants.

7.2.6. Environmental Sustainability

- Installation of energy-efficient lighting and heating systems across leisure facilities.
- Active promotion of recycling and waste reduction efforts among staff and visitors.
- Engagement in city-wide partnerships to promote green transport options for facility users.

7.2.7. Financial Management and Governance

- Successful completion of external audits, demonstrating compliance with government and council regulations.
- Securing additional funding sources to reinvest in facilities and community programmes.
- Implementation of improved monitoring and reporting systems to track impact and ensure transparency.

7.2.8 Impact Stories

- Community sports session attendance up 27% compared to last year.
- Membership growth across leisure centres and swimming pools at 12% year-on-year.
- Over 80 community outreach events delivered, reaching thousands of local residents.
- 100+ staff and volunteers trained in safeguarding, mental health awareness, and inclusion best practice.

7.2.9 Contribution to the Determinants of Population Health

- Physical Activity & Health Promotion: Delivered over 1.45 million participatory opportunities, with a 2.2% increase in overall participation. Programmes target children, young people, adults, older people, and those with disabilities, supporting healthy lifestyles and reducing health inequalities.
- Targeted Health Interventions: Active Lifestyles Referral Programme for long-term health conditions, Stand Up To Falls initiative, Counterweight Core Programme for weight management, and ESCAPE-pain rehabilitation for osteoarthritis.
- Social Inclusion: Discounted access schemes, free memberships for priority groups, and outreach in regeneration areas (19.3% of members from SIMD areas).
- Mental Health & Wellbeing: ProActive Minds, Active Minds, and mental health support embedded in youth and adult programmes.
- Education & Employability: Leadership programmes, apprenticeships, and volunteer pathways for young people, including partnerships with NESCol and ABZ Works.
- Community Empowerment: Volunteer engagement (16,719 hours), community sports hubs, and support for care-experienced and disabled young people.
  Environmental Sustainability: Investment in energy-efficient infrastructure and promotion of active travel.

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report for APA. For 2024/2025 the Council provided core funding of £936k to APA.

8.2 APA is a regular funded organisation of Creative Scotland. They continue to be in receipt of £333,333 per annum through the scheme until March 2025. The scheme is being replaced by a new 'Multi-Year Funding' application process which will provide annual support from April 2025 until March 2028. The scheme is currently open to application at this time.

8.3 APA has a turnover of over £10m per year, and as one of Scotland's biggest performing arts companies, manages some of the city's most iconic buildings.

8.4 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report for ASV. The Council provided £824,000 of annual revenue funding to ASV toward the operation of the Sports Centre and Aquatics Centre during 2024/25.

8.5 As per the terms of the Joint Venture Agreement, the University of Aberdeen provides the same level of revenue funding to ASV toward the operation of the Sports Centre and Aquatics Centre.

8.6 It should be noted that ASV's financial year is different to the Council. It runs from 1st August to 31st July and is referred to as the "contract" year.

8.7 There are no financial implications arising directly from the recommendations of this report for Bon Accord Care. Core funding to Bon Accord Care for 2024/2025, paid under direction from the Integration Joint Board, was £31,958,336 with a separate £3,667,488 for Kingswells Nursing Home.

8.8 Other services may be directly commissioned from Bon Accord Care, either under direction from the Integration Joint Board or other Council Services and would be met from within the appropriate existing budgets. Such purchases would remain outside the Service Level Agreement (SLA) that governs use of the Core funding.

8.9 There are no financial implications arising directly from the recommendations of this report for Sport Aberdeen. The Council's budget for Core funding for Sport Aberdeen for 2024/25 was £4,515,000.

8.10 Separately, the ALEO Assurance Hub continues to seek assurance from all of the ALEOs on their financial stewardship, governance, and risk arrangements. This includes oversight that medium term financial plans are in place and aligned to business planning. This is reported on twice a year to the Audit, Risk and Scrutiny Committee along with the Hub's risk ratings, which reflect the level of risk presented to the Council by each ALEO.

9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

10. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

10.1 There are no direct environmental implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

11. RISK

11.1 The risks reflect the 24/25 reporting period covered and there is ongoing monitoring of the current position through the ALEO Assurance Hub.

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					
Compliance					
Operational	ALEO staff not being supported. ALEO's providing poor services to customers.	The annual report and ALEO hub monitoring process ensures and demonstrates good practice. The annual report demonstrates to the Council the ALEO's commitment to customer service.		L L	Yes Yes
Financial	None				
Reputational	None				
Environment / Climate	None				

12. OUTCOMES

COUNCIL DELIVERY PLAN 2022-2023	
	Impact of Report
Aberdeen City Council Policy Statement **Working in Partnership for Aberdeen**	The ALEOs align to the transformation programme and each forms part of the next steps for delivery of the outcomes and commitments.
Aberdeen City Local Outcome Improvement Plan	
Prosperous Economy Stretch Outcomes	The annual reports evidence the contributions by each ALEO towards the LOIP theme of prosperous economy. SLAs are outcomes-focused and contain robust contract management measures to ensure that they link directly to the LOIP outcomes for a prosperous economy.
Prosperous People Stretch Outcomes	The annual reports evidence contributions by each ALEO towards the LOIP theme of prosperous people.
Prosperous Place Stretch Outcomes	The annual reports evidence contributions by each ALEO towards the LOIP theme of a prosperous place. As above with the refresh of the SLAs

13. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Assessment	Outcome

Impact Assessment	Full impact assessment not required
Data Protection Impact Assessment	Not required

14. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.

15. APPENDICES

- **Appendix 1** – Aberdeen Performing Arts Annual Performance Report 2024/25
- **Appendix 2** – Aberdeen Sports Village Annual Performance Report 2024/25
- **Appendix 3** – Bon Accord Care Annual Performance Report 2024/25
- **Appendix 4** - Sport Aberdeen Annual Performance Report 2024/25
- **Appendix 4A** – Participation Indicators on Admissions
- **Appendix 4B** – Participation Indicators Narrative
- **Appendix 4C** – SPACE Annual Report

16. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

Name Craig Innes
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ALEO ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT

Deadline for submission 15th July 2025

Organisation: **Aberdeen Performing Arts**	
Year Covered:	**2024-25**
Report completed by:	Sharon Burgess
Position:	Chief Executive

About the organisation
Aberdeen Performing Arts is the cultural cornerstone of North-east Scotland, driving change through creativity and community engagement. Our vision includes city centre regeneration, social change initiatives, community cohesion, and placemaking, enriching the region's creative, social, and economic fabric. We measure success by financial and operational targets, city centre revitalisation, community engagement metrics, and the growth of our artistic programmes. Focusing on collaboration, inclusion, and personnel investment, we aim to lead the cultural sector, nurture talent, and foster sustainable development. As a cultural hub, we contribute to the arts, community, and civic life through national and international performances, producing and curating work, hosting festivals, and engaging diverse communities. Our activities significantly impact the local cultural sector and the region's prosperity, and we are a critical element of the infrastructure for regional community arts supporting the amateur sector as well as emerging professionals. Serving a region transitioning to renewable energy and sustainability, we ensure arts and culture influence and reflect these dynamics. We engage with local communities, transcending socio-economic boundaries to provide access to arts and culture for all, enhancing experiences and adding regional value. We champion collaboration and creative engagement, forging partnerships to support new work and sector growth. Investment in people, governance, leadership, and digital technologies drives our transformation. Our leadership promotes a positive company culture, equality, diversity, and inclusion. Aberdeen Performing Arts offers clear pathways for workforce and talent development, providing opportunities for emerging artists to contribute meaningfully to the artistic landscape. In conclusion, Aberdeen Performing Arts' strategic direction focuses on becoming the leading cultural institution in North-east Scotland, driving change through creativity, community engagement, and sustainable development.

Organisation Information	
Organisation legal structure	Company limited by guarantee with charitable status
Number of years operating	20
Name of Director/ Chief Executive	Sharon Burgess
Number of venues operated	3
Number of Board Members	14
Number of Full time staff	48 (average headcount across the year)
Number of part time/casual staff	230 (average headcount across the year)

SECTION 1 - Outcomes and outputs

Please provide a qualitative executive summary of outcomes, outputs, activities undertaken and progress made to date:

PROGRAMME 2024/25 – making, curating and staging work of quality and ambition that is distinctive, diverse and relevant

Our 2024/25 programme featured:

- **783 diverse performances** across theatre, music, dance, comedy, literature, spoken word, and work for young people. The very best of professional touring productions, national companies, Scottish made work, local emerging professionals, and a range of community, schools and amateur projects.
- **Granite Noir** – international crime writing festival featuring a record attendance.
- **Light the Blue** – festival for and by young people in Aberdeen.
- **International Season** – new international season of circus, acrobatics, comedy and family events.
- **Rise Up** – a festival celebrating black and people of colour creatives, in partnership with We Are Here Scotland.
- **Delve** – a weekend of artist-led exploration of themes and ideas curated by musician Rachel Sermanni.
- **Digital art** – 5 new commissions for our Stepping In screen.
- **Art exhibition** – including 2 new commissions in our Music Hall gallery spaces.
- **Comedy Festival** – announced the relaunch and refresh of the Aberdeen Comedy Festival.

TALENT – Investing in the artists, performers and creatives of today and tomorrow

In 2024/25, we:

- Co-commissioned and co-produced the first production in an ongoing partnership with Imaginate/Edinburgh International Children's Festival which was award-nominated.
- Acted as associate producer, providing rehearsal, tech and production support for an award-winning production presented at the Edinburgh Fringe and on tour.
- Commissioned a new script by two highly regarded theatre-makers based on a popular topic related to Aberdeen.
- Undertook discussions to establish a number of further co-commission and co-production partnerships.
- Commissioned North-East based artists to produce our Rise Up festival and a theatre production for Granite Noir.
- Delivered a digital arts programme with 5 new commissions and an art exhibition programme with 2 new commissions.
- Offered 2 Intern positions for Granite Noir and Assistant Producer/2 Festival Assistant positions for Light the Blue.
- Held emerging artist events across all festivals and our programme.
- Launched a call-out for multi-year, multi-venue festive productions for early years, co-commissioned with Eden Court and Capital Theatres.

ARTS WITHOUT BOUNDARIES – creative engagement for everyone, whoever or wherever they are

In 2024/25, we:

- Ran 5 youth theatre classes for ages 5-19 for three 10-week terms.
- Delivered 2 early years music classes for ages 1-8 for three 10-week terms.
- Conducted a hip hop programme, Beats & Rhymes, for ages 12-18 for three 10-week terms.
    - Gathering feedback from young participants is restricted by workshop sizes, most of which are around 15-20 participants at a time. Much of what we gather is qualitative and anecdotal however we are addressing this through an improved research structure by working with the social impact agency TIALT.
    - We also recognise there are limitations to audience data capture of young audiences. Our post-show survey can be filtered to show just family events but on the wider scale of our programme, the topline results will skew towards the older demographics.
- Across our youth arts workshops, we offer inspiring cross art form opportunities. Beats & Rhymes composed music for our Light the Blue youth theatre performances. Our young participants benefit from cross fertilisation of ideas across all our participation offer. Regular opportunities to attend performances which they may not otherwise attend in our venues offer new inspirations – our Beats & Rhymes group attending classical music at the Music Hall and theatre at HMT, our youth theatre participants attending performances which inform and inspire their own practice in new ways.
- Established a script-reading group for over 60s in partnership with Ten Feet Tall Theatre.
- Brought the Flames residency programme for older people to Aberdeen with Tricky Hat Productions.
- Commissioned 'Everyone is Welcome Here' lit artwork for our venues and delivered staff inclusivity training.
- Delivered our inclusive community choir.

- Partnered with soundplay to offer valuable opportunities for children and young people with additional needs and complex disabilities to engage as participants and audience members through bespoke, carefully curated creative activity.
- Held HOURS, a hip hop event series by local producers.
- In partnership with TISS (Theatre in Schools Scotland) delivered professional, free to attend theatre production to over 100 pupils at Gilcomstoun School. We have developed good partnerships with schools, and they trust the opportunities we offer are of high quality.
- Expanded Light the Blue as a co-designed youth arts festival.
- Established a young advisors' network for Light the Blue and broader organisational input.
- With support from Aberdeen City Council's Cost of Living fund, we were able to offer 300 people (67 families) tickets to the pantomime with a package including ice cream and toys for children, all at no cost to families. We enhanced the offer with free bus travel from FirstBus, giving families a fun, cultural experience at a time of year which can be challenging for many.
- Developed community engagement projects on inclusion.
- Expanded engagement efforts to reach and include new audiences.

PLACEMAKING – shaping place, reinventing the North-East and recognising arts and creativity as a central part of our nation
In 2024/25, we:

- Actively participated in local, regional, and national networks, including Board-level representation.
- We've strengthened our position with the Scottish Government, with our CEO invited to join several working groups and attend an industry roundtable at the First Minister's residence.
- Contributed to Culture Aberdeen's initiatives focused on advocacy and strengthening sector support.
- Delivered Granite Noir, Light the Blue, Rise Up, and Delve with increased partnerships and local artist involvement and introduced our new International Season and relaunched the Aberdeen Comedy Festival.
- Co-produced So Far So Good with Imaginate and Superfan, and associate produced Love Beyond with Raw Material Arts and Vanishing Point.
- Significantly invested in the fabric of our buildings including re-pointing works at His Majesty's Theatre and the Lemon Tree.
- Invested in new technical equipment, seating, tables, flooring and decor at the Lemon Tree resulting in a much improved environment for artists, audiences and staff.
- Provided a platform for local talent including showcase programmes, support acts, and a range of local arts and community organisations from local bands to community orchestras, school concerts, accessible drama groups and the annual student show.

PEOPLE AND FAIR WORK
In 2024/25, we:

- Strengthened staff engagement through our enhanced Employee-led Forum, monthly union engagement meetings, and the appointment of an Employee Director to the Board to further enable effective voice.
- Entered into a voluntary recognition agreement with BECTU for our technical and operations teams.
- Delivered inclusive governance training to the Board; inducted four new members and completed transition to a new Chair.
- Introduced crucial new roles in hospitality and events teams, programming, finance, marketing, and restructured the technical team to include more permanent, contracted positions for greater job stability.
- Scoped a 12-week People Manager Programme; delivered training in EDI and formal processes; supported LT members through external leadership qualifications.
- Initiated FLOW Learning Management System reintegration, focusing on appraisals, engagement, and up-to-date training materials.
- Piloted an early careers placement and began mapping blueprint for future placements.
- Initiated workforce planning and began a policy review to ensure inclusive language and transparent guidance.
- Continued implementing Open House, our Equalities, Diversity, and Inclusion plan (2025–2028).

AUDIENCE DEVELOPMENT AND CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE
In 2024/25, we:

- Increased tickets sales by 14% year on year.

- Saw an increase in new customers attending our performances to 18,274 – bringing us closer to our 2028 target of 21,500 a year.
- Increased Friends memberships by 29% year on year.
- Achieved a net promoter score of 72 – an increase from 71 of last year and closer to our 2028 target of 74.
- Achieved a customer experience rating of 4.6 out of 5.
- Started projects and initiatives to measure our social impact, economic impact and assess our brand perception among audiences and stakeholders.
    - Our current approach to developing a social impact framework is through working with an agency called TIALT, who specialise in setting up organisations with a structured approach to measuring results of community and engagement work.
    - Economic impact is being assessed through changes to our post-show survey. This accompanied with our own accounts and use of government multipliers to understand our induced spend, will demonstrate how audiences attending our performances benefit the region economically.
    - Our brand perception is being assessed through our work with the Creating Impakt agency. The study across, our audiences, stakeholders and public is being conducted in 2025 to follow on from the first stage in 2023 to identify the results of improved communications and results of organisational change.

CLIMATE ACTION
In 2024/25, we:

- Delivered a series of carbon literacy training sessions to our Green Champions to improve understanding and awareness.
- Undertook a series of building related sustainability initiatives, covered in more detail further in this report under **Net Zero/Climate Change**, aligned to our wider Carbon Management Plan and ESOS Phase 3 action plan.
- Took the lead, in collaboration with The Barn, for the North East of Scotland in Culture for Climate Scotland Springboard Assembly Series
- Actively engaged with our national visiting companies on promoting their 'Green Rider' aimed at reducing their carbon footprint whilst they visit our venues.
- Focused on enhancing sustainable travel options for our festivals, such as Granite Noir and International Season, including supporting more rail travel for authors / performers and partnering with First Bus to encourage discounted bus transport to our attending audiences.
- Installed engaging artwork, designed by artist Gabi Reith, on our recycling bins in the Music Hall, encouraging audiences to use the correct bins, resulting in increased appropriate bin use.

FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY
In 2024/25, we:

- Restructured our Trading Company management team to provide greater focus on Food and Beverage and our Conference and Events activity, to drive growth.
- Invested in creation of a number of posts within the team to strengthen our future strategy, including IT and Systems Manager and People Coordinator.
- Undertook a major IT Investment to provide a platform for digital growth and to strengthen our cyber security, This included deploying a new fully digital phone system, transitioning to a cloud-based server infrastructure, replacing key infrastructure such as firewalls and access points, and improving.
- Implemented a task and project management tool, Asana, which has allowed for greater organisational collaboration and planning.
- Rolled out enhanced, system based, financial reporting to our Management Team allowing for more dynamic budgetary monitoring and control.
- Fully reviewed our fundraising strategy, ensuring that partnership and philanthropy opportunities that align with our organisational priorities and requirements were maximised. This included:
    - Securing additional targeted funding including £20,000 towards expanding our Granite Noir Festival, £68,595 towards Building Management System upgrade works at His Majesty's Theatre and £164,433 towards exterior works at His Majesty's Theatre

- Alignment of our membership levels in terms of pricing and benefits (Friends, Friend Prime and Friends Prime Plus) and the development and launch of a new corporate focussed support level, Ovation Club, aimed at increasing sponsorship.
- Launching a new 'Take a Step' Campaign at the Lemon Tree and fully relaunching our 'Take a Seat' seat sponsorship scheme at His Majesty's Theatre and Music Hall aimed at encouraging support of the venues themselves.
- Refreshing our pricing structure for our Safety Curtain sponsorship, adopting a per square meter pricing scheme aligned with other forms of advertising, and securing an uplift in income generated despite elevated competition in the advertising space with the Tall Ships 2025.

Activity Outputs (complete only the ones that apply to your funded activities)			
Total number of participants	13,913	Total audience numbers	416,379
Total number of volunteers	11	Total number of volunteer hours	510
Total number of project artists employed	291	Total number of artist hours	1,746
Total number of performances	783	~~Total number of training courses~~	-
Total number of exhibitions	9	Total number of festivals	5
Total number of workshops	484	~~Total number of publications~~	-
~~Other (please specify)~~	-	Total number of Conference and Events	64

If you have not met the targets set, please give any reasons or explanation for this:

All targets set have been achieved in the reported year.

Please provide a summary of particular successes or case studies:

This is where you can collate and share your good news stories highlighting best practice where investing in culture has had positive impact in changing lives or changing perceptions (i.e. personal testimonies or examples of projects which are game changers in how you approach your activity.

Case studies are also encouraged, these can be big projects like a building development or festival but they can also be something more small scale and discreet such as a programme of outreach workshops or the mentoring and development of volunteer or artists. Its helpful to consider any case study in the context of the Local Outcome Improvement Plan and Culture Aberdeen strategy/actions to demonstrate real progress against the city's wider priorities as well as examples of best practice which your organisation and others within the cultural sector can learn from.

International Season

The first Aberdeen Performing Arts International Season took place between July and September 2024 – it was a ground-breaking series of performances from some of the most innovative and cutting edge performers from around the world. The International Season marks a significant milestone in the cultural calendar in the North-East of Scotland and brought world-class entertainment to the region while promoting sustainable touring to the companies coming to Scotland. WIth contemporary circus, comedy, theatre and family events on offer, audiences saw some of the highest quality performances and received unparalleled experiences. Performers from Australia, New Zealand and Germany were seen by over 2,700 audience members and the event attracted significant positive press coverage including front page headlines for the announcement.

Collaborative Co-Productions

As part of our ongoing aspirations to cultivate our reputation as a commissioning and producing organisation, we undertook two significant partnership projects in 2024/25:

- **So Far So Good** – a joint commission with Imaginate, by Strathspey-based circus theatre organisation Superfan. The show had rehearsal, production and previews in Aberdeen before a run at the Edinburgh International Children's Festival, a short Scottish tour, before concluding with performances at our Light the Blue festival. The production was a finalist for Best Production for Children and Young People at the annual Critics Awards for Theatre in Scotland. This was an engaging performance for children aged 3-6 which shared important messages about making mistakes and facing challenges.
- **Love Beyond** – we were associate producers on this production led by Raw Material Arts and Vanishing Point theatre company for this powerful show by deaf theatre artist Ramesh Meyyappan. We provided technical and production time prior to a run at the Edinburgh Fringe, at which the production won the Leading Light Award for Best Scottish Production. The show then undertook a Scottish tour which opened at The Lemon Tree. This was a hugely powerful story about facing dementia as a deaf person.

Both productions were of an extremely high standard and helped us to hone our offer as a collaborative producing partner, particularly offering technical and production space and support. In both cases, these first partnerships will lead to further collaborations with the organisations involved having been positive experiences for all partners. These projects are vitally important towards improving Aberdeen's reputation as a creative city and a place where quality artistic work can be made.

Creative Engagement Inclusion Partnership Production

We partnered with Look Again to produce and present *Glory*, a cabaret series celebrating queer creativity. Local artists from the queer community were commissioned to respond to objects from the RGU Art and Heritage Collections, creating new work that explored identity, history, and place. Two cabarets were delivered, each offering a platform for emerging artists to explore the cultural identity of the Northeast through performance. Each event also featured established performers, creating valuable opportunities for early-career artists to learn and develop by working alongside experienced professionals. Glory provided emerging artists with a space to experiment creatively, refining their existing skills, and developing new ones—laying a foundation for future opportunities.

Please provide a summary of any problems or issues that have required attention or action:

Again, this provides context of the environment you have been operating under to better reflect your organisations challenges and achievements. Its also an opportunity to highlight examples of good practice leadership, governance, collaboration and financial management within your organisation.

There were no significant problems or issues that required attention or action beyond normal day-to-day business operations.

We continued to manage routine operational matters through standard processes and maintained stable governance, financial oversight, and collaborative working throughout the period.

Delivering on Key Strategic Priorities Please provide a summary of how your activities have delivered against key local (and national) strategic priorities relevant to your organisation			
Culture Aberdeen 2018-2028 Action Plan Ambitions	**Regional Economic Strategy Strong Communities and Cultural Identity**	**LOIP 2024 refresh (2016-26)**	**Your Organisations Delivered Actions**
Releasing our Creativity - *Our vision for Aberdeen is a city opening doors, where everyone can be transformed and inspired through engagement in the arts and culture.*	Fostering a strong sense of cultural identity and belonging in the region	2. Working towards a 74% employment rate for Aberdeen City by 2026. 4. 90% of children and young people report they feel listened to all of the time by 2026. 10. Healthy life expectancy (time lived in good health) is five years longer by 2026. 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. 15. 26% of Aberdeen's area will be protected for nature and 60% of citizens report they feel that spaces and buildings are well cared for by 2026. 16. 50% of citizens report they feel able to participate in decisions that help change things for the better by 2026.	• We deliver a diverse programme with wide appeal including touring production, signature events, and exclusive curated shows. • Our festivals attract audiences from a range of backgrounds and boost pride in the city. • Our ticket pricing has accessible entry points and discount schemes. • We curate unique events which are rooted in the city. • Developed Light the Blue as a festival for and by young people with young advisors and an approach of co-design. • An extensive access programme for people with disabilities including BSL, captioning, audio description, and relaxed adaptations. • Partnerships with organisations such as Sanctuary Queer Arts, We Are Here Scotland, North East Sensory Services, Barnardos and more. • Innovative change-maker posts with a focus on inclusion. • Creative Engagement activity with participants from under-represented communities and free/subsidised spaces. • Local community productions at all venues throughout the year.
Becoming Scotland's Creative Lab - *Our vision for Aberdeen is a city to experiment in, a home, a place, a destination and testing ground for artists, creative enterprises and new ideas*	Increasing the number of jobs in the creative industries		• Developed new co-producing and co-commissioning partnerships which resulted in work being rehearsed and opening in the city, with improved provision for technical and production support. • A joint festive commission with counterparts in Edinburgh and Inverness. • 2 new visual art commissions • 6 new digital art commissions • Delivered the third Rise Up festival celebrating and showcasing Black and POC creatives.

			• Delivered the third Delve weekend inviting an artist to curate a series of performance and workshops on a chosen theme or art form. • Developed our inclusive cabaret programme for LGBT+ artists and audiences and added a new partnership with RGU. • Maintained employment and freelance engagement of more than 290 creative professionals.
Making All the City a Stage - *Our vision for Aberdeen is a city which inspires, where exciting cultural experiences are around each and every corner and where there are no creative boundaries.*	Increasing the number of assets held by communities across the region Creating a clearer/ stronger identity and cultural narrative		• Expanded all our festivals to have presence across the city particularly Light the Blue, our festival for and by young people, which featured outdoor performances in the city centre, and projects with a range of partners and locations throughout. • Staged large scale West-End productions at His Majesty's Theatre, attracting strong audiences from across the region and beyond. • Produced signature festivals featuring events, workshops and exhibitions in various locations and venues across the city
Connecting Us to the World- *Our vision for Aberdeen is a city like no other, where we celebrate and promote our culture and heritage, the things we make and create.*	Creating a clearer/ stronger identity and cultural narrative		• Introduced a new International Season inviting circus, acrobatic, comedy and family productions from across the world to Aberdeen as part of a sustainable touring approach. • Granite Noir invites international writers and welcomes international audiences to the city and online. • Delivered Rise Up festival weekend and developed new partnerships with organisations promoting artists of colour. • Retained all the programming of national and international significance at our venues – home of Scotland's national companies in the North, key touring stop for prestigious national organisations.
Shaping our Future- *Our vision for Aberdeen is a city whose cultural sector is growing in ambition and confidence with a strong collective of cultural leaders collaborating to realise the city's potential.*	Increasing the number of jobs in the creative industries		Active participation in city-wide initiatives; development of the cultural strategy for the city: • Significant contribution to the delivery of the cultural strategy for the city. • Strengthened links with Scottish Government through CEO's involvement in working groups and First Minister roundtable

			• Partnership programming with local cultural organisations including Citymoves, Sound, Peacock, GHAT, Look Again, shmu, Arts Centre, Creative Learning, Multicultural Centre, Ten Feet Tall, and more. • Providing opportunities for the next generation of creative talent through our youth participation programmes, Granite Noir interns, Light the Blue Assistants and Young Advisors, placements and volunteering. • Membership of city-wide groups including Culture Aberdeen, Events 365, AGCC Policy Council, Visit Aberdeenshire Tourism group, North-East Music Partnership. • Staff learning and development programmes; cross-departmental working groups: Future proofing: • Extensive work on environmental sustainability, cross-dept green team, award-nominated. • Continual development and repairs/maintenance of our building and equipment infrastructure. • Continually review and update business readiness including business continuity, infrastructure, information and data security, GDPR adherence, cyber security audit, environmental impacts, Equalities, Diversity and Inclusion • Creation of new audience development plans and customer engagement strategies to better inform decision making. • Significant programming for children and young people throughout year plus a dedicated festival.

Local Priorities:
Please highlight where your outcomes, outputs or activities align against the priorities of the Local Outcome Improvement Plan and or Council Delivery plan. https://communityplanningaberdeen.org.uk/aberdeen-city-local-outcome-improvement-plan-2016-26/

Aberdeen Performing Arts is not currently a statutory community planning partner but contributes and aligns to the LOIP stretch outcomes as follows (pre-revised LOIP Priorities 2018-9)

Aberdeen Performing Arts is also a member of Culture Aberdeen, who currently sit on the Outcome Improvement Group 'Aberdeen Prospers'.

LOIP Stretch Outcome	Key Driver	Aberdeen Performing Art Actions
Aberdeen Prospers		
Investment in Infrastructure Aberdeen City is a robust and resilient economy providing a vibrant built environment and attractive place for residents, students, business and tourists	We will regenerate our city centre to become a vibrant and attractive place to live, work and invest in	Deliver diverse and distinctive cultural programme to create attractive city to live, work and visit. Custodian of iconic city centre venues and undertaken major investment in upgrading facilities. Regular programme of upgrades and repairs to buildings and infrastructure.
Innovation Aberdeen City has a reputation for enterprise, innovation and world class solutions	We will accelerate the transition to a more balanced economy	Collaboration and partnership to establish Aberdeen as a viable city for co-creation and production – e.g. So Far So Good and Love Beyond. Ambitious programming, measured risk-taking, and curatorial approach to create unique offer. Produce several innovative festivals with local relevance and national impact.
Inclusive economic growth A skilled workforce for the future that provides opportunities for all our people	We will develop the people and skills necessary to deliver economic development and, as a result, support diversification of businesses and economy	Hundreds of opportunities for artist employment. Developing new talent through internships, placements and new roles. Partner on Developing Young Workforce. Creating sustainable employment through revised contracts and new posts.

		Accredited Real Living Wage Employer, Disability Confident Committed.
Internationalisation Aberdeen City is a location of choice for investment, high value business activity and skills	We will attract the best possible range of incoming exhibitions and events and showcase the city's internationally recognised sports, arts and culture offer	The launch of a spectacular new International Season in Aberdeen. Joined the Dance Consortium, which facilitates the touring of large-scale international contemporary dance. We continue to grow international presence in our festivals such as Granite Noir. Support for locally based ethnically diverse communities via Multicultural Centre, Mela etc.
Prosperous People – Children are our future		
Children are our future and people are resilient, included and supported when in need	Children have the best start in life – children in Aberdeen City are healthy, happy and safe, and enjoy the best possible childhood	Extensive programme of weekly participation opportunities. Expanded free spaces programme across our activity. Dedicated festival Light the Blue for and by young people. Programming for children and young people, ticket offers, and schools' engagement. Projects specifically with care experienced young people, children with disabilities, and from lower socio-economic backgrounds.
	Children are safe and responsible – from all forms of harm	Comprehensive safeguarding training and child protection approach. Partnerships with key support organisations.
	Children are respected, included and achieving – children and young people are listened to, respected, valued and involved in the decision-making process	Young advisors group co-design Light the Blue and wider activity.
Prosperous People – People Are Resilient, Included and supported when in need		
People and communities are protected from harm – Individuals and communities are made aware of the risk of harm and supported appropriately to reduce this risk.	We will develop systems and approaches that raise awareness of harm	Projects specifically targeted to improve opportunities for marginalised groups e.g. Beats and Rhymes, over 60s, LGBT+, BPOC.

		Research project to combat loneliness in older people. Our Equalities, Diversity and Inclusion policy and action plan continues to raise the bar in our support of our communities, under-represented and vulnerable groups Continued roll-out of EDI and conflict resolution sessions to build confidence in managing sensitive issues and fostering inclusive team environments. Reframed our approach to employee support, shifting from reactive processes to proactive, person-centred practices. This includes flexible working principles, tailored support plans, early-stage Occupational Health consultations, and coaching managers in group mediation and inclusive problem-solving. HR policy redevelopment progressed, ensuring inclusive language and clear, accessible guidance for staff. Reinforced psychological safety through employee-led engagement structures, including the Employee Forum and monthly union meetings. Delivered First Aid training across departments, with further Emergency First Aid sessions planned.
People are supported to live as independently as possible – able to sustain an independent quality of life for as long as possible, take responsibility for their own health and wellbeing	We will empower citizens to feel they have real and meaningful choice and control over their own lives.	Fostered a culture of development and progression through internal promotions, tailored leadership development, and a new People Manager Programme. Maintained Real Living Wage and Disability Confident Committed accreditations, ensuring fair, inclusive employment for all staff. Increased access provision and membership scheme. Promoted autonomy and wellbeing by reframing support structures, centering flexibility, tailored

		adjustments, and proactive wellbeing planning. Embedded inclusive recruitment practices such as video applications, and shared interview questions. Providing regular performances which as BSL signed, audio described, captioned and relaxed performances. Continued embedding our *Everyone is Welcome Here* ethos across workplace culture, policies, and leadership practices.
Prosperous People - EMPOWERED, RESILIENT AND SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES		
People friendly city – a city where people to choose to invest, live and visit	Build a child friendly city to ensure that the best interests of the child is a primary consideration	We provide a child and family friendly programme in all our venues. Dedicated festival for children and young people. Increased free spaces in our participation programme. Signed up to breastfeeding friendly Scotland scheme. Children Eat Free in school holidays in our cafes.
	We will be a city whose built environment is fit for keeping an ageing population safe and healthy and puts the child at the centre of design	Award-nominated for environmental initiatives. Embedded post of Creative Change-Maker (Climate Action) Cross-dept Green Team. Improved practices and data gather.

Equalities:
Please provide further information in respect to any relevant activities

Guided by Open House, our evolving Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy and Action Plan (2025–2028), Aberdeen Performing Arts continues to embed fair work and inclusive practice at the heart of how we lead, work and grow. This work reflects our ongoing commitment to equality, access and fair work, not just as policy, but as everyday practice.

- **Inclusive Leadership:** Delivered tailored Board development on inclusive governance; inducted four new Board members and a new Chair; completed the Leadership Team to advance people and culture priorities.
- **People Strategy:** Launched a new organisation-wide strategy centred on employee experience, leadership development and continuous feedback. A refreshed appraisal cycle and accompanying resources developed to launch in Autumn 2025.

- **Fair Work in Action:** Maintained Real Living Wage and Disability Confident accreditation; continued to reduce casual contracts; and entered a voluntary union recognition agreement with BECTU for our Technical and Operations teams.
- **Employee Voice:** Strengthened our employee-led Forum, initiated monthly union engagement meetings, and appointed an Employee Director to the Board to formalise staff representation at governance level.
- **Learning & Development:** Delivered tailored team and leadership development sessions, scoped 12-week People Manager Programme, and offered EDI and formal process training to managers. LT members also undertook external leadership qualifications, initiated project for the reintegration of our FLOW Learning Management System.
- **Access & Progression:** Established new permanent roles across departments, supported internal promotions, and piloted cross-team early careers placement.
- **Infrastructure for Growth:** Completed full HR data migration to PeopleHR (HR Information System) and initiated foundational workforce planning to support long-term sustainability.
- **Inclusive Policy Development:** Began a full review and redevelopment of people policies, embedding inclusive language and clear, transparent guidance for staff and managers.
- **Access Champions in Action:** Our Front of House Access Champions continued to play a key role in enhancing the customer experience at accessibility-focused events such as audio-described performances and touch tours. While no formal training sessions were delivered this year, we refined our approach based on valuable insights from both our service users and Access Champions, who remained instrumental in identifying barriers and supporting inclusive practices across our venues.
- **Partnerships Driving Feedback:** Our Customer Experience team work closely with NESS (North-east Sensory Services) to maintain a feedback loop with our service users. As NESS often books on behalf of its members, we've been developing ways to gather feedback that reflects the experience more meaningfully. Feedback from our quarterly meetings has directly informed changes to our operations, from headset collection points to the development of accessibility guides reinforcing our commitment to creating a more inclusive and responsive service.
- **Representation Through Programming:** In partnership with We Are Here Scotland, we delivered the Rise Up festival, celebrating the work of Black and People of Colour creatives. Our *Eat the Rich* and *Glory* cabarets continue to grow in popularity, highlighting a clear demand for events that celebrate queer creativity in safer, welcoming spaces. Beats and Rhymes, our Hip Hop workshops, focus on delivering music making opportunities to those young people who may not otherwise have chances to take part in creative activity and continues to engage successfully with this group, building skills and self-confidence.
- **Creative Changemaker in Practice:** Our unique role of Creative Changemaker for Inclusion and Relevance continues to play a vital role within the organisation, helping to further embed our ethos of *Everyone is Welcome Here*. This includes leading focus groups with staff teams to explore what this ethos means in practice and how it can be applied across our work every day. The Changemaker ensures that our commissions, productions, and curated projects actively celebrate and amplify collaborative practices that champion creative diversity and representation.
- **Removing Barriers to Participation:** Our commitment to dismantling barriers to participation remains central to our work. Through our Creative Engagement strand, we have expanded the offer of free spaces to ensure wider access. We continue to collaborate with partners to reach individuals and communities we are not yet engaging. Our Pay What You Can ticketing initiatives for produced shows support marginalised and under-represented groups in attending events they may otherwise be excluded from due to cost. *Light the Blue*, our festival for and by young people, delivers the majority of its programme free of charge—ensuring that financial barriers never stand in the way of participation.
- **Accessible Performances and Growing Demand:** There have been notable increases in our accessible performance offerings. BSL performances increased from 40 to 46, captioned performances from 20 to 28, and audio described performances from 30 to 34. Touch tours saw a rise from 29 to 34. We offered a relaxed performance, of our annual Christmas Pantomime Sales of wheelchair spaces grew from 704 to 930, and our complimentary essential companion tickets nearly doubled from 1,172 to 2,290.

- **Audience Growth for Inclusive Events:** Audiences for events and festivals with values around equality and diversity have been increasing year-on-year. Rise Up, a festival showcasing Black and People of Colour artists, increased in attendance by 78% to over 560. Our series of events at the LGBT+ community, Eat the Rich, Queer Folks' Tales and Glory resulted in sales in excess of 500 tickets.

Net Zero/Climate Change:
Please provide further information in respect to any relevant activities to support realising Aberdeen City's Net Zero Ambitions

We continue to refine our work in developing a wider Carbon Management Strategy for our venues and operation, that is reflective of the scale of challenge surrounding our leased heritage buildings and cognisant of the challenging external funding landscape and which allows us to deliver on our commitment to reduce the impact of our operations. This has resulted on the following key achievements in 2024/25:

- Commencement of a programme of works to upgrade the Building Management System at His Majesty's Theatre. This programme seeks to allow fully centralised control and monitoring of lighting, heating and ventilation within the venue and ensuring we can seek to reduce waste consumption. This significant undertaking has marked the completion of the first two phases in 2024/25 with a wider suite of works continuing into 2025/26.
- Installation of two new energy efficient boilers at the Music Hall replacing aged inefficient equipment, as part of a routine maintenance improvement plan which is aligned to sustainability priorities.
- Commencement of roof void insulation replacement at the Music Hall.
- Significant investment in the refurbishment of our Lemon Tree venue which in addition to a series of enhancements aimed at improving customer experience, we have been able to include a number of Sustainability improvements such as the replacement of stage and house lighting with an energy efficient LED solution.

We continue to leverage the unique position that the arts play within the wider climate and sustainability conversation, and advocacy for awareness, and in doing so our Creative Engagement and Programming team have supported the following:

- Taking the lead, in collaboration with partners The Barn, in coordinating climate focused workshops as part of the Culture for Climate Scotland Springboard Assembly Series. This has resulted in two facilitated workshop sessions attended by arts organisations, freelancers and creatives across the North East of Scotland, to explore opportunities for collaboration when it comes to tackling the topic of climate action. The Music Hall also hosted the regional watch party for Culture for Climate Scotland national assembly.
- We secured additional funding, through Event Scotland, to allow us to support wider use of more sustainable travel options, such as rail, for authors attending our Granite Noir 2025 festival.

Education:
Please provide further information in respect to any education programmes delivered.

Self-explanatory but helpful to highlight any links with specific schools, further education institutions, geographic areas. To avoid repeating what has been said previously you can highlight in depth some example of particularly successful projects/programmes, feedback from participants or schools or provide context for longer term vision and partnerships.

Light the Blue – Everyone is Welcome Here with Skene Square Primary School
Everyone is Welcome Here was a large-scale creative initiative that brought together all 500 pupils of Skene Square School in a celebration of community and creativity. Over the course of a week, every pupil collaborated closely with a professional artist, culminating in a one-day mini festival held in the school playground. This vibrant event featured music, drama, and dance performances and was attended by pupils' families and carers.
Skene Square serves a richly multicultural community, and the true magic of *Everyone is Welcome Here* lay in its ability to unite people across diverse backgrounds. The project fostered a deep sense of joy, togetherness, and commonality—proving that creativity can be a powerful force for connection, breaking down barriers of language and socio-economic disparity.

Skene Square is one of our valued neighbourhood schools, and *Everyone is Welcome Here* marked a significant step in building a meaningful, lasting partnership. By engaging the entire school community in a week-long creative process—culminating in a festival of music, drama, and dance—we've laid the foundation for ongoing collaboration.
We are committed to strengthening this relationship over time, creating more opportunities for pupils to engage in high-quality, inclusive creative activities. Through continued partnership, we aim to support young people's artistic expression, confidence, and sense of belonging within their school and wider community.

Granite Noir – Education partnerships
We established exciting new partnership with secondary and further education institutions for the Granite Noir crime writing festival in February 2025. These were focused on the following projects:

- **Robert Gordon University Criminology Courses** – in partnership with the School of Law and Social Sciences and in recognition of the new courses in Criminology being delivered, we collaborated to deliver two unique and distinctive events as part of Granite Noir 2025. World-renowned policing expert, Professor Nick Fyfe, delivered a talk based on decades of providing support to the police and criminal justice system. Wendy Deegan created an interactive forensics experience taking audiences through how to work and analyse a crime scene with support from students.
- **Aberdeen Grammar School Reading Schools Accreditation** – we developed a number of projects with Aberdeen Grammar School which supported their mission to achieve silver status in Reading Schools Accreditation. Pupils from S3 worked with the production team to create puzzles as part of an audio mystery experience at the Music Hall. Granite Noir staff led an assembly about career paths in literature and festivals. The school put on daily reading events (Book at Breakfast) inspired by the festival, created an in-school library escape room, English teachers shared a 'thrilling read' as part of S1-S3 lessons, and a display of 'thrilling reads' curated by the library ambassadors.
- **Primary School Author events** – three of the festival writers presented schools readings and workshops in addition to their public festival appearances. A total of 12 school presentations to more than 400 pupils took place.

Employment

Please give us a bit more information about your volunteers, if you have any:

- What roles do your volunteers undertake within the organisation?
- Training and Policy in action?
- Example of volunteer success stories such as transition to employment?

Our volunteers play a valued role across our organisation, their contributions include leading backstage tours at His Majesty's Theatre, managing archive materials, and serving on our Board. Our backstage tour guides are a diverse group ranging from retirees to individuals who work remotely in their day job and are passionate about our historic buildings. They appreciate the opportunity to connect with others through in-person volunteering without the need for a formal or contracted role.

We're committed to providing a meaningful and well-supported volunteer experience. This year, we welcomed two new volunteer tour guides to the team, enriching the group with fresh perspectives, while another long-standing tour guide stepped down. In response to feedback gathered through guide discussions, we updated our tour scripts and shared best practice. This ensured our volunteers are well-prepared to share accurate, up-to-date information about our venues - balancing historical storytelling with current organisational developments. These practices reflect our approach to volunteer policy in action: flexible, inclusive, and responsive to both organisational needs and individual interests.

We've also seen our tours resonate with a wide range of audiences. A highlight this year was welcoming back a group of international guests from the United States on a return visit to Scotland, having previously enjoyed one of our tours as part of a health and wellness trip last year. We look forward to developing ways of gathering more visitor feedback particularly capturing our international guests, through future adaptations of our post-show surveys.

We scheduled another dementia-friendly tour at The Music Hall, designed to be inclusive and comfortable for all participants. Unfortunately, the group was unable to attend due to health concerns. In response, we are exploring virtual alternatives to ensure access remains possible, even when in-person attendance is not.

Artists/ Creative practitioners Opportunities:
Please provide further detail on examples of projects or programmes which have created employment opportunities for local residents, artists and or creative practitioners.

Through our co-producing partnerships, we facilitated two award-nominated productions to rehearse and open in the city, with technical and production support provided by our team. This developed our producing infrastructure and upskilled our team, as well as increasing the recognition of Aberdeen as a viable place from which to create as well as present work. In addition, we commissioned local theatre company Ten Feet Tall to produce a new play for Granite Noir, featuring an entirely local cast and creative team—supporting the local creative economy and demonstrating our commitment to local talent.

Our cabaret programme, which is developed for and with the LGBT+ community, expanded with the continuation of the popular Eat the Rich performances in partnership with Sanctuary Queer Arts, as well as a new cabaret called Glory in partnership with Look Again and Robert Gordon University, with three new commissions inspired by items from the university's archive. Both events are led by local producers and production/stage management staff and provide a platform and new commissions for local artists.

Across our Youth Theatre, Beats & Rhymes and Early Years music provision, we employ young or early career Creative Assistants who will gain knowledge and skills supporting our experienced directors and tutors in delivery of workshops to children and young people. All our Creative Engagement workshop provision is delivered by local creative practitioners.

Light The Blue engaged an Assistant Producer, employed to support our Festival Producer in the programming, production, logistics and delivery of the festival from March until festival end. The festival also engaged local creatives to support the delivery of the Everyone is Welcome Here project with Skene Square Primary School. The wider festival programme included collaborative projects with a range of local arts partners with many artists and creative practitioners employed to deliver performances, workshops or projects. These initiatives allow local creatives to develop their skills and gain experience, enhancing their future career prospects.

Granite Noir employs two festival interns who providing critical support to the festival programming and marketing teams, delivering key author liaison tasks, and gaining invaluable skills and experiences working alongside our experienced team. The festival supported local writers through the Locals in the Limelight strand and the new Short Story Competition. We commissioned local theatre company Ten Feet Tall Theatre who produced "Guilty" by Aberdeen writer Rona Munro in the Anatomy Rooms.

Rise Up! Festival was delivered in partnership with We Are Here Scotland and this support ensures opportunities for Black and People of Colour creatives, artists and practitioners in producing, programming and delivering the festival alongside opportunities for local BPOC artists to perform on our stages and deliver panels and workshops. The festival offered networking opportunities and a springboard for further opportunities, strengthening the cultural ecology for the BPOC community in the north-east of Scotland.

We commission artists to create new work for exhibition in our gallery space at the Music Hall. In 2024/25 we commissioned work from 2 local artists and displayed work from the local collection held by Grampian Hospital Arts Trust. Additionally, our digital exhibition space, the stepping in screen in the Music Hall foyer offers opportunities for North-East based artists to exhibit their work.

SECTION 2 – Audiences, Participants and Investment

Please complete this section to report on the number of participants from each of the identified areas who have participated during the year.

Audiences	**Target (23/24)**	**Total (24/25)**
Total Visitor Number	1,360,000	1,415,000
Total Audience Number	363,709	416,379
Audience number from Aberdeen City	160,932	179,138
Audience number from the wider region or further	198,441	237,241
% of audience survey rating experience as 'excellent' or 'good'	94%	95%

Audience broken down to Age groups	**Target (23/24)**	**Total (24/25)**
Aged 0-5	-	-
Aged 6-15	-	-
Aged 16-24	1%	1%

Aged 25-44	14%	11%
Aged 45-64	51%	52%
Aged 65-74	26%	29%
Aged 75+	8%	8%
Unknown/ Not Age Specific	-	-

Participants	**Target (23/24)**	**Total (24/25)**
Total number of participatory opportunities created throughout programme	9,393	13,913
Number of participatory opportunities by Age group		
Aged 0-5	1,800	1,860
Aged 6-15	3,308	4,950
Aged 16-24	1,000	4,571
Aged 25-44	-	-
Aged 45-64	150	-
Aged 65-74	150	-
Aged 75+	150	-
Unknown/ Not Age Specific	2,835	2,532
Number of participatory opportunities for target groups		
Age	6,250	12,072
Disability	308	820
Gender Reassignment	27	24
Pregnancy and Maternity	-	-
Race	260	387
Religion or Belief	-	-
Sex	-	-
Sexual Orientation	27	24
Low income / income poverty – those who cannot afford regular bills, food, clothing payments.	1,500	3,040
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	1,500	3,040
Area deprivation – consider where people live and where they work (accessibility and cost of transport)	1,500	3,040
Socio-economic background – social class, parents' education, employment, income.	1,500	3,040

Income 2024/25	**Total £**
Value of Grant(s) from Aberdeen City Council **(*1)**	£1,141,433
External Grant funding	£375,643
Sponsorship	-
Trading income	£2,344,634
Other (please specify) Earned Income (Ticket Sales, Rental Income & Recharges) Theatre Tax Relief & Gift Aid Donations	 £10,393,558 £40,649 £64,500
Total add income	**£14,360,417**
(*1) Includes £124,433 awarded through UK Shared Prosperity Fund for Capital Works to His Majesty's Theatre	

Section 3 – Support Material

We recommend you provide up to five items of support material to help demonstrate the quality and impact of your activity. This may include; case studies, photographs, videos, web links, publications, marketing material, reports, participant testimonials and feedback. If emailing please keep all support material to under 5mb. Please supply details on your support material below Please note that any material submitted may be included within an annual Cultural Investment report and/or material promoting the Creative Funding programme. By submitting this you are providing permission for each item to be used for publication. You should ensure you have the creators consent and accreditation is provided where necessary.	
Support Material 1:	Ovation Club Video
Support Material 2:	Season brochure
Support Material 3:	Granite Noir brochure
Support Material 4:	Everyone is Welcome Here
Support Material 5:	APA People Strategy Overview.pptx

Section 4- Declaration on use of information

Aberdeen City Council collects and maintains the data on this form about your organisation for the purpose of contacting you in relation to the funding, monitoring purposes and to collate information for statistical and audit purposes. We will retain Personal Data for six years in accordance with the organisation's Corporate Records Retention and Disposal Schedule and for the purpose of administering, processing and assessing your report.

For the purposes of processing this information Aberdeen City Council is the Data Controller. The Information Commissioner Office is the UK's regulator of data protection law (www.ico.org.uk). More information about all of the rights you have is available on our website at: https://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/your-data.

Whenever the Council processes personal data we need to make sure we have a basis for doing so. We understand our basis in GDPR to be Article 6(1)(e) as we consider that it is in our public task to collect this information under our powers set down in the Local Government and Planning (Scotland) Act, 1982 section 14, as amended by section 128 of the Local Government etc. (Scotland) Act, 1994. The act provides for us doing or contributing towards the expenses of providing or doing, anything necessary or expedient for the purpose of ensuring that there are facilities available for recreational, sporting, cultural or social activities as we consider appropriate.

To confirm that all information included in this report is accurate and that you have read and followed the terms and conditions, please sign and date below. If submitting by email an electronic signature or the typed name of the appropriate contact should be inserted.
Name: **Sharon Burgess** **Date:** **15th July 2025**

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ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

ALEO – ANNUAL REPORT

ORGANISATION:	**Aberdeen Sports Village** ***Important note*** *– ASV's financial year (referred to as the contract year in the Joint Venture Agreement) starts on the 1st August and ends on the 31st July. The information provided in this report is for contract year 2024 - 2025*
REPORT COMPLETED BY:	Ludwik Metelski
DATE:	2nd September 2025

SECTION 1 - Outcomes and outputs

Please provide a qualitative summary of outcomes, outputs, activities undertaken and progress made to date:
Aberdeen Sports Village (ASV) is a Joint Venture between Aberdeen City Council (ACC) and the University of Aberdeen (UoA) with each partner owning a 50% shareholding in ASV Ltd. Both ACC and UoA provide equal funding to ASV which has provided stability to its service delivery in very uncertain times. In Contract year 2024/25 (August 24 – July 25) ASV had a very strong performance, against a backdrop of significant funding reductions, a turbulent economy and a cost-of-living crisis. Despite this turbulence, ASV remained focussed on supporting the local community, in terms of physical activity participation levels, providing affordable services to all and ensuring good access to schools, sporting clubs, students and our evergreen customers. The majority of ASV targets, outcomes and outputs have been reviewed and will continue to evolve around its strategic commitments but ASV is pleased to report that in most of its performance indicators, ASV continues to deliver on behalf of the city. This report will share the successes and progress made in this year and highlight ASV's contribution to the Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP). Encouraging the citizens of Aberdeen to be engaged in a sport, at any level and being physically active remains a city priority. ASV plays an important role in facilitating and improving the physical and mental health of communities but perhaps not widely recognised, it makes a positive economic impact on the city by the number of sporting events it brings and hosts in our city. ASV shares the city objectives of encouraging healthy and active lifestyle choices for all; continually identifying and developing relationships with those from varied backgrounds and groups of individuals with health concerns; and supporting wider social issues such as child obesity, underprivileged families, and adult loneliness. These key areas were identified through close partnership working with Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership.

Performance indicators:

This is the quantitative progress you have made in meeting targets over the year. These were agreed in your business plan / development plan and should be confirmed in your first quarterly meeting with your Lead Officer **PLEASE DO NOT CHANGE THE BASELINE OR TARGET FIGURES.**

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	2024-2025

THE ASV EXPERIENCE	Target	Measure
1. ***For Everyone in the Community:*** • Total customer visits • Meet income target for all of ASV Sport • Meet targets for ASV aquatics memberships • Meet targets for sports camps registrations • Customer satisfaction	1,000,000 £823,400 1,775 members 780 registrations 90%	1,092,230 Achieved: £822k Achieved: (1,763 @ highest) Partially achieved: (750) 81%
2. ***For Club Sport:*** • Meet targets for ASV sports and partner club memberships • Meet target income from Community Sport, Events & Training Camps, Education and Student Sport	650 members £898,450	Achieved: (700 @ highest) Achieved: £941k
3. ***For Performance Sport:*** Meet membership targets across all performance programmes, and support athletes to National programmes	200 performance development athletes	Achieved: (over 290 athletes)
4. ***For Student Sport:*** Home of Sport for the University of Aberdeen sports clubs – club training and University events	Host 35 student clubs & 5 student events	Achieved: (35 clubs & 11 events)
5. ***Events & Training Camps:*** Host a balanced programme of events at ASV	180 events (including 10 National events & 10 National camps)	Achieved (201 events (including 17 National events & 13 National camps)
6. Telling our Story: Implement a system of showcasing good news stories and sharing achievements and new community initiatives	Telling our Story: on-going updates	On-going regular updates on the ASV website
CREATING THE BEST PLACE TO WORK		
1. Staff will be trained as 'mental health champions'	10% of staff	New Staff EAP counseling app

		with 'health assured'
2. Annual staff engagement survey. Create and deliver on the action plan	Annual survey for all staff to complete	61% return rate; 114 staff members completed the survey - increased engagement compared to last year
3. Real Living Wage operator	Real living wage accredited	Regular pay benchmarking against industry standard
4. Invest in our staff training academy and invest in the training and development of our people		A varied staff training programmed offered to staff
5. Know the make-up of our diverse team (gender, sexual orientation, religion or beliefs, ethnicity, disability or health condition, working patterns. Report the findings to our team and take action accordingly	Six monthly equal opportunity report	Diversity data collected and published internally
PROMOTING GROWTH AND INNOVATION 		
1. Total Members (inclusive of sport)	Lifestyle: 7,800 Sport: 2,400 Total: 10,200	Lifestyle: 7,712 Sport: 2,416 Total: 10,128
2. Average membership yield	£27.50	£28.44
3. Membership Income	£2.32m	£2.3m
4. Average length of membership	24.0	24.65
WE ARE ACCOUNTABLE 		
1 Achieve a clean external Health and safety audit	Clean audit	Achieved
2. Achieve an accident rate below the National Average	15.05 per 10,000 visits	Achieved (5.5/10,000 visits)
3. Meet all HASAW targets detailed in the quarterly report	100%	Achieved
4. Achieve pool water management best practice	100%	Achieved
5. Achieve a clean financial audit report	Clean audit	Audit due Oct '25
6. Achieve a balanced budget	Deficit budget of £180k	Achieved: £36,000 deficit
SAVING THE PLANET – PLAYING OUR PART 		
1. Implement a carbon reduction plan to reduce our carbon footprint of 785.3 tonnes of C02e	Annual carbon footprint measured and reported in tonnes of CO_2e	785.3 tonnes
2. Implement a programme to replace lights with energy saving LED light	All sporting areas have been replaced, A programme is in	CO_2e reduction attributed to lighting upgrade

	place for auxiliary areas	
3. Reduce overall waste by 50% and increase recycling levels.	Reduce waste annually	3% reduction from the previous years
4.Reduce utility consumption (water, heat, electricity)	Reduce utilities annually	5% decrease in Heating from last year 2.5% decrease in electricity from last year

If you have not met the targets set please give any reasons or explanation for this:

ASV's performance in 2024-25 exceeded expectations in terms of growth in the majority of products and services on offer.

Please provide a summary of particular successes or case studies:

Since launching, ASV has excelled at addressing many of the social issues and challenges that impact health and wellbeing. ASV has identified a range of community needs in relation to sport and physical activity, recognising not only the important role it plays in improving physical health, but also the social, mental health, and wellbeing benefits, and the economic impact on the city.

Our strategic objectives include encouraging healthy and active lifestyle choices for all; continually identifying and developing relationships with those from varied backgrounds and groups of individuals with health concerns; and supporting wider social issues such as child obesity, underprivileged families, and adult loneliness. These key areas were identified through close partnership working with Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership.

ASV aims to break down barriers with our programmes, believing in diversity, inclusivity, and being an accessible place for the whole community. ASV is committed to reducing barriers to participation and ensuring that programmes are accessible for all, regardless of their situation. ASV developed several initiatives focused on reducing barriers to participation, such as:

1. CHILDREN'S HOLIDAY PROGRAMMES

Introduces children, including those with disabilities, to sport in a fun and safe environment.

- **ASV Children's Sports Camps:** 10 weeks of multi-sport, full week camps; every week of the school holidays
- **ASV Sports Specific Camps:** a number of focussed camps for all pathway levels in swimming, diving, football and athletics
- **Partnership Camps:** collaborative delivery with other partner organisations and professional sports bodies, including free football and activities in partnership with Aberdeen Football Club Community Trust and the

Russell Anderson Foundation, whereby children from the SIMD areas in ASV's locale were offered free sport's coaching, with food provided by ASV; plus ASV co-ordinated the Denis Law Legacy Trust Community Festival, providing free opportunities for participation







"My grandson loved sports camps and wants to go to the next ones.

He was crying on Thursday night that it was going to finish. He enjoyed all the sports."

2. SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

In collaboration with other organisations, through our community projects and school visit programme, ASV hosted 16,053 participations throughout the year, with half of those coming from the eight local primary schools, Cornhill, Hanover, Kittybrewster, Riverbank, Seaton, St Peters RC, Sunnybank and Woodside.

3. SENIORS PROGRAMME

- In December 2024, ASV hosted a Christmas lunch for 70 Evergreens; an afternoon of delicious food, lively games, and plenty of cheer



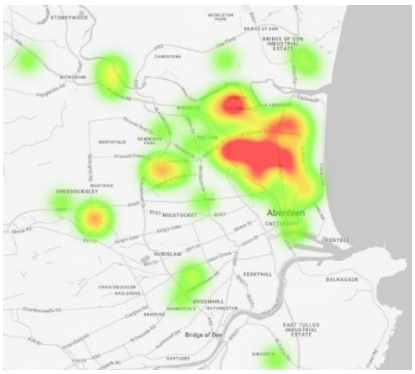
4. COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP: ASV ENERGISERS

Energised in partnership with CNOOC and Serica Energy, ASV delivered free sport, food, access to warm, safe and showering facilities, after school to 559 children across 2024–2025, as broken down below:

- Block 1 – September – October – 132 children weekly
- Block 2 – November – December – 149 children weekly
- Block 3 – January – March – 208 children weekly
- Block 4 – April – July – 70 children weekly

This amounted to 5,119 participations and 3,353 free hot meals being provided during 2024–2025.





5. COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP: THE LINKS NURSERY

Now in its third year of delivery, ASV delivered free swimming lessons for children who attend the Aberdeen City Council Links Nursery, for children aged 3 – 5 years.

- Block 1 – August – September – 12 children weekly
- Block 2 – October – November – 12 children weekly
- Block 3 – November – December – 11 children weekly
- Block 4 – January – February - 12 children weekly
- Block 5 – February – March – 12 children weekly
- Block 6 – April – June – 15 children weekly

This gave 74 children access to free learn to swim sessions, following the Scottish Swimming pathway. In total , ASV provided 485 participations across the year, meaning every child who attended received at least one block of swimming lessons.

To support the breaking down of barriers for access to sport, ASV partnered with TEXO, who provided both financial support to deliver the weekly sessions, and also, every child who attended the lessons received swim wear to allow them to participate.





6. COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP: THE HOME OF COMMUNITY SPORT

In partnership with North East Scotland College, the Home of Community Sport delivered sports coaches sessions for 460 children. This initiative enables up to 80 local students the opportunity to put in to practice what they learn day to day in college.

- Block 2 – 308 children – P2 – P7 - St Peters RC School, Riverbank Primary School, Hannover Primary School
- Block 3 – 152 children – P4 – P7 – St Peters RC School, Riverbank Primary School, Cornhill Primary School

Home of Community sport delivered weekly term time learn to swim sessions

- Block 1 – 58 children – P6 – P7 – St Peters RC School, Hannover Primary School
- Block 2 - 58 children – P6 – St Peters RC School, Hannover Primary School
- Block 3 – 86 children – P6 – P7 – Sunnybank Primary School, Hannover Primary School
- Block 4 – 79 children – P5 – P6 – Kittybrewster Primary School, Cornhill Primary School

In total, ASV provided 4,768 participations as part of the Home of Community Sport project to deliver free sport for local children and improve the employability of local students.

7. DELIVERY PARTNERSHIP: NESCOL

In partnership we provided 150 - 200 sports coaching students from NESCOL with the opportunity to put in to practice and develop their skills on the job through the delivery of sports coaching for the Home of Community sport to primary children from the local area.

Additionally, we provided vital employability opportunities, but providing the opportunity to deliver and develop their skills for local children as part of our after school programme, ASV Energisers. This initiative allowed them to practice their skills and receive mentorship from ASV staff, Aberdeen Amateur Athletic Club coaches and We Make Footballers coaches, who in turn provided employment to some coaches who volunteers as part of the programme.

8. ASV AQUATICS PROGRAMMES

- ASV delivers the Scottish Swimming Framework for Learn to Swim and Learn to Dive, for all ages and abilities

- An average of 1,400 Learn to Swim members across the whole year
- A series of intensive learn to swim blocks throughout the school holidays and recruitment of additional swimming teachers should ensure additionally capacity for the programme to continue to grow
- With a partnership now in place with Dyce ASV swimming club, ASV can offer the whole pathway for swimming from adult and child, through learn to swim, progression into the Dyce squads, who are partner members of the performance swimming programme
- An average of 240 Learn to Dive and Diving Club members
- A series of intensive learn to dive blocks, squad training camps and private lessons ensure that the diving programme continues to operate a strong pathway for progression from Dive Skills 1 to the World stage

9. EVENTS

ASV prides itself in the delivery of events. Working with key stakeholders across the UK, ASV has become one of the go-to places when looking to host events. We are proud of our ability to attract and then retain events year on year due to the experience we provide.

- 201 events hosted at ASV during 2024–2025, including 17 national events, 13 National training camps, 71 regional and 11 University events
- Key Events included:
    - Scottish National Age Groups Swimming and Diving Championships
    - Scottish Athletics National League
    - Katoni Cup: 7th year at ASV, 8 Scottish Premier League boys teams from across Scotland
    - Scottish Schools Swimming Championships
    - Scottish Masters Swimming Championships
    - Scottish Swimming Summer Meet
    - British Universities & Colleges Sport (BUCS) Indoor Archery Championships
    - Scottish Student Sport Outdoor Athletics Championships

The inspirational **Parasport Festival** returned to ASV in September 2024; 70 young people took part in this festival, organised by Scottish Disability Sport, providing opportunities for young people with disabilities to try a variety of sports, including swimming, kayaking, athletics, wheelchair basketball, table tennis, judo and boccia.

ASV hosted the **Scottish National Age Group Swimming Championships** in April 2025 – 5 days of competition, with over 1,000 swimmers from 93 Scottish clubs, plus around 300 spectators attending each of the 3 daily sessions. This event had an estimated economic impact on the area of **£1,340,000**, through accommodation, transport, and local spend during their stay in Aberdeen.

The **Scottish National Age Group Diving Championships** were also held at the Aquatics Centre in April 2025 - 3 days of competition, 200 divers from 7 clubs.

ASV hosted the Scottish Swimming Summer Meet in July 2025 – 4 days of competition, 830 swimmers, plus 1,250 unique spectators. This event had an estimated economic impact on the area of **£699,000** though accommodation, transport and local spend during their stay in Aberdeen

In July 2025, ASV was proud to host the **Tall Ships Sport Festival** in partnership with Aberdeen City Council, which included highland games activities, football and table tennis, culminating in a parade around the outdoor track led by the Robert Gordons College Pipe Band.

In total, we have teams from 41 of the 49 ships attend the Tall Ship Sport Festival, with 10 competing in the fast fives football tournament, 12 in the table tennis and 19 in the Highland Games. During the morning, we collaborated with local clubs and organisations to bring family entertainment to ASV and give local residents the opportunity to see the crew up close and have a family day out.









ASV is a unique venue that has the facilities to attract a variety of **Training Camps** to Aberdeen. In addition to the world-class facilities, in partnering with Visit Aberdeenshire, the University of Aberdeen and local accommodation providers, ASV can provide the complete camp package. The Swimming Performance Analysis System that has been installed at ASV will generate international interest in hosting camps in Aberdeen.

Training camps this year have included the Swimming National Junior teams, the Scottish Touch Youth Academy and the Scottish Ladies Water squad.

Most recently, ASV hosted the **Bermuda men's and women's football teams** for a training camp, prior to them playing in the Island Games in Orkney.

The **Scottish National Junior Swimming Team** attended a whole weekend training camp in September 2024; an integral part of the camp included the filming of strokes and race skills using the ASV camera system, with further educational sessions out of the pool which included how to interpret the data.





10. PARTNERSHIP: AFC / THE ASV MATCHDAY CLUB

ASV Matchday in collaboration with Aberdeen Football Club strives to impact positively on communities and families to improve and enhance life choices. The primary consideration is to provide access to footb all matches, sports & physical activity to person(s) who would otherwise be unable to attend.

175 people attended the ASV Matchday, with groups including ALC, Aberneccesities, SHMU, Family Learning, Archie Foundation, Community Integrated Care and Men United

One of the experiences with the Archie Foundation was caught on film to demonstrate the impact of the ASV Matchday





"Thank you so much for making it possible for some of our children to enjoy a day of sport on Sunday; playing football at ASV and then watching another winning performance from the Dons at Pittodrie. Everyone had a brilliant day out!"

11. PARTNERSHIP: ABERDEEN SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF

Year 2 of the partnership with the Aberdeen School for the Deaf saw all children who attended the school receive free learn to swim sessions through the Scottish Swimming framework delivered by ASV. In total, we delivered 29 weeks of free lessons as detailed below:

- Block 1 – September – October – 14 children weekly
- Block 2 – October – December - 14 children weekly
- Block 3 – January – March - 14 children weekly

- Block 4 – April – June - 15 children weekly

12. PARTNERSHIP: ABERDEEN LADS CLUB

In collaboration with All Life Chances, Aberdeen Lads Club and Barnardo's, ASV provided children from Tillydrone with free transport, swimwear and swimming lessons.



13. DENIS LAW LEGACY TRUST COMMUNITY FESTIVAL

The Denis Law Legacy Trust Community Festival delivered a wide range of activity across a 10 day period, including teen girl classes, swim sessions, family sport, a Streetsport Festival – Sport Di StradaCup and the Corporate 7s.

Across the 10 days, we accommodated 800 participants, including 400 at family swimming, 120 in family sport, with our teen classes at capacity with 56 participants.





14. ABERDEEN CITY HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE PARTNERSHIP

Following a successful information sharing day with senior representatives from ASV and the ACH&SCP, several fledgling initiatives are in the pipeline, which will enable ASV to align more closely with a number of population health outcomes, such as healthy weight, healthy life expectancy, social inclusion, as well as more targeted rehabilitation services.

15. PERFORMANCE SPORT

Athletes across all performance programmes enjoyed another outstanding year of development and inspirational performances, representing Aberdeen on the national and world stage.

ASV Table Tennis Academy had a very successful season, with a flurry of outstanding achievements, including:

- Following medal-winning performances across every age group at the Scottish National Age Group and Schools Championships, 9 Academy players and 4 coaches were selected to represent Scotland at the British Schools Championships in Jersey, where Maya and Kiishi took home a bronze medal each
- Kiishi was selected to participate in the GB Table Tennis programme
- Kiishi and Maya represented Scotland at the European Youth Table Tennis Championships in Sweden







The **University of Aberdeen Performance Swimming** programme is a national performance pathway programme that provides a world-class training environment to athletes, from development to elite, based at ASV. Following the previous 'transitional' year, the club has just completed its first full season with the fully amended model, with the club, the University of Aberdeen, Scottish Swimming and ASV working collaboratively to ensure programme income, athletes fees and pool costs are sustained, as well as maintaining the highest quality performance environment.

- In addition to providing 25 hours of training for over 140 members each week, the club provides development camps for younger swimmers, technical sessions and coaches forums
- Athletes have competed in a number of significant competitions throughout the season, on the regional, National and International stages
- Toni Shaw and Faye Rogers competed for Team GB at the Paris Paralympics, reaching 6 finals between them; the pinnacle of the Paralympics for Faye was an outstanding Gold medal in her strongest event, the 100m Fly





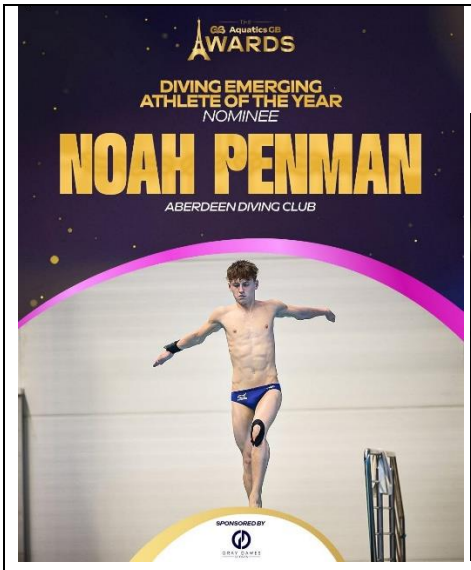
- At the GB swimming championships in April 2025, Faye went on to produce 14 Records (2 World, 4 European & 8 British) and has now qualified for all of her selected race events for The World Championships in Singapore in September 2025
- A younger UoAPS member, Olivia, won her first junior para swimming British silver medal
- The UoAPS team finished third in the Scottish National Age Group Swimming Championships in April 2025, held at ASV, their best result since 2019





Aberdeen Diving Club produced some excellent individual and team performances this season:

- The club were shortlisted in the 2024 Scottish Swimming Awards, in the highly contested Club of the Year category and Noah Penman was nominated as the Aquatics GB Emerging Athlete of the Year
  - Noah Penman competed at the Junior World Championships, placing 6th in the Boys Platform
  - 2 club athletes competed at the GB Aquatics Junior Elites Diving Championships, winning 3 gold medals; Noah (18) and Olivia (13), with both divers then selected for international competitions
  - Noah represented Team GB at the European Diving Champs in Turkey, winning a silver medal
  - Olivia represented Team GB Juniors in Italy, the only Scottish diver selected, winning a gold medal on her international debut













- In 2024, ASV became the custodians of the **Dr Hellen Reith Trust**, a legacy trust which provides financial assistance to individuals meeting the criteria set out in Dr Reith's will, but particularly who may face challenges continuing their sport due to financial constraints
- Funding was provided in 2025 to 7 young, local athletes, a total of £11,500 of financial support, across a wide variety of sports, including trampolining, wheelchair racing, frame running, table tennis, diving, athletics and ice hockey





"Thank you again for your generosity and belief in my potential"

"I am committed to continuing my progress in the sport and representing Aberdeen and the Trust with pride"

"This assistance will make a significant difference in helping me to achieve my goals and reduce the financial strain on my parents"

"I'm so grateful to receive an award and I'm excited to represent Scotland in the Lions Cup in Finland this Summer - you have no idea how grateful I am"

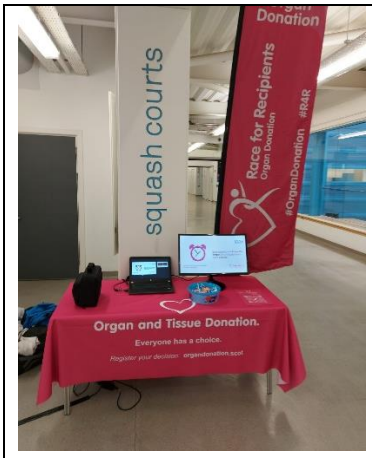
16. CHARITABLE EFFORTS

Team ASV continually endeavour to support our local community through a number of initiatives that the team engage with throughout the year. Examples of such efforts include:

- Members of Team ASV took part in the Mo Run in Edinburgh, and raised money throughout **Movember** for men's mental health



- The ASV Squash & Racketball club ran a **Squashathon**, for 15 hours in support of NHS Organ Donation, including 'come & try' sessions and an exhibition match; highlighting the link between health and sport, and raising awareness of **Organ and Tissue Donation**



- With ASV's strong links with the Russell Anderson Foundation, a **Sports Kit Library** was established at the Sports Centre; with the help of our members donations, the items are regularly delivered to local primary schools, for children who do not have sports kit



- Thanks to the incredible kindness of our members and visitors, the **ASV Christmas Giving Tree** wasn't just a decoration, it was a lifeline for countless children and families. The donations we received helped us support so many children and families. Throughout Christmas 2024, our generous customers gifted a significant amount to support a number of local ASV projects.



"Great idea, happy to help"

"Such a great initiative, well done ASV!"

"Great project to support youngsters loving activity – thank you"

"Good luck on the fund-raising for such a worthy cause"

17. TEAM ASV - INSPIRATIONAL INDIVIDUALS

ASV is proud to share some stories of its young workforce, who we have supported on their journey.

Meet **Coby**:



Coby's journey with ASV began in 2017 when he came to a Sports Camps age 13. He quickly fell in love with sport, and the energy of leaders made a lasting impression on him. He later joined Aberdeen Amateur Athletic Club, becoming a successful sprinter, completed his HND Sports Coaching & Development, and began coaching athletics. He is now studying Sports Coaching at RGU, and is an ASV Sports Camp Leader, Coach and Operations Assistant!





Meet **Mary**:

At 16 years old, as a Ukrainian war refugee, Mary (Mariia) moved to Aberdeen in 2022 to live with a sponsor family in Ellon. When she approached the UOA performance swimming programme, they began to support her swimming career in Aberdeen. Mary then joined the ASV aquatics team in September 2023 as a volunteer swimming teacher, gained her swim teaching qualification. Mary is now a UOA student, is still a successful competitive swimmer, and is also now a part-time member of ASV staff, passing on her knowledge to the young swimmers.





Meet **Noah:**





Noah first took part in ASV's primary school Talent Identification programme in 2017, when he was invited to join the diving programme at 11 years old. He has now completed his level 2 dive coaching qualification and is a valuable member of ASV's coaching team. Now an international athlete, Noah has had a spectacular final season as a junior diver, competing at the Junior World Diving Championships.

18. TRAINING THE YOUNG WORKFORCE

- Through ASV's own internal training and development programmes, we are able to develop the young workforce, and provide a number of opportunities
- In 2024-2025, 15 young volunteers completed their Scottish Swimming Teachers Qualification, 2 of whom originally learnt to swim in our own junior programme and 1 of whom learnt in our adult programme
- In addition, 4 diving club members are working towards their full diving coaching qualification, with all 4 starting their diving journey as youngsters in our Talent Identification programme
- Each Volunteer works as part of the team at ASV where they are mentored and supported
- Financially this has saved ASV a considerable sum, equivalent to 60 hours of volunteering per candidate




19. ECONOMIC IMPACT OF EVENTS

- When ASV hosted the Scottish National Age Groups Swimming Championships in April 2025, we piloted an economic impact template, using visitor information provided by VisitAberdeenshire
- Stage 1 of this pilot concentrated on the number of people visiting the city for the event and the number of nights they stayed

- The 5 day event was judged to bring a **£1.5M** economic impact to the city
- This template will now be expanded to include other significant events for Aberdeen, as well as impact on local businesses, travel, etc, as well as the social / family aspects of the events

20. NEW REFORMER PILATES STUDIO

ASV invested in the development of a brand-new **Reformer Pilates Studio**, created by transforming an underutilised meeting space into a modern, purpose-designed wellbeing facility.

The studio was introduced to **support the wellbeing of our members and the wider community**, with a focus on improving both physical wellness and mental health. By providing a unique and specialist experience not previously available at ASV, we have expanded our offer to meet growing demand for holistic fitness opportunities.

This initiative demonstrates ASV's commitment to:

- Making the best use of existing spaces to add value for members
- Supporting community health and wellbeing through innovative services
- Offering new experiences that contribute positively to mental health, recovery, and resilience

Please provide a summary of any problems or issues that have required attention or action:

ACC Strategies and Action Plan Priorities:

Please provide a summary of how your activities have delivered against ACC strategies and action plan priorities.

See LOIP information included in next section of annual report.

Local Priorities:

Please highlight where your outcomes, outputs or activities align against the priorities of the Local Outcome Improvement Plan. https://communityplanningaberdeen.org.uk/aberdeen-city-local-outcome-improvement-plan-2016-26/

LOCAL OUTCOME IMPROVEMENT PLAN THEMES

1. Economy

LOIP stretch outcome No2: 74% employment rate for Aberdeen City by 2026

Supporting Fair Employment and City-Wide Prosperity

Aberdeen Sports Village is proud to be a Real Living Wage employer, actively contributing to Aberdeen City Council's Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) Stretch Outcome 2.3: *"Increase employer sign-up to the Real Living Wage by 5% year on year to 2026."* By committing to fair pay practices, we ensure that all our staff —

regardless of role—receive a wage that reflects the true cost of living, supporting financial wellbeing and reducing in-work poverty.

Creating Pathways to Quality Employment

Aberdeen Sports Village is committed to supporting Aberdeen City Council's LOIP Stretch Outcome 2.4 by providing sustained, good quality employment opportunities—particularly for individuals from local priority neighbourhoods like Seaton and those aged over 50. We recognise the importance of inclusive employment practices in building a resilient and prosperous city.

Our recruitment strategy actively encourages applications from diverse backgrounds, and we work hard to ensure our vacancies are visible and accessible to those who may face barriers to employment. We offer a range of roles across operations, coaching, customer service, and management, many of which provide flexible working arrangements and opportunities for progression.

In addition, we support staff through ongoing training, mentoring, and wellbeing initiatives, helping individuals not only gain employment but thrive in their roles. By fostering a supportive and inclusive workplace, Aberdeen Sports Village contributes meaningfully to the city's goal of *enabling 100 people to access and sustain high-quality employment by 2026.*

- **Investment in infrastructure:** ASV has a substantial life-cycle reserve of £2.6 million which will be reinvested in ASV facilities over the 10-year investment programme. In the financial year 2024-25, ASV invested in the following:
    - £405,000 invested in operational facility planned and reactive maintenance
    - £201,000 investment in energy saving LED lights
    - £106,000 invested in transforming the Seminar Room into a studio for Reformer Pilates
    - £200k invested in upgrading the Aquatics Centre Reception area to allow for automation

- **Contributing to the city's tourism:** Please refer to previous section for summary of events held.

2. People (Children and Young People)

Directly linked to targets relating to increasing physical, mental, emotional health and wellbeing, ASV delivers a suite of activities, specifically tailored for children and young people, including:

- Activities for **pre-school children**: to allow very young children to play and learn; with 70 aquatics lessons each week specifically for early learners, plus a unique partnership with the Links Nursery
- Activities and sports for **school-age children**: introducing children and young people to healthy and fun regular activity; working with key partner clubs to offer a seamless pathway to a club environment; with over 160 swimming and diving lessons and sporting activity club sessions each week, specifically for children
- Sports and supervised gym sessions for **teenagers**: providing an opportunity to socialise with peers whilst enjoying being active; with 8 sessions each week specifically for young people, 13 during the school holidays, seeing approximately 3,804 participations during the year. Nearly 200 teen weightlifting participants from Aug24-July 25.
- Children's **aquatics programme**: the well-established and respected aquatics programme sees over 1,750 children and adults enrolled in the whole aquatics programme, with over 1,600 children in the learn to swim programme
- A **holiday sports camp programme** for all ages and abilities: multi-activity camps, sports-specific camps, and in partnership with clubs and governing bodies, accessible and free camps for local families.

In relation to improving **post-school learning and employment opportunities**, ASV is committed to offering opportunities for vocational learning and work experience, with a view to supporting a well-trained and prepared future workforce in the city.

- With a high proportion of the ASV workforce under the age of 25, with many still in further or higher education, ASV provides mentoring support, and on-going training to its young people
- ASV provides part-time and flexible employment opportunities for University and College students, and invaluable first steps and experience in the industry to senior school pupils
- ASV has supported a number of staff to become qualified in their field to deliver high quality, governing body recognised training courses; the short-term aim is to expand its delivery in relation to such courses, with a view to building a nationally recognised Training Academy, which will continually provide education and training
- ASV identified an early trend in the challenges now faced by the industry to recruit and retain staff; one solution was to deliver a number of Swim Teacher and Dive Coach training courses this year, inviting young people, swimmers and divers to take part, fully funded by ASV, which they then paid back to the ASV programmes by volunteering their time; in time, this has resulted in a significant number of young people who are now industry-trained and qualified, who are now paid teachers or coaches as part of the ASV aquatics team.

3. People (Adults)

The key areas where ASV will continue to evidence support in this area include building resilience within communities and supporting families, and increasing healthy life expectancies.

- Through enhanced customer engagement, ASV provides flexible and affordable opportunities for adults to participate in a variety of activities, via the Lifestyle Membership, or Lifestyle Day Pass.
    - 1,092,230 visits to ASV which was a –1.27% decrease YOY (Aug24 – Jul25) (1,106,304 last year)
    - On average there were 10,128 v 10,209 individuals with membership at ASV which is a 0.79% decrease year on year.
    - There were 82,190 class attendances with an average occupancy of 70% throughout the year, compared to a similar total last year.
- For senior members (over 60s) the Evergreens Lifestyle Membership lies at the core of the programme; a heavily discounted membership giving access to over 30 specialised sessions of sport and physical activity each week
    - Evergreens membership increased again this year by almost 13% with 1,236 Evergreens members
    - 31+ specialised sessions of sport and physical activity each week for Evergreens, with class utilisation sitting at over 85 and in some cases 90% (Aqua / Exercise to Music)
    - 34,264 Evergreens participations (Aug24-Jul25)
- ASV will continue to support the integration and health and wellbeing of our local population, working to deliver in partnership with the relevant bodies
    - Over 1,000 health referral participations (Aug24-Jul25), which is similar to last year
    - 2 Cardiac Rehabilitation and 1 Stable & Able class each week in conjunction with the NHS and the local health village.

4. Place

LOIP Stretch Outcome No 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

Environmental Responsibility and Carbon Reduction

Aberdeen Sports Village is committed to reducing our carbon emissions and supporting Aberdeen City Council's wider sustainability goals as outlined in the Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP). We recognise the importance of environmental stewardship in building a healthier, more resilient city.

The ASV current carbon footprint is 785 tonnes of CO2e, which includes:

Scope 1 emissions (direct emissions from sources we own or control): 0.8 tonnes of CO2e

Scope 2 emissions (indirect emissions from purchased energy): 750 tonnes of CO2e

Scope 3 emissions (other indirect emissions, such as those from supply chains and commuting): 34.2 tonnes of CO2e

ASV are actively working to reduce these figures through energy efficiency measures, sustainable procurement practices, and encouraging low-carbon travel among staff and visitors. Our long-term goal is to significantly lower our environmental impact while continuing to provide high-quality services to the community.

Aberdeen Sports Village remains committed to playing a proactive role in helping Aberdeen become a net zero city, and we will continue to monitor, report, and improve our sustainability performance year on year. (Aim 13)

Community Resilience and Emergency Support:

Aberdeen Sports Village remains committed to supporting the city not only through sport and wellbeing, but also as a designated emergency refuge centre for the people of Aberdeen. In times of crisis or severe weather, our facilities are available to provide shelter, safety, and essential support to those in need. (Aim 13.3)

LOIP stretch outcome No 14: Increase sustainable travel: 38% of people walking; 5% of people cycling and wheeling as main mode of travel and a 5% reduction in car miles by 2026.

Promoting Sustainable Travel

Aberdeen Sports Village actively encourages sustainable travel among both staff and visitors, supporting Aberdeen City Council's LOIP Stretch Outcome 14. ASV recognise the importance of reducing car dependency and promoting active and low-carbon transport options to improve air quality, reduce emissions, and enhance public health.

ASV is conveniently located on King Street, served by the Number 1 and Number 2 bus routes, making public transport a practical and accessible option for many users. In addition, we provide secure bike shelters on site to support cycling and wheeling, and we continue to promote walking as a healthy and sustainable way to access our facilities.

By supporting these modes of travel, ASV contributes to the city's goal of achieving 38% walking, 5% cycling and wheeling, and a 5% reduction in car miles by 2026. ASV remain committed to improving its infrastructure and communications to further encourage sustainable travel choices. (Aim 14)

LOIP stretch outcome No 15: 26% of Aberdeen's area will be protected and/or managed for nature and 60% of people report they feel that spaces and buildings are well cared for by 2026.

Enhancing Community Wellbeing Through Green Spaces

Aberdeen Sports Village plays a vital role in supporting the LOIP's Prosperous Place theme by providing accessible and well-maintained green spaces that are regularly utilised by the local community. These areas offer

a welcoming environment for a wide range of informal activities, including dog walking, exercise, picnics, relaxation, and even sledging during the winter months.

Our green spaces contribute to the physical and mental wellbeing of residents, promote social interaction, and encourage outdoor activity in a safe and inclusive setting. By maintaining these areas and keeping them open to the public, ASV supports Aberdeen's vision of a city where people feel connected to their environment and empowered to lead active, healthy lives. (Aim 15)

Contributing to the city, and enhancing the positive environment in which people can live, work, study and visit, is very important to ASV.

- As a community sports facility, ASV aims to continue to evolve our ASV 'family' and make the facility as welcoming as possible for all people.
- ASV will continue to support our very local communities, by utilising funding opportunities and volunteers to deliver activities, food and education, through community projects (as per information in previous sections).
- ASV supports team members with their own voluntary community-based projects, such as collecting presents or raising money for local charities, or collecting food for local distribution; ASV will encourage and champion such individual and team efforts in light of current and on-going challenges.
- Community clubs continue to enjoy utilising the facilities at ASV, and provide not only physical benefits, but also enhance social and emotional wellbeing and contribute to more positive mental health.
- ASV remains in close engagement with the University of Aberdeen to ensure continued support for the health and wellbeing of their community, and providing a 'home of sport' for over 40 of their student sports clubs.
- ASV hold UK Athletics track quality assurance scheme 'TrackMark' which allows ASV to host national level competitions.
- ASV's 3G pitch is World Rugby and Scottish Football Association compliant. Re-accredited November 24.
- ASV's synthetic hockey pitch is International Hockey Federation compliant. Re-accredited December 24.

5. Community Empowerment

LOIP stretch outcome No 16: 50% of people report they feel able to participate in decisions that help change things for the better by 2026

Aberdeen Sports Village is committed to empowering the local community by providing inclusive, accessible spaces and opportunities that encourage participation, ownership, and voice.
ASV believe that sport and physical activity are powerful tools for building confidence, strengthening social connections, and enabling people to take an active role in shaping their wellbeing and their community.
We regularly engage with local groups, schools, and organisations to co-design programmes that reflect the needs and aspirations of the people we serve. Our facilities are used not only for sport but also for community events, health initiatives, and outreach activities that bring people together and foster a sense of belonging.
By offering volunteering opportunities, supporting local clubs, and maintaining open green spaces, ASV helps create an environment where individuals—regardless of age, background, or ability—can contribute, lead, and thrive. This aligns with the LOIP's vision of a city where communities are empowered to influence decisions and improve outcomes for themselves and others. (Aim 16)

Education: Please provide further information in respect to any education programmes delivered.
Please refer to previous section above

Employment

Please provide information about your volunteers, if you have any:

- What roles do your volunteers undertake within the organisation?
- Training and Policy in action?
- Example of volunteer success stories such as transition to employment?

ASV volunteers help greatly in the delivery of children's activities, Evergreens sports sessions and performance programmes.

- There were 26 regular and active volunteers contributing directly to ASV activities in 2024-2025, with many more temporary and casual volunteers
- These volunteers delivered a total of 1,176 hours to sport and physical activity; over 25 hours per week
- Volunteers are vital to ensure many of ASV's programmes can remain affordable and sustainable; with circa 230 hou of coaching time donated to the ASV Table Tennis Academy, 50 hours to the Aberdeen Diving Club, and most significantly, the ASV Aquatics Programme Manager delivered Swimming Teacher qualifications to 15 young people, who collectively volunteered almost 900 hours to the ASV Learn to Swim programme, and who are now all employe as ASV Swimming Teachers
- Furthermore, individuals who support the performance programmes and events at ASV are invaluable to the succes of the programmes; coaches, officials, committees, etc.
- ASV supports a volunteer package, whereby vocational training courses are provided to further enhance their skills
- In addition, ASV's partnership with NESCOL, sees 80 students provide weekly volunteer hours to ASV between Octob to April in the delivery of the ASV Energiser programme and Home of Community Sport

ASV employs around 190 staff, with more than **50% under 25 years old**. Many are students in further/higher education, gaining flexible part-time employment and professional experience

ASV utilise its training room to provide opportunities for staff to upskill in subjects like Lifeguarding, First aid, Spo coaching and sport officiating, Leadership & Management

Staff achievements include:

- Staff members of **CIMSPA** (the professional body for sport & physical activity).
- Modern apprentices supported.
- Development of new swim teachers and dive coaches through in-house courses, creating a sustainable pipeline of qualified staff.

- **Development of the skilled workforce**: With the majority of ASV's workforce being young people under the a of 25, ASV invests in significant in-house training each year. Through on-going Continued Professional Development and investment in professional members of the team, ASV offers a comprehensive suite of vocational training courses.
- ASV offers a comprehensive suite of vocational training courses.
    - ASV employ 190 individuals, with over half the workforce being young people under 25 years of age
    - Up to 3% of staff costs were invested into training and development; with numerous in-house trainin opportunities for the ASV team
    - Front Line Supervisors trained in the RLSS National Pool Management Qualification
    - ASV supported 4 modern apprenticeships.
    - 12 ASV staff are NHS Scotland accredited 'Mental Health First aid' qualified
    - Managers are developed to hold the IOSH Managing safely qualification with some holding the NEBO qualification
    - Staff are members of CIMSPA (Chartered Institute for the Management of Sport and Physical Activity the professional body for the UK's sport and physical activity sector
    - Our front-line teachers and coaches hold a child wellbeing and protection in sport qualification
    - Entry level Managers have achieved the level 3 ILM Leadership & Management qualification with son attaining the level 5 ILM Leadership & Management qualification.

- Carbon Literacy for sport – 2 staff members have been trained to deliver this course
- Human resource training for line managers on various topics like recruitment, performance management, dealing with absence & equality, diversity & inclusion.
- Health and fitness qualifications and CPD
- A comprehensive Lifeguard training programme
- All catering staff host the elementary food hygiene award or higher.
- Food allergies awareness training
- Swimming pool plantroom operator
- Reformer Pilates instructors
- 4 staff are Belbin accredited trainers.
- ACT – Action Counters Terrorism course completed by front line staff.
- UK Athletics certificate in Track & Field facility Management.
- Fire warden training for front line staff

There are 4 staff lead 'Chambers' who meet once a quarter for the following:

- The Green group champions ways of saving waste and reducing ASV's carbon footprint.
- The Health & Safety group reviews accident, policy, and procedure
- The Social group encourage a healthy working lifestyle with the emphasis on fun and engagement.
- The Consultation group meets to discuss company procedures, new ideas and initiatives.

ASV encourages flexible working including a hybrid mix of home working and working from the office.

ASV reviewed its Equality, Diversity and Inclusion policy to ensure ASV provided inclusive choices for staff and potential new hires.

ASV is a 'disability confident' accredited employer

ASV is a real living wage employer

Workforce profile:

- 55% aged 16–24 (above industry average, providing early career opportunities).
- 56% female, 43% male (reversing the industry average).
- 74% identify as White Scottish/British; 12% staff identify with minority ethnic or other backgrounds.
- 88% report no disability (slightly above industry average).

SECTION 2 – Users, Participants and Investment

Please complete this section to report on the number of participants from each of the identified areas who have participated during the year.

Participants	Target	Total 24-25
Number of participatory opportunities targeted for priority groups		
Older People (65+) **Note: Recorded 60+ customer participations in the Evergreens programme*	100,000	136,215
Disability (mental health physical, sensory (e.g. BSL users) and carers of disabled people) * *Note: Number of known individuals with a registered disability*	200	302
Ethnic minority communities including Gypsy/ Travellers	20,000	56,358
Sexual orientation (LGBTQ)	This data is not collected nor recorded	
Residents of regeneration areas within Aberdeen City	See below table:	

SIMD Area		Visits
1	Torry	2,759
2	Middlefield, Mastrick, Northfield, Sheddocksley	13,789
3	Seaton	59,914
4	Tillydrone	11,467
5	Woodside	16,457
6	George Street	20,475

Please complete this section to report on visitor numbers in relation to your programming.

Customer participation/user	Target	Total 24-25
Total participations *	1,000,000	1,092,032
User number from Aberdeen City		81%
User number from the wider region or further		19%
% of customers rating experience as 'excellent' or 'good'		80%

We are keen to evidence the added economic value and social return of investment, as such we request that you please complete the table below.

Income 2024-25	Total £
Value of Grant(s) from Aberdeen City Council:	
ASV – Sports Centre and Aquatics Centre	624,000
Grant funding - University of Aberdeen	624,000
Strategic Funding	77,000
Charitable Activities	4,363,115
Trading income	330,245
Other (please specify) Bank Interest, etc	268,862
Total add income	6,289,971

Section 3 – Support Material

We recommend you provide up to five items of support material to help demonstrate the quality and impact of your activity. This may include; case studies, photographs, videos, web links, publications, marketing material, reports, participant testimonials and feedback. If emailing please keep all support material to under 5mb. Please supply details on your support material below

By submitting this you are providing permission for each item to be used for publication. You should ensure you have the creators consent and accreditation is provided where necessary.

Support Material 1:	**ASV Annual Report 2023-2024: (2024-25 report in progress)** https://youtu.be/EVNp0VzM2Zs?si=4pyKlbPK1tgNLfbC
Support Material 2:	**ASV Matchday Experiences in partnership with AFC:** https://youtu.be/01Rs621esxo?si=cyDfosbJNqaXQXJc
Support Material 3:	**Home of Community Sport:** https://youtu.be/eT8dYK8TNxA?si=EKPBASC6oTSA2aT6
Support Material 4:	**Scottish schools swimming association national championships 2025:**

	https://youtu.be/OE2siZYQT74?si=1sELLUcDoI7Lzug8
Support Material 5:	**Katoni Cup 2025:** **https://youtu.be/iZ7IqwtmIqE?si=n8FKnISSnwSqng7I**

Section 4- Declaration on use of information

Aberdeen City Council collects and maintains the data on this form about your organisation for the purpose of contacting you in relation to the funding, monitoring purposes and to collate information for statistical and audit purposes. We will retain Personal Data for six years in accordance with the organisation's Corporate Records Retention and Disposal Schedule and for the purpose of administering, processing and assessing your report.

For the purposes of processing this information Aberdeen City Council is the Data Controller. The Information Commissioner Office is the UK's regulator of data protection law (www.ico.org.uk). More information about all of the rights you have is available on our website at: https://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/your-data.

Whenever the Council processes personal data we need to make sure we have a basis for doing so. We understand our basis in GDPR to be Article 6(1)(e) as we consider that it is in our public task to collect this information under our powers set down in the Local Government and Planning (Scotland) Act, 1982 section 14, as amended by section 128 of the Local Government etc. (Scotland) Act, 1994. The act provides for us doing or contributing towards the expenses of providing or doing, anything necessary or expedient for the purpose of ensuring that there are facilities available for recreational, sporting, cultural or social activities as we consider appropriate.

To confirm that all information included in this report is accurate and that you have read and followed the terms and conditions, please sign and date below. If submitting by email an electronic signature or the typed name of the appropriate contact should be inserted.
Name: **(SIGNED)** **Date:** **2nd September 2025**

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ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

ALEO – ANNUAL REPORT

ORGANISATION:	Bon Accord Care
REPORT COMPLETED BY:	Dr Lou Henderson, Managing Director, and Executive Leadership Team.
DATE:	August 2025

SECTION 1 - Outcomes and outputs

Please provide a qualitative summary of outcomes, outputs, activities undertaken and progress made to date:

I am pleased to present the Annual ALEO Report on behalf of all staff and service users at Bon Accord Care. The citizens of Aberdeen have benefited from excellent standards of care, supported through early intervention and preventative measures to enhance their health and wellbeing. This comes at a time when the Health and Social Care sector faces significant challenges, including increasing demand for services and financial scrutiny. Nevertheless, through an integrated approach to our service provision, our staff are having a positive impact on the lives of Aberdeen's citizens.



This report highlights the tremendous efforts of Bon Accord Care staff, both those who provide direct care and support, and those who enable them to do so. It outlines the diverse range of services we offer, the support services that help make a difference in the lives of Aberdeen's citizens, and the impact Bon Accord Care has had on individuals, communities, staff, and partners. BAC staff are dedicated to maintaining the health and wellbeing of citizens by demonstrating respect and integrity and fostering a teamwork approach that promotes shared accountability (RITA).



Finance & Commercial

The Finance Team has worked extensively with services and budget holders to achieve the delivery of a balanced budget result in 2024/25. We have worked closely with our finance colleagues at the Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership to ensure financial efficiencies have been achieved in the interests of the wider system, and this work continues in 2025/26 and beyond. Other work that started in 2024/25 and will conclude in 2025/26 includes:

- More reliable budget process
- Improvements to monthly management accounts reporting
- Better business partnering with services to understand and correct deviations from budget
- Development of Medium-Term Financial Forecast and Plan
- Assessment and planning for further development of commercial activities
- Improvements in tracking and implementing internal audit recommendations
- Rationalisation of finance team roles and responsibilities

Our Information Systems team has commenced the rollout of our KPI Performance Dashboard together with a strategic review of our core operating systems. Our Information Systems Strategy has been finalised and is well placed to complement our Corporate Strategy.

People & Performance

The People and Performance Team have been working through numerous projects this year to help support the teams that provide the best of care to the people we support.

We focussed on supporting our people by creating a new People Delivery Plan which we aim to embed in the coming year. This plan will set the strategic direction needed to ensure we have the right people in place, with the right skills and who share our values, to achieve our strategic priorities.

A staff survey was conducted to gather information on a range of topics. It gave us key insights from our workforce that will shape our focus for the coming year as we look to build on feedback.

Clinical Operations, Governance and Safety

- Services worked in innovative and creative ways to ensure the best use of resources, deliver care and create capacity across the wider health and social care system, through reviewing models of service delivery service delivery. Re-alignment of Reablement Team to form link worker with services to better support staff teams in the delivery of enablement with a focus on interim and step-up care.

- Enhance and embedment of a clinical governance framework to foster a culture of excellence in standards to enable the delivery of safe high-quality care. Delivery of a pilot test of change in discharge to assess.

- Review of induction and learning and development programmes to ensure RITA values and behaviours are embedded in learning and evidenced through observations of care in practice with staff. Successful launch of new enablement training supporting different levels within the enablement framework.

- Development of an enablement framework and review of step up/down process and to maximise enablement opportunities.

- Collaboration with ACHSCP, ACC, Age UK, Alzheimer Scotland and tenants within to adopt a social model that recognises different barriers that can exist for people living with dementia.

Awards & accreditations

Bon Accord Care continue to strive to deliver the best care through working towards and achieving key accreditations. This includes:

- Quality Standards Framework accreditation for our telecare service for the third year running
- A2DT Telecare bronze award
- The Learning and Development Developing the Young Workforce team have been recognised as Pledge Partners by Developing the Young Workforce Nationally, with a commitment to support Scotland's young people to succeed in the world of work. As partners, they play a vital role in creating opportunities for young people as they prepare for and take their first steps into the world of work
- External verification through the SQA, awarded for consistent approach fully in line with National Standards.

Performance indicators:
This is the quantitative progress you have made in meeting targets over the year. These were agreed in your business plan / development plan and should be confirmed in your first quarterly meeting with your Lead Officer
PLEASE DO NOT CHANGE THE BASELINE OR TARGET FIGURES.

Please complete all boxes

INDICATOR	**ACHIEVED 23-24**	**ACHIEVED 24-25**
Financial Savings	£1.2m	£1.2m
Compliments versus Complaints	194 Compliments 17complaints	236 compliments 19 complaints
Mandatory training for all staff	85.3%	87.14%
Delayed discharge – tenants will be home within 24 hours of being classed as fit for discharge	-	
Telecare and community alarm – response to high priority referrals within two working days	88%	
Telecare and community alarm – response to medium term referrals within five working days	99%	
Joint Community Equipment Store Deliveries have been made within 1 day of order, ensuring people are receiving their equipment more quickly	93.5%	60.37% KPI 3-day range: 84.58%.

If you have not met the targets set please give any reasons or explanation for this:

Delayed discharges: Bon Accord Care have always had capacity to welcome tenants' home and have therefore not been responsible for any delayed discharges.

Please provide a summary of particular successes or case studies:

Case Study: Mr Smith's Rehabilitation Journey at Clashieknowe

Mr Smith was admitted to Clashieknowe in December 2024 following a prolonged hospital stay due to malnutrition, a collapsed lung, and a long lie after a fall. Unable to return home due to a breakdown in family relationships and unsafe living conditions, he was referred to Clashieknowe for rehabilitation and reablement.

Despite some initial challenges, Mr Smith engaged positively with staff and therapy teams, showing significant progress in his recovery.

- Initial Condition: Admitted in poor health after life support and hospitalisation; deconditioned and dependent due to years of limited independence.
- Therapeutic Engagement: Built trust with staff through consistent support and encouragement; collaborated with Occupational Therapy and Physiotherapy to set personal goals.
- Functional Improvements: Regained ability to manage personal care (except showering), medication, and healthy eating habits.
- Increased Independence: Progressed to walking longer distances with a mobility aid and managing household tasks like laundry and cleaning.
- Successful Transition: Moved to Sheltered Accommodation with minimal daily support; maintained positive family contact through his supportive brother.

Contribution to ACC LOIP Stretch Outcomes (SO): Improve Healthy Life Expectancy (SO10); Increase Community Empowerment (SO16).

Case Study: Using Mainstream Technology for Telecare – Apple Watch Trial

Our Telecare team is trained to assess individual needs and match them with appropriate technology to enhance safety and independence. In one case, a service user with epilepsy experienced seizures that traditional sensors couldn't detect. By exploring mainstream technology, the team found an innovative solution that significantly improved their care.

- Identified Need: Traditional epilepsy sensors failed to detect the service user's seizures, which were preceded by a spike in heart rate.
- Innovative Solution: Our engineers proposed using an Apple Watch, already compatible with the user's iPhone, to monitor heart rate and trigger alerts.
- Collaborative Setup: The watch was configured with custom heart rate thresholds to notify the user's mother when a seizure was likely.
- Positive Outcome: The solution enhanced safety and independence, allowing real-time alerts and peace of mind for both the user and her family.
- Future Potential: The success of this trial supports the use of mainstream digital tools in telecare, especially as services transition from analogue to digital.

Contribution to ACC LOIP Stretch Outcomes (SO): Improve Healthy Life Expectancy (SO10); Increase Community Empowerment (SO16).

Case Study: Enhancing Safety and Independence through Specialist Seating

The clinical team at the Joint Equipment Store brings expert knowledge to support service users with tailored equipment solutions. In collaboration with a Bon Accord Care Reablement Facilitator, our Occupational Therapist helped improve the safety, comfort, and independence of a service user in Very Sheltered Housing through a reassessment of their seating and handling needs.

- Identified Issues: The service user's original rise-recline chair did not support upright sitting, limiting her ability to eat, drink, and engage with their environment.
- Collaborative Approach: The Occupational Therapist and Reablement Facilitator reassessed their needs and replaced the chair with a more supportive model. They also upgraded the manual handling equipment to a full-body hoist.

- Improved Safety: These changes reduced risk for both the service user and staff, ensuring safer transfers and positioning.
- Increased Independence: The new chair enabled the service user to sit upright comfortably, eat and drink independently, and interact more with her surroundings.
- Positive Feedback: The service user expressed satisfaction with the changes, highlighting the significant impact of appropriate seating on her wellbeing.

Contribution to ACC LOIP Stretch Outcomes (SO): Improve Healthy Life Expectancy (SO10); Increase Community Empowerment (SO16).

Case Study: Occupational Therapy 1

Background – the service user has rheumatoid arthritis in both knees and other joints and has anxiety and stress. She had great difficulty accessing her bath and the use of equipment was unsuccessful. The difficulties with self-care were having a big impact on her mood and mental health.

Intervention – the Occupational Therapist made a referral to the housing landlord requesting adaptation of the downstairs toilet to incorporate a wet floor shower.

Outcome – the service user is now independent with their self-care/showering, and they said the adaptation was "amazing" and improved their overall wellbeing greatly.

Contribution to ACC LOIP Stretch Outcomes (SO): Improve Healthy Life Expectancy (SO10); Increase Community Empowerment (SO16).

Case Study: Occupational Therapy 2

Background - the service user and his wife were both finding great difficulty trying to climb over the bath to access the over bath shower and also getting on and off the toilet due to poor mobility, osteoarthritis and other health conditions. Their home cannot be ramped and may potentially be unsuitable for them longer term so major adaptation work to the bathroom would not be advised if required in the future.

Intervention – the Occupational Therapy Assistant supplied a shower board and a raised toilet seat. Discussions took place about alternative options regarding more suitable housing if they wanted to consider this at some point.

Outcome - the shower board has enabled both service users to start using their shower again and they said being able to be independent with showering and easier use of the toilet has had a positive impact on their mental health. She said: "Our lives have changed since you came along". They also feel freer to plan for the future should their mobility deteriorate further.

Contribution to ACC LOIP Stretch Outcomes (SO): Improve Healthy Life Expectancy (SO10); Increase Community Empowerment (SO16).

Please provide a summary of any problems or issues that have required attention or action:

Finance

Financial year 2024/25 was another challenging year, with increases in food and fuel prices contributing to inflationary pressures, as well as the COSLA-negotiated pay award of 4.3% being significantly higher than budgeted. As a result of this, efficiency savings of £1.2m were required in order for BAC to operate within its budget. When combined with an increase in demand for our services, this made it very challenging to achieve a breakeven

position without compromising the high standard of care they deliver. However, the breakeven position was achieved through the hard work and dedication of our staff.

Sustainability

Bon Accord Care (BAC) requires transformative changes to its operational model to ensure future sustainability. This transformation is necessitated by the increasing demand for health and social care services, the complexity of needs, and the financial pressures faced within the wider Health and Social Care system both locally and nationally. The current operational model does not support long-term strategic and financial sustainability. Budgetary constraints at ACHSCP and continuing cost rises mean that BAC are exploring transformation options for long-term sustainability. It is necessary to implement a strategic shift to focus on early intervention and preventative health through social care support for Aberdeen's citizens. The strategic focus includes care and support at home, day services, occupational therapy, unplanned care response services, intermediate care, enablement support, health and social care training, equipment provision, and telecare.

ICT

Challenges around workforce and Information, Technology, and Connectivity within the buildings from which BAC operates have presented issues for staff, whereby a lack of connectivity impacts their ability to maintain accurate record-keeping and move towards digital and technology-enabled care. However, BAC relates to ACC, and both organisations are committed to exploring co-designed solutions to resolve these issues. It is imperative that we invest in infrastructure developments and ICT to ensure that our staff can work efficiently and effectively, and that we can continue to provide high-quality care and support to our service users.

BAC has faced challenges around Analogue to Digital Technology (A2DT). This has predominantly related to testing new digital lines and ensuring that there is a continued level of adequate service maintained during this testing to minimise the impact on people who use digital telecare services. Despite this, we have been successful in obtaining a bronze award and are on track to achieve the silver and gold awards. As of 31st August 2024, the BAC Telecare Team had successfully changed over 99.8% of our alarms to new digital units. The team are now updating the alarms to have digital protocol going to the digital platform (shared ARC). By the end of August 28% of service users will be transitioned to the new ARC. This re-programming will be and has to be fully complete by end of October 2025 due to the smart numbers at Marischal College being switched off. BAC attendance at the Digital Programming Board has been revised, with our Information Systems Manager and one of our Operational Leads supporting this work, whilst escalation continues to be fed into Our Finance and Commercial Director.

Joint Equipment Services (JES): ACHSCP-BAC-NHSG

As part of our ongoing commitment to working with NHS Grampian partners at our Joint Equipment Store, it is crucial to urgently engage in discussions to review the Joint Working Agreement and explore alternative premises for the service. The significant increase in the number of people being cared for at home has led to a rise in demand and pressure on JES. The number of service users has grown from 19,938 in 2019 to 24,445 in 2024, a 23% increase. Similarly, the number of requests actioned has surged from an average of 761 per month in 2019 to 1,430 per month in 2024, a 47% increase. Despite this, there has been no corresponding increase in resources from either NHS or BAC.

The current Joint Working Agreement and premises are no longer fit-for-purpose, and there is an urgent need for clarity around the provision and funding of key services. BAC remains committed to engaging our NHS partners to progress this critical piece of work. We continue to work closely with ACHSCP to co-produce the Service Specification for the Joint Equipment Store, advance the Joint Working Agreement, and gain the necessary clarity around funding. ACHSCP's leadership and collaboration are essential in driving these discussions forward and ensuring that we can meet the growing needs of our service users effectively.

ACC Strategies and Action Plan Priorities:

Please provide a summary of how your activities have delivered against ACC strategies and action plan priorities.

Our 2023-2026 strategy progressed into year two of delivery, with the final year of delivery commencing in April 2025. BAC are working closely with key stakeholders, people we support, their families and partnership organisations to develop and update this strategy for 2027 and beyond.



These strategic aims and the target areas are aligned to the ACHSCP Strategic Plan and build on the positive work and learnings from the last five years. They ensure that we remain focused on the task at hand, to 'make a difference' for the people we support, their families and unpaid carers, and for the people we work with when delivering person-centred health and social care services. Key achievements across 2024/25 included:

1. **Caring:**
    - Successfully delivered patient-centred care models that have improved patient satisfaction by 20%.
    - Worked in partnership with ACHSCP, ACC to explore new models of Housing for Varying Needs across Aberdeen's sheltered housing portfolio.
2. **Enabling Independence:**
    - Expanded our rehabilitation and reablement services, resulting in a 15% increase in the number of individuals regaining independence.
    - Introduced new assistive technologies that have enhanced the quality of life for 1,200 service users.
3. **Workforce:**
    - Developed and implemented a comprehensive recruitment strategy, leading to an increase in staff retention rates.

- Launched a series of professional development programs, with over 900 staff members participating in training and upskilling initiatives.

4. **Healthy Lives:**

   - Rolled out a series of health and wellness campaigns that reached community members, promoting healthy lifestyles and preventative care.

   - Partnered with local organisations to provide mental health support services.

These achievements reflect our commitment to making a positive impact on the lives of the people we support and work with and demonstrate our dedication to continuous improvement and excellence in service delivery.

Local Priorities:

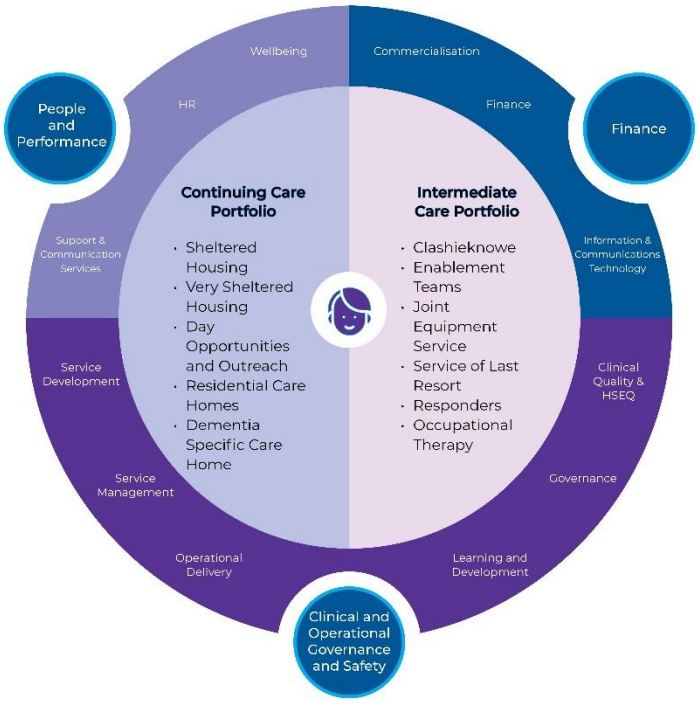
Please highlight where your outcomes, outputs or activities align against the priorities of the Local Outcome Improvement Plan. https://communityplanningaberdeen.org.uk/aberdeen-city-local-outcome-improvement-plan-2016-26/

This report and above case studies highlights BAC's contribution to the delivery of the Stretch Outcomes (SO) of the Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2016-26 (LOIP) across the below areas:

- Employment (SO2)
- Child Development (SO3)
- Children and young people feel listened to (SO4).
- Care experienced (SO5)
- Positive Destinations (SO6)
- Supporting Children with Disabilities (SO8)
- Healthy life expectancy (SO10)
- Alcohol & Drugs (SO11)
- Nature & Wellbeing (SO15)
- Community Empowerment (SO16)

The range of services that BAC offers not only provides continuing care support in citizens' own homes (whether sheltered housing, very sheltered housing, or care homes), but also includes a variety of intermediate services that directly contribute to the national and local early intervention and prevention agenda. We strive to promote early intervention and prevention across all of our services.

In addition to our contributions to the LOIP, BAC remains committed to supporting Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership (ACHSCP) in progressing and achieving the aims of their Strategic Plan 2022-25: Caring together; keeping people safe at home; preventing ill health; and supporting people to achieve fulfilling and healthy lives. Our efforts are aligned with the priorities of Aberdeen City Council (ACC) to ensure that we deliver high-quality care and support to the community.



Education:
Please provide further information in respect to any education programmes delivered.

Learning and Development

***[Contribution to ACC LOIP Stretch Outcome(s): Employment* (SO2); Children and young people feel listened to (SO4); Care Experienced (SO5); Positive destinations (SO6)].**

Bon Accord Care Learning Hub

Learning and Development provides mandatory Professional development for all Bon Accord Care (BAC) staff using a variety of methods. BAC eLearning is hosted on The Learning Hub – which is serviced by OpenLMS. Face-to-face training is delivered predominantly from the Learning Hub; however other venues are commonly used, i.e. Cummings Park Centre. L&D Facilitators also deliver bespoke support in services where a need is identified.

L&D Scottish Vocational Qualifications

As a registered Delivery Unit, Learning and Development are consistently graded as excellent during External Verification visits carried out by SQA Verifiers. L&D provide ongoing support for both internal and external candidates undertaking qualifications. There were 125 active candidates including Modern Apprenticeships and Foundation Apprenticeships (SCQF6 – the equivalent of a Higher).

Young Work Force

Investing in and developing and supporting our workforce is a key strategic aim within Bon Accord Care Strategic Plan 2023-2026. The young workforce team promote a culture where young people are valued and encouraged to achieve their development, qualification and career goals. We aim to provide qualifications for learners that are flexible, engaging, and achievable. Since **March 2019** the DYW Team have qualified:

204 Foundation Apprentices in Social Services and Healthcare and 57 apprentices in Social Care and Admin.

Foundation Apprenticeships: Within 24/25, BAC supported 48 Foundation Apprentices with qualifications. We are currently working from 3 hub schools, Aberdeen Grammar School, Old Machar and St Machar Academies with 2x FTE L&D Facilitators (one fixed term) responsible for delivery.

Modern Apprenticeships: Within 24/25 BAC supported 14 young people with Modern Apprenticeship qualifications with financial year 2024/2025. young people have been employed internally to complete care and business administration qualifications.

Building our future workforce

Work continues to develop staff through theory and practice learning. Development packs for job roles have been introduced across roles to further embed development of staff, with opportunities to obtain the skills required to progress through roles.

Supporting a change of career

Bon Accord Care have been supporting OT's back into the profession through a Return to Practice scheme. They are employed as OTA's whilst they gain experience, confidence and required skills to register as an OT with the HCPC. The service has successfully supported 4 staff members to gain OT appointments with the company via this route in the past two years

Career Ready

L&D have worked successfully in partnership with Career Ready for 9 years to deliver high quality learning, career development and mentoring for young people in the senior phase of school S5/S6. This has taken place across 2 Aberdeen City Academies per year in the format of an L&D Facilitator or another colleague from the organisation, being matched to a young person who is taking part in career ready. The positive partnership with Career Ready and the knowledge & support from DYW facilitators has ensured successful outcomes for 16 young people. Young people have learned practical skills in social care along with gaining knowledge on the sector which has enabled them to progress into positive destinations which have been tracked and demonstrated below. The outcomes aligned to Bon Accord Care have included young people gaining Foundation and Modern Apprenticeships.

Employment

Please provide information about your volunteers, if you have any: • What roles do your volunteers undertake within the organisation? • Training and Policy in action? • Example of volunteer success stories such as transition to employment?
Currently we have several partnerships with companies in the Aberdeen Area who support us. One example of this is at Kingswells Care Home where employees from B&Q helped the residents with the garden. We continue to work with the Employability team within Aberdeen City Council and have undertaken a few paid placements through the ABZ Works team to give an overview and experience of care services. Through this scheme we have been able to offer a route back into employment.

SECTION 2 – Users, Audiences, Participants and Investment

Please complete this section to report on the number of participants from each of the identified areas who have participated during the year.

Participants	**Target**	**Total 2024-25**
Total number of participatory opportunities created throughout programme	NA	NA
Number of participatory opportunities targeted for priority groups		
Young People under 16 (Foundation Apprenticeships)	-	14
Young People 16-25 (Modern Apprenticeships)	-	48
Informal Carers (including Older People 65+)	-	8
Disability (mental health physical, sensory (e.g., BSL users) and carers of disabled people)	NA	NA
Ethnic minority communities including Gypsy/ Travellers	NA	NA
Sexual orientation (LGBTQ)	NA	NA
Residents of regeneration areas within Aberdeen City	NA	NA
Other (please specify)	NA	NA

Please complete this section to report on audience/visitor numbers in relation to your programming.

Users/Audiences	**Target**	**Total 2024-25**

Total Service Users (average Service user/residents/learners/per month)		8099/month
User/Audience number from Aberdeen City	NA	NA
User/Audience number from the wider region or further	NA	NA
% of user survey rating experience as 'excellent' or 'good'	NA	NA

We are keen to evidence the added economic value and social return of investment, as such we request that you, please complete the table below.

Income 2024-25	**Total £**
Funding from ACHSCP for main contract	34,361,000
Funding from ACHSCP for additional services	1,114,000
Cost recoveries from ACC	357,000
Sponsorship	NA
Trading income (City Home Helpers and Learning & Development)	345,000
Other (Modern Apprentice funding)	26,000
Total income	**36,203,000**

Section 3 – Support Material

We recommend you provide up to five items of support material to help demonstrate the quality and impact of your activity. This may include case studies, photographs, videos, web links, publications, marketing material, reports, participant testimonials and feedback. If emailing, please keep all support material to under 5mb. Please supply details on your support material below.
By submitting this you are providing permission for each item to be used for publication. You should ensure you have the creator's consent and accreditation is provided where necessary.

Support Material 1:	Compliments bubbles for KPIs.ppt
Support Material 2:	Bon Accord Cares - July 2025.pdf
Support Material 3:	Clashie Inspection.pdf
Support Material 4:	TSA Membership Renewal and Certific
Support Material 5:	5.5_29.08.25_Q1 Board_Annual Impac **2025 DRAFT COPY**

Section 4- Declaration on use of information

Aberdeen City Council collects and maintains the data on this form about your organisation for the purpose of contacting you in relation to the funding, monitoring purposes and to collate information for statistical and audit purposes. We will retain Personal Data for six years in accordance with the organisation's Corporate Records Retention and Disposal Schedule and for the purpose of administering, processing and assessing your report.
For the purposes of processing this information Aberdeen City Council is the Data Controller. The Information Commissioner Office is the UK's regulator of data protection law (www.ico.org.uk). More information about all of the rights you have is available on our website at: https://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/your-data.

Whenever the Council processes personal data we need to make sure we have a basis for doing so. We understand our basis in GDPR to be Article 6(1)(e) as we consider that it is in our public task to collect this information under our powers set down in the Local Government and Planning (Scotland) Act, 1982 section 14, as amended by section 128 of the Local Government etc. (Scotland) Act, 1994. The act provides for us doing or contributing towards the expenses of providing or doing, anything necessary or expedient for the purpose of ensuring that there are facilities available for recreational, sporting, cultural or social activities as we consider appropriate.

To confirm that all information included in this report is accurate and that you have read and followed the terms and conditions, please sign and date below. If submitting by email an electronic signature or the typed name of the appropriate contact should be inserted.
Name: Dr Louise Henderson **Date: 28/08/2025**

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

ALEO – ANNUAL REPORT 2024/25

ORGANISATION:	Sport Aberdeen
REPORT COMPLETED BY:	Keith Heslop, Chief Executive
DATE:	August 2025

SECTION 1 - Outcomes and outputs

Please provide a qualitative summary of outcomes, outputs, activities undertaken and progress made to date:

Awards Success in 2024/25

Winner:

- **Scottish Swimming Awards:** Scottish Water's 'Learn to Swim Provider of the Year'
- **Community Leisure UK Seriously Social Awards:** Inclusion award for 'SPACE' programme
- **The Aberdeen Society of Architects Awards:** Special Commendation for 'Facility of the Year Award – Get active @ Northfield'.
- **Northern Star Business Awards:** Regional Contribution Award for Alistair Robertson, former MD.

Finalist:

- **ukactive Awards:** Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Award for 'Football for All' project
- **The Herald & GenAnalytics Diversity Awards:** Diversity in Sport Award for 'Football for All' project
- **Community Leisure UK Seriously Social Awards:** People Above Profit award for delivery of the GoodBoost programme
- **Scottish Knowledge Exchange Awards:** Making a Social Difference for the Proactive Minds project in collaboration with Glasgow Caledonian University.
- **Northern Star Business Awards:** Business of the Year

Accreditations

- Gained Level 2 Disability Confident Employer status

Business Plan Aims and Objectives

Sport Aberdeen's business plan for 2024-25 focused on achieving five key aims. These aims are summarised below with the key supporting projects, outputs and other activities undertaken to achieve them.

1) To provide programmes aimed at improved the health and wellbeing of key groups including children and young people and adults.

Under this aim, we:

- Had more than 7,000 children getting active on a weekly basis across all coached programme activity, representing one fifth of children in the city.
- Increased Active Schools provision by 6% with 176,499 visits across city schools (both primary and secondary) with a 29% increase of participants in priority neighbourhoods from the previous year.
- Delivered swimming lessons to all P4 pupils citywide, reaching 2,200 learners.
- Delivered Bikeability Level 2 training to all city primary schools, ensuring safe cycling habits.

- Delivered Counterweight Core programme on behalf of NHS Grampian as part of their Tier 2 Adult Weight Management Pathway.
- Hosted Aberdeen's first Community Appointment Day (focused on chronic pain) at Get active @ Northfield.
- Continued to create accessible opportunities by removing cost as a barrier through our ***Get active for Less*** discounted access scheme, with over 2,360 applications processed in 2024–25, benefitting 1,489 older people (66+), 1,616 adults, and 1,513 children, as well as charity groups and support organisations.
- Delivered 489 Good Boost sessions for adults living with musculoskeletal conditions, supporting them to self-manage with their condition (2987 participations).

2) To focus on growing key income streams, becoming more cost efficient and investing in the future.

Under this aim, we:

- Completed feasibility work for transforming Get active @ Westburn into a premier fitness and café destination.
- Progressed a successful stage 1 application to the Transforming Scottish Indoor Tennis Fund to enhance Aberdeen Tennis Centre.
- Refurbished and reopened three outdoor courts at Get active @ Northfield and five outdoor courts at Ruthrieston in £210,000 renovation project.
- Launched The Quad and HYROX at Get Active @Jesmond, welcoming 5,000 participants by March 2025.
- Invested £100k in golf courses and outdoor pitches.
- Spent £200,000+ renovating tennis courts at Northfield and Ruthrieston Outdoor Sports Centres.
- Refurbished changing rooms and toilets at Bridge of Don Swimming Pool and Linx Ice Arena.
- Enhanced public areas at Get active @ Kincorth, Get active @ Sheddocksley and Linx Ice Arena bar.
- Installed destratification units at Linx Ice Arena to improve energy efficiency.
- Introduced a new Sales Executive role in the marketing, communications and commercial development team to grow commercial advertising and corporate sponsorship opportunities.
- Completed an internal structure review which saw the creation of an assistant director role focusing on asset development and project oversight and the transfer of the Adventure Aberdeen Snowsports Centre to the Community Leisure Operations division.

3) To grow strategic partnerships and to build our corporate governance model.

Under this aim, we:

- Successfully retendered the grounds maintenance contract for all golf courses and outdoor facilities with idverde retaining the contract following a rigorous procurement process, ensuring continuity of service and enabling a flexible, value-driven approach to outdoor maintenance.
- Continued working with **sport**scotland, the Lawn Tennis Association and Tennis Scotland respectively to bring a fully funded project for a canopy covering over the external courts in Westburn Park, subject to planning permission.
- Successfully working with the city council's planning team, securing investment into the council's facilities from developer obligations as part of Section 75 agreements. In 2024, this included substantial investment to create, the QUAD, functional training space at Get active @ Jesmond and more recently, refurbishing the pool changing rooms at Get active @ Cults.
- Continued support for the Russell Anderson Foundation, hosting an annual golf day at the MacKenzie Championship Course, helping to generate funding to support the charity's key objectives.
- Established a trustee development committee, implemented peer-led mentoring and a trustee annual evaluation programme.

4) To focus on growing and retaining our team through professional and personal development

Under this aim, we:

- Launched a new employee benefits platform, 4Me offering comprehensive benefits across finance health, travel and lifestyle sectors.
- Developed plans for a new electric car scheme and a venue champions initiative.
- Delivered 6 NPLQ courses with 75 enrolments and 33 hires, a 43% increase in successful placements.
- Achieved RLSS UK mentor status.
- Gained Level 2 Disability Confident employer accreditation.
- Refreshed our employee engagement strategy and succession planning framework.
- Prepared for upcoming legislation changes in the Disclosure Scotland Act and Employment Rights Bill.
- Progressed the Carer Positive accreditation scheme.
- Became an Approved provider on the Public Scotland Contracts Framework.
- Successfully trained 75 lifeguards, with trainees traveling from as far as Edinburgh to our venues. All trained lifeguards secured employment in the leisure sector across Scotland and beyond, with over 50% hired directly by us which is expected to increase over the coming year as it has in the past.
- Modern Apprenticeships continue in the Customer Service Area and SCQF Level 7 Management.
- Successfully delivered two internal Pool Plant Operator courses for the first time, and as a result our internal trainer became a fully qualified pool plant tutor. We trained six external candidates from Live Life Aberdeenshire and approximately ten internal staff. Additionally, we trained six Aberdeen City Council employees in a Pool Water Treatment course.
- With an aim to branch out into commercial areas we conducted assessments and quality assurance for Aberdeen International School to provide RLSS UK assessments. We then trained 14 pupils from Aberdeen Grammar School in National Lifesaving Academy awards. Delivered an Aquatic Therapy Rescue Award (ATRA) Light course, training six teachers at Bucksburn Academy. Began providing lifesaving training for RGU Sport, generating a new stream of monthly income while they waited to run their own RLSS UK Trainer Assessor course.
- Continued our work with the Career Ready program where the team at career ready with schools and employers to prepare young people for the world of work taking on two new mentees beginning the journey with Sport Aberdeen in the HR&OD department.
- Hosted in two Fit Next events at Get Active at Northfield, offering young people an insight into opportunities at Sport Aberdeen. We hosted an employability workshop that included interview and readiness exercises, along with demonstrations of spinal board and CPR skills.
- On the back of our annual External Audit with our governing body of delivering national pool lifeguard qualifications and first aid package received the very coveted Excellent rating which Sport Aberdeen had not achieved in the past few years with our changes to internal auditing and service delivery quality.
- Delivered our first Outdoor First Aid qualification to both internal and external staff. This upskilled three of our trainers and provided our adventure instructors with a qualification specifically tailored to their working environment. This course is also approved by the Institute of Outdoor Learning and provides learners with 8 CIMSPA CPD points.

5) To deliver efficiencies, transformation and better decision-making using data and technology.

Under this aim, we:

- Appointed a Business Performance Analyst to enhance our business intelligence strategy, ensuring access to accurate, timely data and advanced analytical insights that inform decision-making, focus resources on high-impact priorities, and drive long-term organisational efficiency.
- Transitioned to Microsoft Teams telephony, improving efficiency and reducing costs.

- Enhanced cybersecurity through mandatory multifactor authentication and rollout of Microsoft Intune for mobile and endpoint security.
- Developed and launched a new mobile app which enables bookings and membership management, with 5931 downloads to date.
- Updated all PCs and laptops to Windows 11.
- Migrated to new MS365 licenses delivering cost efficiencies and providing users with additional functionalities.
- Rolled out an electronic purchase order system.
- Established a centralised Customer Experience Hub as the first point of phone contact for 14 venues, membership services, customer feedback, and general enquiries, improving accessibility, customer satisfaction, and operational efficiency. Key achievements of the new team include:
    - Extension of operating hours from 37.5 to 75 per week, doubling the availability of customer service support, improving access at times that suit customers, and alleviating pressure across venues.
    - Launch of a live chat service to provide direct, responsive support.
    - Consolidation of five separate customer email addresses streamlined into one contact point.
    - Introduction of new tools to give the operations management team real-time dashboards and up-to-date insight into customer feedback and trends.
    - Improved call answering rates, consistently achieving around 95%.
    - Resolution of 99% of enquiries within 24 hours, reducing turnaround times.

Performance indicators:

This is the quantitative progress you have made in meeting targets over the year. These were agreed in your business plan / development plan and should be confirmed in your first quarterly meeting with your Lead Officer **PLEASE DO NOT CHANGE THE BASELINE OR TARGET FIGURES.**

Please complete all boxes

INDICATOR	ACHIEVED 23-24	ACHIEVED 24-25	VARIANCE
VENUE PARTICIPATION			
Participation – total visits (Expectation is a 1% increase year on year. Please see **Appendix A – Participation Stats 2023/24 to 2024/25** for further breakdown.)	1,426,334	1,458,167	+31,833
Active Lifestyles			
Walk Aberdeen			
Social walking groups per week	9	11	+2
Social walking sessions	432	441	+9
Social walking participations	5,568	6,345	+777
Number of volunteers	27	32	+5
Number of volunteering hours	1,440	1,518	+78
Active Lifestyles Referral Programme			
Long-term health conditions with specific activity programmes	8	9	+1
Number of referrals received	344	716	+372
Number of opportunities (per week)	25	25	0
Number of sessions	847	890	+43
Number of participations	4,871	5,285	+414
Average number of people active in specialist referral classes per week	344	300	-44
Number of volunteering hours	220	192	-28
Active Lifestyles Participation			
Number of opportunities per week	57	55	-2

INDICATOR	ACHIEVED 23-24	ACHIEVED 24-25	VARIANCE
Number of sessions	2,850	2,592	-258
Number of participations	26,481	27,135	+654
Number of volunteering hours	1,081	1184	+103
Total Healthy Communities Participation			
Number of opportunities	91	91	0
Number of sessions	4,129	3923	-206
Number of participations	36,923	38,765	+1842
Active Schools			
Number of visits	176,499	176,632	+133
Number of blocks	1,151	1,234	+83
Distinct participants in extracurricular programme	8,567	8,727	+160
% distinct participants in extracurricular programme by school roll	33%	33%	0
Distinct volunteers delivering extracurricular programme	816	915	+99
Distinct qualified / certified adult volunteers delivering extracurricular programme	317	312	-5
Distinct secondary pupils delivering extracurricular programme	154	213	+59
Distinct qualified / certified secondary pupils delivering extracurricular programme	40	49	+9
Distinct female participants	3,815	3,697	-118
Adventure Aberdeen			
Total number of sessions delivered	1,531	1,170	-361
Number of sessions secondary	58	59	+1
Number of sessions – primary	490	380	-110
Number of sessions – ASN	366	155	-211
Total number of participants	17,133	13,614	-3519
Number of participants - secondary	791	887	96
Number of participants – primary	6,221	4,646	-1575
Number of participants – ASN	1,938	653	-1285
Attendance at public events – sessions	45	35	-10
Total number of participants at public events	1,115	857	-258
School holiday programmes – total sessions	140	129	-11
Total number of sessions age 3-8	42	33	-9
Total number of participants age 3-8	304	275	-29
Total number of sessions age 9-16	98	96	-2
Total number of participants age 9-16	1,104	1,188	+84
Community projects – total sessions	12	11	-1
Community projects – total number of participants	144	123	-21
Bikeability scheme – training sessions	374	379	+5
Bikeability schemes – training participants	4,773	4,826	+53
Coached Programmes			
Coached programme members			
Aquatics	5,500	5,631	+131
Gymnastics	538	523	-15
Tennis	394	412	+18
Skating	701	601	-100
Snowsports	467	463	-4
Dance (incorporated into junior membership for 2024/25)	87	0	-87
Total coached programme members	7,687	7,630	-57

INDICATOR	ACHIEVED 23-24	ACHIEVED 24-25	VARIANCE
ASN participants in targeted swimming lesson classes	88	121	+33
Number of pupils receiving school swimming lessons	2,200	2,211	+11
Coached programme classes			
Aquatics	762	798	+36
Gymnastics	46	44	-2
Tennis	44	55	+11
Skating	83	86	+3
Snowsports	90	79	-11
Dance	9	0	-9
Total	1,034	1,062	+28
Community Sports Hubs			
Number of community sports hubs across the city	6	5	-1

If you have not met the targets set, please give any reasons or explanation for this:

Overall, venue participation increased by 2.2% from 1,426,334 in 2023-24 to 1,458,167 in 2024-25.

Please provide a summary of particular successes or case studies:

Provider of the Year success

In September 2024, Sport Aberdeen was named Scottish Water's Learn to Swim Provider of the Year at the Scottish Swimming annual awards, recognising its dedication to delivering an inclusive and high-quality programme. Each week more than 5,500 children took part across six pools, with additional lessons provided for adults, children with additional support needs, and those with aquaphobia.



The award also reflected Sport Aberdeen's commitment to clear development pathways, from beginners through to club-ready swimmers, and opportunities for volunteers to progress into Aquatics Teachers, supporting both community wellbeing and staff development.

Reactivation of indoor climbing wall at Northfield Academy

Sport Aberdeen's Active Schools and Community Sport teams successfully reactivated the indoor climbing wall at Northfield Academy in March 2025 following a £3.9k award from Aberdeen City Health & Social Care Partnership's Health Improvement Fund. The funding covered inspection, recertification and training for 32 staff

to deliver bouldering sessions, enabling more than 50 pupils to take part in taster sessions, including those in enhanced provision, alongside one-to-one support.

The project was delivered in partnership with school staff and community groups, with an opening event celebrating the facility's return. The reactivation has generated strong enthusiasm among pupils and the local community, with plans now in place for lunch clubs, an all-girls bouldering group and future development of roped climbing opportunities, embedding the activity as part of the school's curricular and community sport offer.

Northfield Academy Climbing Wall



Football for All Project

The Football for All project, which provides weekly football sessions for the New Scots community in Aberdeen, gained national recognition in 2024 after being nominated for two prestigious awards, including as a finalist at the ukactive Awards.



Celebrating its one-year anniversary in October 2024, the initiative has already supported over 100 players from 10 nationalities, helping many overcome isolation and even progress into local amateur clubs. The award nominations highlight the project's significant impact in creating a safe, welcoming environment that promotes inclusion, wellbeing, and community connection through the power of sport.

Delivery of new water safety framework to P4 swimming lesson programme
Sport Aberdeen played a leading role in piloting the new National Primary School Swimming Framework, facilitating delivery across six of its pools and engaging 1,490 pupils in Aberdeen. Supported by Scottish Water and Scottish Swimming, the framework aims to equip all primary school children with essential water safety and drowning prevention skills. Sport Aberdeen will continue to adopt it, reaching around 2,100 pupils each year.

The programme has already boosted pupils' confidence in and around water, reinforcing the importance of instilling vital life skills from an early age and highlighting Sport Aberdeen's commitment to making swimming accessible and impactful for young people across the city.

ESCAPE-Pain Site of the Month February 2025
Sport Aberdeen was named February's *Site of the Month* for its successful delivery of the ESCAPE-pain hip and knee course, a six-week rehabilitation programme for people aged 45+ living with osteoarthritis. Funded by NHS Grampian Charities, the initiative was innovatively delivered by exercise professionals in community venues, rather than NHS physiotherapy departments, making it more accessible. Combining tailored exercises with education on self-management, the programme has helped participants reduce pain, build strength, and gain confidence, with positive feedback highlighting both the health benefits and valuable peer support it provides.

Please provide a summary of any problems or issues that have required attention or action:

Fatality at Get active @ Northfield Swimming Pool
An incident occurred in February 2024, where subsequently a young person died. An investigation conducted by Police Scotland is ongoing and Sport Aberdeen is cooperating fully with the agencies.

Grass Pitch Availability and Future All-Weather Provision
There were challenges around the availability of grass pitches, which led to stakeholder concerns and media coverage highlighting frustrations over reduced access. Contributing factors included severe weather conditions and vandalism, which limited playable surfaces and created pressure on fixture scheduling. Engagement with stakeholders took place to address these issues, and a project is currently in development to increase all-weather pitch provision to help reduce future disruption and support grassroots football in the city.

Recruitment and Staff Retention
This remains an ongoing challenge in the sport and leisure industry and encouraging staff to remain in the sector relative to other industries in the Aberdeen area, especially the salaries available in the energy sector, is difficult. To mitigate this, we have and continue to review our benefits package to ensure we are competitive in the sector. We also collaborate closely with schools, colleges and universities to build pathways into employment and have strengthened internal professional and personal development programmes and succession planning to ensure staff reach their full potential. We continue to work with Career Ready to mentor and provide internship for two young people per year both of whom have gone on to be employed with Sport Aberdeen following their experiences.

ACC Strategies and Action Plan Priorities:
Please provide a summary of how your activities have delivered against ACC strategies and action plan priorities.

Aberdeen Sports Facilities Strategy 2016 – 2026
The city's sports facilities strategy is being refreshed to set the vision and priorities for the next decade.

A consultant has been commissioned to work with the reformed Active Aberdeen Partnership, bringing together a wide range of expertise from public, education, private and voluntary sector partners. This collaborative approach will ensure the new strategy reflects the needs of Aberdeen's communities, promotes inclusive access to sport and physical activity, and aligns with the city's wider health and wellbeing ambitions.

The scope of the project includes a full audit of existing sports and wellbeing facilities and services, assessing quality, accessibility, and sustainability. It will also consider transport links, digital access, and opportunities for greater collaboration through multi-agency hubs.

The work will identify gaps in provision, set out investment priorities, and recommend a balanced approach to developing new facilities, repurposing existing assets, and ensuring long-term environmental and financial sustainability. Key partners include Sport Aberdeen, Aberdeen City Council, both universities, **sport**scotland, local sports charities, governing bodies, and community organisations.

The Strategy for an Active Aberdeen 2016-2026
The strategy has the vision of making Aberdeen the most active city in Scotland, with a mission to Activate the City. The key strands of this strategy relate to increasing opportunities and participation in sport and physical activity, investing in the investing in the infrastructure of places (physical infrastructure) and people (communities of interest).

The final aim is to be inclusive, so that everyone has the opportunity to be and stay active. These are closely linked with the aims and objectives of the Sport Aberdeen business plan and the detailed evidence for what Sport Aberdeen has achieved by increasing participation is highlighted throughout this document and particularly in the preceding sections.

Local Outcomes Improvement Plan
Sport Aberdeen has remained fully committed to contributing to the LOIP stretch outcomes where ver possible, with most relevance aligned to People (Children & Young People and Adults) and Place.

Active representation and resources allocated by Sport Aberdeen to CPA planning, ongoing development and delivery of LOIP Outcomes throughout the previous year is highlighted below.

Local Priorities:

Please highlight where your outcomes, outputs or activities align against the priorities of the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan.

Priority	Improvement Areas	Programme	Outputs
Stretch Outcome 4	➢Improve mental health and wellbeing of children and families. ➢Reduce waiting times and demands for tier 3 services. ➢Increase number of S1-6s feeling confident. ➢PEPAS	✓Extra-curricular provision and festival programme ✓ProActive Minds ✓Active Schools Assistants – Curricular Impact; ConfiDance ✓SPACE – Supported Physical Activity for Care Experienced ✓Priority Families – Sports Activator ✓Care & Connect – Young Carers ✓Active Minds – Mental Health ✓Active Girls Committee ✓ Free & supported Memberships	• 10,000 children reached • 17 learners engaged in Active Minds provision • 19 schools supported through Active Schools Assistant model • 8 schools supported through ConfiDance • 12 families supported in partnership with Action for Children's Priority Families team • 14 young carers engaged in Care & Connect • 19 learners engaged in Active Girls Leadership programme

Stretch Outcome 5	➢Care experienced will have same levels of education, health and wellbeing as peers	✓Lead ASC (Keep The Promise) – collaborative approach ✓SPACE programme – 1.5 FTE Project Activators ✓Family Fun Days – whole family approach ✓Active Schools Assistants – curricular impact	• 35 learners supported through SPACE programme for care experienced • Average post session wellbeing scores increasing from 4.14 to 4.75 • 6 Family Fun Days throughout the year, with 22 families attending Christmas Party • 30 free Learn to Swim spaces allocated per term • 1,020 free memberships distributed to families
Stretch Outcome 6	➢Improve attainment and positive destinations	✓Partnership agreement with NESCol to provide alternative entry routes into uniformed services, coaching and fitness courses through Active Schools Leadership Programme. ✓Placement opportunities and work experience ✓Active Schools Leadership Programme, with pathways into higher education ✓SPACE ✓Care & Connect ✓Active Schools Assistants – Curricular Impact	• 213 secondary pupils delivering extra-curricular opportunities • 63 students delivering extra-curricular opportunities • 2 care experienced young people accessing Active Schools Leadership Programme • 2 **sport**scotland Young Ambassadors identified from every secondary school
Stretch Outcome 7	➢Reduce the number of young people coming into conflict with the law	✓SPACE- Supported Physical Activity for Care Experienced ✓Care & Connect – Young Carers ✓ Active Minds – Mental Health Support ✓Priority Families - Sports Activator ✓Active Schools Assistants – Curricular Impact	As above
Stretch Outcome 8	➢Increase the number of children with additional supports needs or assessed as having a disability, accessing education and	✓SPACE ✓Hospital-based sessions ✓Active Schools Assistants – Curricular Impact ✓Active Schools Leadership programme ✓ NESCol Partnership Agreement –	As above

	positive destinations	alternative entry route	
Stretch Outcome 10	➢ Healthy Life Expectancy (time lived in good health) is five years longer by 2026	✓ Active Lifestyles Referral Programme ✓ Active Lifestyles Programme ✓ Community Appointment Days (1st Chronic Pain CAD held at Get active @ Northfield) ✓ Stand Up To Falls (Sport Aberdeen are a key partner and in 2024.25 created the Stand Up To Falls brand)	✓ 10 x funded memberships allocated via SAMH Primary Care Link Practitioners ✓ Health Checks and advice delivered to over 50 people via community groups ✓ 40% increase in people living with Chronic Pain and MSK conditions accessing physical activity sessions to support self-management ✓ 38 people completed the Counterweight Core Programme, with an average weight loss of 3.5% helping reduce risk factors associated with type 2 diabetes and other long-term conditions ✓ Stand Up To Falls 'brand' established and over 300 Falls Awareness conversations held
Stretch Outcome 14	➢ Increase sustainable travel	✓ Walk Aberdeen Social Walking Groups ✓ Cycling Without Age Aberdeen City	✓ Weekly programme of 11 x social walking groups ✓ 450 Cycling Without Age rides for 900 passengers who wouldn't otherwise experience cycling ✓ 10 additional Social Walking and CWAS Opportunities held during Grampian Wellbeing Festival, May 2025

Maximise use of disused outdoor space (North Locality Plan) - Refurbishment of tennis courts at Northfield Outdoor Sports Centre was completed and floodlighting installed. Outdoor play and fitness equipment also added to venue due to successful UKSPF funding.

Education:
Please provide further information in respect to any education programmes delivered.

Sport Aberdeen is committed to delivering and supporting a wide range of educational and training opportunities that develop skills, enhance employability, and strengthen community capacity.

Through programmes for schools, coached activities, community sport initiatives, workforce development, and volunteer training, we provide meaningful pathways for young people, staff, volunteers, and community members to learn, grow, and contribute. These opportunities not only improve confidence and leadership but also ensure that individuals and groups across Aberdeen are equipped to support active, healthy lifestyles.

Active Schools
Active Schools Aberdeen deliver regular CPD opportunities for coaches and volunteers, averaging 1 per month. An average of 1 leadership programme is offered to young people per ASG, with every primary school offered Primary Leadership opportunities. 2024-25 saw this range from boccia, Miss Hits Tennis and playground games.

Training is also offered to school staff, with teachers attending Inclusive Activity workshops, boccia leaders and multi-activity games.

Coached Programmes
During 24-25, the Coached Programmes Team delivered 3 Scottish Swimming Teacher Qualifications, 1 Early Years Swim Teacher Course, 1 Gymnastics Activity Instructor Course, Good Boost Training and a series of CPDs including Inclusion, Drowning Prevention, Young Helper training and technical sessions. Over 230 participants attended these training opportunities.

Community Sport Training Programme
During 24-25, Community Sport delivered 6 First Aid courses and 10 Child Wellbeing & Protection in Sport / Officer courses to club coaches, volunteers and other community organisations. In total, 207 participants were trained over this period.

HR and Organisational Development Team
The HR and Organisational Development team supported **DYW Northeast** in academic year 2024-25 by engaging 770 young people in S3 to S6 age groups from five different academies, in a wide range of activities which included workplace visits, career carousels, mock interviews, induction days, and health, fitness & wellbeing sessions, as well as volunteering inputs.

Through the **ABZ Works Local Employability Partnership**, the team also supported five weekly pop-up sessions at Get active @ Northfield, providing advice and guidance to community members on accessing employment support and opportunities.

Walk Aberdeen Training
Sport Aberdeen's Walk Coordinator delivered the Walking Scotland (formerly Paths for All) Walk Leader Training course and Strength and Balance Training for Walk Leaders. Those attending the training have been able to support Sport Aberdeen's Social Walking Groups or create new walking opportunities for their own community or organisation i.e. Clan Cancer Supports weekly walking group.

Employment

Please provide information about your volunteers, if you have any:

- What roles do your volunteers undertake within the organisation?
- Training and Policy in action?
- Example of volunteer success stories such as transition to employment?

Active Schools

Active Schools Aberdeen engaged 915 volunteers, delivering extra-curricular provision. Another 60 provided festival-only provision. 213 secondary pupils and 63 students volunteered this year, all of whom were encouraged to sign up to the Saltire Awards and wherever possible, formal qualifications and certification were provided. This equated to 16,719 hours of volunteering, providing free opportunities across our city schools.

Young leaders are supported through mentorship, workshops and regular feedback. Adult volunteers can access free CPD, which is often created based on feedback based on learner needs. The Active Schools team also attended a Volunteer Workshop provided by **sport**scotland, increasing the quality of offer for this year. This year also saw a Volunteer Recognition event hosted at Get Active @ Westburn, which saw adults and young people recognised, with many receiving certificates for achieving different volunteering milestones.

Success story 1 – a young person at risk of not gaining a positive destination, volunteered up to 5 times a week. They have since gained casual employment, with plans to go to NESCol through the alternative entry route

Success story 2 – a care experienced young person, with low school attendance has regularly been attending an activity as part of Sport Aberdeen's SPACE programme. They now volunteer up to 15 hours a week, have gained formal qualifications and have a plan in place for progressing to college and employment.

Healthy Communities

Success story 1 – Cycling Without Age Aberdeen City continued to flourish led by a team of over 20 dedicated volunteers. These volunteers are themselves passionate about cycling and give their time to allow older adults and people with disabilities the opportunity to experience cycling in a way they may not otherwise. The team offered 450 trishaw rides for up to 900 passengers between April – October 2025. Cycling Without Age Aberdeen has two qualified trainers who can upskill new volunteer pilots and one Velotech trained 'mechanic' who supports with ongoing servicing and maintenance of the fleet of bikes.

Success story 2 – Two volunteer Falls Ambassadors have been key members of the Stand Up To Falls project attending steering group meetings and facilitating Falls Awareness sessions. These volunteers have brought both professional and lived experience to the project along with their excellent conversation skills, enabling the project to reach over 500 people with a falls awareness conversation and advice.

SECTION 2 – Users, Audiences, Participants and Investment

Please complete this section to report on the number of participants from each of the identified areas who have participated during the year.

Participants	Total 2023-24	Total 2024-25	Variance
Total number of participatory opportunities created throughout the venue programme	1,426,334	1,458,167	+31,833
Young People under 16 (Active Schools & Community Sport)	168,288	172,521	+4,233

Young People 16-25 (Active Schools & Community Sport)	8,380	9,684	+1,304
Older People (65+) (Community Sport)	80	38	-42
Disability (mental health physical, sensory (e.g. BSL users) and carers of disabled people)	244	1,297	+1,053
Ethnic minority communities including Gypsy/ Travellers (Asylum seeker and refugee programmes during 2023-24)	795	451	-344
Sexual orientation (LGBTQ)	Management system unable to collect data		

Residents of regeneration areas within Aberdeen City	**Members**			**% Members**	
SIMD Area	**23-24**	**24-25**	**Variance**	**23-24**	**24-25**
Torry	520	608	88	2.68%	2.77%
Middlefield, Mastrick, Northfield, Sheddocksley	2531	2637	106	13.03%	12.01%
Seaton	138	165	27	0.71%	0.75%
Tillydrone	273	332	59	1.41%	1.51%
Woodside	203	248	45	1.05%	1.13%
George Street	132	162	30	0.68%	0.74%
Total	**3797**	**4152**	**212**	**19.56%**	**18.90%**
	23-24	**24-25**	**Variance**	**23-24**	**24-25**
Other (please specify)					
Number of Active Schools participants within priority neighbourhoods	2,225	2,861	636	23%	31%

Please complete this section to report on audience/visitor numbers in relation to your programming.

Users/Audiences	**Total 2023-24**	**Total 2024-25**
Total user/audience/visitor numbers in venues	1.43 million	1.46 million
User/audience number from Aberdeen city	85.8%	84.8%
User/audience number from the wider region or further	14.2%	15.2%

We are keen to evidence the added economic value and social return of investment, as such we request that you please complete the table below.

Income 2024-25	**Total (£)**
Value of grant(s) from Aberdeen City Council	4,595,000
External grant funding	682,541
Sponsorship	-
Trading income	9,988,549
Other – interest receivable	265,255
Total income	**£15,531,345**

Social Value Return

With a commissioning fee of **£4,515,000** from Aberdeen City Council, the overall social value generated by Sport Aberdeen in 2024/25 was **£19,069,245**. This is an increase of **£1.56 million** on the previous year.

Social Value 2023-24	**Social Value 2024-25**	**Variance**
£17,512,690	£19,069,245	+£1,556,555

The ratio of social value against the commissioning fee received is **approximately 4.22:1**.

This means that for every **£1** of commissioning fee from Aberdeen City Council, Sport Aberdeen generated **£4.22 of measurable social value**. This level of social value delivered is a positive indicator of the performance of the company and of the value it delivers across key areas.

NOTE: The social value calculator model was updated in May 2025. The figures reported have been compiled using the new calculation method. Previously, the model measured the value of sport and physical activity across four areas: physical and mental health, wellbeing, personal development, and community impact. The new approach now follows HM Treasury's Green Book guidance and groups outcomes into two categories: (a) the direct benefits to individuals, and (b) the wider benefits to society, including the state.

Section 3 – Support Material

We recommend you provide up to five items of support material to help demonstrate the quality and impact of your activity. This may include case studies, photographs, videos, web links, publications, marketing material, reports, participant testimonials and feedback. If emailing, please keep all support material to under 5mb. Please supply details on your support material below

By submitting this you are providing permission for each item to be used for publication. You should ensure you have the creator's consent and accreditation is provided where necessary.

Support Material 1:	Sport Aberdeen Participation Stats 2024/25
Support Material 2:	Community Sport Team Rock Up and Ride Case Study - https://www.sportaberdeen.co.uk/news/new-scots-benefit-from-rock-up-ride-sessions
Support Material 3:	Scottish Swimming's SeeMyAbility campaign highlighting the importance of inclusion within learn to swim environments. Filmed primarily at Tullos Pool, the video features interviews with Sport Aberdeen parents and teaching staff, highlighting the excellence of Sport Aberdeen's inclusion programmes. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qwldoXHzNU4
Support Material 4:	SPACE Annual Report 2024/25
Support Material 5:	Good Boost case studies - https://www.sportaberdeen.co.uk/news/seriously-social-about-health-wellbeing-goodboost

Section 4- Declaration on use of information

Aberdeen City Council collects and maintains the data on this form about your organisation for the purpose of contacting you in relation to the funding, monitoring purposes and to collate information for statistical and audit purposes. We will retain Personal Data for six years in accordance with the organisation's Corporate Records Retention and Disposal Schedule and for the purpose of administering, processing and assessing your report.

For the purposes of processing this information Aberdeen City Council is the Data Controller. The Information Commissioner Office is the UK's regulator of data protection law (www.ico.org.uk). More information about all of the rights you have is available on our website at: https://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/your-data.

Whenever the Council processes personal data we need to make sure we have a basis for doing so. We understand our basis in GDPR to be Article 6(1)(e) as we consider that it is in our public task to collect this information under our powers set down in the Local Government and Planning (Scotland) Act, 1982 section 14, as amended by section 128 of the Local Government etc. (Scotland) Act, 1994. The act provides for us doing or contributing towards the expenses of providing or doing, anything necessary or expedient for the purpose of ensuring that there are facilities available for recreational, sporting, cultural or social activities as we consider appropriate.

To confirm that all information included in this report is accurate and that you have read and followed the terms and conditions, please sign and date below. If submitting by email an electronic signature or the typed name of the appropriate contact should be inserted.

Name:	**Keith Heslop, CEO**
Date:	**18 September 2025**

sport aberdeen
Charity no SC040973

Sport Aberdeen Participation Statistics

2023/24 - 2024/25

Indoor Venues

Number of attendances at other indoor sports and leisure facilities excluding pools in a combined complex

CENTRE	2023-24 TOTALS	2024-25 TOTALS	CHANGE	% CHANGE
Aberdeen Tennis Centre and Get Active @ Westburn	59,909	59,976	67	0%
Get active @ Alex Collie	66,399	65,153	-1,246	-2%
Get active @ Beach Leisure - indoor sports (closed April 2024)	2,206	0	-2,206	-100%
Get active @ Beacon	94,505	93,052	-1,453	-2%
Get active @ Cults - indoor sports	33,168	37,279	4,111	12%
Get active @ Jesmond	124,492	114,265	-10,227	-8%
Get active @ Kincorth	39,916	45,395	5,479	14%
Get active @ Lochside - indoor sports	20,571	19,352	-1,219	-6%
Get Active @ Northfield (opened Sep 2022)	69,824	66,894	-2,930	-4%
Get active @ Peterculter	28,454	27,052	-1,402	-5%
Get active @ Sheddocksley - indoor sports	74,854	65,857	-8,997	-12%
Linx Ice Arena	90,095	90,131	36	0%
INDOOR SPORTS TOTALS	**704,393**	**684,406**	**-19987**	**-3%**

Outdoor Venues

CENTRE	2023-24 TOTALS	2024-25 TOTALS	CHANGE	% CHANGE
Aberdeen Tennis Centre and Get Active at Westburn - outdoors	23,703	38,446	14743	62%
Adventure Aberdeen Kingswells/Cromdale	17,106	13,614	-3492	-20%

Adventure Aberdeen Snowsports	52,408	58,622	6214	12%
Balnagask Golf	21,866	20,698	-1168	-5%
Dyce 3G pitch	29,293	27,411	-1882	-6%
Get Active at Cults - outdoors pitches	14,101	12,661	-1440	-10%
Get Active at Lochside - outdoors pitches	37,583	37,061	-522	-1%
Get Active at Northfield -artificial pitch	26,194	17,733	-8461	-32%
Get Active at Sheddocksley - outdoors	9,778	7,598	-2180	-22%
Hazlehead Golf Mackenzie and Pines Courses	51,450	46,097	-5353	-10%
Hazlehead Golf 9 hole	22,011	22,180	169	1%
Hazlehead Pitches	2,500	21,782	19282	771%
Inverdee Cricket Pitches	0	2,904	2904	-
Kings Links Golf	27,140	27,950	810	3%
Linx Ice Arena - cricket pitch	3,075	275	-2800	-91%
Ruthrieston tennis courts (closed November 2023-March 2024)	2,504	4,733	2229	89%
OUTDOOR TOTAL	**340,712**	**359,765**	**19053**	**6%**

Pools

CENTRE	2023-24 TOTALS	2024-25 TOTALS	CHANGE	% CHANGE
Bridge of Don Swimming Pool	48,870	47,243	-1,627	-3%
Bucksburn Pool (closed from May 2023)	6,456	0	-6,456	-100%
Dyce Academy Pool	39,224	42,381	3,157	8%
Get active at Beach Leisure - Pool (closed in August 2022)	0	0	0	-
Get active at Cults - Pool	59,851	63,944	4,093	7%
Get Active at Northfield - Pool	103,259	123,221	19,962	19%
Get active at Lochside - Pool	24,733	28,020	3,287	13%
Tullos Swimming Pool	98,836	109,187	10,351	10%
POOLS TOTAL	**381,229**	**413,996**	**32,767**	**9%**

STAT PIs 2024-25 - Notes of interest

Overall indoor, outdoor and pools admissions combined show a 2.2% increase compared to the previous year.

The swimming lesson admissions have increased overall by 13% due to programme expansion. A move to all year-round delivery of pre-school lessons (in line with the school age and adult lessons programme) from October 2024 also had a positive impact. These previously were only delivered during school term.

All pools except Bridge of Don Pool show increased admissions due in part to the increases in the swim lessons programme. Bridge of Don Pool shows a decrease of 3% in admissions due to a number of maintenance closures throughout the year for work to repair boilers and emergency lighting.

At Get active at Kincorth, indoor usage increased by 19%, due to further expansion of weekday opening hours.

All venues were impacted by severe weather for a week in mid-November and some days in January 2025. This led to cancellation of some coached programme classes and delayed opening or earlier closing of venues due to weather conditions and travel warnings. This particularly impacted venues with a busy early morning fitness class programmes such as Get active at Northfield, Get active at Sheddocksley and Get Active at Jesmond. An overall reduction in admissions of 8% was experienced for November 2024. Get active at Sheddocksley also had some reduction in sports hall availability due to essential maintenance being undertaken.

Get active at Northfield Outdoor usage saw a reduction in admissions due in part to weather conditions and also the cancellation of bookings by a large football club which had ceased operating. The re-opening of the tennis courts after extensive refurbishment in June 2024 and court admissions accounted for 5% of the venue outdoor annual admissions. Ongoing programme development and the recently added floodlighting is expected to help grow the admissions.

Adventure Aberdeen Kingswells/Cromdale showed a decrease of 3,492 admissions due to a reduction in the number school attendances/bookings. A shifting focus to more targeted work with smaller groups or individual young people also impacted on admissions. A shortage of qualified outdoor instructor particularly during the first quarter of the year further impacted admissions.

Outdoor usage at Ruthrieston tennis courts increased by 2229 (89%) following the re-opening of the courts in June 2024. The courts had been closed for refurbishment from November 2023 to May 2024.

Hazlehead football pitches show an increase of 19,282 users compared to the previous year due to the letting of the pitches to a group of football teams who have made regular weekly usage of the pitches and also hosted SFA football festivals.

The Aberdeen Tennis Centre & Westburn OSC saw a very positive outdoor usage increase of 62% due to increased bowling admissions and the first full year of operation of the padel courts (which opened in summer of 2023) and a maturing programme of activities and usage. A number of promotions and programme development activities also saw increased usage of the outdoor tennis courts.

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ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

sportscotland activeschools ABERDEEN CITY

sport aberdeen
Charity no SC040973

SPACE

SUPPORTED PHYSICAL ACTIVITY FOR CARE EXPERIENCED

2024/25

Annual Report

getting it right for every child

the promise scotland

Community Planning Aberdeen

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Conclusion

1. Introduction

The Promise is an ambitious and transformative national initiative designed to improve the lives and experiences of care experienced children and young people across Scotland. As part of the broader vision for transformation, The Promise also emphasises the importance of sport and physical activity in supporting the development of care experienced children and young people with its underlying strategy to develop relationships, wellbeing and voice.

Care experienced young people face unique challenges, including disrupted education, emotional trauma, and social isolation, which often impact their academic attainment and overall wellbeing. However, engaging in physical activities and sport has been shown to offer numerous benefits, not only improving academic performance but also fostering physical, mental, emotional, and social health. This report focuses on the positive impact that the 'Supported Physical Activity for Care Experienced' (SPACE) programme has on sport and physical activity participation and the holistic development of care experienced young people in Aberdeen.



2. Specialist Provision - SPACE

Sport Aberdeen and Virtual School Aberdeen continues its collaboration to provide tailored sport and physical activity opportunities for care experienced young people. The SPACE programme offers person-centred, 1-2-1 and small group sessions, promoting wellbeing and contributing to broader personal development outcomes. The focus remains on creating supportive, inclusive environments that enable care experienced young people to achieve their full potential through engagement in sport and physical activity, whilst contributing to the following Virtual School commissioning intentions:

- Improve and support educational attendance and attainment.
- Improve physical and mental wellbeing markers.
- Increase opportunities to access a positive destination.

The success of the programme has been largely driven by strong collaborative working between all partners involved. By bringing together the expertise, resources, and shared commitment of ACC, Sport Aberdeen and wider support networks, the project has created a cohesive and responsive approach to meeting the needs of care experienced young people. Open communication, joint planning, and a shared vision have ensured that each element of the programme is aligned and effective, resulting in supportive and engaging environments for young people to flourish and reach their potential. This continued collective effort has not only enhanced the quality and reach of the programme but has also maintained the foundation for sustainable, long-term impact.

2.1 Investment

Aberdeen City Council Virtual School's investment in a project centred on sport and physical activity for care experienced young people plays a unique and crucial role in improving their physical and mental wellbeing, building confidence and creating a sense of belonging. Sport Aberdeen has further strengthened this initiative by providing additional funding, reinforcing a shared commitment to equity, inclusion and long-term impact.

Table 1 – Value of investment to SPACE programme.

Organisation	Investment	Value
Aberdeen City Council	1 x 1.0 FTE Project Activator and operational activity budget.	£30,000
Sport Aberdeen	'Get Active' memberships accessible for all care experienced children/young people and a member of their support network.	£294,420
	Priority swimming lesson spaces.	£7,900
Sportscotland	1 x 1.0 FTE Lead Active Schools Co-ordinator (Keeping the Promise).	£42,613
	Total	**£374,933**

Sport Aberdeen's dedication to the role of Corporate Parent is clear, investing £10 from Sport Aberdeen and £1.50 from partnership funding to every £1 invested by ACC into the project this year. Therefore increasing the number of opportunities available across its universal, targeted and specialist support. Sport Aberdeen's investment into memberships and increased Project Activator resource has enabled a whole-family approach, placing emphasis on working in partnership with children, young people and their families.

2.2 SPACE Implementation

A key aspect of analysing the effectiveness of SPACE is tracking attendance and the number of hours of sport and physical delivered across the 1.0 FTE Project Activator provision. This helps to evaluate the consistency and engagement in the programme as well as identify behavioural patterns and challenges faced by the young people. Regular tracking and analysis of these indicators also ensures timely collaboration with partners to discuss current and future support plans when required. Table 1 shows the average attendance across 25 young people with SPACE sessions, education and the hours of activity engaged in by the young people.

This year has seen an increased number of young people waiting for the availability of 1-2-1 SPACE provision, a testament to the improved awareness of the programme and newly established partnerships. This recognises the positive

impact of SPACE support whilst highlighting the necessity amongst care experienced young people and their families to have access to this type of support.

Table 2 – Engagement with SPACE and school attendance.

Indicator	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4
Number of young people receiving 1-2-1 SPACE sessions.	17	23	25	22
Average percentage term time attendance with SPACE.	85.70%	76.20%	69.00%	72.90%
Hours of term time 1-2-1 SPACE support.	129	154	194.5	216
Average education attendance*	89.40%	89.30%		

*Denotes that figures reported only include children and young people receiving direct support from Virtual School Aberdeen.

Attendance with SPACE remains high and therefore relationships with the Project Activators and young people have continued to develop. This has allowed for young people to try activities such as swimming, horse riding and basketball on a regular, routinely basis. Sport Aberdeen has made efficient use of financial resource to prioritise and sustain horse riding lessons, driving range and rock-climbing sessions given the expertise and financial strain barriers that prevent participation for many young people without additional support mechanisms. This has encouraged self-belief and confidence in young people whilst also supporting family and professional relationships as additional pressures are mitigated where possible. This year, the influence of SPACE has seen several young people enter pathways requiring less direct 1-2-1 support, reducing overall attendance with SPACE and increasing the capacity to support new referrals.

As SPACE supports care experienced young people in the broadest sense, education attendance figures are reported for those who receive direct support from Virtual School Aberdeen (15/25) and where SPACE provides curricular-based support. Although important to monitor, it is important to note that the variance in school registration processes and the number of alternative timetables in place for the young people involved with SPACE significantly reduce the validity of the education attendance recorded in Table 1. Therefore, no direct correlation can be made between SPACE support and school attendance with the current data however qualitative feedback suggests that SPACE input has helped bridge the gap between home and school (see Figure 1)



2.3 Educational Outcomes

Sport can be a powerful motivator for care experienced young people to engage with their education and improve their academic outcomes. In addition, it provides alternative pathways for young people to achieve and re-define what success means to them. SPACE continues to provide opportunities for young people to explore their interests and have fun away from the classroom, with improvements in concentration, attendance and attainment as the key intentions of support. Key educational outcomes achieved by young people this year include:

- 2 young people enrolled and completed a Level 4 Horse Care National Progression Award in partnership with Hayfield Riding Centre.
- 1 young person volunteering at Hayfield Riding Centre.
- 1 young person volunteering at a local primary school.
- 1 young person accepted into a Pony Racing Academy scheme following a nomination by their Project Activator.
- 1 young person achieved the Bronze Active Schools Volunteering Award and 25-hour Saltire Award.

Placing emphasis on pathways this year has encouraged young people to find new passions, whilst gaining qualifications and building connections with new networks. Next year, the programme aims to support young people to access further and higher education by utilising the qualifications and experiences gained through these volunteering and leadership roles and through its established partnership with North East College Scotland College, which allows alternative entry into the sports coaching, fitness and uniformed services courses.

2.4 Health and Wellbeing

Some of the most immediate benefits of sport and physical activity participation are the impact on physical, mental and emotional health indicators. Engaging in regular physical activity has been shown to reduce the risk of obesity, promote emotional resilience, enhance physical fitness, and mitigate symptoms of anxiety and depression — factors that are particularly prevalent among care experienced young people. SPACE provides young people with positive outlets for emotional expression and to escape negative thoughts and stressors, directly impacting their ability to regulate their mood, engage in school and build connections within their communities.

This term has seen emphasis placed on working with children and young people to self-report wellbeing ratings (1-5), where they assess their own satisfaction with life, mood, and overall health prior to and after their SPACE activity session. This included using a variety of descriptive, age-tailored methods such as emotions characters, words and colours to support young people to identify their thoughts and feeling in greater depths. The average pre- and post-wellbeing ratings given by young people are detailed in Table 3.

> Thank you so much for getting her into school, its great having someone who can bridge the gap between home and school a little easier.
> (Caregiver)

Table 3 – Young person wellbeing ratings pre- and post-SPACE activity session.

Indicator	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4
Average wellbeing scores pre-SPACE session.	3.83	3.84	4.07	4.14
Average wellbeing scores post-SPACE session.	4.29	4.55	4.65	4.75
Average wellbeing score change.	**0.18**	**0.28**	**0.58**	**0.61**

These subjective ratings provide valuable insight into the young people's perspective on the factors contributing to their wellbeing and provide a platform to discuss emotions like anxiety or stress with improved ease. The Project Activators report that this has increased the number of discussions had with young people about the positive wellbeing benefits associated with sport and physical activity, allowing them to support young people to directly correlate their own change in wellbeing with being active.

As each young person and Project Activator relationship are different and emotions fluctuate throughout the day, certain aspects of wellbeing, such as the complexity of personal emotions, are often better understood through qualitative feedback. Therefore, 43% of young people have elected to better capture their wellbeing rating through qualitative feedback, displayed in Figure 1.

Figure 1 - Family based feedback about support received by the SPACE programme.

They view you as an important part of their weekly routine.
(Caregiver)

I feel calmer and more relaxed after my sessions.
(P5 Pupil)

Whenever I talk to you about stuff it always makes it seem less scary or sad.
(P5 Pupil)

I have fun at all the activities and want to go to the next one.
(P7 Pupil)

I really enjoyed the Horse Riding, I really want to go back again
(P3 Pupil)

That was really fun, I like playing on the zipline with you.
(P4 Pupil)

This is the best park ever, when can we come back and play again?
(P5 Pupil)

They really love going out with you, every Friday they talk about how excited they are. You really have helped them get out there, meet people and do activities.
(Caregiver)

Figure 1 demonstrates the importance of valuing and embedding the voices of young people in understanding the emotions, stressors and aspirations that affect their lives, ensuring that the support they receive continuously evolves to meet their needs. The SPACE programme delivers on The Promise by maintaining a person-centred and relational ethos to provide supportive and trusted environments for young people to explore their emotions and interests.

3. Universal and Targeted Provision

Further to the reach of the specialist provision provided by the SPACE programme remains Sport Aberdeen's commitment to increase accessibility for families and support networks to be active. This includes providing free and reduced cost access to facilities, lessons and social opportunities, evidenced in Table 4 and Table 5. Increasing awareness of the SPACE programme and Sport Aberdeen's commitment to support all care experienced young people and their families has positively impacted families to become more active in the following ways:

- Specific focus to create new partnerships and increase awareness of free membership eligibility and include in young people support packages.
- Continued support to local authority agencies to support access to memberships and promote family and professional wellbeing.
- Allocation of free memberships – further detailed in Table 5.
- Facilitation of partnership events – bringing sport and physical activities to group-based activity session organised by key partners.
- Access to free sports clothing through the Kit for All scheme – removing barriers to participation by providing free sports clothing wherever required.
- Organising family fun day events - creating a stay and play environment for families from across the city to engage in games and activities as well as access food and drink.
- Access to 'Get Active for Less' memberships – providing discounts on coached programmes and facility usage.

Table 4 - Allocation of Sport Aberdeen targeted provision.

Indicator	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4
Number of young people enrolled in free swimming lessons (at one time).	30	30	30	30
Number of family-based events supported and/or organised.	4	2	0	0
Number of care experienced young people and families in attendance at Sport Aberdeen's Christmas Celebration.	N/A	22	N/A	N/A

Table 5 - Allocation of Sport Aberdeen universal provision.

Indicator	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4
Total number of young people memberships.	455	487	541	638
Total number of caregiver memberships.	294	334	365	382
Total number of care experienced memberships allocated.	**794**	**821**	**906**	**1020**

To build a clearer understanding of the physical activity levels of care experienced young people, Sport Aberdeen continues to work in partnership with Aberdeen City Council to establish a data sharing agreement to better track opportunities available to care experienced young people on a universal and targeted level e.g. extracurricular provision.

4. Conclusion

Engagement in sport and physical activity plays a crucial role in the academic success and holistic wellbeing of care experienced young people in Aberdeen City. The positive impact of SPACE evidenced throughout this report, alongside the emphasis placed on providing meaningful opportunities by The Promise, highlights the need for continued investment in support programmes that promote physical activity and social integration within the care experienced community. The SPACE programme is unique in its ability to deliver on these outcomes within Aberdeen, with the data for August - December clearly demonstrating that the support provided by SPACE provides numerous benefits, including better physical and mental health, enhanced emotional resilience and increased opportunities to enter a positive destination pathway.









-ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Finance and Resources
DATE	5 November 2025
EXEMPT	Appendix 5 – Paragraph 6 – Financial Affairs, Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 7A
CONFIDENTIAL	No
REPORT TITLE	Council Financial Performance – Quarter 2, 2025/26
REPORT NUMBER	CORS/25/243
DIRECTOR	Andy MacDonald
CHIEF OFFICER	Jonathan Belford
REPORT AUTHOR	Lesley Fullerton
TERMS OF REFERENCE	1.1

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To provide the financial position of the Council as at Quarter 2 (30 September 2025) and the full year forecast position for the financial year 2025/26, including:

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

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

That the Committee :-

2.1 Note the cash position that has been achieved for the General Fund and HRA to the end of Quarter 2 as detailed in Appendix 1;

2.2 Note the Common Good financial performance to the end of Quarter 2 as detailed in Appendix 3;

2.3 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. Continuing action and controls, as outlined in Appendix 2 will remain in place for the remainder of the financial year;

2.4 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 2025 the uncommitted value of those reserves was £12m, the minimum that the Council Reserves Statement recommends and as approved by the Council;

2.5 Approve, as per the exempt Appendix 5, the extension of a bank guarantee of £125,000 to Transition Extreme Sports Limited until 31 March 2028. Note, the

expectation is that plans beyond April 2028 will enable the removal of this guarantee;

2.6 Note that the HRA full year forecast position, as detailed in Appendix 2, is 'on budget', but continues to face challenging cost pressures as outlined in Appendix 2 and the HRA Budget Report 2025/26; and

2.7 Note that capital expenditure continues to be low at the end of Quarter 2, however forecasts are that additional expenditure and progress will be recognised in the second half of the year.

3. CURRENT SITUATION

3.1 The Local Government Finance Act 1992 provides that the Council must set its Council Tax amount by 11 March each year for the next financial year. The amount set must be sufficient to meet total estimated expenditure. This means that having taken account of expenditure, agreed savings and income from other sources, the level of Council Tax must ensure that a balanced budget is set by the Council. Aberdeen City Council set the Council Tax for 2025/26 on 5 March 2025 to ensure a balanced budget for year ahead, in accordance with its statutory duty.

3.2 This report focuses on both the financial performance for the year to 30 September 2025 and the forecast financial position for the full year for the Council's General Fund, Housing Revenue Account and Common Good.

3.3 Across the General Fund and the Housing Revenue Account the impact of global, national, and local conditions is having local implications for the financial position, and the need to address ongoing cost pressures remains a feature of the Quarter 2 position and forecasts for the remainder of the year.

3.4 The consequence of factors such as a 3 year period of high inflation, increased borrowing rates (compared to the last ten years) is that capital investment is more expensive and the Council needs to consider the choices it makes, to fund increasingly expensive capital works or to fund increasingly expensive service delivery. For 2025/26 the estimated cost of repaying borrowing for the General fund is approximately £63.3m (capital and interest) and represents 9.6% of revenue funding (General Revenue Grant, Non-Domestic Rates & Council Tax income); while for the Housing Revenue Account it is approximately £24.6m and represents 21.3% of the housing rental income for the year.

3.5 Population changes in the city over the last few years have had implications for education and homelessness services in the city, pushing pupil numbers up in our schools and homelessness presentations. These pressures alongside rising costs for the Council looking after children in need are all areas of the budget that officers are focused on managing and minimising across the remainder of the financial year.

3.6 The appendices note that the IJB is managing a significant financial challenge for 2025/26. The IJB budget includes the assumption of additional funding from Partners, with £4.2m confirmed from the Council and a commitment of £6.7m from NHS Grampian. The approved balanced budget requires £14.3m of savings to be delivered, and there are plans in place to achieve these. The IJB will reach a balanced position at the end of the financial year if these savings are achieved. Expenditure and savings are being monitored on an ongoing basis. However as there are no Reserves now retained by the IJB, if the IJB does not achieve the savings by 31 March 2026, or if there are unplanned costs, such as from increased demand, then the Council (and NHS Grampian) will be required to fund a deficit position for the year to bring it back to a balanced position.

3.7 In Appendix 2 the challenges of balancing the General Fund budget across the year are explained in detail, however achieving a balanced position is not without a need for continued action. To mitigate this the Corporate Management Team have reiterated the need for increased scrutiny of all costs and continued controls put in place last year, including:

- Establishment Control Board (ECB) – oversight of staff numbers and staff costs including agency staff and overtime.
- Demand Management Control Board - oversight of contractual spend, non-essential spend and authorisation and approval of procurement of goods and services.

3.8 The Council retains a contingency budget to address unexpected and unplanned expenditure, as well as costs that could arise as a result of the identified contingent liabilities coming to fruition or from risks included on the corporate and operational risks registers. The Risk Board routinely reviews the risk registers, and the Chief Officer - Finance tracks the contingent liabilities, and these are included in Appendix 1. At the end of Quarter 2 the value of uncommitted contingencies for the year is £4m. This provides resilience against emerging risks such as winter maintenance, the cost of implementing the 35 hour working week, and an IJB deficit position for the financial year. The balance of the 2025/26 buy-out payment can be funded from this uncommitted contingency budget, further assessment will be made at Quarter 3 and when full year costs have been accounted for.

3.9 The Capital Programme budget has been adjusted to include slippage from 2024/25 and further approved virements, adjustments and reprofiling and is currently forecasting to slightly lower than budget for 2025/26. There remains considerable volatility in respect of capital expenditure, as has been seen in recent years, and this is therefore subject to increased scrutiny by officers.

3.10 The Housing Revenue Account (HRA) is forecasting an 'on budget' position, utilising reserves, in line with budgeted expectations however there is a risk that Repairs & Maintenance may overspend further than has been anticipated based on current demand, and the associated Housing Capital Programme is forecasting to be under budget. The use of reserves has meant a reduced cost to tenants, but did not address the underlying costs being experienced by the HRA. This reserve is necessary to ensure the HRA is financially resilient and can

meet any unforeseen or exceptional circumstances for example inflationary pressures, or the emergence of new risks like RAAC.

3.11 The 2025/26 HRA Budget approved at Council on 12 December 2024 a rent increase of 7.5% and a reduced level of spend on grounds maintenance, this was below the officer recommendation of 12% and continues to utilise reserves although at a reduced level of £792k. This means further changes to services may still be required to ensure the long term financial viability of the HRA.

3.12 Operationally the Common Good is expected to be slightly over budget. The investment of cash balances in a Multi-asset Income Fund has been put in place with Fidelity as the fund manager since 2021. This continues to deliver the level of income the Common Good was expecting, however the value of the underlying investment has fallen by £5.8m since outset, recently increasing in value by c.£800k. The investment remains a long-term financial instrument and performance should be measured over the medium term (5 years) rather than for any single year. Further work with Fidelity is planned in 2025/26 to review the investment.

3.13 Summary of Financial Statement Appendices

1. The financial statements reflect the income and expenditure of the General Fund and Housing accounts for the period to 30 September 2025 and, where the impact of statutory accounting adjustments can be calculated, these have been reflected in the financial statements as required by International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS). The position at 30 September 2025 is positive as the profile of income from Scottish Government supports expenditure levels.

   The Balance Sheet figures at 30 September 2025 show an overall net worth of the Council of £1.4 billion. The figures shown include statutory adjustments where these have been made, and where this is not possible the figure as at 31 March 2025 has been used.

2. This provides an overview of the forecast outturns for revenue and capital across the General Fund, Housing Revenue Account and Common Good. These financial statements provide a comprehensive summary of where the Council expects to be at the end of the financial year. These forecasts indicate that the General Fund will be on budget, subject to no financial shocks emerging and with instruction to budget managers to delay, reduce, stop expenditure where possible and ECB controls remaining tight. This aims to mitigate the risks however the use of earmarked reserves provides the assurance that the General Fund would have the in-year resilience to rely on. The Council will continue to manage cost pressures across the whole portfolio of services with all other revenue accounts expected to be on budget. Capital expenditure has been reprofiled to take account of the 2024/25 outturn position and latest information on the projects. The forecast expenditure, currently in line with the latest profiling, will be funded by a mixture of Scottish Government Capital Grants, contributions from other partners and borrowing.

3. This presents the Common Good position as at 30 September 2025 and provides an overview of performance.

4. This provides information on the Group Entities. Due to the timing of this report not all performance reports are available in relation to Quarter 2 and in the absence of Quarter 1 information the latest data has been provided where appropriate.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The full year financial position is provided in Appendix 2 to this report and the revenue positions are summarised below:

Revenue	**2025/26 Budget £'000**	**2025/26 Forecast (Surplus) / Deficit exc. Group £'000**	**Variance (Under) / Over Budget £'000**
General Fund	0	0	0
HRA	792	792	0
Common Good	0	35	35

4.2 The capital position can be summarised as follows:

Capital	**2025/26 Budget £'000**	**2025/26 Forecast Expenditure £'000**	**Variance (Under) / Over Budget £'000**
General Fund	238,782	217,665	(21,117)
HRA	127,189	125,333	(1,856)

4.3 Details of key variances for the capital budgets can be found in Appendix 2.

4.4 Appendix 1 includes a Management Commentary providing information on the 2025/26 financial position, including details of the movement between Reserves.

4.5 The usable reserves have moved as follows:

Usable Reserves	**Balance at 31 March 2025 £'000**	**Balance at 30 September 2025 £'000**	**Movement £'000**
General Fund	(93,071)	(229,723)	(136,652)
HRA	(10,889)	(22,293)	(11,404)
Statutory & Other	(49,647)	(50,314)	667
Total	**(153,607)**	**(302,330)**	**(148,723)**

4.6 The level of reserves is high at this stage in the year as 70% of the core grant funding has now been received. The Scottish Government front load General Revenue Grant payments, before adjusting for NDR income estimates. Further adjustments will be made following the redeterminations advised by the Scottish Government, and this is paid in March 2026.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are additional reporting requirements due to the London Stock Exchange listing, for example the requirement to notify them ahead of publication of the report.

6. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no direct environmental implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

7. RISK

7.1 The risks detailed within Appendix 2 are reflected across the Council's risk registers and are managed in accordance with the Council's risk management arrangements. The risks are mitigated and managed by the establishment of control actions in addition to existing control measures and activities to achieve a risk score that is consistent with the Council's risk appetite.

7.2 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	Failure to manage Council finance and resources could lead to failure to achieve strategic objectives.	Robust financial reporting and monitoring activities, combined with a rigorous financial planning process as part of the commissioning cycle prepare the Council for the years ahead. Financial resilience to address financial pressures arising in-year is maintained and monitored.	M	Yes

Compliance	There is the risk that the accounts do not comply with legal and accounting legislation.	Annual external audits are undertaken to review the financial transactions and controls. Ongoing internal audits also review specific financial and service data.	L	Yes
Operational	There is the risk that there may be an IT system failure.	Daily backups taken and held offsite for security purposes. Constant review and update of security systems for IT.	M	Yes
Financial	The main financial risk the Council is managing is the supply chain and inflation impact on costs.	Reviewing all areas of expenditure with a view to only incurring essential expenditure. Forecasts have taken account of known implications Regular reporting and action taken where appropriate.	M	Yes
	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.	Quantification and review of indicative projects costs by suitable qualified staff or external body, where appropriate. The Capital programmes were reset at the Council Budget meeting on 5 March 2025.	M	Yes
	The risk that workforce management options are not affordable in the future, such as the	Having approved the implementation of the fiscal flexibility for service concessions, this will provide a source that will enable the funding of VSER costs.	H	Yes

	cost of the VS/ER scheme described in Appendix 2 (page 2).			
Reputational	There is a risk that through the reduction of expenditure the Council may be criticised that spending isn't in line with public expectation of service delivery.	The Council has continued to address priority spending areas, and to protect people. It is equally accountable for the use of public funds and to ensure that they are managed robustly. There are a wide range of unknown external factors that require to be balanced to deal with the current operating environment. Regular reporting during the year provides an ongoing description of the position the Council is in and the situations it faces.	M	Yes
Environment / Climate	None identified			

8. OUTCOMES

COUNCIL DELIVERY PLAN	
	Impact of Report
Aberdeen City Council Policy Statement	The proposals in this report have no impact on the Council Delivery Plan
Aberdeen City Local Outcome Improvement Plan	
Prosperous Economy Stretch Outcomes	The proposals in the report have no impact on the Local Outcome Improvement Plan
Prosperous People Stretch Outcomes	The proposals in the report have no impact on the Local Outcome Improvement Plan
Prosperous Place Stretch Outcomes	The proposals in the report have no impact on the Local Outcome Improvement Plan

Regional and City Strategies	The proposals in this report have no impact on Regional and City Strategies

9. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Assessment	Outcome
Integrated Impact Assessment	It is confirmed by Chief Officer- Finance on 15 October 2025 that no Integrated Impact Assessment is required
Data Protection Impact Assessment	not required
Other	not required

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Council Meeting , 5 March 2025

11. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Financial Statement for the period ending 30 September 2025
Appendix 2 – Forecast Financial Position for the year 2025/26
Appendix 3 – Common Good Financial Statement for the period ending 30 September 2025
Appendix 4 – Group Entities Forecast Financial Position for the year 2025/26
Appendix 5 – Financial Guarantee- Transition Extreme - Exempt

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FINANCIAL STATEMENT
FOR THE PERIOD ENDING
30 SEPTEMBER 2025

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Management Commentary

The purpose of the Management Commentary is to inform readers, helping them to assess how the Council is performing and understand our financial performance for the 6-month period to 30 September 2025.

Combined with Appendix 2, it also provides an insight into the expected financial performance for the financial year 2025/26, the challenges we face and how we will address these challenges to provide stability, financially, thus allowing our citizens to have confidence that we can continue to provide the diverse portfolio of services on which they rely. Appendices 3 and 4 present the latest information in relation to the Common Good and Group entities.

Background

The Council must comply with a wide range of legislation and regulation in the course of its work. The rigour of being an issuer of Bonds on the London Stock Exchange (LSE) has placed an increased level of regulation around council finances. Maintaining a credit rating, annually assessed, and compliance with the reporting and disclosure requirements of the LSE means an extra level of scrutiny is placed on the Council.

Moody's (the credit rating agency) published their latest credit rating assessment of the Council on 9 October 2025 remaining with a rating of 'A2 with a stable outlook', which was a downgraded in October 2023 (from A1 with a negative outlook) of one 'notch'. This was the consequence of a review of the whole sub-sovereign sector on 25 October 2023, which had followed Moody's rating action on 20 October 2023 in respect of the UK Sovereign rating (Aa3, Stable outlook). The downgrade reflected Moody's view that, the fiscal flexibility of local authorities in both England and Scotland had materially deteriorated due to consistently high expenditure pressures and funding levels that do not keep pace with both cost inflation and demand. As substantial cuts have been implemented across the sector over the past decade, there is limited scope for further cuts without significant deterioration of services to a point that would be politically infeasible. At the same time, Moody's considered that more generous funding settlements for the sector were unlikely given the UK government's commitment to fiscal prudence. Consequently, Moody's anticipated that gross operating balances would decline over the medium term for most local authorities in the UK. The annual review meeting regarding the Council's credit rating last took place on 26th August 2025, and no changes have been made to the credit rating.

The Council's independent external auditors, Audit Scotland, finalised the audit of the 2024/25 Annual Accounts, and these were signed on 1 July 2025, following approval at a meeting of the Urgent Business Committee on 26 June 2025. As shown in the final accounts the outturn position achieved as at 31 March 2025 was in line with forecasts, carrying forward a number of earmarked reserves. While the balance sheet was therefore underpinned by substantial Usable Reserves most of this is allocated toward supporting specific activities and hence the importance of in-year recurring funding that underpins core services.

As at 1 April 2025 the Council held Usable Reserves of £154 million and had a Net Asset Value of £1.3 billion.

The Council set its 2025/26 budgets on 5 March 2025, approving for the General Fund a range of budget savings options to set a balanced budget for the year. This included an increase in Council Tax of 9.85%, and continued service redesign, but fundamentally will rely on reducing staff costs, through voluntary processes – attrition and voluntary severance and early retirement opportunities. As part of the budget the Council allocated an additional £9.5m to help deliver adult social care,

Following an extensive consultation with the Council's recognised trade unions and individual consultation with staff on the proposal to reduce the standard working week for Aberdeen City Council, a collective agreement was reached in June 2025 between the Council and the joint trade unions to implement the change to contracts of employments for all in-scope employees with effect from 1 July 2025. Impacted staff will receive a 'buyout' payment split into 2 annual payments made in July 2025 and July 2026.

The General Fund budget takes account of a range of pay and price inflation pressures, in particular a provision for a pay award of 3%, which while broadly in line with other Councils in Scotland is considerably lower than the claims submitted by the Trade Unions. The pay award for 2025/26 (and 2026/27) has been agreed for non-teaching staff and was paid in August, and is therefore included in the Quarter 2 reporting. The Scottish Government is providing additional funding to meet the additional 1% cost of a 4% increase in pay for 2025/26.

Since the budget was approved the spectrum of difficulty that our financial environment continues to face has increased further. While the impact of the Covid pandemic is less obvious, citizen and customer behaviour continues to result in lower income levels than we would like. Global factors, including the Russian invasion of Ukraine, energy inflation, commodity availability and price inflation, alongside the rising cost of borrowing has caused and is sustaining a cost of living crisis for those who live, work and visit the city, as well as for the Council.

Whilst the rate of inflation (CPI) remained at 3.8% in July 2025 and August 2025, the situation remains critical as 3 years of high inflation (CPI has been above 2% since August 2021, peaking at 11.1% in October 2022) has reset the costs of supplies and services, fuel, and energy for good.

As a result of the turmoil in the financial markets over the past 2 years, there have been increases in the cost of government borrowing, with local authorities also seeing significant increases in borrowing rates through the PWLB than in previous years. Borrowing rates appear to have now peaked towards the end of last year. Rates have now started to fall below 5% as they return to more "normal" and expected levels. On the other hand cash balances are securing additional interest from short term investments and this is helping to offset a proportion of in-year costs.

The city is hosting many individuals and families and welcomes them to Aberdeen. From Ukraine, in particular, resettlement schemes have developed over the past three years with funding of a one-off nature that has been provided by UK and Scottish Governments. Our costs have risen particularly in providing education, and children and families services.

As the cost of new borrowing is rising and with inflation and construction inflation pushing up the cost of building assets, the Council must expect the future cost of capital investment to rise substantially for both the General Fund and the Housing Revenue Account. The revenue implications of bringing new assets into operation are not to be underestimated too.

The Housing Revenue Account budget was approved and at the Council meeting on 12 December 2024 there was a rent increase of 7.5% agreed.

Our Financial Performance: General Fund

Performance in Quarter 2

In March 2025, the Council set its General Fund and Housing Revenue Account (HRA) revenue and capital budgets for the financial year 2025/26. Performance for the year is measured against these budgets with the projected full year position considered in Appendix 2 of this report. This section focuses on the actual financial results for the period from 1 April to 30 June 2025 presented in the format of our Annual Accounts on pages 7 to 14.

Staffing Costs:

As part of our 2025/26 budget it is recognised that our payroll bill needed to reduce. The levers to deliver this was mainly turnover and through our current Voluntary Severance and Early Retirement (VSER) policy. Importantly managers are supported to redesign services with a reduction of resources as well as looking at automation and process improvements to remove work.

To monitor this, an Establishment Control Board (ECB) oversees all recruitment and VSER requests and monitors the level of people leaving the Council (turnover) and people newly joining the Council (new starts). Through this monitoring it is evident that the turnover and new starts are almost balancing each other out meaning that we are not experiencing a reduction in our payroll. Furthermore, the number of staff seeking VSER, and subsequently being approved is less than was forecast or assumed in the budget.

Approved in the budget for 2024/25 and following an extensive consultation with the Council's recognised trade unions and individual consultation with staff, resulted in final proposals for reducing the standard working week for full time staff, a collective agreement was reached in June 2025 between the Council and the joint trade unions to implement the change to contracts of employments for all in-scope employees with effect from 1 July 2025. Impacted staff will receive a 'buyout' payment split into 2 annual payments made in July 2025 and 2026.

The Expenditure and Funding Analysis, below, provides details of the net expenditure or income position for each service based on actual transactions for the period and the statutory accounting adjustments processed to date.

i. Families & Communities

Although at 51% against the full year budget the service is forecasting a significant overspend for the full year. Pressure in respect of the cost of providing education to rising numbers of pupils and children's social work services, including Out of Authority placements (OOA) are being identified as ongoing challenges.

Downturn in the local economy and increased costs being experienced by families, is impacting on the needs of children and families. There is a notable rise in vulnerability and need, and this is increasing demand for more specialist services. As would be anticipated, there is a level of need apparent in those seeking sanctuary in the city.

It is exceptionally difficult to predict ongoing demand with any certainty. For example, hotels can be secured for asylum dispersal schemes at short notice with limited information about the age and stage of those being placed locally. Services continue to be proactive in their response.

The Homelessness loss of subsidy budget was increased for 25/26 based on demand levels during the 24/25 budget process and although demand is currently lower demand can be volatile therefore any underspend may decrease if there is an increase in demand.

The Council receives a substantial income from the commercial tenanted non-residential property (TNRP) portfolio. The income to the TNRP portfolio is invoiced regularly but it is not in

even quarters as timing depends on individual leases. The level of collection for 2025/26, and therefore provision for bad debt, in the current market conditions, is under review. This is exacerbated by the energy and supply costs for commercial facilities, including the TECA energy centre and anaerobic digestion plant.

ii. City Regeneration & Environment

At 64% against the full year budget, the function's net expenditure for the year is above budget. The function has a budget where a significant proportion relates to capital projects therefore variances occur throughout the year depending on when project work is carried out and in addition some services have reported an under recovery of income.

iii. Corporate Services

At 51% against the full year budget, the function's net expenditure is on budget however forecasting an overall overspend for the year. Across the function a number of services are showing small under/over spends at this stage of the year.

iv. Integration Joint Board (IJB) / Adult Social Care.

The function's net expenditure is 53% which is slightly lower than budget for 2025/26, and further detail on the forecast outturn is provided in Appendices 2 and 4.

v. Corporate

Includes the cost of councillors, contingencies, funding to Grampian Valuation Joint Board and the repayment of capital debt. Expenditure is generally in line with budget where expenditure is being incurred, but contingency budgets are held for the purpose of being used if, and when needed.

Contingencies are critical to the effective and resilient operation of the Council, risks over the winter months that might arise include weather events such as storms, flooding, and snow; pay negotiations – teacher's pay remains unresolved; the impact of inflation may be greater than forecast; and the crystallisation of contingent liabilities.

vi. Other Income and Expenditure

Includes interest payable and receivable, and income received through council tax, non-domestic rates and government grants.

Income from Non-Domestic Rates (NDR) is 45% of full year budget. As the Scottish Government hold the financial risk of NDR not delivering the total value across Scotland, a shortfall in cash against the amount has been guaranteed will be topped up at the end of the financial year. This is an adjustment to the Council's General Revenue Grant.

As at quarter 2 income from Council Tax is currently sitting at 63% of budget.

Income from Scottish Government is marginally above budget, which is due to the profiling of Grant and NDR across the year – the Council received £214m (70%) of the General Revenue Grant funding in the first half of the year. The Scottish Government front load General Revenue Grant payments, before adjusting for NDR income estimates. Further adjustments will be made following the redeterminations advised by the Scottish Government, and this is paid in March 2026.

Our Financial Performance: Housing Revenue Account

- **Performance in Quarter 2**

vii. Housing Revenue Account (HRA) responsible for the provision of council housing to over 23,000 households with the most significant areas of expenditure being on repairs and maintenance and the servicing of debt incurred to fund capital investment in the housing stock.

This is a ring-fenced account such that its costs must be met by rental income which at this stage in the year exceeds expenditure incurred. Rental income remains a regular source of funding. The HRA is under budget at Quarter 2 because the debt charges and costs associated with void properties such as Council Tax are posted later in the financial year. There continues to be significant spending on Repairs and Maintenance this year due to the level of repair work being undertaken. The loss of income arising from voids continues to be a pressure although this is decreasing from 2024/25 this is still depriving the account of income. The rented housing market in Aberdeen remains competitive, offering more choice to prospective tenants. Tenant arrears remain a concern too, with the aged debt analysis showing that tenants are taking longer to pay their debts.

A Housing Board Bi-Annual Report was presented to Communities, Housing and Public Protection Committee on 21 November 2024, this included a change to the Minimum Letting Standard, the full impact of this change has yet to be felt as this was introduced in February 2025. The HRA expenditure continues to be challenging, as also occurred in 2024/25 and 2025/26. The HRA will continue to plan for the use of reserves in 2025/26. Changes that may be necessary include the frequency of services, the quality of services and the timing of services in order to support the financial viability of the Housing Revenue Account.

Our Financial Performance: Full Year Forecasts

A comprehensive forecast of revenue and capital budget performance for the General Fund, Housing Revenue Account and the Common Good is provided in Appendix 2 to this report.

Conclusion

While the various Council accounts are cash positive at the end of Quarter 2, the overall financial challenge of balancing the General Fund and the HRA budgets for the year cannot be underestimated.

For the General Fund there is a route to a balanced budget for 2025/26, this is possible by utilising contingencies to offset the variances in Services' spending that are highlighted above, which include the buy-out payments, costing £6m. These show the challenging financial environment that the Council is continuing to work in. Contingencies have been set aside in the event that unknown events may have to be paid for, however unused contingencies will be used to fund the buy-out, as approved by the Committee in May 2025. Risks arising from rising or changing demand, annual pay awards (teachers) not yet agreed and severe winter conditions or storms remain. The Quarter 2 results leave the Council with sufficient cash resource to fund expenditure.

There are risks of increasing demand for services that the Council has a duty to provide and there are a range of potential liabilities that the Council will have to respond to if circumstances change – these are described at the end of this Appendix in the Contingent Liabilities.

Evaluating the demand pressures it is clear that homelessness, out of authority placements for children and school rolls are the high risk areas for further spending and where management attention needs to be robust and proactive to mitigate costs that the Council cannot afford.

The HRA remains under significant pressure from repair and maintenance costs and also from lost income, and these areas are focus of attention from management.

The IJB continues to have financial risks from commissioning and direct payments, and work is being undertaken to address these matters, additional financial support is not forecast to be required by the IJB, but remains a risk.

During the remainder of the year the Council will continue to act to reduce spending to give greater certainty to our forecasts, shown in Appendix 2, while reviewing and assessing the changes that the local financial environment has brought about and will re-evaluate the position to ensure that expenditure and income is being monitored and managed as required, taking appropriate action when required. The next reporting period will be Quarter 3, which will be prepared for Finance & Resources Committee on 10 February 2026.

Movement in Reserves Statement

This statement shows the movement on the different reserves held by the Council analysed into usable reserves (those that can be applied to fund expenditure or reduce local taxation) and other reserves.

	General Fund	Housing Revenue Account	Statutory and Other Reserves	Capital Grants Unapplied	**Total Usable Reserves**	Total Unusable Reserves	**Total Council Reserves**
	£'000	**£'000**	**£'000**		**£'000**	**£'000**	**£'000**
Balance at 31 March 2025 brought forward	**(93,071)**	**(10,889)**	**(49,237)**	**(410)**	**(153,607)**	**(1,108,337)**	**(1,261,944)**
Movement in Reserves during 2024/25							
Total Comprehensive Income & Expenditure	(163,701)	(13,305)	0	0	**(177,006)**	0	**(177,006)**
Adjustments between accounting basis & funding basis under regulations	6,300	7,022	0	43	**13,365**	(13,365)	**0**
Net (Increase)/Decrease before Transfers to Reserves	**(157,401)**	**(6,283)**	**0**	**43**	**(163,641)**	**(13,365)**	**(177,006)**
Transfers to/from Reserves	21,116	(5,122)	(1,077)	0	**14,917**	(14,917)	**(0)**
(Increase)/Decrease in Year	**(136,285)**	**(11,404)**	**(1,077)**	**43**	**(148,724)**	**(28,282)**	**(177,006)**
Balance at 30 September 2025	**(229,356)**	**(22,293)**	**(50,314)**	**(367)**	**(302,330)**	**(1,136,619)**	**(1,438,949)**

Expenditure and Funding Analysis

The Expenditure and Funding Analysis shows how the net expenditure or income is allocated for decision making purposes between the Council's services. Income and expenditure accounted for under generally accepted accounting practices is presented more fully in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

	Quarter 2 2025/26			
Services	**Net Expenditure chargeable to General Fund & Housing Revenue Account**	**Adjustments between funding & Accounting basis**	**Net Expenditure in the CIES £'000**	**Notes**
	£'000	**£'000**	**£'000**	
City Regeneration & Environment	23,843	0	23,843	1
Corporate Services	24,279	0	24,279	2
Corporate	4,092	(74)	4,018	3
Integration Joint Board	75,058	0	75,058	4
Families & Communities	179,318	(16,215)	163,104	5
Net Cost of General Fund Services	306,590	(16,289)	290,301	
Housing Revenue Account	(11,404)	0	(11,404)	6
Net Cost of Services	295,186	(16,289)	278,897	
Other Income and Expenditure	(443,909)	(11,993)	(455,903)	7
(Surplus) or Deficit on Provision of Services	(148,724)	(28,282)	(177,006)	
Opening General Fund and HRA Balance at 31 March 2025	(103,960)			
(Surplus) or Deficit on General Fund and HRA Balance in Year	(148,724)			
To/From Other Statutory Reserves	1,034			
Closing General Fund and HRA Balance at 30 September 2025	(251,649)			

Notes

1. See page 3 for information relating to Net Expenditure chargeable to the General Fund. There are no accounting adjustments relating to this service in this quarter.
2. See page 3 for information relating to Net Expenditure chargeable to the General Fund. There are no accounting adjustments relating to this service in this quarter.
3. See page 3 for information relating to Net Expenditure chargeable to the General Fund. The £0.074m accounting adjustment relates to CFCR.
4. See page 3 for information relating to Net Expenditure chargeable to the General Fund. There are no accounting adjustments relating to this service in this quarter.
5. See page 3 for information relating to Net Expenditure chargeable to the General Fund. The £16.215m accounting adjustment relates to the removal of Annual Service Payments for the 3R's schools and Lochside Academy which for accounting purposes are required to be split into its component parts, payment for services; repayment of capital; and financing costs.
6. See page 3 for information relating to Net Expenditure chargeable to the General Fund. There are no accounting adjustments relating to this service in this quarter.
7. See page 4 for information relating to Net Expenditure chargeable to the General Fund. The £11.993m adjustment comprises the following three elements, which realign costs from other parts of the budget:

£6.258m	is the element of the 3R's and Lochside Annual Service Payments which is reallocated as per note 1 above to bring together financing costs which flow into the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the CIES below.
£5.303m	that is the allocation of the Marischal Square finance lease interest.
(£23.554)m	that is the allocation of capital grant income which flows into the Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income line in the CIES below

Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement

This statement shows the accounting cost in the year of providing services in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS).

	Quarter 2, 2025/26			
Services	**Gross Expenditure**	**Gross Income**	**Net Expenditure**	**Notes**
	£'000	**£'000**	**£'000**	
City Regeneration & Environment	86,150	(62,308)	23,843	
Corporate Services	50,317	(26,038)	24,279	
Corporate	5,730	(1,712)	4,018	
Integration Joint Board	103,589	(28,531)	75,058	
Families & Communities	218,563	(55,460)	163,104	
Cost of General Fund Services	**464,349**	**(174,048)**	**290,301**	
Housing Revenue Account	48,446	(59,851)	(11,404)	
Cost of Services	**512,796**	**(233,899)**	**278,897**	
Other Operating Expenditure	0	0	0	1
Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure	11,560	0	11,560	2
Taxation and Non Specific Grant Income	0	(467,463)	(467,463)	3
(Surplus) or Deficit on Provision of Services	**524,356**	**(701,362)**	**(177,006)**	
(Surplus)/deficit on revaluation of Property, Plant and Equipment assets			0	4
Impairment losses on non current assets charged to the Revaluation Reserve			0	4
(Surplus)/deficit on revaluation of available for sale financial assets			0	4
Actuarial (gains)/losses on pension losses/liabilities			0	4
Other (gains)/losses			0	4
Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure			**0**	
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure			**(177,006)**	

Notes

1. This line will be used to reflect gains or losses on the disposal of assets which take place during the year.
2. This largely reflects interest payable and receivable.
3. Income in relation to Council Tax, Non-Domestic Rates collection and Scottish Government General Revenue and Capital Grant.
4. These lines are predominantly used for statutory accounting adjustments.

Balance Sheet

The Balance Sheet shows the value of the assets and liabilities recognised by the Council. The net assets of the Council are matched by the reserves held by the Council.

The values as at 31 March 2025 are based on the Council's audited Annual Accounts 2024/25.

31 March 2025 £'000		30 September 2025 £'000	Note
2,727,110	Property, Plant & Equipment	2,828,555	1
32,013	Property, Plant & Equipment ROU	32,013	
208,982	Heritage Assets	208,982	1
86,203	Investment Property	86,203	1
45,200	Investment Property ROU	45,200	
12,029	Intangible Assets	12,029	
37,891	Long Term Investments	37,891	2
421	Long Term Debtors	394	3
3,149,849	**Long Term Assets**	**3,251,267**	
70,367	Cash and Cash Equivalents	108,303	4
52	Short Term Investments	0	5
181,768	Short Term Debtors	591,976	6
4,537	Inventories	9,352	7
6,592	Assets Held for Sale	6,592	8
263,316	**Current Assets**	**716,223**	
(439,352)	Short Term Borrowing	(444,723)	9
(175,371)	Short Term Creditors	(575,050)	10
(4,339)	Short Term Provisions	(3,913)	11
(4,179)	PPP Short Term Liabilities	(5,566)	12
(9,154)	Accumulated Absences Account	(9,154)	13
(3,563)	Grants Receipts in Advance - Revenue	0	14
(8,172)	Grants Receipts in Advance - Capital	(385)	14
(644,130)	**Current Liabilities**	**(1,038,790)**	
(1,267,190)	Long Term Borrowing	(1,255,935)	15
(59,284)	Finance Lease	(58,765)	16
(2,024)	Long Term Creditors	(2,024)	17
(1,245)	Long Term Provisions	(1,245)	11
(128,620)	PPP Long Term Liabilities	(123,054)	12
(48,728)	Pension Liabilities	(48,728)	18
(1,507,091)	**Long Term Liabililties**	**(1,489,751)**	
1,261,944	**Net Assets**	**1,438,949**	
	Usable Reserves:		
(93,071)	General Fund Balance	(229,356)	19
(10,889)	Housing Revenue Account	(22,293)	19
(49,237)	Statutory and Other Reserves	(50,314)	19
(410)	Capital Grants and Receipts Unapplied	(367)	19
(1,108,337)	Unusable Reserves	(1,136,619)	20
(1,261,944)	**Total Reserves**	**(1,438,949)**	

Balance Sheet Notes

1. Depreciation is calculated annually and therefore no depreciation has been applied in Quarter 2. Capital expenditure to the end of Quarter 2 totalling £101.446m has been applied to Property, Plant & Equipment (this includes £56.444m of general fund expenditure and £45.002m of HRA expenditure). Disposals, revaluations, and transfers have not been accounted for in Quarter 1.

2. Long Term Investments comprises the council's interest in Aberdeen Sports Village and Hydrogen Hub.

3. Long term debtors reflect the movement based on transactions for the period.

4. Cash and cash equivalents include short term investments of £24.253m (because they can be called up at short notice i.e. 0 to 35 days) and developer's contributions of £41.854m. See the cash flow statement for an analysis of how this is used.

5. Short term investments have been adjusted as described in Note 4.

6. Short term debtors reflect the movement based on transactions for the period.

7. Inventories are adjusted at year end for inter-related account balances.

8. Assets held for sale reflect the position at March 2025. This will be reviewed in Quarter 4.

9. Short term borrowing reflects the current position based on transactions for the period.

10. Short term creditors reflects the current position based on transactions for the period.

11. Short term provisions reflects the current position with an adjustment to split this total into long and short term provisions based on year-end figures. This split will be updated in future quarters.

12. Public Private Partnership (PPP) short and long-term liabilities has been adjusted to reflect the projected position at March 2026.

13. The accumulated absences account is reviewed annually and will therefore be updated in Quarter 4.

14. The grants received in advance totals reflect the position at the end of Quarter 2.

15. Long term borrowing reflects the current position based on transactions for the period.

16. Finance Lease reflects the closing position as at March 2026.

17. Long term creditors reflect the current position based on transactions for the period.

18. Pension liabilities are only reviewed annually and will therefore be updated in Quarter 4.

19. Usable Reserves reflects the current position based on transactions for the period. Usable Reserves includes uncommitted reserves and earmarked reserves, and due to

the positive cashflow have increased to a level that is higher than forecast for the end of the year, the cashflow being used to fund expenditure that will be incurred in the second half of the year.

20. Unusable reserves have been adjusted for statutory accounting adjustments as detailed above.

Cash Flow

The statement shows how the Council generates and uses cash and cash equivalents by classifying cash flows as operating, investing and financing activities.

	Quarter 2 2025/26
	£'000
Net Surplus or (Deficit) on the provision of services	177,006
Adjust net surplus or deficit on the provision of services for non cash movements	425,281
Adjust for items included in the net surplus or deficit on the provision of services that are investing and financing activities	(23,554)
Net cash flows from Operating Activities	578,733
Net cash flows from Investing Activities	(101,446)
Net cash flows from Financing Activities	(439,352)
Net increase or decrease in cash and cash equivalents	37,936
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	70,367
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	**108,303**
Cash held by the Authority	0
Bank current accounts	108,303
	108,303

Contingent Liabilities

In addition to amounts recognised on the Balance Sheet, the Council is aware of the following contingent liabilities at 30 September 2025:

Guarantees

Sport Aberdeen

The Council agreed to provide a bank guarantee to Sport Aberdeen up to a maximum of £5 million as approved at the 7 June 2016 Finance, Policy and Resources Committee. There is currently a Revolving Credit Facility for £1.4 million in place.

External Organisations - Guarantor in relation to North East Scotland Pension Fund (NESPF)

As the administering authority, the Council may admit a body to the Pension Fund as an 'admitted body' provided (i) the organisation can confirm they have sufficient links with a Scheme employer for the body and the Scheme employer to be regarded as having a community of interest; and (ii) the Scheme employer is prepared to act as guarantor in the event the admitted body should cease to exist. If this situation was to occur and staff made redundant the staff over 50 years old would become entitled to immediate payment of their pension benefits. The Council has agreed several such guarantees to organisations that include Aberdeen Sports Village, Sport Aberdeen, Aberdeen Performing Arts, Aberdeen Heat and Power, Bon Accord Support Services and Bon Accord Care Ltd. The potential values guaranteed are subject to a range of actuarial assumptions.

SEEMIS Group LLP

The Council has agreed to fund any additional pension liability payments arising from its membership of the SEEMIS organisation (the provider of our schools' Management Information System). To date there has been no call on the guarantee.

Integration Joint Board (IJB)

The IJB is responsible for the strategic planning of the functions delegated to it by Aberdeen City Council and NHS Grampian. The Aberdeen City IJB Integration Scheme provides the framework in which the IJB operates including information on funding and what should happen if the IJB is projecting to overspend its budget at the year-end. Whilst steps will be taken to address this (through a Recovery Plan), ultimately the parties to the arrangement may be potentially liable should the IJB overspend.

Contractual

Waste Disposal

The Council has a long-term contract with an external contractor for the disposal of all relevant waste arising in the City and the operation and maintenance of waste transfer stations, recycling facilities and landfill sites. The contract commenced in September 2000 and is due to run until April 2029.

The fire at Altens East Recycling and Resource Facility on 8 July 2022 has resulted in business continuity plans being implemented and changes made to the processing of some waste streams. There have therefore been a wide range of the implications arising from the events. There will remain contractual matters to be addressed that will

take time and the Council continues to work closely with the Contractor and representatives to determine the full extent and cost of these.

Energy from Waste - Decommissioning costs

The inter-authority agreement covering the EfW plant states that the parties will share any decommissioning costs not taken by the contractor at the end of the project in accordance with their project share percentages. The Council is currently seeking specialists to provide a valuation for these costs which will result in a future financial liability.

Energy from Waste – General

Due to an issue between EFW Ness Ltd and its operating sub-contractor, the Ness Energy from Waste Facility closed for a period following planned maintenance shutdown. This is a contractual matter and as such a number of colleagues across the Council are supporting the waste service to reach a resolution. Whether or not the Council will incur any liability in connection with this matter (and, if so, the extent of any such liability) is uncertain at this time.

Landfill Allowance Scheme (LAS)

The Scottish Government had previously introduced a scheme under which Local Authorities were to be penalised for exceeding landfill tonnage targets. The Landfill Allowance Scheme in Scotland is currently suspended, and it is expected that the Waste (Scotland) Regulations 2012 will take over the requirement for the control of landfilling biodegradable municipal waste. However, until such a repeal is formalised there remains a potential liability on the Council.

Section 75 agreements

Section 75 agreements (developer obligations) are frequently sought by the Council in relation to the award of planning permission. The possibility of liabilities arises in cases where the developer is not adhering to the agreed payment schedule and the Council elects to proceed with a project where that developer obligation funding is due. In these cases, unless a resolution can be found with the developer, the Council may be exposed to additional costs due to higher levels of borrowing than originally anticipated to “cashflow” a legally committed project. Costs could apply to the short, medium, or long-term depending on the circumstances.

The Council’s Risk Board agreed that the Developer Obligations working group would escalate to Corporate Management Team any developers who fall behind on payments, and where necessary this will be reported to Finance & Resources Committee. This is a risk which may crystalize in the current housing market conditions due to high supply costs and reduced supply of labour.

The inherent risk with all developer obligation funded projects is whether the build rate of the development is triggering financial contributions at the rate required to fund the Council projects involved. Where the Council project advances more quickly than the development, the Council may have to step in to “cashflow” the necessary funding requirement. Where a project has not been legally committed, a failure to receive the supporting developer obligation funding may require a discussion to determine whether the project should be paused, or even stopped completely. Continued detailed

monitoring is therefore required by the Planning service to forecast expected build rates on developments and map out the timelines of expected trigger points for release of funding.

Impact of Covid on Working Practices, Global events and High inflation environment

All restrictions that were in place for the Covid-19 pandemic have now been lifted, and although the virus continues to circulate it no longer presents the health risk that previously existed. However, the consequences of the pandemic have been far reaching and recovery has been slow. The Council has prepared it's 2025/26 budget to include taking cognisance of external environments, which could have an adverse impact on the price of commodities. There remains the possibility that further costs may arise that were not previously identified.

The emergence of Covid resulted in new working practice guidelines being issued by the Scottish Government, to set new standards to allow consultants, contractors, sub-contractors and their suppliers to work safely during the pandemic. These unforeseen changes resulted in the construction industry incurring additional costs for compliance with the risk of delays to projects. These measures also restricted numbers of staff on site which slowed down progress on works. These impacts have manifested in projects which were on site at the time of the initial lockdown, and discussions between the Council and the relevant contractors are on-going to determine liability for additional costs. It is noted that this impact is now constrained to a small number of large projects where the construction period extended over a number of years.

The Council are also aware that the construction industry is experiencing shortage of products, raw materials, staffing and logistical support which is impacting on current and future costs across the UK. Ordering lead times are extending across the sector with the risk of increased delay impacts to projects. Advance order of materials continues to be a project mitigation strategy where it can be applied.

There is evidence of a contraction in the construction industry particularly in terms of small to medium sized suppliers. The Russian invasion of Ukraine and resulting economic sanctions placed on Russia and Belarus has further exacerbated supply chain issues for some commodities e.g. bituminous materials, steel etc. which were sourced from eastern Europe. Now there is added risk of escalation in the Middle East due to the Palestine/Israel conflict.

Taken altogether, this had manifested as the highest level of cost inflation experienced for around 30 years, though there are signs the inflation rate was starting to stabilise by the summer of 2023 and has continued to do so. This volatility has created new risks around capital projects which continue to be present to the current day. A review of project timeline delivery and financial viability for programmes/projects is an ongoing task whereby any significant programme/project impacts continue to be updated through updates to the appropriate committee.

Now, more recently, there is the potential escalation of a global trade war. It is too early to determine what the impact will be, but if it should continue, the impact will be far reaching.

Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC)

Following a published update regarding the risk of failure with Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) Planks, the Council initially carried out and completed its review of its public buildings where the presence of RAAC has been identified. RAAC was found in a small number of them, and mitigation is now in place.

Similarly, as reported previously a programme of work was conducted across the whole Council housing stock and this work is now complete. The outcome of this review across the whole housing stock has resulted in the identification of a housing type with RAAC, located to the south of the city in the Balnagask area.

The outcome of the above has been reported to Council and an options appraisal for the affected housing at Balnagask is now ongoing. This appraisal will consider mitigation options such as remedial works or demolition. At a meeting of Council on 21 August 2024, demolition followed by a rebuilding programme was approved as the preferred option. Communities, Housing and Public Protection Committee on 11 March 2025 approved the indicative demolition proposals and sequence of phasing, noting that only vacant terraces/blocks will be demolished. In addition, a further report went to Communities, Housing and Public Protection Committee on 27 May 2025 detailing the outcomes of the viability of the alternative options presented by the Torry RAAC Campaign Group Management Committee. The Committee instructed the Chief Officer – Corporate Landlord to write to all homeowners to advise them of the alternative options presented, and ask homeowners, having considered the information, to formally identify by the end of June 2025 which option they would be willing to consider.

The update was reported back to Communities, Housing and Public Protection on 26 August 2025. This noted the outcome of the engagement with home owners in June 2025, the next steps for property swaps withdrew option 3 “roof on – roof off” and continued engagement with homeowners regarding Voluntary Acquisition was instructed, with a review and report back to the Committee in early 2026 on whether this option should remain open for future financial years. Chief Officer – Capital was instructed to recommence planning, preparation, engagement, and mitigation works for demolition with immediate effect . The Chief Officer – Corporate Landlord was instructed to progress master planning for the site, considering both a fully cleared site and alternative scenarios. The financial liability is both the General Fund and the Housing Revenue Account.

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

The Redress for Survivors (Historical Child Abuse in Care) (Scotland) Act 2021 opened on 8 December 2021 to provide financial and non-financial redress to survivors of historical child abuse in care in Scotland. Fair and meaningful financial contributions are made from organisations historically involved in the care of children. The local government contribution is made on the basis that payments are made to survivors who enter into a waiver which means that litigation cannot then be pursued as a separate matter. The scheme is delivered by Redress Scotland and the Scottish Government (SG). Following negotiation between the COSLA Resources Spokesperson and the now First Minister Mr Swinney MSP, in October 2021 Leaders

agreed Local Authorities will contribute £100m to the cost of the Redress Scheme over a 10-year period.

Civil Litigation claims continue, both as lead authority to the former Grampian Regional Council and Aberdeen District Council as well as claims solely against Aberdeen City Council. Any uninsured claims or associated costs in respect of these require to be met by Aberdeen City Council. The costs of these are unquantifiable at this time but will give rise to a future financial liability.

Litigation against APSE (Association for Public Sector Excellence)

This Council is a member of APSE. Thurrock Council has raised a Court action against 23 member Councils seeking damages in respect of their reliance on APSE advice which they say led to significant losses. Whilst no Scottish Councils are involved in the Court Action there is a potential risk that all Members will become involved in the dispute with a potential liability per Council of up to £200,000. The court case against the 23 Councils has been stayed (suspended) pending the outcome of a separate case. This has withdrawn any immediacy of any litigation risk against other APSE members.

Litigation in connection with an Experimental Traffic Regulation Order

A statutory appeal has been raised against the Council in connection with an Experimental Traffic Regulation Order being made permanent. The appeal will be heard in Court in November 2026. Following ongoing advice from Senior Counsel the Council remains comfortable with its position, however, if the Council is unsuccessful in defending the appeal, repayment of fines seems a low likelihood, but this could have a high impact if required.

PROJECTED FINANCIAL POSITION FOR THE YEAR 2025/26

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MANAGEMENT COMMENTARY

This is the second reporting point in the year for the Council's finances, following approval of the budgets in December 2024 (Housing Revenue Account) and March 2025 (General Fund & Common Good). The full year budgets reflected in the table below differ from those set by Council for a number of reasons. This is normal practice during the year as virements are identified and budget responsibilities change.

At this stage of the year, the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account (HRA) are forecast to deliver in line with budgets set for 2025/26, but this will not be without continued effort and action, including the expectation that some savings will only be delivered later in year. The HRA budgeted for a deficit. A small overspend position is forecast for the Common Good.

The greatest uncertainty is the financial risk posed to the General Fund from the Aberdeen City IJB. As at 31st March 2025 the IJB reported a deficit and all available IJB reserves were set against that deficit. The remaining overspend was funded by contributions from its partners, NHS Grampian and the Council per the IJB Partnership agreement (Integration Scheme). The forecast outturn as at Quarter 2 is that the IJB will spend in line with budget for the year, if all savings are achieved. In the event that demand rises or the savings are not achieved by 2025/26 year-end, leading to an overspend position, then the deficit will have to be met by the IJB partners. This means that the Council would have to contribute from the General Fund to bring the IJB back to a balanced position.

The Council will have to find this funding from within its own year-end position, where, for example, savings have been greater than forecast or a part of the in-year contingency remains unused. Ultimately Council Reserves would have to be used if there is no opportunity to cover this cost from the actual outturn 2025/26 General Fund Budget.

While inflationary pressures and higher interest rates have made our goods, services and debt more expensive to manage, as described in previous reports, demand has continued to be higher for our services this year, with attention being drawn to changes in our population, specifically rising school rolls, which have risen year on year in recent years. Similarly, increased homelessness presentations are also affecting our finances with significant levels of temporary accommodation being needed.

Funding does not adjust in-year and distribution of funding at the start of the year is dependent on the historic data which means at best there is a lag between rising population and funding, but with the core grant not increasing sufficiently to take account of rising demand or costs, it is unlikely that any Council would argue that it receives sufficient funding to deliver the current level of services needed.

Managers are expected to be working to the essential spend message and for all means of saving money so that a balanced budget can be achieved at year end, there is an underlying commitment from Senior Management to pursue options to mitigate cost pressures and to work with the Chief Officer – Finance to ensure the overall agreed budget is adhered to, however this is increasingly difficult.

Appendix 1 provides the Income and Expenditure Statement and Balance Sheet of the Council as at 30 September 2025. The forecast for the year is built on the information that was available at this time.

For the full year, 2025/26, the General Fund is forecast to be on budget however it must be noted that there are continuing actions and processes in place to support managers to continue to reduce, stop or delay expenditure that they can, in the remainder of the financial year.

Payroll / Staff Costs:

As part of our 2025/26 budget it was recognised that our payroll bill needed to reduce.

As noted in Appendix 1, the Council has undergone an extensive consultation with the recognised trade unions and individual consultation with staff on the proposal to reduce the standard working week for full time Aberdeen City Council employees, a collective agreement was reached in June 2025 between the Council and the joint trade unions to implement the change to contracts of employments for all in-scope employees with effect from 1 July 2025. Impacted staff will receive a 'buyout' payment split into 2 annual payments made in July 2025 and 2026 – the funding of this was the subject of a separate report, Finance & Resources Committee, 7 May 2025. The first of these payments was made to staff in scope in July 2025, and amounted to £6m for the General Fund. Additional savings forecast for the year are funding approximately £2m of this cost leaving a little under £4m to be funded by unused / uncommitted contingencies. If the contingencies are required for other purposes, e.g. additional costs of winter weather or storm damage or teachers' pay negotiations, then earmarked reserves will have to be drawn down to fund any outstanding balance.

The Council continues to pursue the reduction of the payroll bill through our current Voluntary Severance and Early Retirement (VSER) policy. Importantly managers are supported to redesign services with a reduction of resources as well as looking at automation and process improvements to remove work.

To monitor this, an Establishment Control Board (ECB) oversees all recruitment and VSER requests and monitors the level of people leaving the council (turnover) and people newly joining the council (new starts). Through this monitoring it has been evident that there is not a significant gap between leavers and new starts, however it is clearer in 2025/26 that the headcount of employees is reducing. The Council is still receiving VSER applications in small numbers and those that are approved are having an impact on achieving savings.

To assist the position the Establishment Control Board continues to maintain these key controls:

1. Robust Recruitment Freeze. This will mean that only essential posts are recruited to when a vacancy arises.
2. Agency Freeze. The use of agency workers should only be used for a short-term need, on average up to 13 weeks. The ECB has implemented tighter controls where all agency requests must be supported by the relevant Chief Officer and then passed to the ECB for consideration. People and Organisational Development (P&OD) continue to monitor previously approved agency contracts to seek assurance that the Council is only using agency for short term essential need.
3. Overtime Freeze. Overtime is currently approved at service manager level. Like 2. above, all future overtime requests now requires the support of Chief Officer. Overtime requests should only be used for emergency-type need where the resource requirement is not planned. Again, P&OD review current overtime usage and work with the business to ensure that it is being used effectively.

The pay award for 2025/26 was agreed nationally, and implemented in August 2025 backdated to April 2025. The 2-year agreement for non-teaching staff is a 4% increase for 2025/26 effective from 1 April 2025, and a 3.5% increase for 2026/27 from 1 April 2026. This was implemented in August 2025 payroll.

With the pay award for non-teaching staff having been agreed at 4% for 2025/26 this is greater than the Council 2025/26 budget assumption of 3%. The cost of the additional 1% will be met by additional funding from Scottish Government. A share of this additional funding will be allocated to the IJB to meet the costs that they will face in 2025/26.

The commitment from Scottish Government is that this will be recurring for Local Government funding from 2026/27 onwards, but Councils will have to fund 3% of the 3.5% pay rise for 2026/27. For the Council this means that the Medium Term Financial Strategy assumption on pay will have to be revised up for 2026/27 as this had originally been set at 2%.

Essential Spend:

The Council has been operating in an environment of restricting discretionary spend for many years. This has been communicated to 'requisitioners' and 'approvers' at all levels within the organisation. Due to the continued uncertainty of the fiscal environment and the recognition of new service demand entering our system, further controls were implemented to effectively manage non-essential spend and control additional spending resulting from unplanned demand.

To enable the Council to work towards achieving delivery of a balanced budget by 31 March 2026 the provisions are essential and necessary, in the face of the significance of the uncertainty arising from current known situational awareness and the continuing financial risks that exist.

General Fund

With reference to the table below, key areas of the budget that the Council is managing are as follows:

The high costs of gas and electric continues to affect all Council services to some degree. These forecasts are included in the table below.

As stated above, across the whole of the Council the planned reduction in the number of posts that are affordable is being managed through voluntary and natural turnover processes. The full value of the staff savings is still forecast to be below budget at this time however actions noted above continue to be implemented to continue to influence the full year position. Other savings are supporting balancing the budget, to counteract the situation, however the Council is relying on some of the revenue contingency budget not being required to help finance the cost pressures currently forecast.

Based on the forecasts for the year key highlights are as follows:-

1. The main areas of pressure within Families & Communities are:

    - Higher than budgeted spend on external fostering and out of authority placements, spend continues to increase due to contract uplifts and increased number of placements.
    - Looking at demand, downturn in the local economy and increased costs being experienced by families, is impacting on the needs of children and families. There is a notable rise in vulnerability and need and this is increasing demand for more specialist services. As would be anticipated, there is a level of need apparent in those seeking sanctuary in the city.
    - It is exceptionally difficult to predict ongoing Homeless demand with any certainty. Hotels can be secured for asylum dispersal schemes at short notice with limited information about the age and stage of those being placed locally. Services continue to be proactive in their response.
    - Commercial property trading account income has been revised to reflect current conditions, this will continue to be monitored closely. This includes the additional costs of energy for corporate facilities and, also the Energy Centre and AD Plant at The Events Complex Aberdeen, and related contracts.
    - In Building Services there is a risk that the level of capital works will not increase with the focus being on void properties and response repair and maintenance, then the budgeted surplus may not be achieved this year.

- Facilities are experiencing significant staff overspend mainly in the cleaning service.
- Asset management are at risk of experiencing a significant cost pressure on repairs & maintenance.

For Education, the service is managing a continuing increase in the school rolls. This is driven by several factors: - the post-Covid increase of international students from other countries to the two Universities, who were bringing their families with them - there is evidence that this is now levelling off, the number of children (and families) in the city seeking refuge and the cost-of-living crisis meaning more parents are not opting for a private education.

- There is a risk that Early Years will not achieve the budgeted income from Cross Boundary Charging as the difference in the number of children between local authority areas is not as significant as anticipated.

2. The main areas of pressure within City Regeneration & Environment are:

- The business continuity insurance for the fire at Altens East has now ceased – which had offered cost mitigation to the Council for a period of 18 months. The impact on the service and the potential costs for the Altens East Transfer Station are now reflected in forecasts, and with the new Station now being recommissioned the additional costs being met are due to reduce and end in the coming months. There is also an expectation that income from selling recyclates will return.
- Fleet utilisation may not reduce, the fleet replacement programme with new technology could see vehicle maintenance costs increase rather than decrease.
- Roads are forecasting a significant overspend based on last year's activity and will be monitored closely through the year.

3. The main area of pressure within Corporate Services is:

- Protective Services will be unable to achieve income targets.

4. The main areas of financial risk within Integrated Joint Board (IJB) services are:

- There is a risk that the commissioned services & direct client payment budgets might not be sufficient to cover any agreed contract uplifts.
- There is a risk that income from clients' care packages may not be received in full.
- The numbers of direct payments to clients may rise. However, as demand for care services remains high, there is a risk that this situation could deteriorate.
- There is a risk that the number of new clients requiring care, and meeting current care criteria levels, exceeds the financial capacity.

The Council approved an additional sum of £4.2m for 2025/26 financial year, with NHS Grampian committed to £6.7m. This meant that the IJB was able to reduce the value and volume of savings that it was going to have to achieve to balance the 2025/26 budget.

A programme of savings for 2025/26 was therefore put in place by the IJB (£14.3m) and these must be achieved for the IJB to reach a balanced budget position at 31 March 2026. Indications are that this will be achieved.

Any overspend at the end of the 2025/26 financial year would mean the Council (and NHS Grampian) will have to fund a portion of any deficit. Action continues to be taken to ensure

only necessary expenditure is undertaken, and that savings are being made where possible.

5. Miscellaneous Services includes capital financing costs, the cost of repaying the borrowing received in the past for General Fund Capital Programme investment. Capital Financing Costs is the most significant budget within Miscellaneous Services and includes the impact of accounting for loans fund repayments on a prudent basis, approved by the Audit Risk and Scrutiny Committee in April 2019.

   As highlighted above, and in Appendix 1, the financial turmoil in recent years has only exacerbated the rising cost of borrowing. The cost of capital investment will rise from previous forecasts due to the current economic environment, with borrowing rates up at levels last seen a decade ago, the enduring effects of a 3 year period of high inflation – above Government and Bank of England targets – and supply chain volatility.

   The bad debt provision budget sits within Miscellaneous Services and is regularly reviewed.

6. The corporate saving for a reduced teaching workforce is captured in the "Corporate Budgets". The full value of the staff savings is forecast to be below budget.

   Other corporate contingencies, for pay and for inflation on contracts have been reviewed, which has offered opportunities for savings. Further work will be undertaken on these provisions to align costs and the availability of recurring budgets.

   Contingencies also holds the in-year revenue contingency for the General Fund and the forecast includes the use of some of that contingency in the remainder of the year – uncommitted contingencies amount to c.£4 m for the year. This provides ongoing resilience against emerging risks such as winter maintenance and a possible deficit for the IJB for 2025/26. That does not stop future unplanned events taking place or from implications arising from the risk registers and, where identified, contingent liabilities becoming more certain (see Appendix 1). It means at this stage that the Council relies on the strength of its balance sheet to address future unknown costs.

   As mentioned above if the £4m is not required then it will be used to fund the buy-out payment that is an extra cost for 2025/26, at present this is possible, see point 13 below.

7. Council Expenses include the budgets for all councillors' costs, including salaries and expenses. These are forecast to be on budget.

8. The Joint Boards budget and forecast outturn is based on the amount requisitioned by Grampian Valuation Joint Board, the Board is slightly over budget as at Quarter 2 2025/26.

9. The Non-Domestic Rates figure is set by the Scottish Government as part of its overall funding support package rather than the amount billed and receivable by the Council. The forecast amount receivable by the Council is in line with Government distribution information.

10. The General Revenue Grant is set by the Scottish Government as part of its funding support package for Local Government. This is regularly updated to account for the redeterminations that are allocated to Local Government after the approval of the Scottish Budget. Funding for these allocations is paid to Councils in March.

11. Council Tax income is forecast to be on budget for 2025/26 based on collection levels in 2024/25.

12. Use of Reserves. The Council approved in its 2025/26 budget that a sum of £3.124 m will be used from the annual Service Concession flexibility transaction and other earmarked General Fund reserves to fund the budget.

13 The first buyout payment to staff for the move the 35 hour working week was made in July 2025, this has been partly funded by an overall underspend at Quarter 2, the remainder has caused a deficit of £3.796m which will be funded from contingencies as agreed at Finance and Resources on 7 May 2025.

Housing Revenue Account

14. The HRA budget in 2025/26 has a balanced budget, using £0.792m of HRA reserves, it is currently estimated to stay within budget in the short term, although this is not likely to be financial sustainability as there are several areas of pressure. There is a potential risk that there will be a further over spend in repairs and maintenance from the cost of materials, voids, and staff costs than is currently anticipated, this is currently being offset by an reduction in management and admin costs. A review of the void repairs spend will be undertaken over the next month to understand if this is of a capital nature, this will be reported in the HRA Budget 26/27 report to Council on 3 December 2025.

Earmarked Reserves

As at 1 April 2025 the Council held c.£84m of earmarked reserves across the General Fund and HRA and expenditure is estimated to be incurred over a period of years.

Expenditure in relation to the delivery of other specific projects, funded by the earmarked reserves is not included in the figures in the tables above, the expenditure being set against the finite reserves held at the start of the year. As an example, the Council expects to continue to incur expenditure from the Transformation Fund in 2025/26 progressing the digital programme of transformation.

The other significant earmarked reserves to draw attention to at this time are the Refugee Funding (£16.644 m) to support the work and activities we deliver for through the dispersal and resettlement schemes; and the Joint Venture (ASV) Revaluation Surplus (£15.173m), which is not cash backed and reflects the increased value of the Council shares in the Sports Village following asset revaluation.

Also notable is the Second & Long-term Empty Properties (Affordable Housing) reserve (£4.528m), which is underpinned by legislation. Expenditure in 2025/26 will depend on the progress with a number of developments including Craighill, and the amount of Scottish Government funding and Section 75 income (developers' contributions) to be used as this funding is time limited, these funds support the delivery of additional social housing by the Council.

The earmarked Resilience fund, including former Covid-19 Grants (£4.855m) is for general support to Council services, income shortfalls and historically education services, and may be called upon to support the additional funding needed by the IJB to balance the financial position for 2025/26.

Balancing the Budget through Controls and Monitoring Structures

Drawing attention again to the points made in the introduction about Payroll/Staff Costs and Essential spend controls, specific actions that will continue, to manage spending and work towards reducing the operating deficit include:

- Further instruction to all budget holders to reduce, stop or delay expenditure wherever possible to reduce the outturn position.
- Ongoing review and analysis of the national dispersal and resettlement programmes on council budgets.
- Ongoing review and scrutiny of the out of authority placements for children by the Chief Officer – Integrated Children's Services.

- Specific work in relation to the Service Income policy to ensure full cost recovery is achieved from a range of services that the Council delivers, such as support services, housing services, accommodation and building services.
- Monitoring and management of council long-term debt in light of the agreed policy and capital spend forecasts for 2025/26.
- The voluntary severance / early retirement scheme (VSER) is how the Council has incentivised workforce reductions. The scheme has been recently promoted to staff in order to further reduce the ongoing cost of staff and to support the affordability of the Council's budget going forward. This is an expensive scheme, funding must be found and accounted for up front from revenue resources. The Council approved the use of the Service Concession earmarked sum as a source of funding for VSER.

To ensure tight controls are in place over expenditure, management have created the following control boards, through which requests to spend must be cleared:

The Demand Management Control Board captures the commissioning and procurement intentions for revenue expenditure as they arise and provides an environment for demand-based challenge – this is chaired by the Executive Director for Corporate Services.

Similarly, the Capital Board oversees the progress and emerging aspects of capital planning and delivery, but also connects to the asset elements of the revenue budget and capital financing requirements – this is chaired by the Chief Officer for Capital.

The Performance Board has oversight of the performance reporting, this is chaired by the Executive Director of Families & Communities and brings together the emerging and escalated issues from overall Council performance and agrees actions. The Corporate Management Team has oversight of the Council's financial performance.

Balancing the Budget through the monitoring and control of risks.

Risks are reviewed on a regular basis at a strategic level by the Risk Board on a monthly basis and at an operational level by Chief officers and their teams daily.

The emerging risks from demand and costs and the challenge to balance the budget should be having an impact on those operational risk registers and the Corporate Management Team expect, where appropriate, that these risks are escalated to the Corporate Risk Register, along with the potential impacts and means of mitigation.

The spectrum of difficulty that has been described as widening signals that risks are going to change and that the likelihood and impact of those risk are going to rise. The Council should be expecting to see this and to be asked to take appropriate action to mitigate them as they are identified.

The main risks to the Council are now the cost of living crisis, the rise in the number of people in the city through resettlement and refugee schemes and studying in the city from abroad. Also, the lasting impact of recent high inflation levels and extremely high increases experienced in the cost of energy supplies remain significant risks as these will continue to have a substantial impact on Council services.

It is predicted that the increased cost of supplies and services in the trades may be a significant risk in areas such as Building Services and Roads.

Contingent Liabilities are noted to capture potential liabilities which could result in costs being incurred in the future. As part of the budget process, contingent liabilities are reviewed and described within the budget pack presented to Council. The Corporate Management Team continues to monitor the status of these. A review of the contingent liabilities, listed in Appendix 1, has not established any significant shift in certainty or in the Council's ability to quantify the

financial exposure. On that basis there is no adjustment included in the forecasts for the year, they will continue to be reviewed quarterly and any change reported as appropriate.

Conclusion

Based on the information available at the end of Quarter 2, the Council has positive cashflow for services, and the forecast for the overall position of the General Fund is a balanced budget, with key actions continuing as described to reduce the payroll/staff costs across the Council and also the cost of our supplies and services during the remainder of this year. Any deficit that emerges later in the year, the Council will have to rely on unused contingencies and the availability of funding from the Balance Sheet in the form of earmarked reserves.

Ongoing demand in the areas of looked after children and homelessness, as well as the higher risk of a contribution being needed to support the Aberdeen City IJB, and the fact that pay negotiations that are not yet been finalised for teaching staff means there is continuing risk to the Council finances therefore while there is no certainty of the final costs, the Council will remain on essential spending only status, so there will be no further money to fund anything further.

The Housing Revenue Account is expected to be on budget, and expenditure will require the approved use of reserves to balance the HRA account. Higher costs are being experienced due to the cost of repairs and maintenance, staff costs, and voids, and work is being carried out to mitigate this.

These positions are captured in the tables set out below.

General Fund Financial Reporting Summary 2025/2026 - Quarter 2

As at 30 September 2025	Budget 2025/2026	Outturn 2025/2026 Quarter 2	Variance from Budget		Notes
	£'000	£'000	£'000	%	
Families & Communities	349,614	357,223	7,609	2.2	1
City Regeneration & Environme	37,523	42,487	4,964	13.2	2
Corporate Services	48,981	49,676	695	1.4	3
Integrated Joint Board	140,461	140,461	(0)	0.5	4
Total Functions Budget	**576,579**	**589,847**	**13,268**	**2.4**	
Miscellaneous Services	72,915	71,575	(1,340)	(1.8)	5
Contingencies	14,818	6,633	(8,185)	(55.2)	6
Council Expenses	1,812	1,815	3	0.2	7
Joint Boards	2,043	2,093	50	2.5	8
Total Corporate Budgets	**91,588**	**82,116**	**(9,472)**	**(10.3)**	
Non Domestic Rates	(200,361)	(200,361)	0	0.0	9
General Revenue Grant	(310,042)	(310,041)	0	(0.0)	10
Government Support	**(510,403)**	**(510,403)**	**0**	**(0.0)**	
Council Tax	(154,640)	(154,640)	0	0.0	11
Local Taxation	**(154,640)**	**(154,640)**	**0**	**0.0**	
Contribution from Reserves	(3,124)	(3,124)	0	0.0	12
Contribution from Reserves	**(3,124)**	**(3,124)**	**0**	**0.0**	
Deficit/(Surplus)	**0**	**3,796**	**3,796**	**0.0**	
35 hour week financing solution (use of contingencies)	0	(3,796)	(3,796)	0.0	13
Deficit/(Surplus) after 35 hr wk financing	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0.0**	

Housing Revenue Account Summary 2025/2026 - Quarter 2

Deficit/(Surplus)	**792**	**792**	**(0)**	**(0)**	**14**

General Fund Capital Programme

As at Period 6 2025/26	Original Approved Budget £'000	Adjustments & Carry Forwards £'000	Reprofiling of Capital Programme £'000	Revised Budget for Year £'000	Actual Expenditure for Year £'000	Forecast Outturn £'000	Outturn Variance from Revised Budget £'000
AECC Programme Board	2,853	(106)	0	2,747	14	2,747	0
Asset Management Programme Board	63,711	16,759	(25,107)	55,363	14,500	50,292	(5,071)
Asset Management Programme Board Rolling Programmes	27,604	1,518	1,761	30,883	11,049	32,974	2,091
City Centre Programme Board	84,668	13,527	(8,000)	90,195	20,631	71,581	(18,614)
Energy & Climate Programme Board	14,510	12,494	(4,376)	22,628	3,859	23,202	574
Housing and Communities Programme Board	4,329	(39)	(1,700)	2,590	770	2,320	(270)
Housing and Communities Programme Board Rolling Programmes	650	111	0	761	285	761	0
Transportation Programme Board	13,040	3,915	(3,440)	13,515	1,081	13,746	231
Transportation Programme Board Rolling Programmes	1,000	0	0	1,000	500	1,000	0
Strategic Asset & Capital Plan Board	19,148	2,071	(4,520)	16,699	2,231	16,606	(93)
Strategic Asset & Capital Plan Board Rolling Programmes	3,450	(1,048)	0	2,402	1,304	2,402	0
Developer Obligation Projects & Asset Disposals	0	0	0	0	214	34	34
Total Expenditure	**234,963**	**49,201**	**(45,382)**	**238,782**	**56,438**	**217,665**	**(21,118)**
Capital Funding:							
Income for Specific Projects	(18,387)	(30,872)	20,269	(28,990)	(10,104)	(46,389)	(17,399)
Developer Contributions	0	0	0	0	(285)	(18)	(18)
Capital Grant	(21,047)	(1,871)	0	(22,918)	(11,484)	(21,047)	1,871
Other Income e.g. Borrowing	(195,529)	(16,458)	25,113	(186,874)	(34,565)	(150,210)	36,664
Total Income	**(234,963)**	**(49,201)**	**45,382**	**(238,782)**	**(56,438)**	**(217,665)**	**21,118**

The Capital Programme was approved as part of the 2025/26 budget, 5 March 2025. Following a review of actual expenditure for 2024/25, the plans for each of the projects included in the programme have been reviewed and carry forward amounts for each have been calculated to ensure delivery of full project as appropriate. In addition, and in light of the lower than expected spending experienced in 2024/25, the project spend was reprofiled for some of the project budgets in Quarter 2.

Forecasting of outturns will be subject to continued scrutiny and remains challenging given the wide range of factors continuing to affect construction supply chains, whether that's inflation, availability of workforce, availability of products and goods, plant and equipment. The forecast outturns do represent a point in time and they will be subject to change as the financial year progresses and additional information becomes available.

Expenditure for Quarter 3 2025/26 includes continued construction works related to the New Schools programme. The Boulevard section of the City Centre Masterplan is now being progressed with later phases of the Beachfront works currently on hold.

Housing Capital Programme

Spend continue to be low in Quarter 2 on areas such as kitchens, bathrooms and windows due to low tenant engagement, this will be worked on in the coming months. Community Plan and Local Outcome Improvement Plan is showing a high level of spend to date due to the level of buy backs of former council houses in the system.

A review has been undertaken in the areas where spend is low or high the assumption at Quarter 2 is that there will be an under spend of £3.8m this will be again reviewed in Quarter 3.

Housing Capital Programmes	Approved Budget	Expenditure to date	Forecast Expenditure	Variance from Revised Budget
As at 30 September 25	**£'000**	**£'000**	**£'000**	**£'000**
Compliant with the tolerable standard	8,744	4,244	8,744	0
Free from Serious Disrepair	26,427	6,034	21,927	(4,500)
Energy Efficient	11,588	2,545	10,088	(1,500)
Modern Facilities & Services	20,619	4,330	15,619	(5,000)
Healthy, Safe and Secure	5,393	1,372	5,793	400
Non Scottish Housing Quality Standards				
Community Plan and Local Outcome Improvement Plan	4,230	3,999	3,340	(890)
Service Expenditure	8,954	258	6,954	(2,000)
2000 New Homes Programme	50,868	22,221	50,868	0
less 11% slippage	(9,634)	-	0	9,634
Net Programme	**127,189**	**45,002**	**123,333**	**(3,856)**

Capital Funding				
Borrowing	(122,189)	(43,039)	(105,754)	16,435
Other Income - Grants Affordable Home	(5,000)	(1,963)	(17,579)	(12,579)
Capital Funded from Current Revenue	0	0	0	0
Total	(127,189)	**(45,002)**	**(123,333)**	3,856

Prudential Indicators

The Prudential Code For Capital Finance in Local Authorities – 2023/24 to 2029/30

From 1 April 2004, Councils are required by Regulation to have regard to the Prudential Code (the Code) when carrying out their duties under Part 7 of the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003.

In setting the revenue and capital budgets, members will be aware that under the Prudential Code, the level of capital investment is determined locally. Therefore, these indicators will be reviewed on an ongoing basis to ensure that the Council does not breach the indicators it sets.

The key objectives of the Code are to ensure: -

- The Council's capital programmes are affordable, prudent and sustainable.
- Treasury management decisions are taken in accordance with good professional practice.

The Code also has the objectives of being consistent with and supporting local strategic planning, local asset management planning and proper option appraisal.

In setting the indicators, cognisance should be paid to the level of capital investment looking ahead for a five-year period, for both the housing and non-housing capital programmes that the Council wishes to embark upon. The Code also requires that the underlying requirement to finance PPP projects and finance leases be included when setting the indicators.

The Code requires the following Prudential Indicators to be set for the Council:

	Capital Expenditure						
	2023/24 £'000 Actual	**2024/25 £'000 Actual**	**2025/26 £'000 Estimate**	**2026/27 £'000 Estimate**	**2027/28 £'000 Estimate**	**2028/29 £'000 Estimate**	**2029/30 £'000 Estimate**
Gen Fund	112,343	143,893	276,766	203,998	126,131	83,079	63,578
HRA	119,903	115,079	129,649	67,699	79,266	119,385	173,898

	Ratio of Financing Costs to Net Revenue Stream						
	2023/24 Actual	**2024/25 Actual**	**2025/26 Estimate**	**2026/27 Estimate**	**2027/28 Estimate**	**2028/29 Estimate**	**2029/30 Estimate**
Gen Fund	8.2%	7.3%	9.1%	10.0%	11.0%	11.8%	11.9%
HRA	15.9%	17.6%	21.7%	22.3%	22.7%	22.6%	21.9%

	Capital Financing Requirement						
	2023/24 £'000 Actual	**2024/25 £'000 Actual**	**2025/26 £'000 Estimate**	**2026/27 £'000 Estimate**	**2027/28 £'000 Estimate**	**2028/29 £'000 Estimate**	**2029/30 £'000 Estimate**
Gen Fund	1,249,775	1,328,694	1,549,177	1,700,083	1,775,432	1,809,885	1,819,414
HRA	454,531	553,880	674,020	730,491	795,348	898,616	1,055,079
Total	**1,704,306**	**1,882,574**	**2,223,197**	**2,403,574**	**2,570,780**	**2,708,501**	**2,874,493**

	Gross Borrowing						
	2023/24 £'000 Actual	**2024/25 £'000 Actual**	**2025/26 £'000 Estimate**	**2026/27 £'000 Estimate**	**2027/28 £'000 Estimate**	**2028/29 £'000 Estimate**	**2029/30 £'000 Estimate**
Borrowing	1,564,185	1,747,194	2,091,058	2,304,520	2,451,335	2,595,938	2,768,886

The Prudential Code states:
"In order to ensure that over the medium term net borrowing will only be for a capital purpose, the local authority should ensure that net external borrowing does not, except in the short term, exceed the total of the capital financing requirement in the preceding year plus the estimates of any additional capital financing requirement for the current and next two financial years."

The Chief Officer - Finance reports that the Council can meet this requirement in 2025/26, and it is expected to do so for the future years, as outlined, taking into account current commitments, existing plans, and the assumptions in this report.

	Authorised Limit for External Debt					
	2024/25 £'000	**2025/26 £'000**	**2026/27 £'000**	**2027/28 £'000**	**2028/29 £'000**	**2029/30 £'000**
Operational Boundary	1,919,604	2,260,227	2,467,604	2,607,810	2,745,531	2,911,597
10% Margin	191,960	226,023	246,760	260,781	274,553	291,160
Total	**2,111,564**	**2,486,250**	**2,714,364**	**2,868,591**	**3,020,084**	**3,202,757**

	Operational Boundary for External Debt					
	2024/25 £'000	**2025/26 £'000**	**2026/27 £'000**	**2027/28 £'000**	**2028/29 £'000**	**2029/30 £'000**
Borrowing	1,747,194	2,091,058	2,304,520	2,451,335	2,595,938	2,768,886
Other Long-Term Liabilities	172,410	169,169	163,084	156,475	149,593	142,711
Total	**1,919,604**	**2,260,227**	**2,467,604**	**2,607,810**	**2,745,531**	**2,911,597**

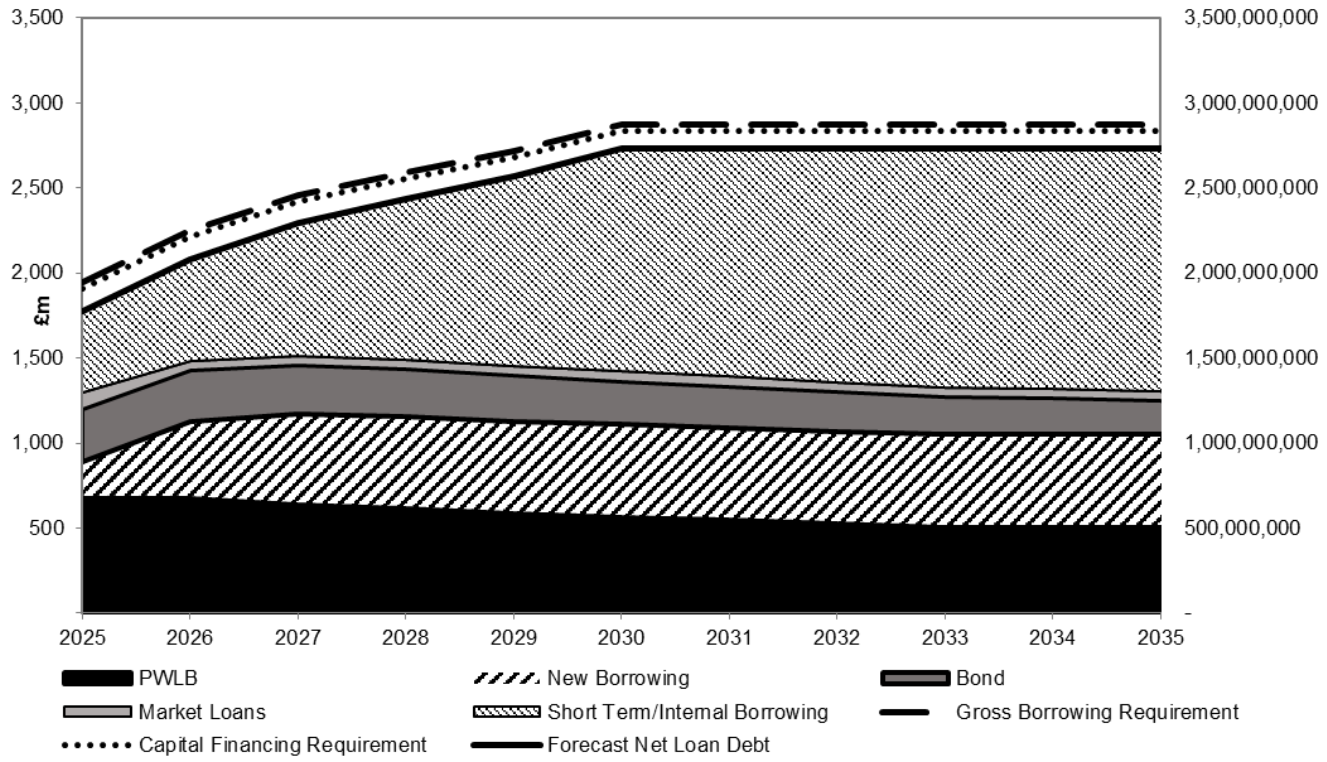
The latest version of the Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities introduced a new indicator – the Ratio of Net Income from Commercial and Service Investments to Net Revenue Stream.

The Code defines Commercial Investments as investments taken or held primarily for financial return and not linked to treasury management activity and Service Investments as those directly involved in the delivery of a service, for example, loans to leisure providers, loans to trusts providing services, a shareholding in a shared service vehicle, and investments in local companies for regeneration.

As the Council has no investments that fall into these categories, there is no requirement to report this indicator.

The latest version of the CIPFA Treasury Management in the Public Services code requires the reporting of an additional treasury management indicator known as the Liability Benchmark.

The liability benchmark (shown below) is a comparison of existing borrowing levels against future capital financing requirements from both committed and planned future borrowing over the next ten years.



Common Good

As at 30 September 2025	Full Year Budget 2025/26 £'000	Actual Forecast Expenditure £'000	Variance from Budget £'000
Recurring Expenditure	5,223	5,223	0
Recurring Income	(5,370)	(5,370)	0
Budget after Recurring Items	**(147)**	**(147)**	**0**
Non Recurring Expenditure	147	182	35
Non Recurring Income	0	0	0
Net (Income)/Expenditure	**0**	**35**	**35**
Cash balances as at 1 April 2025	**(44,607)**	**(44,607)**	
Net Expenditure from Income & Expenditure	0	35	35
Investment Revaluation (Increase)/Decrease	0	(774)	(774)
Net Capital Receipt	0	0	0
Cash Balances as at 31 March 2026	**(44,607)**	**(45,347)**	**(739)**

Notes

- Operationally the Common Good is forecast to be over budget by £35k as at 30 September 2025.
- This is due to the costs of Aberdeen Football Club parade which had not been allocated a specific budget.
- The investment of cash balances in a multi-asset income fund, approved by Council on 10 March 2021 has now been implemented. The value of the investment may fall as well as increase, this will be reported quarterly. As at 30 September 2025 the value of the investments was £24.214m, an increase in the quarter of £0.699m. Cash balances will be affected by this change as will the overall Net Value of the Common Good.
- The investment with Fidelity remains a long-term investment and should be measured over a 3 to 5 year period.
- Income levels expect to be maintained and the budgeted income achieved.

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COMMON GOOD
FINANCIAL STATEMENT
FOR THE PERIOD ENDING
30 SEPTEMBER 2025

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Common Good

The Common Good stands separate from other accounts and funds of the Council and could be said to originate in the grant of freedom lands by King Robert the Bruce in 1319. The Common Good is corporate property and must be applied for the benefit of the community as the Council thinks fit. It is invested in land and buildings, such as industrial estates and farms, with cash balances usually being held on deposit with other local authorities, building societies and the Council's Loans Fund.

Following the decision of Council to seek alternative investment opportunities for the cash balances, an investment of up to £30m has been placed in a Multi-Asset Income Fund with Fidelity. Returns on this investment are now reported on a quarterly basis in Appendix 2.

Movement in Reserves Statement

	Common Good Fund £'000	Reserves Fund £'000	Total Common Good £'000
Balance at 31 March 2025	**(107,923)**	**(68)**	**(107,991)**
Movement in Reserves during 2025/26			0
(Surplus) or Deficit on provision of services	(289)	0	(289)
(Surplus) or Deficit on revaluation of investment property	(773)	0	(773)
Total Comprehensive Expenditure and Income	**(1,062)**	**0**	**(1,062)**
Balance at 30 September 2025	**(108,985)**	**(68)**	**(109,053)**

Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement

	Quarter 2 2025/26			
	Gross Expenditure £'000	**Gross Income £'000**	**Net (Income) Expenditure £'000**	**Notes**
Grants & Contributions to External Organisations	764		764	
External Organisations Rents	56		56	
Promoting Aberdeen	22		22	
Grants/Services Provided by Aberdeen City Council	795		795	
Civic Service Funding	485	0	485	
Duthie Park HLF	0		0	
Specific Projects	113	0	113	
Earmarked Reserves	0		0	
Cost Of Services	**2,235**	**0**	**2,235**	1
Sales Income			(7)	2
Cost of Sales			0	2
Other Operating Income/Expenditure			**(7)**	
Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure			**(2,517)**	3
(Surplus) or Deficit on Provision of Services			**(289)**	
(Surplus) or Deficit on revaluation of investment property			(773)	4
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure			**(1,062)**	

Notes

1. This includes project expenditure to 30 September 2025.
2. This reflects any gains or losses on the disposal of assets during the year.
3. This reflects income receivable from investments and land and properties net of associated expenditure.
4. This figure represents the increase in value of the long term investment. The revaluation of investment property will be undertaken in Quarter 4.

Balance Sheet

31 March 2025 £'000		30 September 2025 £'000	Notes
23,440	Long Term Investments	24,214	1
61,632	Investment Property	61,632	1
85,072	**Long Term Assets**	**85,846**	
2,862	Finance Leases	2,862	2
2,862	**Long Term Debtors**	**2,862**	
18,916	Investments in Aberdeen City Council Loans Fund	18,858	3
1,750	Investment Property Held for Sale	1,750	4
453	Short Term Debtors	365	5
21,119	**Current Assets**	**20,973**	
(1,062)	Short Term Creditors	(628)	6
(1,062)	**Current Liabilities**	**(628)**	
107,991	**Net Assets**	**109,053**	
(107,923)	Common Good Fund	(108,985)	7
(68)	Reserve Fund	(68)	7
(107,991)	**Total Reserves**	**(109,053)**	

Notes

1. This represents the long term investments as at 30 September 2025. The revaluation of investment property will be undertaken in Quarter 4, at which time this figure will be updated.
2. Reflects current cash balances held following transactions to 30 September 2025.
3. Will be reviewed and updated accordingly in Quarter 4.
4. Based on transactions to 30 September 2025.
5. Based on transactions to 30 September 2025.
6. Reflects the accounting value of the funds, based on transactions to 30 September 2025.

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GROUP ENTITIES PROJECTED FINANCIAL POSITION FOR THE YEAR 2025/26

Aberdeen City Council holds a financial interest in a number of Subsidiaries, Associates and Joint Ventures. The most significant of these, in terms of size of trading operations and other factors, are included in the Council's Group Accounts.

The table below outlines the entities to be consolidated into the Council's Group Accounts and details the Council's share of "ownership" of each of the entities.

For the Financial Year 2025/26	ACC Control	ACC Commitment to meet accumulated deficits	Annual Turnover
	%	%	£m
Subsidiaries			
Common Good	100	100	5
Trust Funds	100	100	0
Sport Aberdeen Limited	100	100	15
Bon Accord Care Limted	100	100	27
Bon Accord Support Services Limited	100	100	35
Aberdeen Heat and Power	100	100	7
Joint Ventures			
Aberdeen Sports Village Limited	50	50	6
BP Aberdeen Hydrogen Energy Ltd	50	50	
Aberdeen City Integration Joint Board	50	50	444
Associates			
Grampian Valuation Joint Board	39	39	6

The Council has agreed to include information only when it has been reported through a group entities governance structure.

For the Financial Year 2025/26	Reporting Date	Surplus/(deficit) attributable to the Council at Reporting date	Forecast Surplus/(Deficit)	Comment
		£'000	£'000	
Subsidiaries				
Common Good	30.09.25	289	(35)	
Trust Funds	31.03.25	142	-	Full year forecast not available at Q2
Sport Aberdeen Limited	30.09.25	96	-	Forecasting a break even position in Q2
Bon Accord Care Limited and Bon Accord Support Services Ltd	30.09.25	466	0	Forecasting a break even position in Q2
Aberdeen Heat and Power Ltd	30.06.25	27	208	
Joint Ventures				
Aberdeen Sports Village Limited	31.07.25	(656)	-	Full year forecast not available at Q2
BP Aberdeen Hydrogen Energy Ltd	30.09.25	(161)	-	Full year forecast not available at Q2
Aberdeen City Integration Joint Board	30.09.25	0	0	Forecasting a break even position in Q2
Associates				
Grampian Valuation Joint Board	30.09.25	(53)	0	Full year forecast not available at Q2

The notes below summarise the latest financial position in respect of each of the group entities.

Subsidiaries

Common Good

The Common Good is corporate property and must be applied for the benefit of the community as the Council thinks fit. It is invested in land and buildings, such as industrial estates and farms, with any surplus being placed on cash deposit, with other local authorities, building societies and the Council's Loans Fund.

The Common Good is currently showing an operational surplus at the end of Quarter 2 of £289k, and a projected deficit of £35k for the financial year. The financial statements for the quarter are shown in Appendix 3.

Trust Funds

The Council is responsible for the administration of various trusts created by bequest or evolved through history or by public subscription which are utilised for a variety of benefits such as education and social work, charitable purposes, religious instruction, medical institutions, and the upkeep of public works. The money earned from the investments of the Trusts is used to provide grants and awards to trust beneficiaries, prizes and dux medals for school children and requisites for clients in Social Work homes.

At the end of March 2025, the Trusts reported a net surplus of £142k.

The Trusts are not expected to have a material impact on the Council's financial position for 2024/25.

Sport Aberdeen

Sport Aberdeen Limited is a charity and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee. The principal activity of the company is the provision of recreation leisure facilities and services on behalf of Aberdeen City Council in accordance with key priorities. Although Aberdeen City Council does not own the entity, it is considered that control representing power to govern exists through agreements in place and that Sport Aberdeen Limited operates as a structured entity of the Council.

The results for the period ended 30th September 2025 show net surplus of £96k.Sport Aberdeen is forecasting a break-even position for 2025/26.

Bon Accord Care and Bon Accord Support Services

Bon Accord Care Limited (BAC) and Bon Accord Support Services Limited (BASS) are private companies limited by shares which are 100% held by Aberdeen City Council. Bon Accord Care provides regulated (by the Care Inspectorate) care services to Bon Accord Support Services which in turn delivers both regulated and unregulated adult social care services to the Council.

The consolidated position of Bon Accord Care and Bon Accord Support Services shows a surplus of £466k against budget for the period ended 30th September 2025.

In line with Q1, it is expected that this surplus will be depleted during the second half of the year as the costs turn to be higher in the winter months.

The consolidated forecast position for BAC and BASS for 2025/26 a breakeven position for the financial year.

Aberdeen Heat and Power Ltd (AH&P Ltd)

AH&P Ltd is a company limited by guarantee and has no share capital. Aberdeen City Council is the sole member of AH&P which is a wholly owned subsidiary of the council guarantor. All AH&P board appointments are made by the Council as the sole member of AH&P Ltd.

For the period ended 30th September 2025, Aberdeen Heat and Power shows a surplus of £10k. The forecast for the financial year shows a surplus of £149k.

The main reasons for the Quarter 2 surplus is mainly due to sales being higher than budget as a result of increase in electricity export sales. The forecast surplus is based on the assumption that this trend is likely to continue for the remainder of the financial year.

Joint Ventures

Aberdeen Sports Village Limited (ASV Ltd)

ASV Ltd is a company limited by guarantee and registered as a charity. It is a joint venture company owned equally by the Council and The University of Aberdeen. ASV Ltd was incorporated in 2007 and its objectives are to provide sports and recreational facilities, including elite sports facilities for the use of both students and staff of the University of Aberdeen and the public, and the advancement of public participation in sport.

The financial year end for ASV Ltd is not aligned to the Council's with its year end being 31 July. The accounts for the period ended 31st July 2025 showed that ASV Ltd reported a deficit of £1,312k. The share of the deficit being attributed to the Council is £656k.

Aberdeen City Integration Joint Board (IJB)

The IJB was established by order of Scottish Ministers on 6 February 2016, becoming fully operational from 1 April 2016. The IJB is responsible for the strategic planning, resourcing and operational delivery of all integrated health and social care within the Aberdeen City area. This has been delegated by the partners, Aberdeen City Council and NHS Grampian.

The IJB is expected to achieve a balanced budget annually, however, as at 31st March 2025 the IJB had a deficit of £17m which was funded in the first instance from reserves and the remainder by its partners. Due to annual increases in care home contracts and increasing commissioning costs there remains a high risk that there is an overspend at the end of the 2025/26 financial year. The IJB have put a recovery plan in place, and a balanced budget is forecast for 2025/26 if all savings are achieved.

As at 30th September 2025 the IJB is forecasting a break-even position for financial year 2025/26.

Further analysis of the IJB variance can be seen in Appendix 2.

BP Aberdeen Hydrogen Energy Ltd (BPAHE Ltd)

BPAHE Ltd is a 50:50 joint venture between Aberdeen City Council and BP International Ltd set up on 11 March 2022.The purpose of this company is to establish a commercial hydrogen production, storage and distribution infrastructure for green hydrogen utilising renewable power to service transport in the short term. This will have the potential to be further expanded in future phases for the delivery of hydrogen power for a wide range of sectors looking to decarbonise, including fleet, heat and industry.

As at 30th June 2025, BPAHE Ltd show net expenditure of £322k.The portion of this net expenditure attributed to ACC is £161k.

Associates

Grampian Valuation Joint Board

The Grampian Valuation Joint Board was created following Local Government Re-organisation on 1 April 1996, under the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1994 and covers the local government areas of Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire, and Moray.

The Board has reported a deficit of £136k during the period ended 30th September 2025 mainly due to continued underspends in staffing and other supplies and services.

The portion of the underspend attributable to ACC is £53k.

Non-Material Interest in Other Entities

On the grounds of materiality, the North East Transport Partnership (NESTRANS), Grampian Venture Capital Fund Ltd, Strategic Development Planning Authority and Scotland Excel have to date been excluded from the Group Accounts, and therefore are not disclosed in the quarterly monitoring.

More information on these relationships can be found in the Council's Annual Accounts for 2024/25

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ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Finance & Resources
DATE	5 November 2025
EXEMPT	No
CONFIDENTIAL	No
REPORT TITLE	Medium Term Financial Strategy for the Council's General Fund, 2025
REPORT NUMBER	CORS/25/239
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	Andy Macdonald
CHIEF OFFICER	Jonathan Belford
REPORT AUTHOR	Scott Paterson
TERMS OF REFERENCE	1.1; 2.1.5

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 The purpose of a Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) is to pull together in one place the known factors affecting the financial position and financial sustainability of an organisation's General Fund over the medium term. Furthermore, the purpose is to draw out the scenarios that the Council faces and to describe the approach to addressing the conclusions.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Committee:-

2.1 Approve the Medium Term Financial Strategy for the General Fund, 2025;

2.2 Note that the Scottish Budget for 2026/27 has been announced as being presented to the Scottish Parliament on 13 January 2026;

2.3 Note that the Scottish Government published its latest Programme for Government in May 2025, followed by an updated Medium Term Financial Strategy in June 2025. This, in addition to the outcome of the Local Government Settlement for 2025/26 and information included in the previous MTFS from Scottish Government means the Central Scenario has been updated to expect a cash increase of 1% per annum in grant funding from the Scottish Government for future financial years. The Council's MTFS model will be updated for the Council's Budget meeting in March 2026 with details of the actual financial settlement for 2026/27;

2.4 Note that inflation remains above Bank of England target levels;

2.5 Note that the Capital Programme, as included in the Council Financial Performance Quarter 1, 2025/26 report (CORS/25/181), is the basis for capital financing costs and debt levels referred to in the MTFS;

2.6 Approve the Loans Fund Repayment Policy for 2026/27 and beyond as described in Table 5 of the MTFS;

2.7 Note the 2026/27 Budget will be discussed and set by the Council in March 2026 following a public engagement exercise as required by the Scheme of Governance and Budget Protocol, and that details of this consultation exercise are contained in 5.10 of the MTFS. The results of the engagement will also be reported to Council as part of the Budget setting reports;

2.8 Note that the Financial Resilience Framework shows that the General Fund has underlying resilience of £12m (uncommitted reserves) which is a falling percentage of the net General Fund budget. The aim is to move to a target range (2–3%) of Net Expenditure and review this annually based on risks and inflation. Therefore the Council should determine during the 2026/27 budget-setting process how this aim is addressed;

2.9 Note that the Financial Resilience Framework also identifies that the total value, and cost of servicing debt is rising. Careful consideration will have to be given to each and every capital project to ensure it fits with the Council's Strategic priorities, and delivers Best Value, as well as being affordable, sustainable, and prudent in compliance with the Prudential Code. The Council approved a cap on the cost of capital financing of 12% of Net Revenue Expenditure; and

2.10 Note that the Chief Officer – Finance will continue to develop the Financial Resilience Framework with a view to embedding it across the councils financial planning, financial monitoring, and financial year end reporting arrangements.

3. CURRENT SITUATION

3.1 The Council's MTFS 2024 was approved by the Finance & Resources Committee on Council on 5 November 2024, with the financial forecasts updated as part of the budget setting process for financial year 2025/26, approved in March 2025.

3.2 Having this overarching document is increasingly important in an environment that only seems to become more challenging and more complex, which has seen the effects of global events such as Russia's invasion of Ukraine and resulting war, and the supply chain volatility and energy price shocks. Although the sudden rise in inflation towards the end of 2022 was replaced by a long slow decline in rates throughout 2023, there has been a slight resurgence in inflation rates over summer 2025, and the prevailing rate remains above Bank of England targets. While the initial turbulence appears to be over, the cost of living crisis it created is persisting, with higher borrowing costs and higher prices leaves local government and public services with high demand and very limited funding.

3.3 The Scottish Government published its latest revised Medium Term Financial Strategy (SGMTFS) in June 2025, which followed the updated Programme for Government in May 2025. The updated Scottish Government Resources Spending Review is not expected until January 2026.

3.4 After taking account of the financial environment, the information provided by Scottish Government and the approved budget setting decisions for 2025/26 an updated Medium Term Financial Strategy for the Council's General Fund has been completed and is attached as Appendix 1.

3.5 The Target Operating Model (TOM1.2) [Council, August 2022, CUS/22/171 and Council, February 2024, CUS/24/043] presented the Council with a way forward to transform services and to contribute to closing the future budget gap. Programmes of work include eight on transformation of Council services and four that cut across the Council and our partners as part of our multi-agency transformation approach.

3.6 Together, the MTFS and TOM1.2 documents represent the fiscal framework for Aberdeen.

3.7 The MTFS provides the Council with an overview of the financial situation and how this is evolving in these uncertain times, and to consider how sensitive the financial situation is to changes in income and exposure to demand and inflation.

3.8 The strategy draws on a range of information and data and relies on scenario planning to express a range of financial consequences that will only become certain with actual experience and with more and better information over time.

3.9 Scenarios do allow us to develop the actions and activities needed to balance our finances, and a Central Scenario is presented alongside Upside and Downside Scenarios, giving us an insight into the spectrum of difficulty that the Council faces.

3.10 The strategy sets out a range of principles for income, expenditure and capital investment that are designed to support financial resilience and financial sustainability, and these are included at paragraphs 1.1 to 1.20 of the Strategy.

3.11 The question of financial resilience is one that continues to be very important to local government and greater emphasis is being placed on the test of 'going concern' than ever Local government is presumed to be a going concern, but this cannot be taken for granted.

3.12 The Council's **Financial Resilience Framework** was populated with information from the Council's Annual Accounts, for the five years up to 31 March 2024 and this has been updated to include the audited Annual Accounts for 2024/25. The information is therefore the cumulative effect of decisions taken over many years and does not by itself reflect what the future position may look like. I have made reference to the table at **6.36 of Appendix 1**, to whether the ratio appears to be stable or improving or if we should be watching it. The figures on their own provide information to provide assurance to the Council that the underlying strength of the finances are healthy given the volatile and high-cost environment we are working in, i.e. it has financial reserves on which to draw in the event of further financial shock, but that resource is finite and non-recurring.

3.13 It is acknowledged that the benefits from having this data are yet to be fully realised, with further work and comparison required. That said there is sufficient insight to highlight indicators that should be carefully considered when making budget decisions going forward.

3.14 I will again provide commentary and data as part of the 2026/27 budget setting process, and I will continue development work in conjunction with partners.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The Medium Term Financial Strategy 2025 sets out the financial implications for the Council's General Fund and will be the financial parameters within which the annual budget setting process will be undertaken.

4.2 The budget engagement and consultation that the Council will undertake, as per the scheme of Governance and Budget Protocol, will use the Central Scenario presented by in the MTFS, which is a gap of £37.425m over the next two years, the end of the current Council term. This sits in the context of the whole five year MTFS which presents the financial challenge as follows:

After Assumed Savings	Forecast 2025/26	Forecast 2026/27	Forecast 2027/28	Forecast 2028/29	Forecast 2029/30	Forecast 2030/31
General Fund Budget Gap	**£M**	**£M**	**£M**	**£M**	**£M**	**£M**
Downside Scenario	0	48	96	143	184	227
Central Scenario	**0**	**18**	**37**	**57**	**71**	**83**
Upside Scenario	0	13	21	28	34	41

4.3 The various **assumed profiles of future Expenditure, Funding and Income levels** to produce these Scenarios are summarised in **Appendix 1, Section 3 - The Consolidated Medium-term Outlook for the General Fund.** These assumptions will continue to be reviewed, and updated as necessary, before the Council's Budget Meeting in March 2026.

4.4 Capital Funding and Investment is discussed in Appendix 1, Section 4, including the **Prudential Indicators** approved at the Council Budget meeting in March 2025:

	Capital Financing Requirement						
	2023/24 £'000 Actual	2024/25 £'000 Estimate	2025/26 £'000 Estimate	2026/27 £'000 Estimate	2027/28 £'000 Estimate	2028/29 £'000 Estimate	2029/30 £'000 Estimate
Gen Fund	1,249,775	1,343,566	1,522,246	1,672,741	1,748,001	1,781,454	1,789,983

	Ratio of Financing Costs to Net Revenue Stream						
	2023/24 Actual	2024/25 Estimate	2025/26 Estimate	2026/27 Estimate	2027/28 Estimate	2028/29 Estimate	2029/30 Estimate
Gen Fund	8.2%	9.8%	9.5%	10.6%	11.6%	12.2%	11.9%

The cap on annual cost of capital financing as a percentage of the General Fund Net Expenditure remains at 12%.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 While there are no direct legal implications arising from the recommendations of this report, there are additional reporting requirements due to the London Stock Exchange listing, for example the requirement to notify them ahead of publication of the report.

5.2 The financial constraints that are now faced by local government sector and by the Council mean that serious questions have to be raised as to the affordability and sustainability of Council services and the scope, quantity, and quality of them going forward.

5.3 The Council has a statutory duty to set Council Tax and a balanced budget, and the Strategy sets out the related challenges and the parameters within which this will have to be done. Any failure to comply with this duty would leave the Council open to legal action and/or regulatory intervention.

6. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 While there are no direct environmental implications from the recommendations in this report, the development of the MTFS must have a reference to the environmental objectives and targets that the Council has a duty to deliver on. Those duties come at a cost and where possible the scale of the challenge has been described, it is clear however that an enormous amount of further work is required in order to quantify the detailed proposals, business cases and funding solutions to meet of those duties.

6.2 The MTFS will continue to take account of the latest information in relation to our actions towards Net Zero as it is regularly refreshed, and the Council's annual Carbon Budget.

7. 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?
Strategic Risk	Failure to recognise the consequence of the economic and local circumstance could lead to poor use of resources.	The Strategy is in place to look forward into the medium term and plan for the future to improve the likelihood of resource allocation being aligned to strategic outcomes.	L	Yes

Compliance	Failure to set balanced budget.	A robust process is in place to ensure budgets are prepared and presented for approval by the Council at the start of March.	L	Yes
Operational	Failure to take account of the financial constraints described in the MTFS and to change operational arrangements to be affordable could lead to unplanned spending reductions.	A robust process is in place to ensure budgets are prepared and presented for approval by the Council at the start of March.	L	Yes
Financial	The assumptions are insufficiently sensitive to the situations that might arise, resulting in a larger financial challenge.	The strategy is based on scenarios that present a range of potential impacts for the Council's finances. It will be kept under review. Financial planning assumptions are subject to two reviews annually, the MTFS and the Annual Budget report.	M	Yes
Reputational	There is a risk that through the reduction of expenditure the Council may be criticised that spending is not in line with public expectation	The Council has continued to address priority spending areas, and to protect people. It is equally accountable for the use of public funds and to ensure that they are managed robustly. There are a wide range of unknown external factors that require to be balanced to deal	M	Yes

	of service delivery.	with the current operating environment. Regular reporting during the year provides an ongoing description of the position the Council is in and the situations it faces.		
Environment / Climate	Failure to take account of the long-term objectives in relation to our climate and the associated costs may lead to unexpected or unplanned expenditure.	The Council has put in place appropriate strategies to target the Net Zero objectives and continues to work on the long-term costs and affordability. The MTFS will continue to be updated to reflect the latest information.	M	Yes

8. OUTCOMES

COUNCIL DELIVERY PLAN 2025-26	
	Impact of Report
Aberdeen City Council Policy Statement **Working in Partnership for Aberdeen**	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.
Local Outcome Improvement Plan	
Prosperous Economy Stretch Outcomes	The Council continues to invest in front-line services across its statutory responsibilities as well as capital infrastructure. Investment in the city will have a positive impact on the economy.
Prosperous People Stretch Outcomes	Robust and effective management of the Council's finances will ensure that services can continue to be provided.
Prosperous Place Stretch Outcomes	Investment will enhance the place by creating a better and more vibrant city in which to live.
Community Empowerment Stretch Outcomes	The Council continues to engage with communities through the public consultation exercises for the budget process.

Regional and City Strategies	As one of the Council's main Strategies, this update ensures continued alignment and integration with Regional Strategies, City Strategies and Council Strategies.

9. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Assessment	Outcome
Integrated Impact Assessment	No assessment required. I confirm this has been discussed and agreed with Jonathan Belford, Chief Officer Finance on 29 September 2025.
Data Protection Impact Assessment	Not required.
Other	Not applicable

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

10.1 None

11. APPENDICES

11.1 Appendix 1 – Medium Term Financial Strategy for the Council's General Fund 2025

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MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY FOR THE COUNCIL'S GENERAL FUND, 2025

ABERDEEN
CITY COUNCIL

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A. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A.1 The Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) aligns with CIPFA's Financial Management Code, Prudential and Treasury Management Codes, LASAAC reserves guidance, and the Accounts Commission's latest expectations on transparency, transformation and public engagement.

Key Features

- The MTFS sets a five-year framework to maintain financial sustainability while supporting the Council Delivery Plan and LOIP priorities.
- Based on current assumptions, the indicative 2026/27 budget gap ranges from £13m (upside) to £48m (downside), with a central scenario broadly in line with last year's forecast.
- The strategy is built on strong foundations: (1) disciplined medium-term planning and "golden rules"; (2) targeted transformation and demand management; (3) risk-based reserves and strong capital/treasury discipline.
- Compliance: the MTFS is explicitly aligned to CIPFA's FM Code and Prudential/Treasury Management Codes.
- Reserves: the changing value of money over time concludes that a move should be made from a fixed cash minimum (£12m) to a risk-based range of, for example 2%–3% of General Fund Net Expenditure, with need for a plan to be put in place to replenish those reserves if drawn upon.
- Capital: confirm the existing cap on financing costs at 12% of General Fund Net Expenditure and introduce the liability benchmark to evidence long-term affordability.
- Governance: quarterly reporting to Finance & Resources Committee, including updates to prudential indicators, and introduce in-year triggers; regularly review the Budget Protocol as part of the Scheme of Governance and public engagement timetable.

Key Financial Figures at a Glance

Indicator	**Value/Range**
5-Year Funding Gap (Central)	£83 million
2026/27 Budget Gap (range)	£13m (Upside) – £18m (Central) – £48m (Downside)
2025/26 Government Grant	£506 million
2025/26 Council Tax Increase	9.85%
General Fund Usable Reserves	£93 million (31 Mar 2025)
Minimum Uncommitted Reserve	£12 million
Capital Programme (2025-2030)	£759 million, per Appendix 1
Capital Financing Requirement	£1,522 million (2025/26) £1,790 million (2029/30)
Capital Financing Cost	£63 million (2025/26) £78 million (2029/30)

B. Purpose, scope and "golden rules"

B.1 The MTFS is the financial expression of the Council Delivery Plan. It provides the link from outcomes to resources, sets the parameters for annual budgets and in-year decisions, and explains how risks will be managed. The scope covers the General Fund revenue budget, links to the Capital Strategy, Treasury Management Strategy and Reserves Policy, and interfaces with the Health & Social Care Integration Joint Board (IJB).

Golden Rules

- Financial sustainability over the medium term: annual budgets must be balanced without structural reliance on one-off reserves; any planned use of reserves must be accompanied by a replenishment plan over the MTFS horizon.
- Maintain minimum value of uncommitted reserves (£12m); plan to move to retaining uncommitted reserves within an approved target range, for example 2%-3% of General Fund Net Expenditure and review the range annually based on risks and inflation.
- Affordability of capital and borrowing: keep total General Fund capital financing costs at or below 12% of General Fund Net Expenditure; borrow only for service need; recognise that borrowing for investment or commercial yield is not permitted, nor is it permitted to fund revenue expenditure.
- Scenario-based planning: update a rolling five-year financial model at least annually, with upside/central/downside scenarios covering funding, demand, pay and prices.
- Value for money and prevention: plan and implement efficient and effective delivery of services; prioritise spending that prevents demand, protects the most vulnerable and demonstrably improves outcomes.
- Income discipline: exercise local fiscal levers annually (Council Tax, fees/charges) with a presumption of at least real-terms protection of the tax base, subject to equality and socio-economic impact assessment; explore new fiscal powers as and when possible.
- Transparency: publish clear, plain-English budget information, options, integrated impact assessments, with regular financial reporting throughout the year to track progress; maintain early close processes and audit of annual accounts.

C. External environment and funding context

C.1 The MTFS reflects: (a) the Accounts Commission's latest financial bulletins and 2025/26 council budgets briefing; (b) the Verity House Agreement and progress towards a fiscal framework with reduced ring-fencing; (c) CIPFA's FM and Prudential/Treasury Codes; (d) the Scottish Government's MTFS, July 2025 and (e) the Scottish Fiscal Commission's long-term fiscal sustainability analysis. Key implications are continued cost pressures, no headroom in the Scottish Budget, and the need to accelerate transformation and engagement with communities.

- Scottish Government funding outlook: core funding is expected to increase in cash terms to address the cost pressures identified by the Scottish Government in its MTFS, July 2025, but will be address real terms cost pressures over the medium term. Ring-fencing and directed spend continue to constrain local flexibility, though the Verity House Agreement aims to reduce this over time.

- Fiscal sustainability: the Scottish Fiscal Commission projects that, if services continue unchanged, devolved spending will exceed funding on average by c.1.6–1.7% p.a. over the long term, underscoring the need for change; managing demand in the medium to long term will be facilitated by focusing resources on prevention activities.

- Accounts Commission expectations: councils must consult clearly on budget impacts, be transparent about savings and reserves, and deliver transformation at pace while assessing impacts on vulnerable groups.

D. Financial outlook and scenarios

D.1 Assumptions will be refreshed through the budget setting process. Current Central Scenario assumptions are:

- Scottish Government grant: increase in cash for 2026/27 (1%) with limited cash growth; downside allows for distribution effects.

- Pay: 3.5% in 2026/27 then 2.0% p.a. (subject to national bargaining and funding).

- Prices: general 2–3% p.a.; utilities remain volatile; contracts indexed by formula.

- Demand: school roll and children's social care pressures to be monitored; adult social care pressure continues via the IJB.

- Council Tax: annual decisions must be taken by Council; planning assumption is a real-terms increase to protect the tax base, subject to impact assessment and consultation.

- Fees & charges: the Service Income Policy should be applied annually with a presumption of moving towards full cost recovery where appropriate and legally permissible.

D.2 On these assumptions the 2026/27 budget gap is currently estimated at £13m–£48m with a central estimate of £18m. An update, based on the Local Government Settlement for 2026/27 will be issued to Councillors in Quarter 4 ahead of the publication of papers for the Budget meeting on 4 March 2026.

E. Reserves policy (risk-based)

E.1 The Council currently maintains a risk based uncommitted reserve consistent with LASAAC/CIPFA guidance. The General Fund uncommitted reserve is currently a minimum value of £12m, to recognise the changing value of money / inflation the Council should plan to move this to a percentage based target range of, for example, 2%–3% of General Fund Net Expenditure. Earmarked reserves will be reviewed twice yearly to confirm purpose, use and adequacy, actioned through Budget setting and Annual Accounts. Any planned

drawdown from the Uncommitted Reserves must be accompanied by a replenishment plan within the MTFS horizon.

- Purpose of reserves: manage volatility, invest to save, absorb timing differences, and provide resilience to shocks.
- Governance: Chief Officer – Finance to certify adequacy annually (Budget setting) and report the need for any use of Uncommitted General Fund Reserves to Finance & Resources Committee; external audit scrutiny via annual accounts.

F. Capital, treasury and prudential framework

F.1 Capital plans will be affordable, prudent and sustainable. The MTFS integrates the Capital Strategy and Treasury Management Strategy, adopting the CIPFA Prudential Code (2021) and Treasury Management Code (2021). Key parameters are:

- Financing costs cap: retain 12% of General Fund Net Expenditure as a hard ceiling; any proposal breaching the cap requires explicit Council approval with mitigation.
- No debt-for-yield: borrowing primarily for commercial return is not permitted.
- Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) / loans fund repayments: maintain prudent, transparent policies aligned to asset lives and service benefit.
- Capital gateway and business cases: robust options appraisal (including do-minimum), whole-life costing, affordability, deliverability and benefits tracking.

G. Closing the gap: response plan 2026/27–2030/31

G.1 Responding to the financial pressures is a statutory responsibility, this is achieved through the approval of Council Tax and setting a balanced budget annually, backed up by in-year actions where and as appropriate. The Council will continue to balance the books through:

- Target Operating Model (TOM 1.2): deepen end-to-end redesign, automation and digital customer journeys; focus on prevention and demand management.
- Multi-agency transformation: align with Community Planning partners and the IJB to reduce avoidable demand and integrate delivery where it improves outcomes.
- Efficiency programme: recurring cash-releasing savings through procurement, contract management, process standardisation, spans-and-layers and asset rationalisation.
- Income measures: annual review of Council Tax and a structured fees/charges programme (cost recovery where viable), with equality and socio-economic impact assessments.
- One-offs and fiscal flexibilities: use only to invest-to-save or to bridge timing, with a clear payback and replenishment plan; avoid structural dependency.

H. Risk, assurance and equality

H.1 Financial risks can arise from almost anywhere, some of which will be within the Council's control, but many will not be influenced by the Council. The Council will continue to build financial planning taking account of where risks are known or there is evidence, while remain aware and prudent in the approach to funding and expenditure assumptions, including the risks affecting Arms Length External Organisations (ALEO).

H.2 Integrated Impact Assessments (IIA) and the Fairer Scotland Duty assessment will accompany budget options and be updated as proposals are refined.

I. Governance, monitoring and engagement

- Early close processes and procedures are in place for Council Annual Accounts and should be maintained to support good financial practice, London Stock Exchange listing and Credit Rating assessment.
- Quarterly reporting to committee: Quarterly financial performance reports to Finance & Resources Committee, including prudential indicators and contingent liabilities tracking.
- In-year trigger points: continue to monitor financial resilience framework metrics and develop trigger point, for example in respect of forecasts, reserves, debt, capital financing, capital programme.
- Public engagement: the Budget Protocol, as part of the Scheme of Governance, will be reviewed regularly and will drive public engagement across the city (strategic choices and detailed options); feedback will be prepared for the Council, and shared with Elected Members and Citizens through the Council Budget papers.

INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) is a 5 year plan which sets out our commitment to provide services that meet the needs of people locally and represents value for money. The MTFS is aligned to the Council Delivery Plan, which in turn aligns the Council's commitments to the vision and priorities of the Local Outcome Improvement Plan.

1.2 The Local Outcome Improvement Plan's (LOIP) vision is:

'A place where all people can prosper'

1.3 The Council, 24 August 2023 [CUS/22/171], agreed the Target Operation Model (TOM) 1.2 for 2022-27 to support the necessary scale of transformation to deliver the level of savings required over the next 5 years, as outlined in the Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS). The objectives of TOM 1.2 are:

1. Support the Council to address the 5-year funding gap of £134m as outlined in the [2023] MTFS.
2. Continue to exploit digital technologies within the Council's Digital Transformation agenda to enable services to adopt technology for various activities and processes, thus enabling the Council to fully leverage technologies to accelerate their processes.
3. Develop an organisational workforce that is flexible ensuring all staff have the necessary skills to work effectively within the Council's operating model. :

1.4 Our approach to achieving this is by organising ourselves for the future. The key strategic linkages to create a future environment for the way in which we will operate can be summarised in the following dimensions:

- The nature of our work (why we work) - we work to prevent our citizens from experiencing negative and harmful outcomes and increasingly will be providing less direct service delivery and focusing more on helping our citizens, families, and communities to be empowered to help themselves and each other.
- Building our 'Workforce' of the future (how we work and how we behave) - enabled by technology, the public sector and partner organisations have, and will increasingly make use of, more varied work arrangements, accessing more diverse pools of skills and capabilities, both inside, outside and across organisational boundaries. As a result of the next phase of our digital maturity journey, our staff will undertake less and less transactional work, thereby creating more capacity for our workforce to focus on building relationships with citizens and supporting community capacity building. We will work with a singular focus on outcomes, working as groups of staff to make our contribution to those outcomes. And as teams, we will enjoy increased empowerment and flexibility.
- Re-imagining our 'Workplace' of the future (where we work) - technology, and new models for employing talent, are starting to redefine the workplace and its organisational supports. These changes have and will continue to impact physical workspaces (including remote and hybrid work) along with policies that promote

employee well-being. We will no longer define our workplace by a defined building and instead will view our workplace as wherever we can best serve our citizens

1.5 The key objectives of the MTFS are as follows:

- To ensure that effective financial planning and management contributes to the Council achieving the priorities in the Council Delivery Plan;
- To frame and define the parameters for financial decisions to be taken;
- To direct resources to the Council's priorities to support the achievement of the Council Delivery Plan;
- To highlight and promote the maximisation of income to support the priorities of the council;
- To identify the context within which decisions about resource allocation will have to be made;
- To highlight the need to improve value for money - managing our resources as efficiently as possible; streamlining processes and systems; getting better value from commissioning and procurement; whilst seeking to minimise the impact of budget savings on priority services; and
- To ensure the Council's financial standing is understood and identify where action is needed to enhance financial resilience.

1.6 The merits of medium and long-term financial planning are well documented[1] and a key component of the council's strategic framework, building on the medium-term focus that has underpinned annual budget setting. The aim of a Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) is to pull together in one place the known factors affecting the financial position and financial sustainability of an organisation over the medium term.

1.7 Supporting financial planning relies on national and local data, from which assumptions emerge, that can be applied to a range of scenarios. Due to the nature of a local authority, it is not in control of all the determinants of its income and cost base, and crucially this includes the financial support provided from public funds. Many statutory services are provided free at the point of delivery / use and therefore the scale, scope and shape of services is substantially determined by how much subsidy (grant) is provided in total. Complexity multiplies as the statutory duties and commitments increase.

1.8 The ability of a local authority to develop medium and long-term financial planning is significantly influenced by the following factors:

- the ratio between locally and nationally determined levels of taxation and fees and charges and the prospects of this changing over time; and

[1] Example, CIPFAs Looking Forward – Medium Term Financial Strategies for the UK Public Sector, 2016

- whether government provides certainty regarding the level of government grant beyond the immediate next financial year.

1.9 Public finances have not been immune to the impact of global events over recent years, including the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, the economic repercussions of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the resulting surge in inflations levels, and the emergence of the cost of living crisis. The return of President Trump to the White House has generated further global economic shocks due to new tariff policies introduced by the United States. The combination of all of this means it is difficult to look ahead for what is needed now. While the long term impact of the health pandemic may now be better understood in relation to citizen, business and visitor behaviours, it can be said that the impact of dispersal, asylum and welcome schemes is increasing, and continues to be a dominant factor on the cost and demand placed on the Council. This is something that is not short term, and will have an impact for the foreseeable future.

1.10 Although inflation levels have now stabilised to more familiar levels in line with Bank of England targets, sensitivity to further economic shocks remains. This makes the task of medium and long-term financial planning even more challenging. The long-term impact of higher costs of pay and commodity prices now appears to be permanent change to the Council's baseline, meaning the Council has to deal with future cost pressures that are greater than previously modelled.

1.11 With borrowing by the UK Treasury at levels not seen for many decades both the UK and Scottish Government will be required to make political choices in terms of what is affordable in the short, medium and long term.

1.12 The latest UK Government Spending Review[2] was published in June 2025, just before the refreshed Scottish Government Medium Term Financial Strategy[3]. This was the first update of the Scottish Government's MTFS since 2023. Both updates include context for the next Scottish Budget, and the Scottish Parliament. The Scottish Government's refresh of its Programme for Governance, relating to its final year before the upcoming Holyrood elections in May 2026, had already been published in May 2025.[4] This updated the country following the last Resource Spending Review in 2022[5] for the current term of the Scottish Parliament, and confirmed priorities, commitments and actions for the year ahead. Further details are unlikely to be provided until the Scottish Budget, currently scheduled for 26 November 2025. It is

[2] UK Government Spending Review 2025

[3] Scotland's Fiscal Outlook – The Scottish Government's Medium Term Financial Strategy 2025

[4] Scottish Government Programme for Government 2025 to 2026

[5] Investing in Scotland's Future: Resource Spending Review, 31 May 2022

expected that details of the new Scottish Spending Review, covering indicative resource spending plans to 2028/29, will be published around the same time.

1.13 The UK Government's Spring 2024 Budget[6] was published in March 2024. The UK General Election in July 2024 returned Sir Kier Starmer and the Labour party to office, and was followed in October by the Autumn 2024 Budget: Fixing the Foundations to Deliver Change.[7]

1.14 This Budget was issued after a period of intense review of public spending by the new government, warnings that they had discovered a "black hole" in the public finances inherited from their predecessors, and that the budget was "going to be painful".[8]

1.15 The Budget promised to protect working people, however the national need for financial support to address the 'Cost of Living Crisis' remains. Where household incomes do not keep pace with the cost of living, it impacts people and businesses and the Council receives more demand as a result.

1.16 One of the changes announced in the Autumn budget was the change to Employer's National Insurance; the per-employee threshold was reduced from £9,100 to £5,000, and the rate increased to 15%. The impact of this change on the Council was additional pay costs of almost £7.4 million for the 2025/26 financial year, though this has not been fully matched by increases to the Council's funding.

1.17 The Council will recognise that with so much of its income outside of its control, the assumptions that underpin the MTFS cannot, by definition, be exact, they are subject to refinement and change over time. Therefore, a series of scenarios should be used to describe a range of income possibilities. This refresh of the MTFS focuses on the changes to a central scenario, while recognising upside and downside scenarios that have had to be revised to take account of the more extreme nature of the financial environment in which we operate. These scenarios are refreshed regularly as part of the budget setting and strategic planning processes.

1.18 The detail contained in this document reinforces the conclusion in the 2022 MTFS that the following principles are needed to guide our financial management approach, and there are additions given political developments in the last year.

1.18 Principles the council should follow for planning its income are:

1) Be prudent about the level of Scottish Government funding that will be provided in the local government settlement both in short, medium and long term.

[6] HM Treasury, Spring Budget 2024, March 2024

[7] HM Treasury, Autumn Budget 2024, October 2024

[8] BBC News

2) Be prudent in the financial assumption regarding the funding of national priorities and commitments, and be agile to changes that the New Deal with Local Government (the Verity House Agreement[9]) may present – "From this point onwards, the default position will be no ring-fencing or direction of funding."

3) Be aware of the potential threat of funding being removed if national priorities are not met.

4) Exercise the discretion it has over local taxation and increase the Band D charge for Council Tax annually to support future budgets.

5) Account for any income source that is non-specific as a corporate resource to support the whole revenue budget.

6) Identify and track funding streams being directed from UK Government such as the Levelling Up and Shared Prosperity Funds so that the Council can be pro-active in applying for funding that becomes available to support local outcomes.

7) Apply its Service Income Policy to support the effective and sustainable delivery of services where charges can be applied and exercise that discretion annually and collect the income that is rightfully owed.

8) Identify and evaluate emerging discretionary powers on a regular basis to determine their applicability to Aberdeen City, ensuring that decisions are taken in a timely manner to ensure maximum benefit is achieved.

9) Be aware in respect of the financial risks to the council from global events such as the Russian invasion of Ukraine, resettlement and dispersal schemes and the funding that may or may not accompany them.

10) Apply its approved Reserves Policy, retaining recommended uncommitted General Fund Reserves and thereby avoiding the use of one-off income streams for recurring costs.

1.19 Principles the council should follow for planning its expenditure are:

1) Scenarios are developed and the Chief Officer – Finance will, in conjunction with the Extended Corporate Management Team (ECMT), establish appropriate financial assumptions to apply.

2) Recognise that there should be a deliberate shift of resources towards prevention and early intervention actions, which is in line with the three tier intervention framework[10].

3) Develop its approach to strategic resource allocation to further shape where and how resources are deployed, noting the potential reduction in ring-fencing and

[9] New Deal with Local Government, June 2023, Verity House Agreement

[10] Aberdeen City Council, March 2023, Prevention & Early Intervention (CUS/23/064)

direction through the Verity House Agreement. Through this approach we will attain greater understanding of how resources align to outcomes and the related impact and consequences of our decisions.

4) Local constraints should be minimised wherever possible to provide as much flexibility to achieve resource shift and deliver savings.

5) Align commissioning intentions, service standards and budget allocations thereby ensuring council focuses on the very highest of priorities and on the most important outcomes.

6) Decommission services and/or reduce service standards where funding levels cannot sustain existing commissioning intentions and service standards.

7) Increase the scale of service redesign to address the emerging financial scenarios.

8) Recognise and act on the reality that financial challenges of the scale reported are not deliverable from small service budgets, and all have to contribute to achieving balance budgets and ensuring financial sustainability is to be addressed.

9) Annual efficiencies from all operations must be delivered.

10) Financial Resilience Framework data must be considered as part of decision making, including reference to the Risk Appetite Statement.

11) Capital investment revenue implications must be incorporated into financial scenario plans, both from ongoing operational delivery and capital financing perspectives.

1.20 Principles the council should follow for planning its capital investment are:

1) Capital investment must be prudent, affordable and sustainable, as defined by the Prudential Code.

2) The business case methodology must be used to document capital investment opportunities.

3) Revenue implications of capital investment opportunities must be identified and agreed with the Chief Officer – Finance to incorporate into the council's financial scenario planning.

4) Financial Resilience Framework data must be considered as part of decision making, including reference to the Risk Appetite Statement.

5) Identify and pursue external funding opportunities to support approved capital investment and council priorities.

6) Give priority to the projects that will deliver the greatest return, and this can be measured both financially and socially.

7) Develop a resilience to the current operating environment (e.g. supply chain, inflation, pandemic) and incorporate a contingency into the Capital Programme.

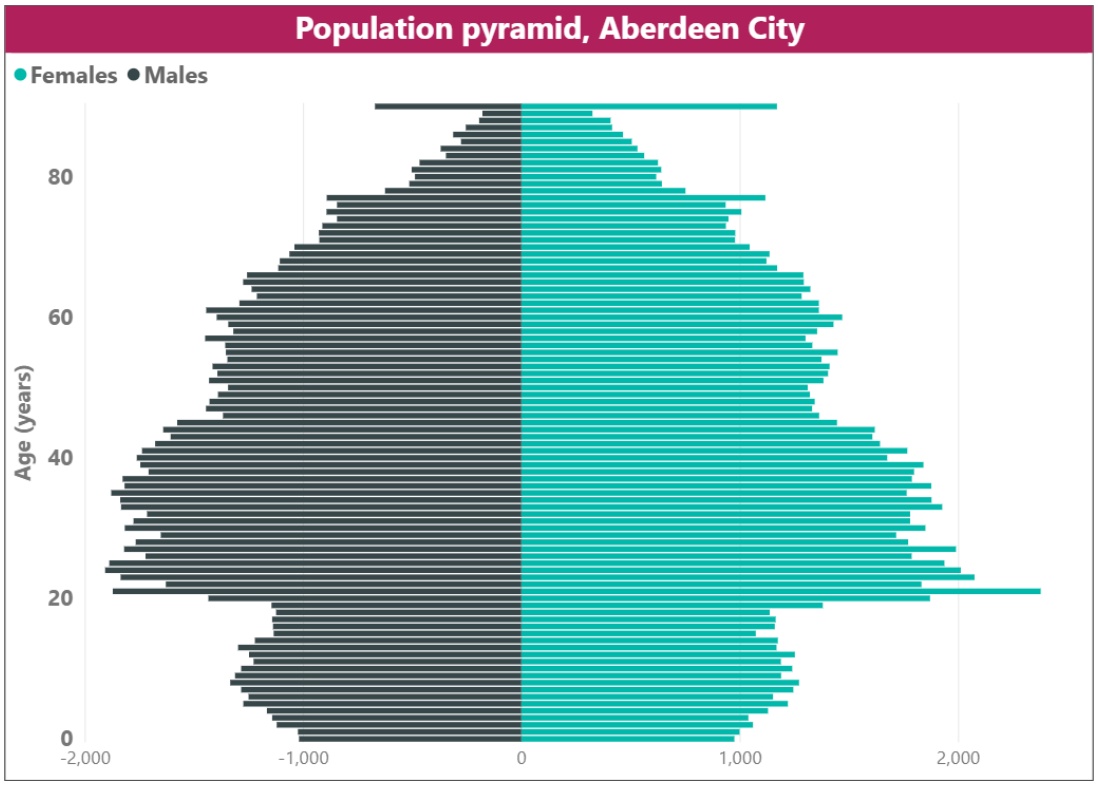
8) Consider and document the financial, legal and reputation implications of proposing to withdraw from legally or partially committed capital projects.

1.21 Aberdeen - Background and Context

1.21.1 Some of the financial challenges affecting the financial sustainability of all local authorities is the pressure from demographic change and corresponding rising demand. The following section highlights some of the main sources of demand and projected future pressures.

1.21.2 Population – Since the previous Medium Term Financial Plan the estimated population figures for 2024 have been released by National Records of Scotland. These show that the Aberdeen's population was at a historical high of 231,780. This is an increase of 2,420 on the previous year.

1.21.3 Almost all of the annual movement in population was from migration. Indeed, natural change (i.e. births minus deaths) should a net reduction of 262. It is very likely that this pattern will be reflected in future years given the falling trend in births over the last decade. The age structure of the City's population is shown below.

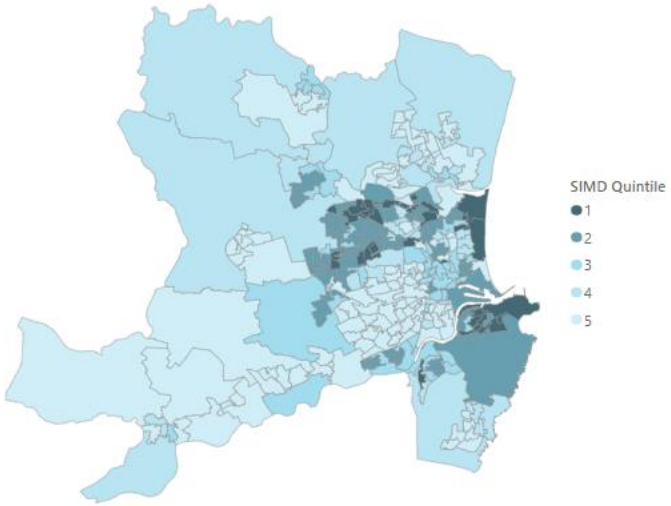


1.21.4 Housing – In 2024, there were 125,828 dwellings in Aberdeen (this number has increased every year for, at least, 16 years) and 111,024 households in 2023 – an

increase of 1,304 (1.2%) on the number of dwellings in 2021. Whilst there is a considerable demand for housing in Aberdeen, in 2024, the average purchase price for a residential property in Aberdeen City was £181,008 up from £178,726 in 2023, but still considerably lower than the 2015 peak of £220,665. The number of properties sold in 2024 increased from 4,132 in 2023 to 4,461 in 2024. In 2024, the average monthly rent in Aberdeen City and Shire (Broad Rental Market Area) was £560 for a one-bedroomed property, £766 for a 2-bedroomed property, £1,067 for a 3-bedroomed property and £1,619 for a 4-bedroomed property. This represents increases of between 4 and 8% compared to the average rents in 2023. Rents for all property types are lower than pre-2015 levels.

1.21.5 Deprivation - Within Aberdeen there are areas of significant deprivation and inequality. Aberdeen continues to have deprivation 'hot spots' that are amongst some of the most deprived areas in the country and these can lie adjacent to some of the least deprived areas. In Aberdeen, 29 areas are among the 20% most deprived in Scotland in 2020, 7 more than in 2016. Highest levels of deprivation are recorded for crime, housing and education domains. Whilst deprivation is a key driver of demand, it has, proportionately, a smaller impact on funding allocated to the council. Refreshed SIMD data will be available in 2026.

Areas of Multiple Deprivation 2020

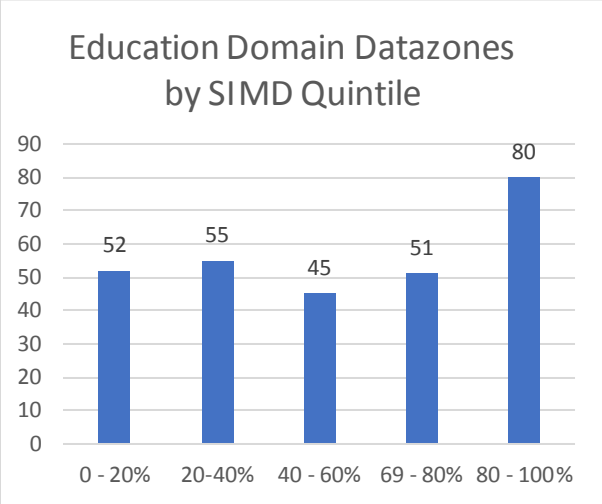


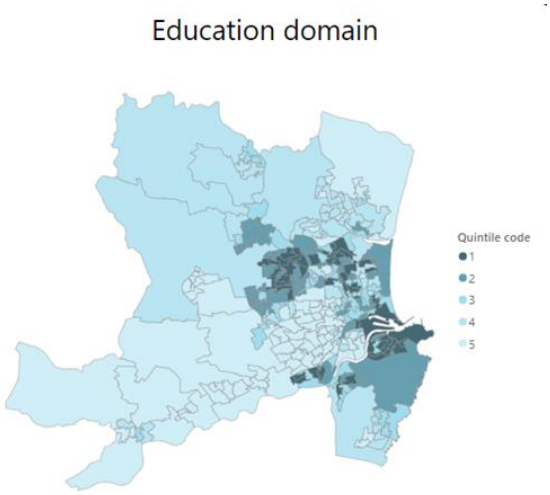
1.21.6 Education - Significant investment has been made, and continues to be made, to modernise the city's school buildings. In line with fluctuating population projections and the potential increase in digital methods of learning, the school estate will continue to be reviewed to ensure it matches future levels and nature of demand. Education is the single largest area of spend for the Council and most funding received is based on the population however due to the 'floor' mechanism in the distribution formula there is never a point at which funding 'catches up' with population increases.

1.21.7 There has been a considerable rise in demand for education and children's services in recent years. In 2024/25 there were 14,968 primary school pupils, compared to 15,135

in 2022/23 and 11,209 secondary pupils, compared to 10,897 in 2022/23. There were also 128 pupils enrolled in Special Schools. 751 pupils were either declared or assessed disabled. More than 4,000 pupils had an additional support need as a result of "English as an Additional Language".

1.21.8 There is significant variation in educational outcomes across different areas in Aberdeen with 52 datazones being classed within the 20% most deprived in Scotland for the education domain of the Scottish Indices of Multiple Deprivation in 2020.





1.21.9 Children's Services - Aberdeen has around 450 children who are "looked after" by the authority (LAC). This is, proportionately lower than the national average. A higher rate of the city's LAC are placed either with foster carers or in residential accommodation. The city is largely consistent with the national average of children on the child protection register (2020 comparisons).

1.21.10 The implementation of the National Transfer Scheme has seen an increase in the diversity of our children and young people with care experience. As a result, some unaccompanied minors require to be placed into our local residential children's homes given their age and stage. As would be anticipated, there is a level of need apparent in those seeking sanctuary in the city. It is exceptionally difficult to predict ongoing demand with any certainty.

1.21.11 The Public Health restrictions of the last few years, downturn in the local economy and increased costs being experienced by families, is impacting on the needs of children and families. There is a notable rise in vulnerability and need and this is increasing demand for more specialist services.

1.21.12 Employment - The labour market in Aberdeen City shows gradual improvement with the latest employment rate (16–64) of 75.4% and economic inactivity of 22.1% leading into 2025. The rate of employment in Aberdeen is higher than the Scottish average and the same rate as in the UK. Although it has been fluctuating over the last year. Among those inactive, students remain the largest

group (~41%), while long-term sick has risen to ~21%, reinforcing the ongoing health-related drag on labour supply even as overall inactivity edges down.

1.21.13 The Claimant Count (people claiming unemployment-related benefits) has plateaued at a low single-digit rate locally and remains above pre-covid levels. The latest releases of August 2025 show Aberdeen City's claimant count rate around 3.5% of the 16–64 population which is slightly higher than in Scotland (3.1%) but lower than the UK average of 4%. The claimant count rate has been rising since October 2024 (3.1%) having previously fallen from a peak of 6.2% in March 2021.

1.22 Increased financial risk and sensitivity – The lasting impact of Covid-19

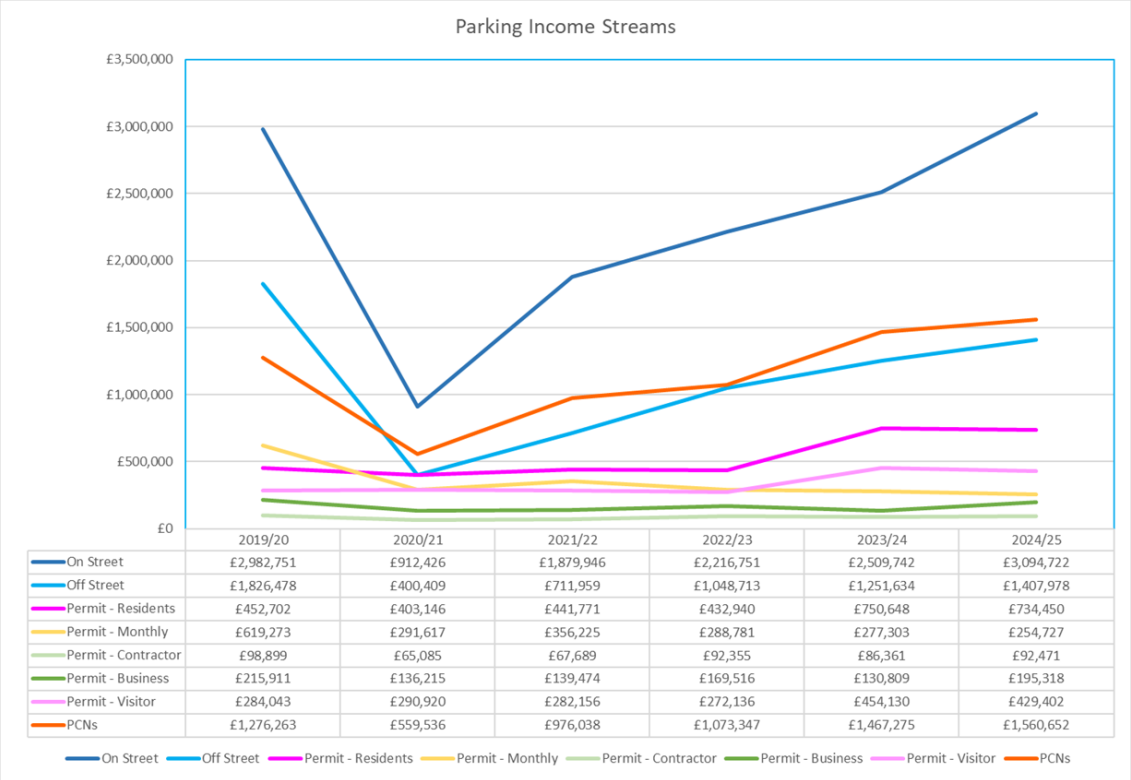
1.22.1 It has now been 5 years since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic, and more than 3 years since the UK started to recover and respond. These impacts are now embedded in our day-to-day and are the "new normal".

1.22.2 The UK, like many other countries, have spoken about "living with the virus" and wound down many of the tests and social mixing rules and Dr Mike Ryan, from the WHO's health emergencies programme, said the emergency may have ended, but the threat is still there. "We fully expect that this virus will continue to transmit and this is the history of pandemics" and "In most cases, pandemics truly end when the next pandemic begins."[11]

1.22.3 The financial settlement for Scottish Local Government now contains no additional funding for Covid-19 related pressures, with Councils relying on reducing funds retained on the balance sheet at 31 March 2025 to provide resilience into and beyond 2024/25.

1.22.4 Recent analysis of parking income indicates a return to pre-pandemic income levels, though the structure of supporting charges has changed substantially over the last 5 years, as illustrated in the following chart:

[11] BBC News, May 2023, Covid global health emergency is over, WHO says



	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
On Street	£2,982,751	£912,426	£1,879,946	£2,216,751	£2,509,742	£3,094,722
Off Street	£1,826,478	£400,409	£711,959	£1,048,713	£1,251,634	£1,407,978
Permit - Residents	£452,702	£403,146	£441,771	£432,940	£750,648	£734,450
Permit - Monthly	£619,273	£291,617	£356,225	£288,781	£277,303	£254,727
Permit - Contractor	£98,899	£65,085	£67,689	£92,355	£86,361	£92,471
Permit - Business	£215,911	£136,215	£139,474	£169,516	£130,809	£195,318
Permit - Visitor	£284,043	£290,920	£282,156	£272,136	£454,130	£429,402
PCNs	£1,276,263	£559,536	£976,038	£1,073,347	£1,467,275	£1,560,652

1.23 Increased financial risk and sensitivity – Poverty and cost of living crisis

1.23.1 The Scottish Government published its analysis of the Cost of Living Crisis in February 2025[12] and highlighted "The cost of living crisis is likely to have increased the demand for public and third sector services at the same time as increasing the cost of delivering services."

1.23.2 Examples of what it really means for those in poverty was provided in the report "Women, disabled people, ethnic minorities, rural households, larger households, young people, students and carers, lone parents and single person households, households in receipt of income-related benefits, people narrowly ineligible for benefits, and people with no recourse to public funds were particularly adversely affected. Some households will have a number of these intersectional characteristics, potentially compounding disadvantage".

1.23.3 The report highlights that despite Government interventions, the long term impact of inflationary factors are now "locked in" meaning continued pressures on more financially vulnerable groups from continued price increases on food an energy. "The longer term effects of the cost of living crisis continue to present serious economic and social challenges for Scotland, and the crisis may negatively affect people's health, wellbeing and future resilience for years to come."

[12] Scottish Government, Understanding the Cost of Living Crisis in Scotland, February 2025

1.23.4 The type of pressure being felt in Aberdeen City is was outlined in the recent report from the Centre for Progressive Policy[13], where the comparison across all Local Authorities can been seen.

Heatmap of Vulnerability indicators for Scottish Local Authorities:

Local Authority	Fuel Poverty	Food Insecurity	Child Poverty	Claimant Count	Low Pay	Economic Inactivity	Housing Costs
Aberdeen City	26.1%	7.6%	20.5%	2.5%	9.9%	24.9%	23.8%

Fuel Poverty	The % of households spending more than 10% of income on fuel costs and if the remaining household income is insufficient to maintain an adequate standard of living
Food Insecurity	The % of households within a local authority experiencing struggle with food insecurity
Child Poverty	The % of children who are living in households with below 60% median income after housing costs
Claimant Count	The % of the local population claiming unemployment-related benefits
Low Pay	The % of jobs that pay at least two-thirds below the UK median gross hourly pay by local authority
Economic Inactivity	The % of the working age population who are not in employment and not actively seeking employment
Housing Costs	The % of monthly take home pay required for someone earning the median in a local authority, to rent a median 1-bed property in the local authority area

1.23.5 The Council remains aware of the financial risks from its arm's length external organisations (ALEOs), reliant on large income streams from our citizens and visitors. And although all have remained self-sufficient throughout the challenges of the pandemic, the cost of living crisis and inflation/energy cost environment make trading conditions more and more difficult. The potential to require funding from the Council in economic shock situations remains a risk that cannot be fully mitigated.

1.24 Increased financial risk and sensitivity – Inflation and supply chain volatility

1.24.1 A combination of factors including ongoing market impacts from the pandemic, the UK's exit from the European Union and the invasion of Ukraine affecting access to supply markets in Russia, Ukraine and surrounding area, led to a massive rise in inflation during 2023 and a cycle of market and price volatility and shortages across many commodities. Although recent figures from the Bank of England are indicating inflation has returned to pre-Russian invasion levels, the negative impacts on the delivery of capital projects, on budgets (General Fund and HRA), and on revenue expenditure in the delivery of services and procurement processes carried out for affected commodities have become the "new normal".

1.24.2 According to the Bank of England[14], "Higher energy prices are one of the main reasons for this [inflation being higher than target]. Russia's invasion of Ukraine led to large increases in the price of gas. Households' energy costs have almost doubled since the start of last year [2022]. Higher prices for the goods we buy from abroad have also played a big role. During the Covid pandemic people started to buy more goods. But the people selling these have had problems getting enough of them to sell to customers. That led to higher prices – particularly for goods imported from abroad."

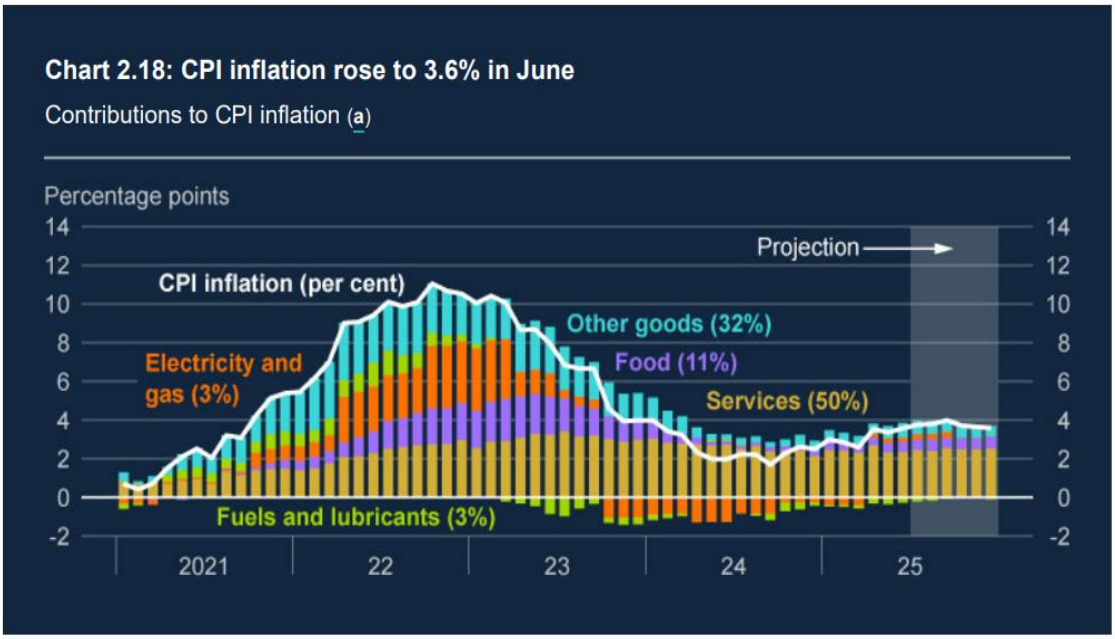
[13] Centre for Progressive Policy, July 2023, The cost of living crisis across the devolved nations

[14] Bank of England, May 2023, Monetary Policy Report

1.24.3 But is not just from products coming into the country, "There is also pressure on prices from developments at home. Businesses are charging more for their products because of the higher costs they face. There are lots of job vacancies as fewer people are seeking work following the pandemic. That means that employers are having to offer higher wages to attract job applicants. Prices for services have risen markedly."

1.24.4 This has now been present in our economy for the last 3 years and the impact on people and household budgets is significant. For the Bank of England "As a result, the UK economy is growing slowly."

Chart 1: Contributions to CPI Inflation, Bank of England, August 2025



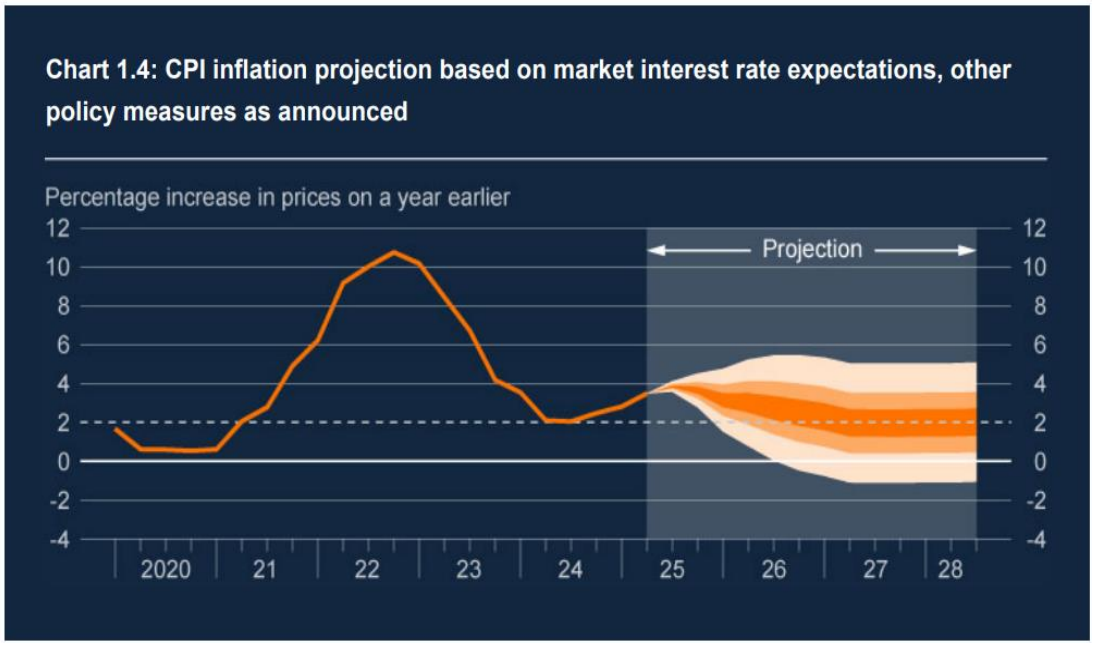
Sources: Bloomberg Finance L.P., Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, ONS and Bank calculations.

(a) Figures in parentheses are CPI basket weights in 2025, which do not sum to 100% due to rounding. Data are shown to June 2025. Component-level Bank staff projections are shown from July to December 2025. The food component is defined as food and non-alcoholic beverages. Fuels and lubricants estimates use Department for Energy Security and Net Zero petrol price data for July 2025 and are then projected based on the sterling oil futures curve.

1.24.5 That forty-year high inflation across many parts of the world, including the UK, is presenting a significant challenge for organisations. The Monetary Policy Report[15] published by the Bank of England in August 2025 estimates that inflation peaked around the end of 2022 but only fell slowly through 2023 and into 2024. There were signs of a slight increase in inflation over the summer of 2025 before returning to the expected long slow decline in inflation now forecast out to 2028:

Chart 2: Inflation (CPI) Forecasts, Bank of England, August 2025

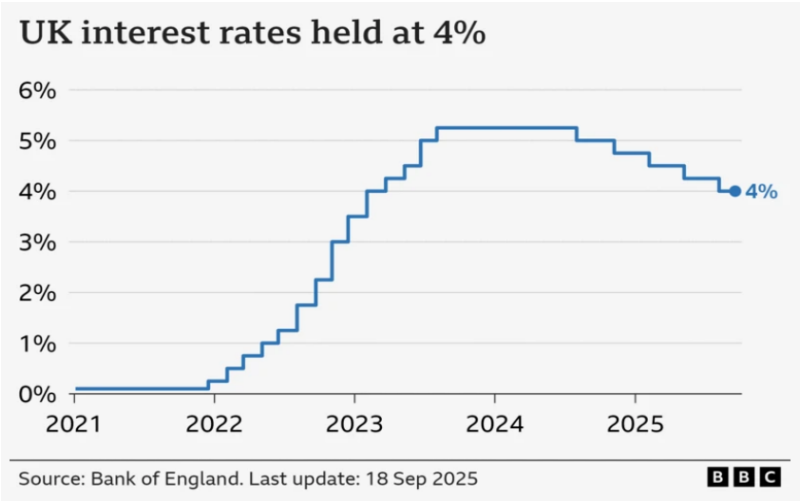
[15] Bank of England Monetary Policy Report August 2025



1.24.6 Lower inflation means that prices will stop increasing as quickly as they were. The Bank of England are clear "Our aim is to bring back low and stable inflation. Low and stable inflation is vital for a healthy economy. An economy in which households and businesses can plan for the future with confidence and money holds its value."[16]

1.24.7 As a result of the new inflation figures, in August 2024 the bank of England cut interest rates for the first time since August 2020, moving from 5.25% to 5%. Further interest cuts have followed, with the latest move from 4.25% to 4% in August 2025.

Chart 3: Bank of England Base Rates (%), September 2025



1.24.8 In pursuit of the low inflation goal the Bank of England acknowledge that they "…know that means that many people will face higher borrowing costs. Around one in three households in the UK have a mortgage. But high inflation that lasts for a long time makes things worse for everyone."

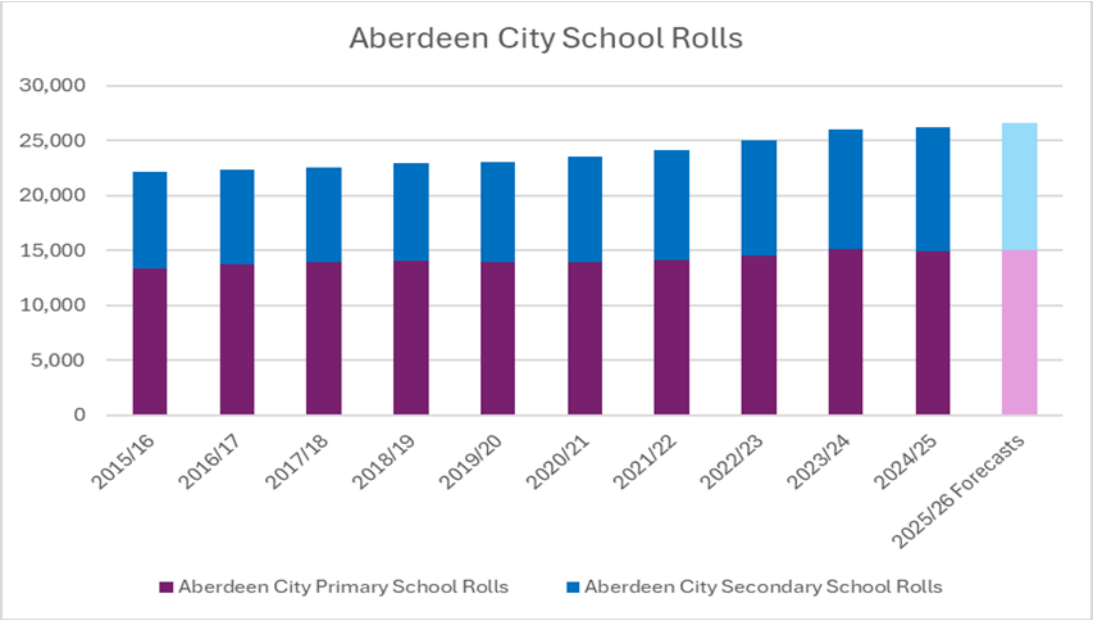
[16] Bank of England, May 2023, Monetary Policy Report

1.24.9 "Higher interest rates make it more expensive for people to borrow money and encourage them to save. That means that, overall, they will tend to spend less. If people on the whole spend less on goods and services, prices will tend to rise more slowly. That lowers the rate of inflation."

1.24.10 For the Council, it must consume many of the same goods and services that we all purchase, from ingredients for school meals, to fuel for our vehicles and buildings, these cost increases have not been reflected in the funding received in the past two years and therefore present an ongoing and material financial risk to the Council. To delivery our services there must be the funding in place to pay for the components – our staff, the buildings they work in and machinery and equipment they use and the goods and services that purchase.

1.25 Increased financial risk and sensitivity – External demand from population changes

1.25.1 There has been a considerable rise in demand for education and children's services. The rise in school roll since 2019 can largely be attributed to the steep rise in international students attending Higher Education Institutions, around 2,500 dependants of international students were enrolled in our schools for the first time over school session 2022/23. Although the option for students to bring dependents into the UK was significantly restricted at the beginning of 2024[17], it did not directly reduce the numbers already here.



1.25.2 There is also a notable decrease in the number of children transitioning into private education and increasing evidence of families returning to Local Authority schools.

[17] Tough government action on student visas comes into effect - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

Notionally that constitutes a £14m cost to the Council, with the real day to day cost of increased numbers of teachers, pupil support workers and teaching spaces in use, being managed school by school taking on the additional variable costs as they arise.

1.25.3 As noted in 1.21.10, the implementation of the National Transfer Scheme has seen an increase in the diversity of our children and young people with care experience. As a result, greater pressure is being placed on local resources resulting in the need for continued use of external and out of authority placements. Monitoring and assessing the young people, to determine the level of support required, places considerable pressure on children's social work services.

1.26 Increased financial risk and sensitivity – Council resilience

1.26.1 To counteract some of the risk, mitigation in place includes retaining funding provided in previous years that the Council has been able to avoid spending. This remains available as earmarked reserves on the Council Balance sheet at the end of March 2025.

1.26.2 The Scottish Government has approved a few fiscal flexibilities in recent years, and these have been in place to provide a degree of support to the Council. The Council used the deferral of debt in order to balance the budget in 2022/23 and approved the use of the service concession flexibility as part of the 2023/24 budget. There are no further flexibilities that the Council can turn to.

1.26.3 The Council's approved Reserves Policy confirms a commitment to retaining a minimum of £12m of uncommitted General Fund reserves to rely on in an emergency. As at 31 March 2025 that commitment was met, with £12.153m held in the General Fund Reserve. Given current economic conditions outlined, increasing the uncommitted reserve would be prudent.

1.27 Increased financial risk and sensitivity – Scottish Government Grant Conditions

1.27.1 The unexpected introduction of Fair Work First conditions into Scottish Government grants from July 2023, and the "flowing down" of those conditions to Scottish Government agencies and bodies, created complex new grant compliance procedures in 2023/24. These have been replicated in 2024/25 and 2025/26, with the Council now having to demonstrate its compliance with fair Work First conditions on an annual basis. As a result, the Council's Craft Apprentice grades were reviewed in early 2025 and brought into line with Living Wage hourly rates, though the Council had to absorb this increase in the cost of its staff base. It is the understanding of officers that the Scottish Government will expect this review of Fair Work First to be carried out at least annually in future.

1.27.2 These new grant conditions arrived the year after the Scottish Government introduced a link between funding and Local Government being able to maintain teacher and pupil support assistant numbers, and highlights the challenges in being able to keep grant funding flowing, whilst attempting to manage savings that do not conflict with Scottish Government direction, and having to sustain Health and Social Care Partnership Integration Joint Board funding.

1.27.3 The Verity House Agreement, signed in June 2023, between Scottish Government and Local Government under the New Deal for Local Government was supposed to introduce more flexibility for Local Government to apply its funding to the services it chooses to. Within the first year of the agreement the then First Minister announced a freeze on Council Tax for 2024/25, and with it neutralised Local Government's ability to apply its key fiscal power, at the same time undermining the principles on which the Agreement was based. Although this decision was not repeated for 2025/26, to work in an environment where there is the threat of funding or powers being removed is not one that underpins positive working relationships nor delivers sustainable services or Local Government.

1.28 Conclusion

1.28.1 The council's operating environment remains extremely complex and multi-dimensional. The level of difficulty to manage current services with the constraints and financial pressures placed on the organisation is increasing.

1.28.2 A New Deal for Local Government was to be the springboard to improved relationships and also to improve the understanding of how our national and local outcomes are actually achieved over the medium and long term. At present however there are many risks hanging over the Council and not all of these can be addressed at a local level.

1.28.3 Demand and cost pressures arising from the financial environment are continuing and for the sustainability of the Council, we must find the balance between the limited funding that can subsidise our services and the level of services that we are able to provide. At a time of a cost of living crisis it is extremely difficult to find the right balance between finding savings and raising prices for our citizens and customers, those are the difficult decisions that Councillors must take, when there is increasing expectation of high ambition for improvement. This places pressure on the resourcing of all elements of council activity to the desired level and tension between where funds are deployed for best value.

1.28.4 Despite some funding from Scottish Government, to support pay awards since 2022/23, there is no recurring additional funding to support the legacy of the pandemic, nor additional funding to support our core services going forward. The Council is receiving one off funding for resettlement and asylum schemes which helps

with the immediate need however the demand is not reducing and not expected to soon, so funding is squeezed further as we look forward over the medium term.

1.28.5 Drawing on the detail in Section 3, following the Scottish Government's Resource Spending Review, published in May 2022, and nothing contrary included in the most recent Scottish Government MTFS, June 2025, the council must address the cost pressures it faces with a funding scenario that will offer no better than 'flat cash' for the foreseeable future. The potential of a 1% increase in cash in 2026/27 is still in question given the forecasts and funding shortfalls that the Scottish Government has identified in its MTFS, and further detail is unlikely before the Scottish Budget and updated Resource Spending Review due in January 2026. On an annual basis the Scottish Budget and associated Local Government Settlement will next confirm the full extent of the funding package for Local Government for 2026/27, and it is not expected that a multi-year settlement will be provided.

1.28.6 Council Tax remains the highest value financial lever that the council has, exercising an increase in the rate annually provides opportunity to increase income of a recurring nature although economic growth will have an impact on the value of uncollected sums and the overall rate of change in the number of chargeable properties.

1.28.7 Fees and charges (internal and external) should be expected to remain a positive contributor to the council although the impact of behaviour changes in our customers since the pandemic and also the cost of living crisis is certainly being felt in the current year and we should not be surprised by further shocks or unplanned changes to our income going forward.

1.28.8 Balancing the budget and MTFS using the mechanisms described in Section 5 will mean that proposals for a 2026/27 budget [and indicative budgets for the four subsequent years] will be submitted to council's budget meeting in March 2026. This will follow the public consultation on the various options that the Council has to balance budgets across the next four years. The feedback from the consultation exercise will be reported to Council in early 2026.

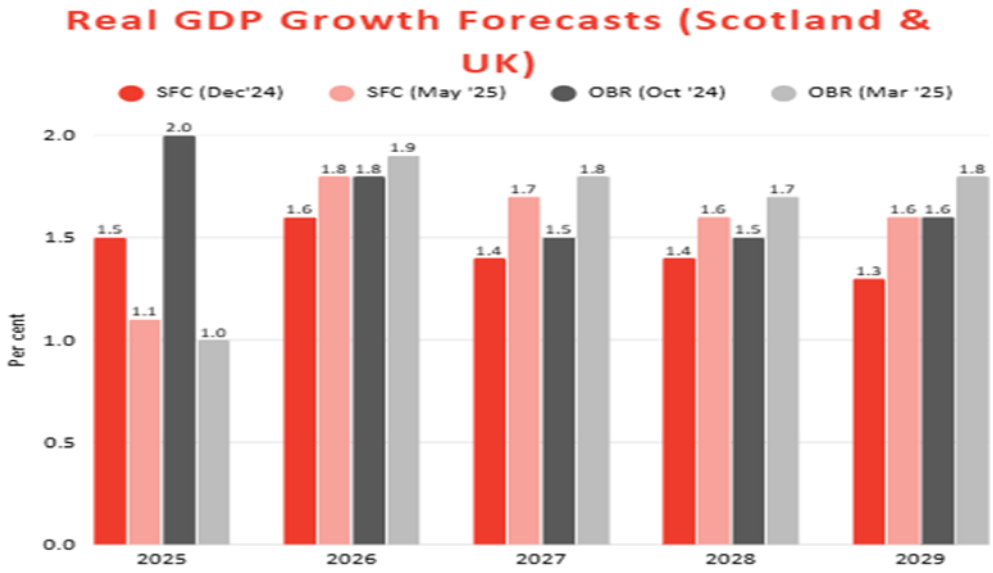
2. THE FUNDING CONTEXT BEYOND 2025/26

2.1 *Economic Outlook*

2.1.1 The UK economy continues to navigate a period of subdued growth, persistent inflation, and heightened trade uncertainty, with both households and businesses feeling the effects of elevated costs and cautious consumer sentiment. Recent official releases point to modest UK growth, with a mixed sectoral picture. Independent forecasts expect UK GDP growth of 1.2% in 2025 and 1.1% in 2026, indicating a slowing growth environment over the near term[18].

2.1.2 Inflation remains the dominant macro driver. Recent UK and Scotland analyses highlight that headline CPI moved higher through mid-2025, and that central-bank policy is likely to stay restrictive until there is firmer evidence of a sustained disinflation path. Survey evidence from Fraser of Allander, report softer business activity, pressure on operating costs, and greater uncertainty, with near-term growth expectations revised down, with Fraser of Allander now predicting slower growth for Scotland than in the UK at 0.8% for 2025 and 1.0% for 2026[19]. While energy-related pressures have moderated from prior peaks, core cost drivers (including housing-related and certain service costs) continue to influence near-term inflation, and policy guidance indicates any future easing will be gradual and data-dependent[20].

Chart 4, SFC = Scottish Fiscal Commission (Scotland) and Office for Budget Responsibility (UK)



[18] OECD, April 2025, Labour and Employment
[19] Fraser of Allander Q2 2025, Economic Commentary
[20] Bank of England Monetary Policy Report August 2025

2.1.3 This combination, subdued growth, inflation still elevated above target in the near term, and restrictive financial conditions, implies persistent budget pressures across pay, utilities, index-linked contracts and demand-driven services. Programme and investment choices should continue to align with central funding frameworks (e.g., UKSPF themes and sub-themes) to maximise eligibility and outcome tracking.

2.1.4 Global conditions remain a headwind. The after-effects of the energy-price shock and wider trade uncertainties continue to filter through costs and investment decisions, with Fraser of Allander noting weaker momentum in production sectors and elevated input costs[21].

2.1.5 Independent forecasts point to only modest real income gains over the near term, consistent with subdued growth and still-elevated inflation. This implies ongoing affordability pressures for households and a cautious consumer backdrop[22].

2.1.6 Underlying activity is expected to improve only gradually as tighter financial conditions ease and confidence stabilises. Central Bank of England projections emphasise muted near-term GDP growth, with a slow recovery thereafter as previous rate increases continue to pass through. Household spending is expected to lift softly, helped by stabilising real incomes[23].

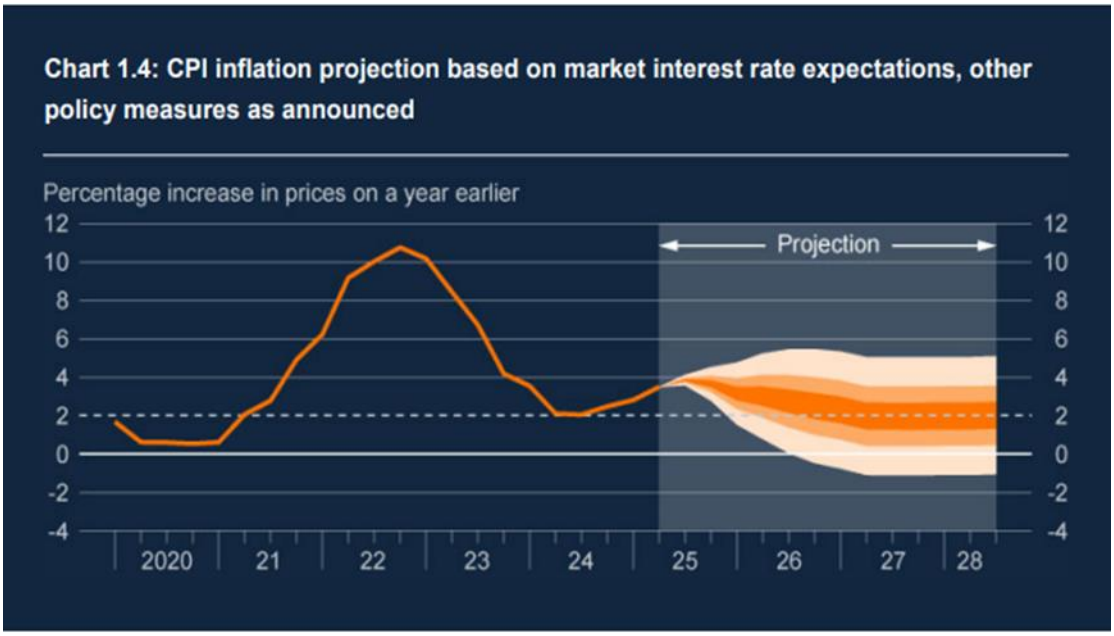
Chart 5, Bank of England, Growth Projections



[21] Fraser of Allander Q2 2025, Economic Commentary
[22] HM Treasury, Sep 2025, Forecasts for the UK economy
[23] Bank of England Monetary Policy Report August 2025

2.1.7 CPI inflation is expected to remain above target in the near term, reflecting regulated price resets and underlying domestic cost pressures, before easing back as slack builds and prior tightening feeds through[24].

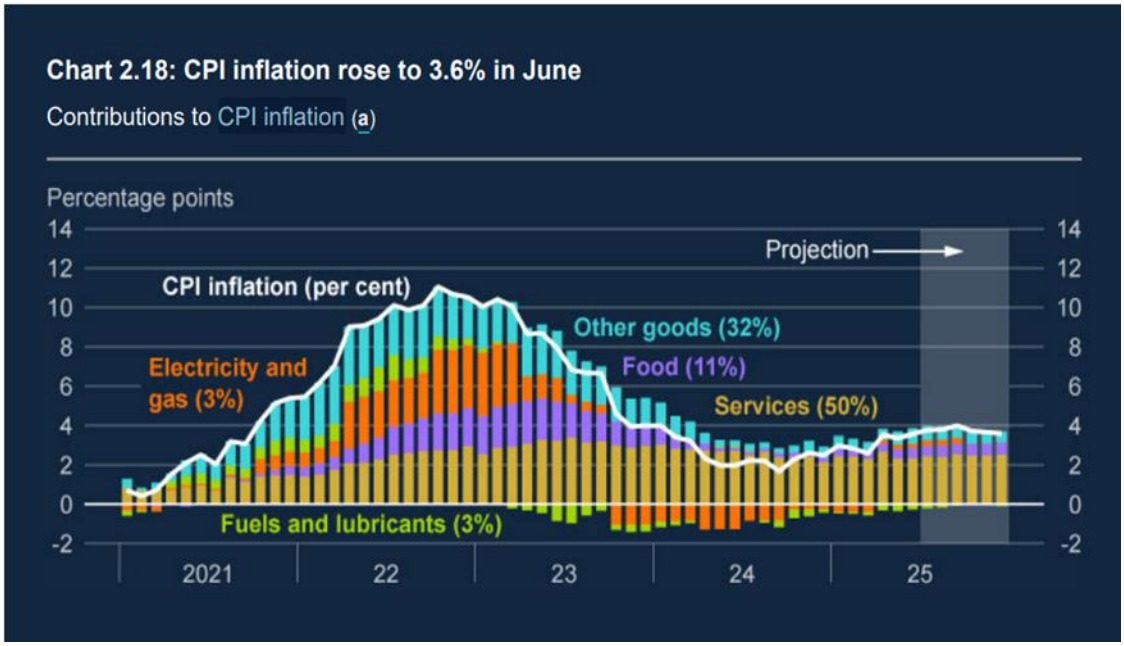
Chart 6, Bank of England, CPI Inflation Projections



2.1.8 The balance of pressures has shifted from energy and goods towards domestically driven services, with components such as housing-related costs and certain service categories remaining sticky; this helps explain why headline inflation can ease only gradually from here[25].

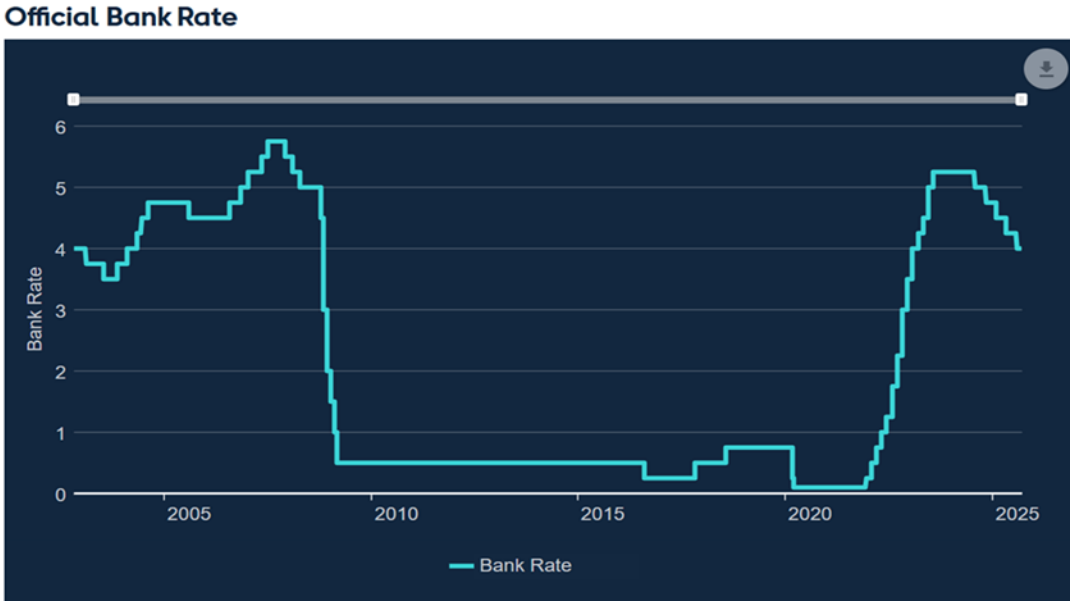
[24] Bank of England Monetary Policy Report August 2025
[25] Bank of England Monetary Policy Report August 2025

Chart 7, Bank of England, Inflation Tracker



2.1.9 Monetary policy is expected to remain restrictive until there is clearer evidence that inflation is returning to target on a sustained basis. Forward guidance points to gradual, data-dependent adjustments from here, with the transmission to credit conditions, housing and investment continuing to be the main channel through which inflation slows[26].

Chart 8 Bank of England , Bank rate

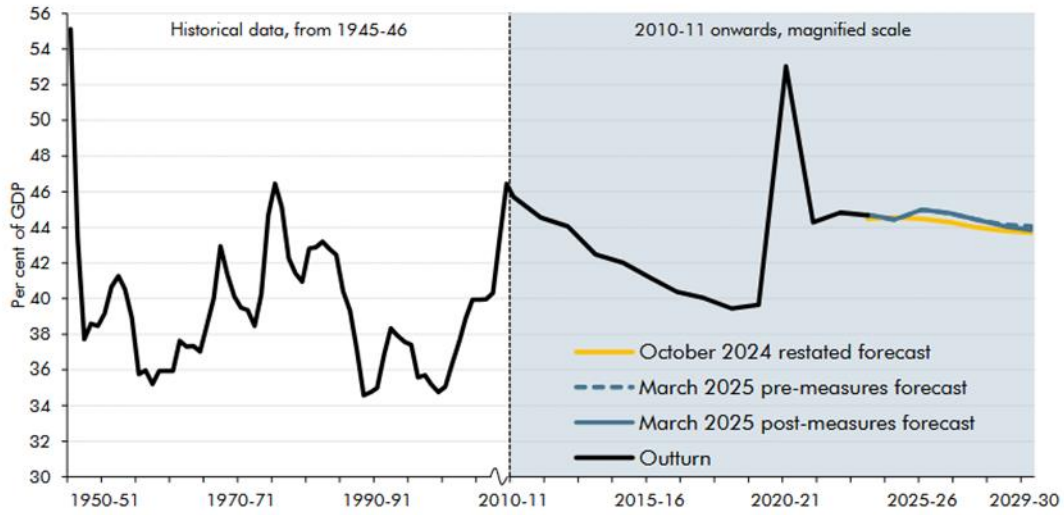


[26] Bank of England Monetary Policy Report August 2025

2.1.10 Fiscal aggregates remain tight. The OBR's latest forecast profile continues to show a constrained medium-term path for spending and borrowing, with limited room to offset domestic cost pressures without further reprioritisation[27].

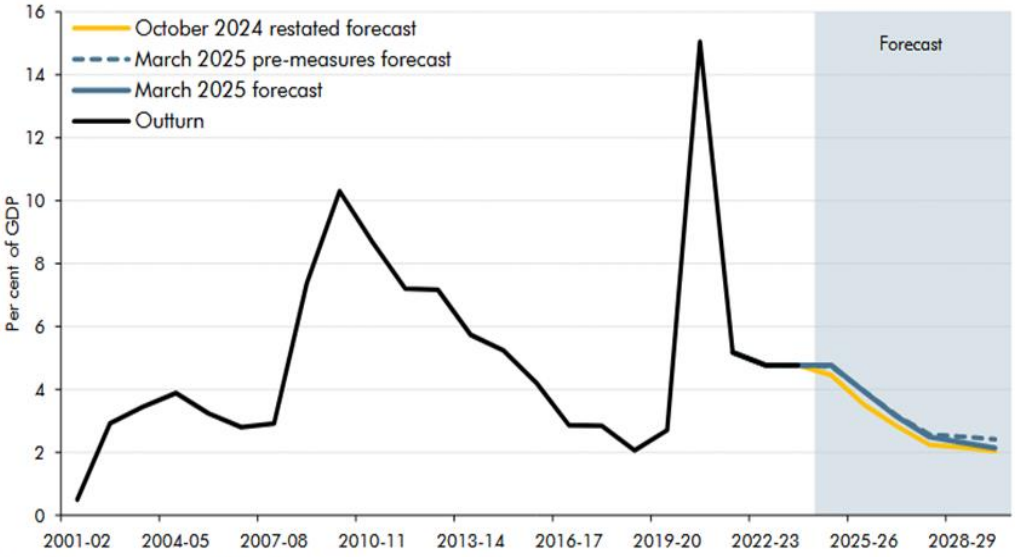
2.1.11 Latest outturns show elevated borrowing and public sector net debt at around the mid-90s per cent of GDP (ONS provisional estimate ~96%), levels last seen in the early 1960s. This reinforces the conservative funding context for local government and the importance of disciplined medium-term planning[28].

Chart 1.7: Public spending as a share of GDP



Note: The October 2024 forecast as a share of GDP has been restated to account for revised nominal GDP data in the 2024 Blue Book.
Source: ONS, OBR

Chart 6.1: Public sector net borrowing



Note: Unless otherwise stated, the October 2024 forecast as a share of GDP has been restated to account for revised nominal GDP data in the 2024 Blue Book.
Source: ONS, OBR

[27] OBR, March 2025, Economic and Fiscal Outlook
[28] OBR, March 2025, Economic and Fiscal Outlook

2.1.12 Economic inactivity among people aged 16–64 remains elevated, at around 21.1% on the latest official reading (May–July 2025). That is slightly lower than earlier in the year but still above pre-shock averages, pointing to a labour-supply drag that is only easing gradually. The OBR's March 2025 analysis likewise judges participation to be below its pre-trend and improving only slowly, with health- and caring-related inactivity continuing to weigh on labour supply, risks that keep the medium-term outlook for employment and receipts uncertain[29][30].

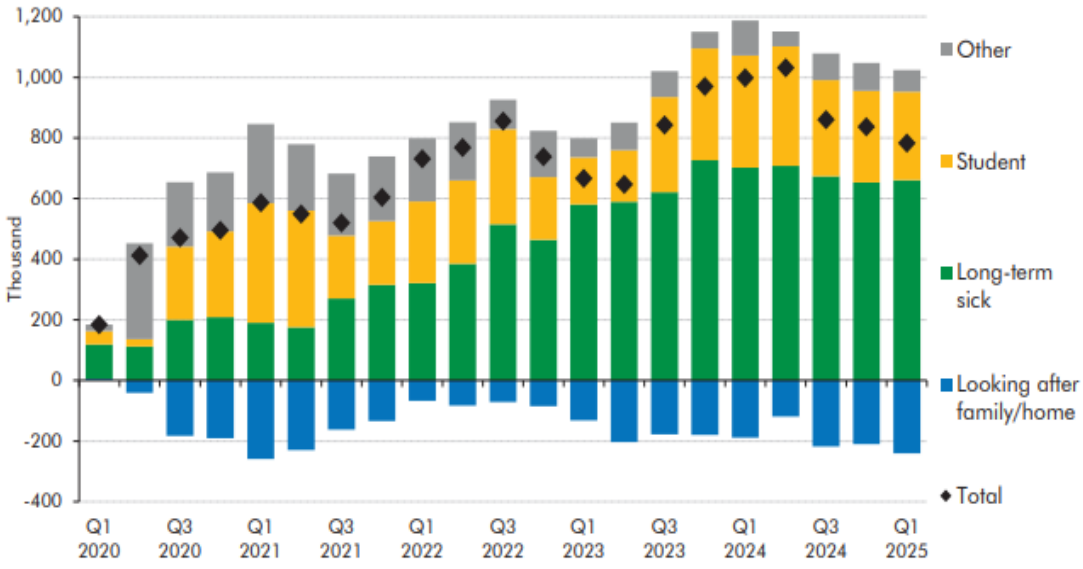
[29] OBR, March 2025, Economic and Fiscal Outlook
[30] ONS Employment in the UK: September 2025

2.2 Other Significant External Risks

2.2.1 The July 2025 Fiscal Risks and Sustainability report[31] by the OBR reiterates the aftershocks of three key risks that have crystallised since 2020 and although it "takes a fresh look" at their future fiscal implications, they are substantially unchanged from the 2024 report . The three areas are:

- **Health related inactivity -** Economic inactivity due to long-term sickness remains at record highs. As of mid-2025, the number of working-age people inactive due to long-term sickness is estimated at 2.8 million up from around 2.05 million pre-pandemic[32]. This group now represents about 7% of the working-age population, and the trend shows little sign of reversal. The OBR and ONS both note that only a minority of this group are on NHS waiting lists, so reducing waiting times alone is unlikely to resolve the issue. The fiscal impact is significant: higher health and welfare spending, lower tax receipts, and a drag on potential growth.

  Chart 9: the rise in UK working-age inactivity since early 2020



Note: Changes are shown relative to December-February 2020 – the pre-pandemic low-point for the 16-64-year-old inactivity rate.
Source: ONS

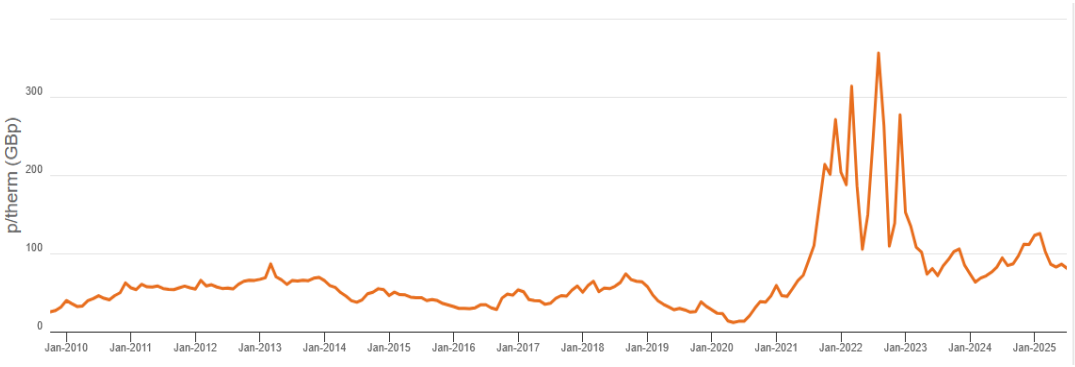
(Note: in general, similar inactivity trends have been observable for Scotland.)

- **Rise in energy prices -** While UK wholesale gas prices have fallen back from their 2022 peak, they remain well above pre-2021 averages. In August 2025, the NBP day-ahead price averaged around 80p/therm, with forward curves indicating prices are likely to stay elevated into 2026. This keeps energy bills and industrial costs sensitive to global shocks.

[31] OBR, July 2025, Fiscal risks and sustainability

[32] (ONS, Labour Market Overview, August 2025),

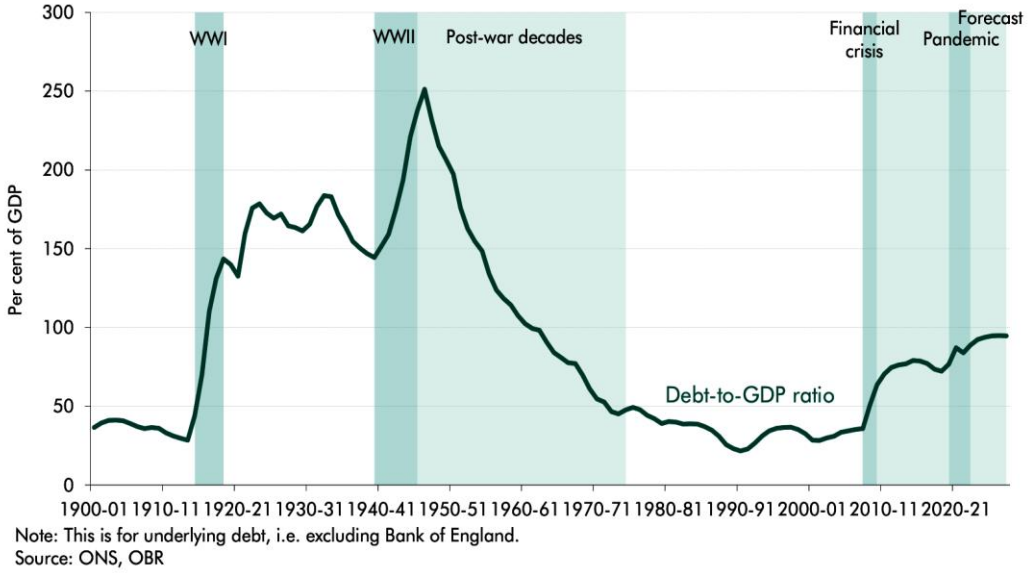
Chart 10: gas prices[33]



While these elevated gas prices have made renewable energy sources cheaper than gas for the first time, there is so far limited evidence of a strong supply side response in the UK i.e. of any step-change in renewable energy investment that might result in lower overall energy prices in the future. This lack of investment could also prove costly in the event that geopolitical events raise the price of gas again.

- **Vulnerability to rising debt levels -** UK Government debt levels have risen three-fold since the start of this century and, at around 100% of GDP, are at their highest level in over 60 years. This dramatic increase in public debt is largely due to the series of crises the UK has faced so far this century, which has also hindered any attempts to manage the debt back down to more acceptable levels.

Chart 11: debt-to-GDP ratio since 1900

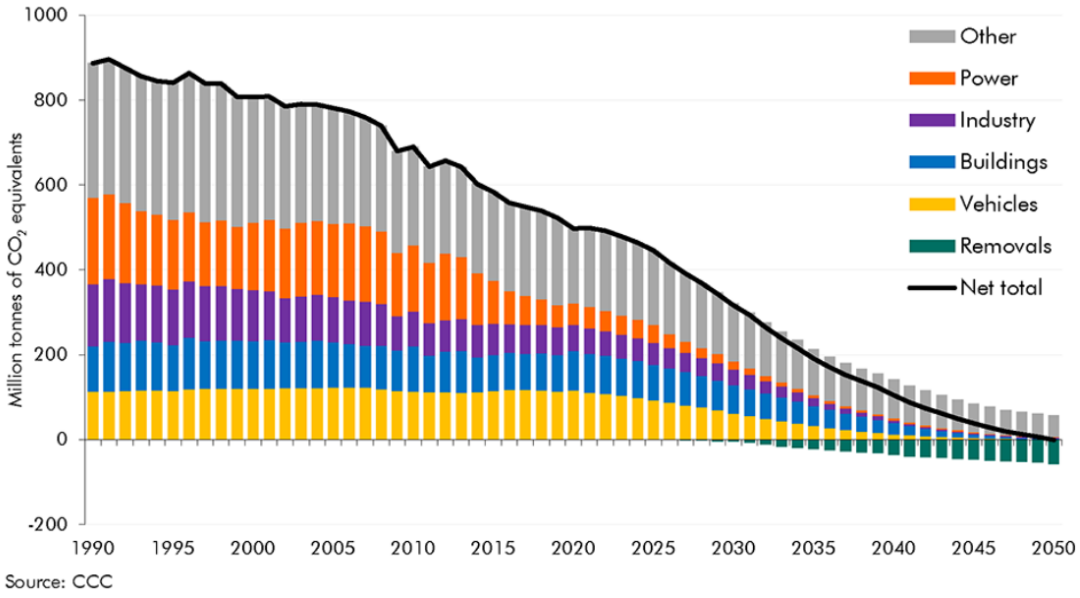


[33] Ofgem, Sep 2025 Gas Prices

- While other governments also face rising interest rates on debts close to or in excess of 100 per cent of GDP, the UK's public debt position makes it more vulnerable as it has: -
  - the shortest average maturity on its public liabilities on record;
  - the highest proportion of inflation-linked debt of any major advanced economy;
  - more of its debt in the hands of private foreign investors than most other G7 countries (which renders the UK public finances more vulnerable to sudden changes in global investor sentiment over the attractiveness of UK sovereign assets).
- This greater vulnerability has been illustrated by a) UK government borrowing costs have risen more than in any other G7 economy and been more volatile than at any time in the past 40 years, and b) the rise in global interest rates feeding through to the UK's debt servicing costs more than twice as fast as in the past or elsewhere.

2.2.2 ***Climate Change*** – The OBR[34] says that "While the UK's territorial CO_2 emissions have fallen significantly since 1990, thanks in large part to the switch from coal to gas power generation, achieving the Government's net zero target by 2050 will become increasingly difficult. Vehicles, buildings, industry, and power make up the majority of emissions remaining in 2020, and these four sectors plus the yet-to-be-developed removals sector are the largest source of future abatement in the Climate Change Committee's (CCC's) balanced net zero pathway."

Chart 12: Emissions in the CCC's balanced net zero pathway



[34] OBR, July 2023, Fiscal Risks and Sustainability

2.2.3 The Climate Change Committee (CCC) has responsibility for monitoring the progress and risks to meeting the UK's declared national ambitions (known as 'nationally determined contributions', or NDCs, under the Paris Agreement) and legislated carbon budgets, and publishes a yearly progress report to this end.

2.2.4 The OBR also points out that emerging risks include longer-term trends are becoming near-term realities. This is exemplified in relation to climate change and progress toward net zero as "Efforts to tackle climate change by transitioning away from fossil fuels are rapidly eroding the £39 billion the Government currently receives in tax revenues from petrol and diesel driven vehicles. And the rapid normalisation of interest rates over the past 18 months has added £22 billion to what the Government will need to spend on servicing its growing stock of debt in 2022-23, consuming fiscal headroom available to respond to other threats and pressures."

2.2.5 ***Exit from the European Union (EU)*** - The UK left the EU on 31 January 2020 and entered an 11-month period of transition during which the UK effectively remained within the EU's customs union and single market and continued to be subject to EU rules. That came to an end on the 31 December 2020. The latest assumptions and judgements[35] from the Office for Budget Responsibility were used relating to EU exit to underpin the Economic and Fiscal Outlook report and forecasts in March 2023.

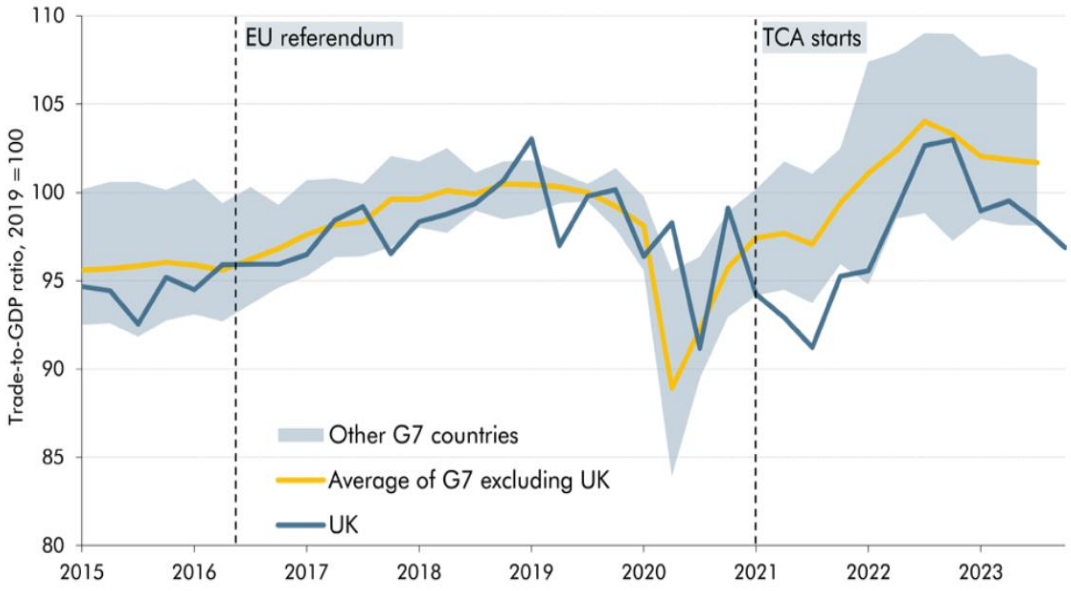
- "The post-Brexit trading relationship between the UK and EU, as set out in the 'Trade and Cooperation Agreement' (TCA) that came into effect on 1 January 2021, will reduce long-run productivity by 4 per cent relative to remaining in the EU.
- Both exports and imports will be around 15 per cent lower in the long run than if the UK had remained in the EU.
- New trade deals with non-EU countries will not have a material impact, and any effect will be gradual.
- the Government's new post-Brexit migration regime would reduce net inward migration to the UK."

Updates to these predictions were published by the OBR in 2024, indicating they are "broadly on track"[36] and that the UK was falling behind the other G7 countries for recovery of trade intensity.

Chart 13: Trade intensity in the UK and rest of the G7

[35] OBR, April 2023, Brexit Analysis

[36] How are our Brexit trade forecast assumptions performing? - Office for Budget Responsibility



Note: G7 data is only available to the third quarter of 2023.
Source: OECD

2.2.6 ***Pressures on other public sector organisations*** - All public sector organisations are under increasing financial pressure as changes in funding and increases in demand are not supported by funding. Whilst Aberdeen City has a strong record in working with partners to improve outcomes, prevent harm and increase public sector efficiency, the additional pressure on all public sector agencies may raise the risk that preventative activity, which is necessarily multi-agency in nature, may be more difficult for partners to sustain when facing increasing pressure to support responsive services. Behaviours which are not based on a whole system approach and are narrowly defined by attribution of cost benefits to individual organisations should be avoided. The recent sudden closure of Mental Health Aberdeen[37] may be seen as evidence of financial pressures mounting on partner agencies which they are unable to absorb.

2.2.7 ***Emergency Response*** - Covid-19 was the primary focus of emergency response in 2020, but other emergency events and situations are likely to occur. These may include, for example, incidents related to climate change; terrorist attacks; infrastructure issues with national implications (e.g. Grenfell Tower); further pandemics, etc. The council's own plans to respond and recover quickly and effectively from longer term emergency incidents are being further strengthened and may require further financial investment.

2.2.8 ***Corporate Liabilities*** – Local authorities are exposed to several liabilities which have significant financial pressures if they occur. For example, the cashflow and cost impact of Developer Obligations not being paid to support required asset enhancement;

[37] Mental Health Aberdeen: Charity closes due to 'growing pressure' - BBC News

litigation and claims against the council; and fines can be imposed on councils by the Health & Safety Executive, the Information Commissioner and other regulators.

2.2.9 ***Banking Sector Failures*** – The failure, in 2023, of three small American banks (Silicon Valley Bank (SVB); Signature Bank and Silvergate) caused much concern in financial circles. The chaos soon spread to other banks, in particular the Swiss bank Credit Suisse, which has now been taken over by UBS. While no other failures have arisen so far the situation remains uncertain.

2.2.10 There are two implications of note with regards to these events:

i. the banking sector remains fragile and at risk of further failures. The risks are not as high as in 2008, due to new and tougher regulations being introduced which made Banks stronger, but they are still there. Any such loss of confidence could again have knock on impacts for the wider economy via tighter lending; and

ii. with regards to the future setting of interest rates. The higher rates introduced over the past year by central banks (the Federal Reserve, the Bank of England (BoE) and the European Central Bank (ECB)) are thought to have impacted on the ability of SVB to survive and weakened the position of other banks, especially smaller US ones. Further rate rises could therefore put yet more pressure on 'at risk' financial institutions and so central banks may be more cautious than before in introducing higher rates.

2.3 The Funding Outlook – UK

2.3.1 Following the UK General Election on 4 July 2024, the incoming Chancellor of the Exchequer announced she had "instructed Treasury officials to undertake a rapid audit of public spending". The outcome was published at the beginning of August 2024, and lead to the statement by the Prime Minister of the "£22 billion hole"[38] in public finances at Prime Minister's Questions. The HM Treasury report[39] detailing the issues also stated "The government is taking action to address the pressure by: (i) identifying immediate savings to manage the pressure; (ii) setting out a clear process to the autumn and the Spending Review for reducing the pressure further; and (iii) making reforms to the spending and fiscal frameworks to prevent this happening again."

2.3.2 The immediate actions from the audit were for the 2024/25 financial year, however the medium term impacts are now becoming clearer with the publication of two UK Budgets. Savings required across departmental budgets at UK level impact on the "consequentials" of the UK Budgets, flowing into and through the Barnett formula and Fiscal Framework, that will frame the Scottish Budget.

[38] Is there a £22bn 'black hole' in the UK's public finances? - BBC News

[39] HM Treasury, Fixing the Foundations: public spending audit 2024-25

2.3.3 With the Scottish Budget continuing to be heavily reliant on the Barnett formula that distributes the Block Grant to Scotland – approximately two thirds comes to Scotland from the UK Treasury – then any changes in UK Government funding policy and the size of the UK Tax Revenues will have a material impact on Scottish public services.

2.4 The Funding Outlook – Scotland, Local Government and Aberdeen City Council

2.4.1 The primary source of funding for the delivery of Council Services is the Scottish Government through the allocation of general revenue and capital grants, and the distribution of national non-domestic rates income. In Scotland local government funding accounts for approximately a quarter of the total discretionary fiscal budget[40], in 2025/26, approximately £15.2 billion[41] (revenue and capital).

2.4.2 With approximately three quarters of the Council's net revenue funding being received through government grant it is simple to see why UK and Scottish Government policies and economic forecasts impact on the level of Council funding.

2.4.3 The Scotland Block Grant from UK Treasury is based on the Barnett Formula, adjusted to take account of taxation and fiscal powers now devolved to the Scottish Government. This adjustment is captured under the Fiscal Framework between the UK and Scottish Governments. In 2022/23 the Scottish Government announced that there would be a new deal for local government and on 30 June 2023 the Verity House Agreement was signed between Scottish Government and COSLA. The Agreement sets out principles for working together to empower local communities, tackle poverty, transform the economy and provide high-quality public services. It includes, amongst other things, a commitment to agree a new Fiscal Framework governing how local authorities' funding is allocated, reducing ring-fencing and giving them greater control over their budgets to meet local needs. It also committed to regularly reviewing councils' powers and funding, with the expectation that services will be delivered at a local level unless agreed otherwise.

2.4.4 The Scottish Government, having published a single year budget in December 2021 for financial year 2022/23, published a further suite of documents to support a multi-year funding framework for the public sector in Scotland. These documents were:

- Investing in Scotland's Future: Resource Spending Review
- Scotland's Fiscal Outlook: The Scottish Government's Medium Term Financial Strategy
- Capital Spending Review

[40] Scottish Government, December 2024, Scottish Budget 2025/26

[41] Scottish Government, February 2025, Finance Circuar 1/2025

2.4.5 Following another single year budget for financial year 2023/24, the Scottish Government produced a revised Medium Term Financial Strategy[42] in May 2023 and it highlights that while the Scottish Resource Budget is increasing up to 2027-28, in both cash and real terms, it is not expected to rise at the same rate as the spending bill, creating a growing funding gap over time. The issues raised at UK Government level over summer 2024 meant the Scottish Government did not publish an update to its own MTFS in 2024. The 2025 MTFS update was published in June 2025.

2.4.6 For financial year 2025/26 Scotland's Budget, excluding Annually Managed Expenditure (AME)[43], amounts to £56.5 billion, when presented to Parliament in December 2024. This is the element of the budget the Scottish Parliament can make decisions about.

2.4.7 From 2020/21 the Scottish budget reflects the changing picture of devolved powers, including devolved social security payments and farm payments, previously funded by the EU.

2.4.8 Notable is the adjustment to the block grant for the devolved tax raising powers that now sit with the Scottish Parliament. The size of the Scottish Budget is therefore directly affected by economic performance, through taxation revenues, in Scotland compared to the rest of the UK. Diverging economic performance could place added pressure on the Scottish Budget in future years.

2.4.9 The Scottish Fiscal Commission, in their report from August 2025[44] illustrated the expected funding gaps from the Scottish Government's MTFS 2025. Adjustments like this needed to balance the Scottish budgets will adversely affect the amount of funding available for public services, and as an unprotected public service, Local Government can anticipate feeling the pain. The Scottish Budget and associated Spending Review are now expected in January 2026.

Resource and Capital Gaps in the SG's MTFS:

[42] Scottish Government, May 2023, Scotland's Fiscal Outlook

[43] AME is specific grant funding paid by UK Government to cover costs such as NHS and teacher pensions and student loans. It amounts to about £7 billion per annum.

[44] Scottish Fiscal Commission, May 2023, Scotland's Economic and Fiscal Forecasts (revised June 2023)

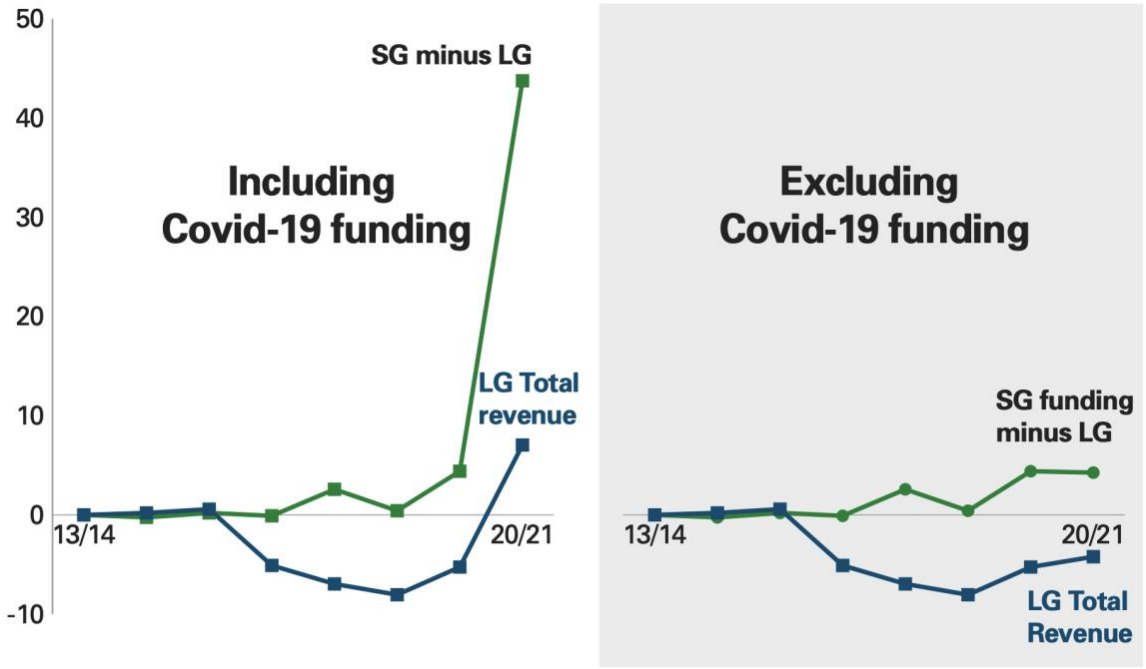
£ million (nominal terms)	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30
Resource				
Funding	53,975	55,235	57,100	59,099
Spending	54,938	57,132	59,453	61,723
Gap	-963	-1,897	-2,353	-2,624
Capital (excluding FTs)				
Funding	7,109	7,004	7,059	7,067
Spending	8,180	8,501	8,962	9,213
Gap	-1,070	-1,497	-1,903	-2,146

Source: Scottish Fiscal Commission, Scottish Government.
Figures may not sum because of rounding.

2.4.10 At this point worth of note is that it is impossible to get away from the shortfall in funding that has been provided to Local Government in Scotland for the last decade. The Accounts Commission published, its Local Government in Scotland Overview report[45] on 25 May 2022, which continued to highlight the long-term position that Local Government is the poor relation of other parts of the Scottish public sector, excluding the effects of Covid-19 pandemic funding "…councils' underlying cumulative funding has fallen by 4.2 per cent in real terms since 2013/14. This is in contrast to an increase of 4.3 per cent in Scottish Government funding of other areas of the budget over the same period." This can be illustrated in the following chart.

Chart 14: Comparison of real terms changes in revenue funding in local government and other Scottish Government areas (including and excluding Covid-19 funding)

[45] Accounts Commission, May 2022, Local Government in Scotland Overview 2022

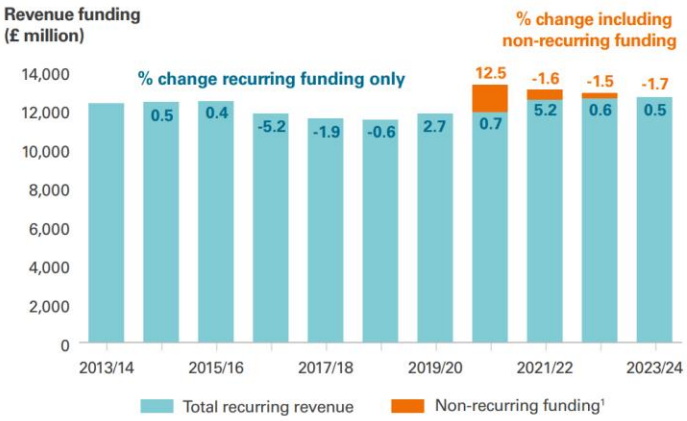


Source: Finance Circular 5/2021 and Scottish Government budget documents

2.4.11 This has not been corrected in the last three years and in the Accounts Commission's report on Local Government in Scotland : Overview 2023[46] with only 2.6% increase in real terms in funding over the decade from 2013/14. This covers a period when Council Tax was frozen and funding was being provided instead. This means that the key fiscal lever that Local Government has could not be exercised to mitigate the demand and cost pressures, and it was neutralised again by the First Minister's announcement for 2024/25.

Chart 15: Scottish Government revenue funding to local government (in real terms) and year-on-year percentage change, 2013/14 to 2023/24

[46] Accounts Commission, May 2023, Local Government in Scotland: Overview 2023

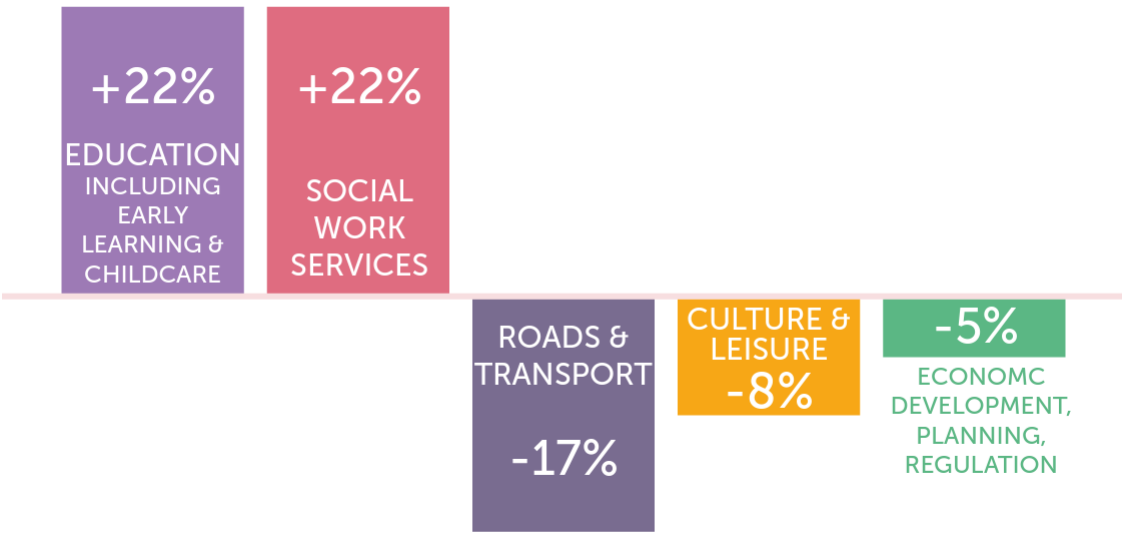


Notes:
1. Non-recurring funding refers to Covid-19 related funding in 2020/21 and 2021/22 and cost-of-living support for council tax bills in 2022/23.
2. We use the finance circulars to compare the funding position year-on-year as we believe this is the most accurate comparison.
These figures include funding for national policy initiatives and transfers from other portfolios. Figures calculated at 2023/24 prices.

Source: Scottish Local Government Finance Circulars

2.4.12 The quantum of the local government settlement is not the only issue arising, as the funding context for Scotland is one that is driven strongly by national policy and commitments. This is seen in the extent to which the local government budget is truly determined locally. According to the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA), in its "Live Well Locally" budget campaign documentation[47] states that "Over recent years, Local Government's total funding has reduced in real terms – and at the same time, Scottish Government has prioritised & ring-fenced spend in areas like education & social work. So while spend in these areas has gone up, less resource overall means it has been at the expense of areas like economic development, roads & transport, all critical in attracting investment, developing businesses, creating jobs and addressing climate change." Information collected for Scotland shows how stark the disparity is.

Chart 16: Change in net revenue expenditure between 2013/14 and 2021/22 (Estimate)

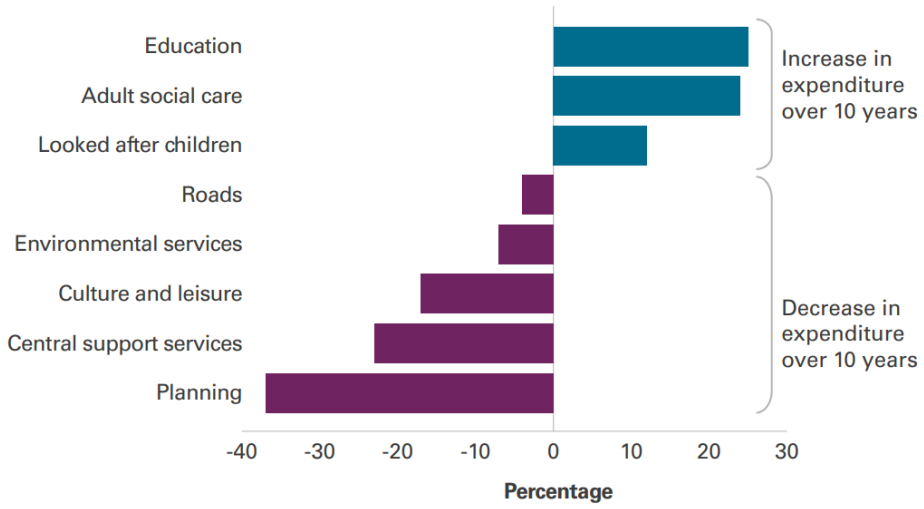


[47] COSLA, December 2021, Live well locally campaign

Source: COSLA, Live well locally

2.4.13 The Accounts Commission[48] presented a similar picture in its 2023 report, reinforcing the extent to which national policy is shaping the allocation of resources at a local level.

Chart 17: Percentage change in expenditure (in real terms) by service from 2012/13 to 2021/22



Note: Economic development and Tourism services have seen a 43 per cent increase over the period. We have excluded this from the chart as year-to-year expenditure is volatile and there is not a consistent trend in spending over this period.

Source: Local Government Benchmarking Framework, 2021/22

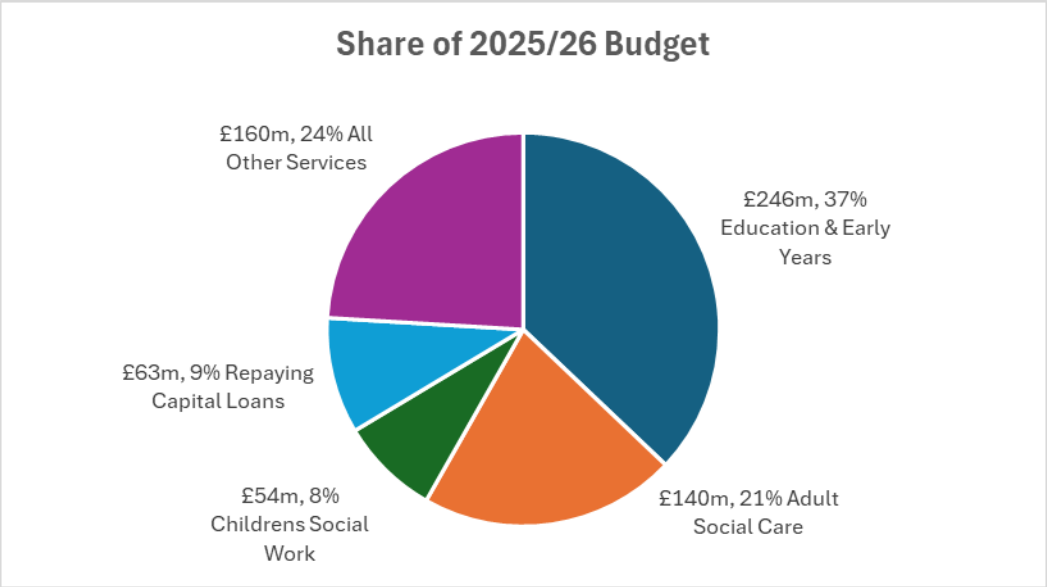
2.4.14 One major change in national policy since the Council's MTFS 2024 was published has been confirmation from the Scottish Government that the National Care Service plans have been abandoned. In their place, a new National Care Service Advisory Board has been established[49].

2.4.15 The statement from the Minister "…we must deliver our Scottish National Care Service without legislating for structural reform…" means Council resources that might have shifted to the proposed national Care Service will now stay with the Council. This does not mean changes will not happen, though they will be within the context of our existing Council services, and our Integrated Joint Board for Adult Social Care.

Chart 18: General Fund Budget 2025/26

[48] Accounts Commission, May 2023, Local Government in Scotland: Overview 2023

[49] Future of the National Care Service: Ministerial statement – January 2025



2.4.16 The dominance of Education presents a major challenge given the extent of national policy driving prioritisation and national conditions that are in place for these services, whether these be teacher pay and conditions, financial settlement conditions on pupil teacher ratios. It potentially limits the extent to which local decisions can make changes to the way our resources are allocated, likely shifting the focus for savings and income generation to those that are of a different nature, operational, support and enabling services.

2.4.17 Instead of the potential removal of services related to the National Care Service, the Council must now refocus its planning on the financial sustainability of those services. As reported in the Council's Audited Accounts, *"In 2024/25 the IJB reported a deficit of £17.036m. This deficit was funded from IJB reserves (£6.550m), and the NHS (£6.445m) and Council (£4.041m) as per the partnership agreement. The Council's share of the IJB deficit was paid from earmarked reserves, as approved by the Finance and Resources Committee in February 2025".*

2.4.18 Additional funding was provided by the Council's 2025/26 budget, represented in the chart above.

2.4.19 The IJB received an update to its Medium Term Financial Forecast on 1 July 2025, noting *"…the changes which need to be actioned within the cost base to work towards bringing financial balance. Scenario planning is used to highlight how financial sustainability is impacted if varying levels of savings are achieved."*[50] On-going

[50] Health and Social Care Partnership MTFF paper, July 2025

progress will be monitored closely by both the Council and NHS Grampian as any shortfall in IJB funding would require to be provided under the partnership agreement.

2.4.20 The Scottish Governments publication of multi-year financial forecasts in the Resources Spending Review[51] (RSR) provided much more about the future, that the Council can learn from, in particular the shape of local government finance for the remainder of the current Scottish Parliament session.

2.4.21 The RSR demonstrated a de-prioritisation of local government, which has not been reversed despite the huge roles that Councils can play. The priorities spelt out were:

"…four key challenges – reducing child poverty, addressing the climate crisis, building a strong and resilient economy and helping our public services recover strongly from the pandemic."[52]

2.4.22 For local government the message was simple. A commitment to flat cash settlements for the period 2022/23 to 2025/26, with an additional £100m (c.1%) in 2026/27.

2.4.23 The detail is of course far from simple and local government receives its current funding from a variety of portfolios, spread across the Scottish Budget (i) a core 'Local Government' allocation; and (ii) additional sums transferred from other ministerial portfolios, such as Education, Justice and Health. The RSR confirms that the core allocation of £10.6bn will be maintained throughout the period of the spending review, with that additional £100m in the final year. It is not until the letter from the Cabinet Secretary is read carefully that a sum of £1bn per annum is guaranteed to be transferred from those portfolios during the period of review can any assurance be secured that the local government settlement will be anything like flat cash.

2.4.24 In the intervening period since publication of the 2022 RSR we have seen a UK General Election, a new UK Government, and intense review of public finances. Spending decisions taken by the UK Government are impacting on the Barnet formula which determines the Scottish Block grant, resulting in a lower than expected settlement for the Scottish Government in the final years of the current RSR.[53]

2.4.25 The 2025 MTFS from the Scottish Government does nothing to dilute the risks facing local government and suggest any significant improvement in our prospects of additional core funding.

2.4.26 While it is important to take from the Scottish Government documents the financial conclusions, it also worth highlighting other points associated with Local Government:

[51] Scottish Government, May 2022, Resource Spending Review

[52] Kate Forbes, Cabinet Secretary for Finance and the Economy, Scottish Government, Resource Spending Review, 31 May 2022

[53] Scottish Government, Medium Term Financial Strategy, June 2025

"…key elements of this vision will not directly apply to local government…"

"…a 'new deal' for Local Government in Scotland through the development of a Partnership Agreement and Fiscal Framework."

2.4.27 On 30 June 2023, the First Minister and the COSLA President signed a Partnership Agreement that by both see as a landmark. Known as 'The Verity House Agreement', it signifies a shared vision for a more collaborative approach to delivering our shared priorities for the people of Scotland.

2.4.28 It sets out principles for working together to empower local communities, tackle poverty, transform the economy and provide high-quality public services. It includes commitments to:

- agree a new Fiscal Framework governing how local authorities' funding is allocated, reducing ring-fencing and giving them greater control over their budgets to meet local needs
- regularly review councils' powers and funding, with the expectation that services will be delivered at a local level unless agreed otherwise
- incorporate the European Charter of Local Self-Government into Scots Law
- reform public services, building on the partnership working established during the pandemic recovery
- develop a framework for collecting and sharing evidence to ensure progress is maintained.

2.5 Scottish Government Funding

I. The allocation of resources by Scottish Government across the Scottish public sector portfolios is somewhat clearer following the publication of the Resource Spending Review. This is the basis for assumptions.

Table 1:

Upside Scenario	**Central Scenario**	**Downside Scenario**
2025/26 to 2030/31 – flat cash settlement for underlying duties and obligations, with between 1.5% cash increase annually over and above central scenario to support core services. No changes incorporated for Reduction in Class Contact Time (RCCT).	2025/26 increases for expected funding in support of Pay Awards. 2026/27 – flat cash settlement for underlying duties and obligations. Assumed that additional funding will be received for additional expenditure commitments through	2026/27 to 2030/31 – flat cash with additional impact of distribution formula leading to lower grant, estimated at 0.2% annually. Assumed that additional funding will only be received for additional expenditure commitments through policy changes.

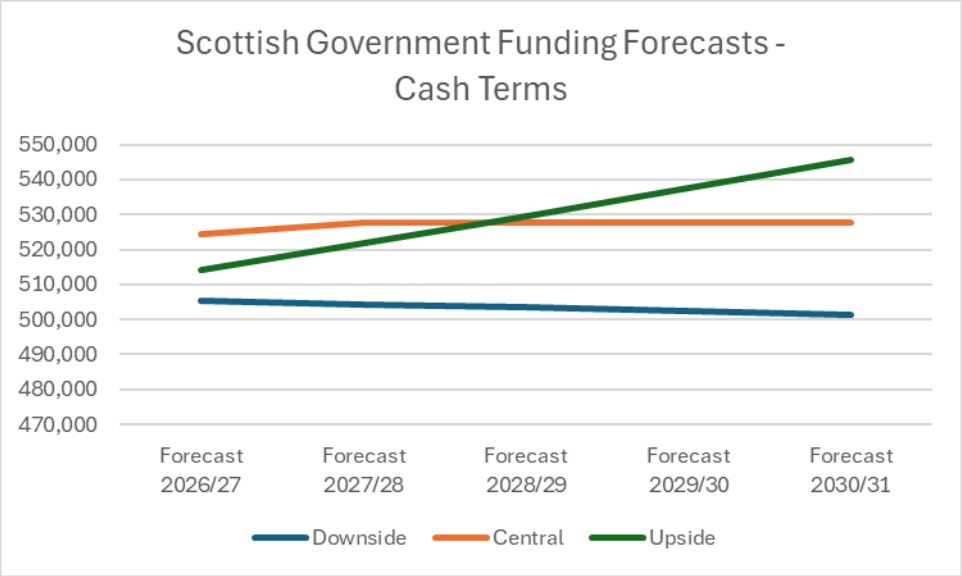
	policy changes (e.g. RCCT).	

II. The level of "protection" that Scottish Government applies to its political priorities delivered by local government is also quantified. The direction increase from Scottish Government in 2023/24 with the direction in regard to teacher numbers and pupil support hours, add this to ring-fenced grants, such as Early Learning and Childcare, and the requirement to maintain health and social care funding there is significant impact of this direction.

Table 2

Upside Scenario	**Central Scenario**	**Downside Scenario**
Mainstream national priorities and provide flexibility shifting resource protection to less than 10%.	Current level of protection continues, 45% of resources directed nationally. The Verity House Agreement moves this towards the upside scenario by middle of MTFS period	Greater control directed nationally to deliver national priorities, raising protection to over 50% of local government resources.

Chart 19: Scottish Government Grant Scenarios



III. From an approved 2025/26 budget level of government funding of £506m, the central scenario tracks the most likely scenarios for funding, including the impact of potential Scottish Government policies and the assumption that the Scottish Government will fund the proposed Reduction in Class Contact Time (RCCT) for

Teachers. The Upside scenario excludes the costs of this new initiative, which means the funding also has to be excluded, giving a slightly counter-intuitive result for 2026/27. The "flat cash" assumptions on the government grants for later years in the Central scenario generates the crossover with the Upside scenario in later years. The downside shows a regular reduction in funding. By year 5, 2030/31 there is a funding range, upside to downside of £44m.

2.6 Council Tax

2.6.1 Limits placed on funding local government receives means that local authorities must turn to the fiscal levers they have, to exercise control and to influence the level of income they have, to pay for services. Primarily this means looking carefully at the power to raise funds locally from Council Tax, and to review / apply fees and charges for services that are delivered.

2.6.2 Exercising discretion over these fiscal levers is, again, not straightforward. The local government financial settlement has, for over a decade put restrictions on the most significant fiscal lever local authorities have, setting the Council Tax. A cap on Council Tax increases was introduced in 2017/18, following a nine-year Council Tax freeze, from 2008/09. The initial cap condition was absolute in cash terms at 3% and in 2019/20 a real terms limit of 3% was introduced, the cash limit therefore being higher. Despite this it offers local authorities limited opportunity to raise the funds they need to meet rising costs. For 2021/22 the council again was offered funding to avoid an increase in Council Tax. For Aberdeen City this was the equivalent of a 3.3% increase in the rate. The Council accepted this offer (as all local authorities did).

2.6.3 In 2022/23 the cap was removed and for the first time since 2007/08 the Council was free to set a Council Tax rate for Aberdeen. An increase of 3% was approved, in the context of the concerns around the cost of living and affordability locally, and this has been followed by a 5% increase in the rate for 2023/24.

2.6.4 For 2024/25 the Council Tax freeze was reintroduced, the First Minister's response to the cost of living crisis. This removal of the fiscal lever, supposed to be in the control of individual local authorities, lead to widespread criticism by Cosla[54] and two Councils (Argyll and Bute, and Inverclyde) initially voting to increase Council Tax as part of their 2024/25 budgets, before reversing those decisions and accepting the offer of additional funding from the Scottish Government.

[54] Cosla declares 'dispute' with ministers over funds - BBC News

2.6.5 No cap or Council Tax freeze was in place for 2025/26, and most Council's approved significant increases, ranging from 6% to 15.6%[55] with the average across Scotland being 9.57%. Aberdeen City Council agreed a 9.85% increase.

2.6.6 Limiting the value and / or missing the opportunity to increase Council Tax undermines the future value of this funding stream for the council. The underlying assumption is that Council Tax income will have to be increased. The Scottish Government has, so far, given no indications of any caps or freezes being applied to Council Tax for 2026/27.

2.6.7 It is worthy of note that the Scottish Government's Programme for Government[56], published in 2023 committed "…to reforming Council Tax to make it fairer, working with the Scottish Green Party and COSLA to oversee the development of effective deliberative engagement on sources of local government funding, including Council Tax, that will culminate in a Citizens' Assembly."

2.6.8 The dissolution of the SNP / Green alliance at Holyrood, and the Council Tax freeze announced for 2024/25 appeared to pause progress concerning the review of Council Tax Bands E-H. The two updates to the Scottish Government's Programme for Government since then have been silent on any major plans for Council Tax reform, though the latest publication states a commitment to *"….removing the legislative constraint on the level of council tax premium that can be applied to second and long-term empty homes*"[57] as a response to tackling homelessness. It is safe to assume any further Council Tax reform is unlikely to be progressed within the life of the current Parliament.

2.6.9 Conclusion:

I. The Council Tax valuation roll is anticipated to increase with additional housing continuing to be built in the city. For this reason the underlying value of Council Tax collectable before increasing the Band D rate tracks an upward trend. The upside and downside scenarios reflect greater or fewer houses being added to the roll annually.

II. The chart below does not include the impact of a rate increase; however the recommendation is that the real terms increase in Council Tax should be approved annually to enable the Council to in part recover the increasing cost of services, through pay, price and contract inflation.

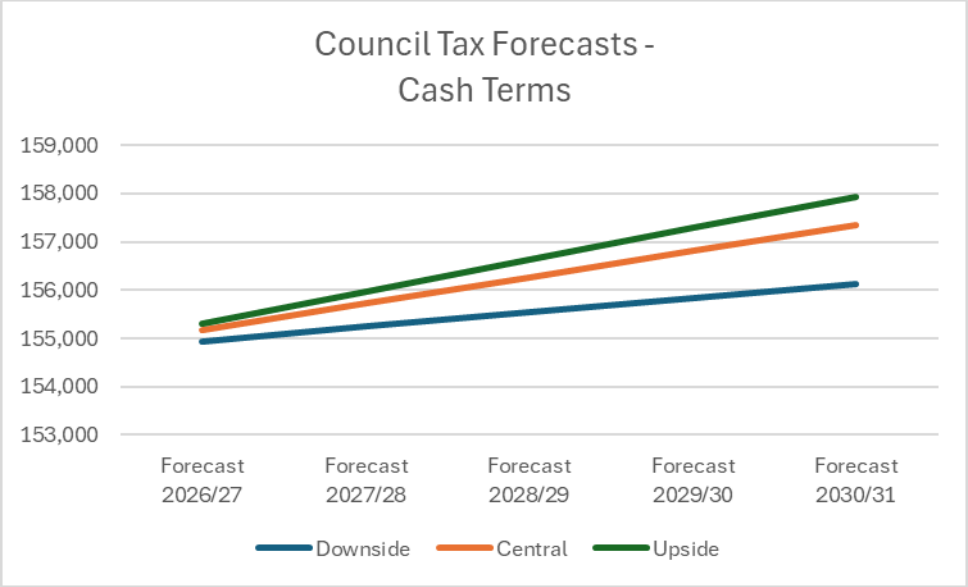
III. The future of Council Tax reform remains unclear.

Chart 20: Council Tax Scenarios

[55] Accounts Commission, Local Government Budgets 2025/26, May 2025

[56] Scottish Government, Programme for Government, 7 September 2021

[57] Scottish Government, Programme for Government, 6 May 2025



2.7 Fees and Charges

2.7.1 Fees and charges are an important source of funding for local authority services, and some provide a positive inflow of cash to support the overall revenue budget, a common example being car parking income. Other external income raised through fees and charges will often recover a proportion of the cost of delivering a specific service, lowering the overall cost to the General Fund revenue budget. Securing an income from a strong customer base, with repeat use can help to avoid public subsidy for discretionary services.

2.7.2 Statutory and regulatory limits do hinder local government and in areas of planning and licensing, for example, the price paid by the customer is not set by the council and does not cover the cost of services delivered.

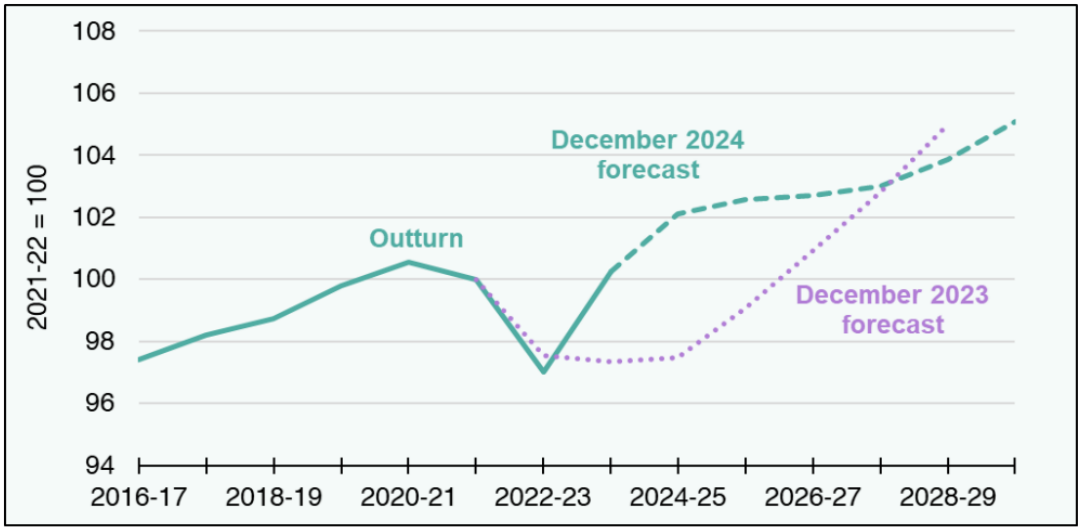
2.7.3 In the post-pandemic changed environment forecasts for income from fees and charges is far from certain and continues to be affected by on-going behaviour changes from customers, citizens and visitors, as well as economic conditions. While this will be captured in the current year through the quarterly financial performance reports, looking ahead it is clear that careful consideration of the opportunities and gaps that exist in our income base need to be considered. The forecasts for now are prudent.

2.7.4 The resilience framework (Section 6) looks at the income streams on which the Council relies, and Appendix 1 provides details of the top 20 funding streams that shows just how important that customer income is to the Council.

2.7.5 There is an undoubted challenge with balancing the need for income by the Council in the context of a cost of living crisis and the signs that the level of household disposable income may influence how much demand is placed on the Council. The Scottish Fiscal

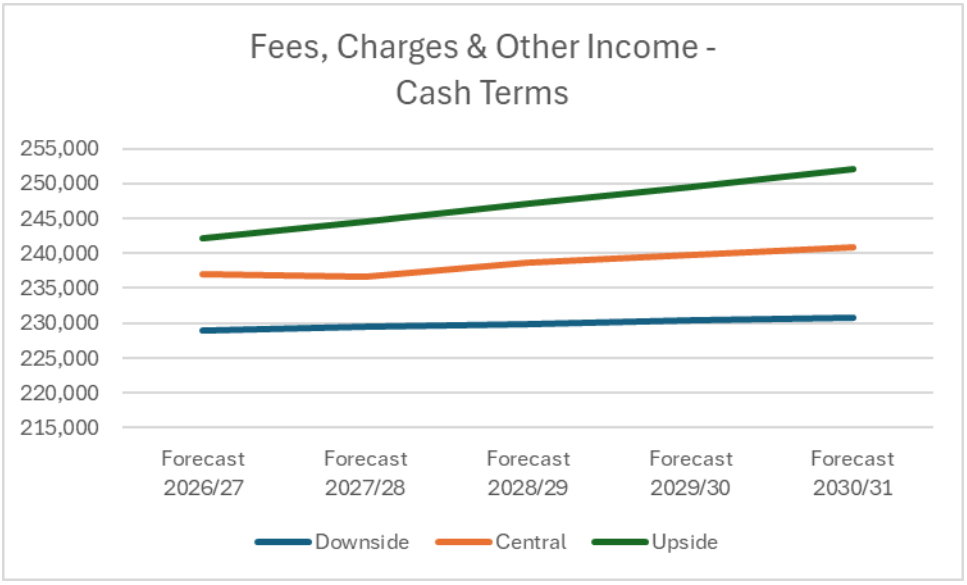
Commission (SFC) stated in their recent report[58] that *"….lower-income households are more likely to experience pressure on their living standards. This is mainly because they spend a larger share of their income on essentials such as energy, food, and housing, for which price levels are still higher than they were before 2022-23. Overall, while recent performance has been above expectations, our longer-term outlook for living standards is largely unchanged. We now expect weaker growth from 2025-26 onwards, mainly as real earnings growth slows, meaning that by 2027-28 living standards are similar to our last forecast."*

Subdued outlook for living standards in the next five years, after strong recent growth



2.7.6 Conclusion:

Chart 21: Fees and Charges Scenarios



[58] Scottish Fiscal Commission, December 2024 (revised January 2025), Scotland's Economic and Fiscal Forecasts

2.8 Discretionary Powers

2.8.1 Beyond these fiscal powers local authorities have very limited access to raise monies. Recent actions to open opportunities to local authorities has centred on infrastructure-based levies, including road pricing, workplace parking and an infrastructure levy included in the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019.

2.8.2 While there is a mixed picture of legislation already in place to support new levies, further regulation and statutory instruments are required to provide local authorities the powers to implement more of them. The timeline for introducing the Aberdeen Visitor Levy demonstrates how long it can be before local authorities can draw any benefit from such fiscal freedoms.

2.8.3 The Programme for Government committed the Scottish Government to devolving the Empty Property Relief in connection with Non-Domestic Rates. The intention being to level the playing field for all non-domestic properties, the Scottish Government will help local authorities tackle a known avoidance tactic on empty non-domestic properties. This came into effect from April 2023.

2.8.4 The Visitor Levy (Scotland) Bill[59] was passed on 28 May 2024, and became an Act on 5 July 2024. The Council has now determined a Visitor Levy Scheme will be introduced in Aberdeen[60], with a 7% levy rate to be applied to overnight accommodation from 1 April 2027. The levy, which will apply to visitors staying in overnight accommodation within the city, aims to provide a sustainable source of funding to reinvest in the visitor economy, including business and leisure tourism services, improvement of local amenities, and promotion of the city. The main purpose is to drive the continued growth of Aberdeen's visitor economy.

2.8.5 Potential Cruise Ship aspects of the Visitor Levy Bill were removed and are now making their way through a separate legislative process. The Scottish Government ran a formal consultation on the proposed levy in early 2025 and are currently considering responses.

2.8.6 The Circular Economy (Scotland) Bill[61] was passed on 26 June 2024 and became an Act on 8 August 2024. The purpose is to introduce measures as part of the transition to a circular economy that require primary legislation, and to modernise Scotland's waste and recycling services. This includes Reducing waste; Increasing penalties for littering from vehicles; and Making sure individual householders and businesses get rid of waste in the right way.

2.8.7 Conclusion:

[59] Scottish Parliament, May 2023, Visitor Levy (Scotland) Bill

[60] Finance and Resources Committee, 6 August 2025, Item 12 – Visitor Levy – CR&E/25/179

[61] Scottish Parliament, August 2024, Circular Economy (Scotland) Bill

I. Table 3: Analysis of Emerging Discretionary Powers

Discretionary Powers	**Primary legislation in place (yes/no)**	**Required statutory regulation in place (yes/no)**	**Anticipated year we can expect to be able to use power?**
Visitor Levy	Yes	Yes	2027/28. Power exercised by decision of Finance & Resources Committee
Cruise Ship Levy	No	No	Unclear. Ministers are considering results from formal consultation run earlier this year.
Workplace Parking Levy	Yes. Transport (Scotland) Act 2019	No.	Unclear
Infrastructure Levy	Yes. Planning (Scotland) Act 2019	No. The power to make regulations about an infrastructure levy is not yet in force and, as such, no regulations have been made.	Unclear. Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 provides that the power to introduce a levy will lapse by 25 July 2026. Ministerial discussions are now focussing on alternative delivery mechanisms such as reviewing Developer Obligations.
Non Domestic Rates Empty Property Relief	Yes	Yes.	2023/24. Power exercised as part of budget.
Circular Economy	Yes	Yes	Estimate 2026/27 at earliest, requires Parliamentary process allowing 90 days for representations to the first set of proposed regulations

II. As the underlying statutory framework is not yet in place the scenario plans have not been affected by additional income arising from exercising these powers. (In the case of the Visitor Levy, a budget option has been prepared relating to

future financial years, and will be duly considered in the detailed preparation of the 2026/27 budget).

III. The council should continue to identify and evaluate emerging discretionary powers on a regular basis to determine their applicability to Aberdeen City.

3. THE CONSOLIDATED MEDIUM-TERM OUTLOOK FOR THE GENERAL FUND

3.1 Medium Term Financial Strategy – Quantification of the Funding Gap

3.1.1 Overall, the medium-term outlook is that increasing demand and pay and price inflation will drive costs up at a faster rate than the council can expect to raise income. This only got more difficult as inflation increased and peaked at levels not seen for forty years. Although inflation levels have now stabilised to more familiar levels in line with Bank of England targets, sensitivity to further economic shocks remains and it does not mean prices are not continuing to increase. Unless funding is provided through the range of income streams, but fundamentally from Scottish Government grant then there is a question of the sustainability of local government. It is difficult to see the same level of services being delivered over the course of the medium term horizon as are in place today.

3.1.2 Details of the key assumptions are contained in the tables below. The calculations that flow from these assumptions reveal a particular sensitivity to Scottish Government funding levels and general pay and price inflation assumptions, while key components of the demand underpin rising costs, such as population demand changes.

Table 4: Funding and Income (percentages are shown in cash terms)

Source	Description	Upside Scenario	Central Scenario	Downside Scenario
Scottish Government Revenue Grant	Combined grant income from General Revenue Grant and Non-Domestic Rates.	Year 1- 5 1.5%	Year 1 – 5 1.0%	Year 1 – 5 -0.2%
Council Tax	Increasing the rate is a council decision made at budget setting time, the Band D rate has therefore not been increased in any scenario. The budget decision will provide a solution to address the scenarios. (For 2025/26 the approved increase was 9.85%). It is expected that Council Tax income will be increased in 2026/27 to reflect a real terms increase, and while there is no imposed Council Tax cap now applied to the rate by Scottish Government, this support the funding of the rising cost of services and inflation in pay and prices that cannot be absorbed by the Council.			
Council Tax	Tax base increase from additional chargeable properties.	Year 1-5 total 2,850 properties	Year 1-5 total 2,345 properties	Year 1-5 total 1,290 properties
Fees, Charges and Other Income	External income raised from customers. Approval for rate increases is a council decision, therefore rates charged in 2025/26 have continued to be applied to each scenario. The budget decision will provide a solution to address the scenarios. Similar to Council Tax, careful consideration of the full cost recovery, the impact that inflation is having on the cost of delivering chargeable services must be taken into account when setting annual charges across the MTFS period.			

Fees, Charges and Other Income	External income changes due to economic conditions.	Year 1 -5 Additional £2.5m	Year 1 Stable income	Year 1 £6m loss & return to current over 8 years
One-off funding streams	2025/26 Budget made use of Balance Sheet resources and one-off funding streams these must be replaced as they are non-recurring.			

Table 5: Expenditure (percentages are shown in cash terms)

Source	**Description**	**Upside Scenario**	**Central Scenario**	**Downside Scenario**
Inflation	Pay (The 2026/27 Pay award is already agreed for some pay groups, otherwise the Upside scenario would be lower).	Year 1 3.5%; Year 2-5 2% Pay award funded by SG grant if greater than assumptions	Year 1 3.5%; Year 2-5 2% Pay award funded by SG grant if greater than assumptions	Year 1-3 4%; Year 4-5 3.0% Pay award funded by SG grant if greater than assumptions
Government Policy	National Insurance	Year 1-5 0% No further increases beyond 2025/26	Year 1-5 0% No further increases beyond 2025/26	Year 1-5 0% No further increases beyond 2025/26
Inflation	Price – including contracts, grants and ALEOs	Year 1 – 5 1.0%	Between 2.7% and 2% p.a.	Year 1 – 5 3.0%.
Inflation	Utilities, including Gas, Electric, Heating Oil, Water	Gas 1.0% Electricity 1.0%	Gas 1% Electricity 1% rising to 5.7%	Gas 6.0% Electricity 6.0%
Population Demand	Children, schools impact	School roll slower	Total Year 1-5 Stable	School roll increases
Capital Investment Demand	Capital Financing	Year 1 3% Year 2 3% Year 3 3% Year 4 0.5% Year 5 0.5%	Year 1 3% Year 2 10% Year 3 7% Year 4 1% Year 5 0%	Year 1 7% Year 2 14% Year 3 10% Year 4 5% Year 5 5%
Capital Investment – Local Policy	Loans Fund Repayment		Asset Useful Life = Average 40 years; and Interest Rate = Average 5%	

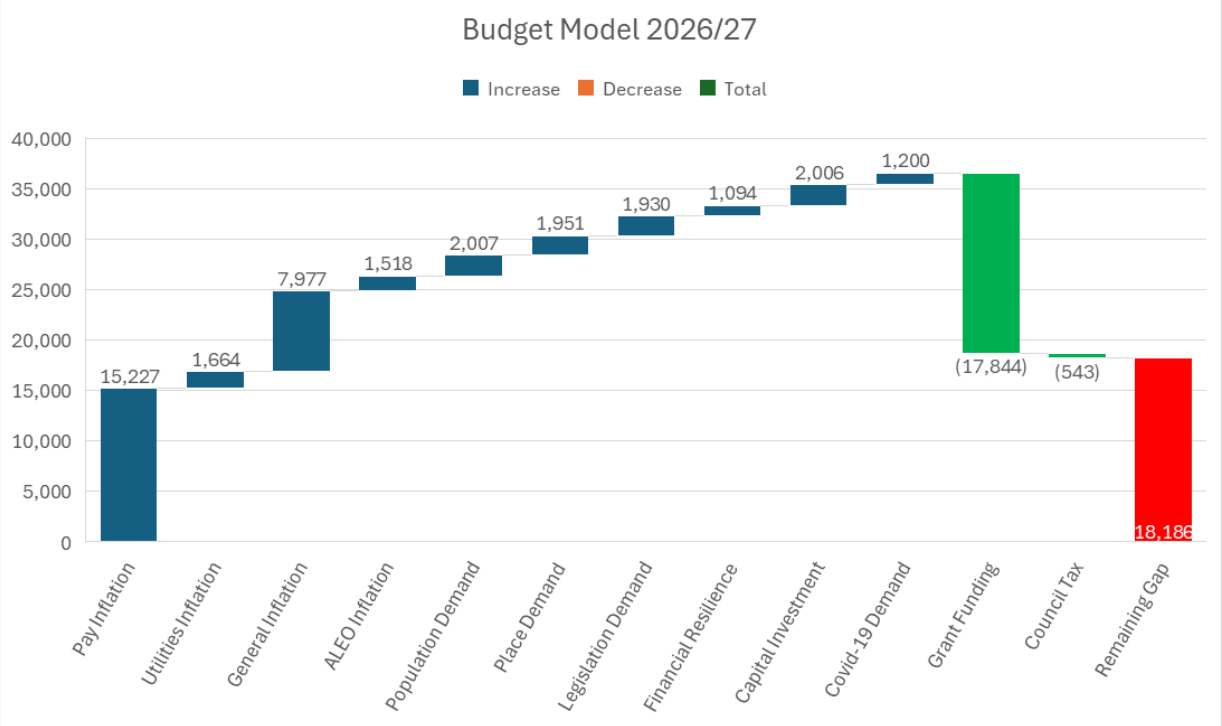
3.1.3 Figures for the Council's Functional structure are presented in the following table, reflecting the changing costs for the Central Scenario.

Table 6: Central Scenario Forecast from 2025/26 to 2030/31 (Gross)

General Fund	**Forecast 2025/26**	**Forecast 2026/27**	**Forecast 2027/28**	**Forecast 2028/29**	**Forecast 2029/30**	**Forecast 2030/31**
	£'000	**£'000**	**£'000**	**£'000**	**£'000**	**£'000**
City Regeneration & Environment	35,062	40,847	46,693	48,968	51,309	53,718
Corporate Services	46,994	49,608	48,732	50,083	52,481	54,927
Familiies & Communities	346,333	379,166	387,455	395,318	400,962	404,654
Integrated Joint Board	140,461	136,261	136,261	136,261	136,261	136,261
Corporate	95,300	96,539	106,959	115,874	120,397	122,617
Net Expenditure	**664,151**	**702,421**	**726,101**	**746,504**	**761,410**	**772,178**
Funded By						
General Revenue Grant	(306,025)	(321,866)	(325,332)	(325,332)	(325,332)	(325,332)
NNDR	(200,361)	(202,365)	(202,365)	(202,365)	(202,365)	(202,365)
Council Tax	(154,640)	(155,183)	(155,727)	(156,270)	(156,813)	(157,357)
Use of Reserves	(3,124)	(4,821)	(5,252)	(5,423)	(5,419)	(3,651)
Core Funding	**(664,151)**	**(684,235)**	**(688,676)**	**(689,391)**	**(689,930)**	**(688,705)**
Gap (cumulative)	**0**	**18,186**	**37,425**	**57,114**	**71,480**	**83,473**

3.1.4 The forecast position changes in the different elements of the central scenario, can be represented by the graph in Chart 22.

Chart 22: ACC General Fund 2026/27



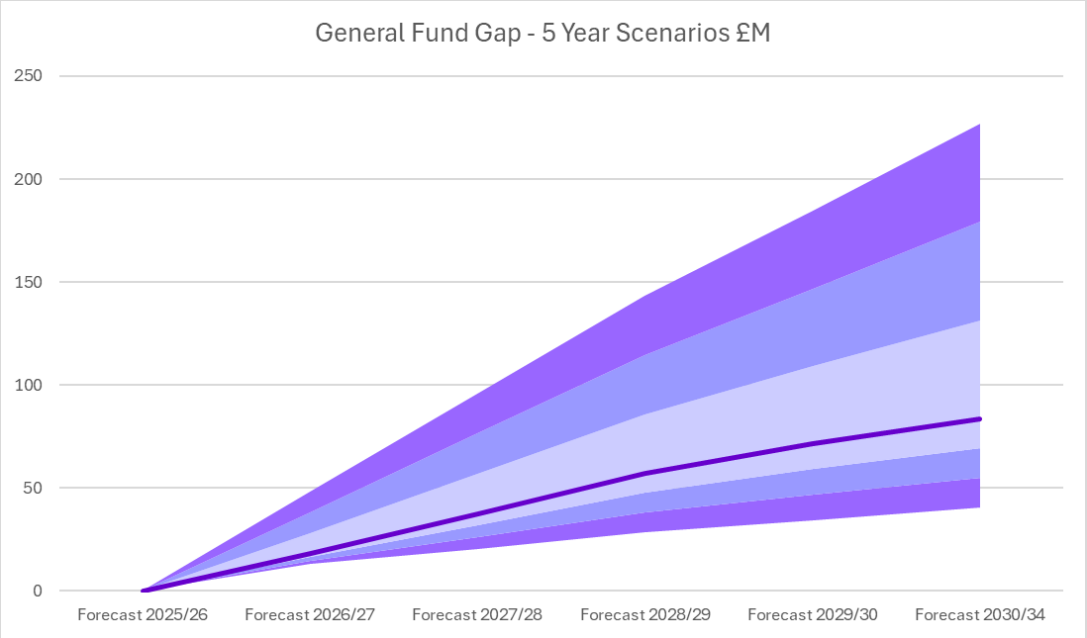
3.1.5 The impact of income and expenditure assumptions over the next five years, with the Upside and Downside scenarios quantified is shown in the table below.

Table 7: Budget Gap Scenarios

After Assumed Savings	Actual 2025/26	Forecast 2026/27	Forecast 2027/28	Forecast 2028/29	Forecast 2029/30	Forecast 2030/31
General Fund Budget Gap	**£M**	**£M**	**£M**	**£M**	**£M**	**£M**
Downside Scenario	0	48	96	143	184	227
Central Scenario	**0**	**18**	**37**	**57**	**71**	**83**
Upside Scenario	0	13	21	28	34	41

3.1.6 More clearly shown in graphical form, below, it shows the range of scenarios that may happen over the course of the years ahead.

Chart 23: Budget Gap Scenarios



3.1.7 The scenario plans reveal a range for 2026/27 of between £13m and £48m, with a central scenario that is not that dissimilar to last year's MTFS. This is not surprising given the range of assumptions that are relatively unchanged since MTFS 2024. The upside scenario is not as favourable as last year largely because the assumption being made for the 2026/27 pay awards is higher than usual, but already partially confirmed.

3.1.8 The additional funding forecast relates to additional Scottish Government funding due for the 2025/26 pay awards, plus an early assumption on funding for Reduction in Class Contact Time (RCCT). Neither of these are subject specific, and are associated with cost base changes elsewhere in the MTFS; these amounts are not additional payments of unrestricted funds for the Council to apply as it sees fit.

3.1.9 There is still no significant improvement in the general funding forecast assumptions. These remain based on a strongly directed spending profile by Scottish Government and flat cash assumptions that are supported by the 2022 Scottish Government Resource Spending Review and reinforced by the 2023 Scottish Government MTFS. The updated Scottish Government MTFS [2025] indicates potential increases in funding may be targeted towards cost pressures across social care.

4. CAPITAL FUNDING AND INVESTMENT

4.1 The Funding Outlook – Scotland, Local Government and Aberdeen City Council

4.1.1 Drawing on the funding outlook for the UK, described in Section 2, the overall expectation for capital funding being made available has the added dimension that capital investment can stimulate the economy and be a lever to support businesses, supply chain and economic growth in times of crisis.

4.1.2 The then Chancellor set out in his 2021 Autumn Budget and Spending Review a budget that is multi-year, as referenced earlier, and this included the capital funding commitments that provides the information the public sector requires to plan for capital investment. The three-year budget figures were linked to the Levelling Up agenda, so that for many areas of the UK there was relevant and specific reference to funding commitments being made.

4.1.3 This included Scotland, where outside the Scottish Block funding announced there was also £170m of capital investment made directly by the UK Government into Scotland, through Scottish Local Authorities. This link between UK Government and Scottish Local Government provides an opportunity to tap into additional funding, not currently available. For the Council this resulted in the award of the full £20m from the Levelling Up Fund, for the Aberdeen Market project.

4.1.4 It was thought this source of funding was of particular importance as the Levelling Up Fund is not a 'once only' Fund, but one that will seek bids in the future. To this end the Council submitted a second bid for funding, in respect of the Beach Masterplan and was unsuccessful in being awarded any funding. Funding for second round bids was directed to local authority areas that had not been successful in round one, and funding for third round bids directed to local authority areas that had not been successful in either of the previous rounds. While the Council remains agile and aware of the opportunities that exist in accessing the valuable funding stream it is perhaps realistic that until Levelling Up has reached all parts of the UK, there will be less likelihood of a further award. Following the General Election in July 2024, it is still not clear if there will be a fourth round for the Levelling Up Fund, as we await details from the new UK Government.

4.1.5 Other Funds have emerged with the UK Shared Prosperity Fund being announced for 2022/23, and now extended into 2025/26. Funding decisions have been made to award locally[62] within the criteria that has been set out. The original allocation to

[62] Finance & Resources Committee, UK Shared Prosperity Fund Report, May 2025

Aberdeen City Council area was £7.2m, with a further £2.3m now released for 2025/26.

4.1.6 The Scottish Government published its Infrastructure Investment Plan for Scotland 2021/22 to 2025/26[63] on 4 February 2021. The Scottish Government described the purpose of this as "Our Infrastructure Investment Plan covers 2021-22 to 2025-26 and delivers our National Infrastructure Mission commitment to boost economic growth by increasing annual investment in infrastructure by 1% of 2017 Scottish GDP by 2025-26."

4.1.7 Investment in infrastructure can provide stimulus and economic growth, evidenced through increases in GDP, therefore having this national picture is important to understand financial commitments, resource allocation decisions and to provide context for local decisions being made. Following the 2021 Scottish Parliamentary elections the Scottish Government published its Programme for Government[64] where capital investment continues to be expanded but noted that prioritisation of health and social care continues to dominate with a commitment, for example, to "Capital investment of £10 billion over the next decade will see health facilities built and refurbished across Scotland."

4.1.8 In May 2022 the Scottish Government published, alongside the Resource Spending Review, a Targeted Review[65] of the Capital Spending Review. This highlighted that three things had changed in the period since February 2021:

- Scotland received a lower than expected capital settlement from the UK Government's Autumn 2021 Spending Review – reducing the funding envelope by over £750 million;
- the establishment of the new Scottish Government in 2021 with an increased commitment to tackle global climate and nature emergencies, reinforced by COP 26; and
- Scotland faces the additional impacts of high inflation, supply chain pressures and business disruption due to a combination of the impact of the UK's exit from the European Union, the pandemic and the crisis in Ukraine.

4.1.9 The reliance on the UK Government for capital grant allocations, with limited capital borrowing powers, means the Scottish Government has concluded that it is not possible to immediately fund all the commitments from the existing spending review and those set out in the Programme for Government.

[63] Scottish Government, Infrastructure Investment Plan 21/22-25/26, February 2021

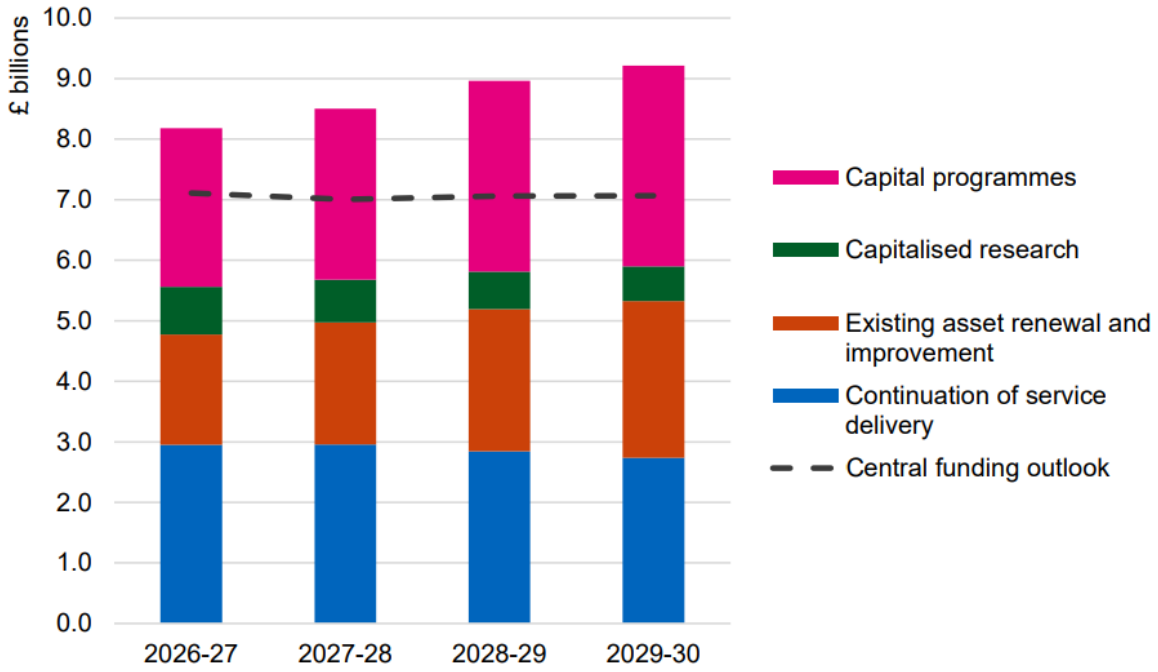
[64] Scottish Government, Programme for Government, 7 September 2021

[65] Scottish Government, May 2022, Targeted Review of Capital Spending Review 2023/24-2025/26

4.1.10 The updated Scottish Government MTFS presented an comparison of capital spending to the funding outlook, as illustrated below. This reinforces previous assumptions that there remains a large capital funding shortfall vs the spending outlook.

Figure 8:

Forecast trajectory for capital spending compared to the funding outlook[66]



Source: Scottish Government

4.1.11 It can be determined from this, and limited updates in the latest Programme for Government published in May 2025[67] that there is no more funding for the Council to support increased investment locally and all of the additional cost associated with capital investment will have to be met by partners, or by the Council borrowing more. The alternative is to reprioritise or reprofile the Capital Programme, as has been done several times in the last 2 years. The Quarter 1 2025/26 report to Finance and Resources Committee saw re-profiling changes approved to the General Fund Capital Programme.

4.1.12 The final bullet point is one that has been laboured throughout the earlier pages of this document, and evidence of the capital effect was clear throughout 2023/24 as contracts and sites were paused to retender, stop and delay incurring costs that are extremely high. The report on supply chain volatility[68] that was considered by City Growth and Resources Committee remains relevant today. That report presents a highly challenging capital investment environment due to this permanent shift in costs across the supply chain.. The impact of actions taken to control inflation by the Bank of England, by increasing the cost of borrowing, means that there are multiple layers of financial effect. Although those measures must now be seen as successful, due to the lowering of the inflation rate over the last year, prices did not fall back to level

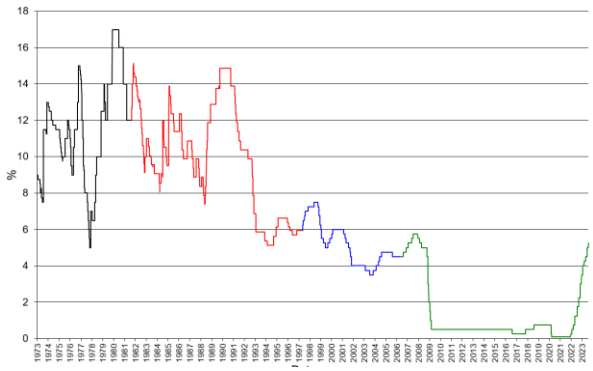
[66] Scottish Government, June 2025, Medium Term Financial Stratgey

[67] Scottish Government, Programme for Government 2025-26

[68] Aberdeen City Council, June 2022, Supply Chain Volatility report

seen prior to the Russion invasion of Ukraine, so the baseline movements in costs still remains. In historic terms the cost of borrowing has now risen to levels not seen in over a decade, raising the cost of future borrowing and countering the sense that we live in a low cost environment that will continue as the norm.

Chart 24: Bank of England base rate/minimum lending rate since 1973



Source: Bank of England

4.1.13 Projects costing more, requiring additional funding to support delivery and borrowing costing more than it did, it adds up to a reason to review the purpose, progress and value of the capital programme.

4.1.14 Paying for the cost of Capital Programmes has become more and more challenging, with increasing levels of external debt and a requirement to meet those commitments, as well as recent increases in borrowing costs. The level of Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) that the Council General Fund had at 31 March 2025 was £1.326billion[69], this includes the Council long-term borrowing and for the assets financed through PPP and Finance Lease arrangements. The cost of servicing all this borrowing is funded by the Revenue Budget annually, therefore increasing borrowing adds cost to the General Fund budget.

4.1.15 The Capital Programme approved by the Council in March 2025 was accompanied by future CFR projections (as part of the required Prudential Indicators), and these are shown in the following table.

	Capital Financing Requirement						
	2023/24 £'000 Actual	2024/25 £'000 Estimate	2025/26 £'000 Estimate	2026/27 £'000 Estimate	2027/28 £'000 Estimate	2028/29 £'000 Estimate	2029/30 £'000 Estimate
Gen Fund	1,249,775	1,343,566	1,522,246	1,672,741	1,748,001	1,781,454	1,789,983

4.1.16 Following a recommendation by the Chief Officer – Finance to agree a cap of 10.5% on the annual cost of capital financing as a percentage of the General Fund Net Expenditure the Council agreed at the budget meeting in March 2024 to a 12% cap. This was noted and unchanged by the approved 2025/26 budget. The rising CFR

[69] Aberdeen City Council, Audited Annual Accounts 2024/25

shown above will challenge that cap, as can be seen from the forecasts included as part of the March 2025 Prudential Indicators, shown in the table below:

	Ratio of Financing Costs to Net Revenue Stream						
	2023/24 Actual	2024/25 Estimate	2025/26 Estimate	2026/27 Estimate	2027/28 Estimate	2028/29 Estimate	2029/30 Estimate
Gen Fund	8.2%	9.8%	9.5%	10.6%	11.6%	12.2%	11.9%

4.1.17 As the funding to support capital expenditure is not in place the Council must maintain a robust approach to consideration and scrutiny of business cases, and will be increasingly important. Care must also be taken when external funding is offered or available and a full assessment of the circumstances should be applied as part of the business case approach taken.

4.1.18 The eyes of the world were on Scotland when COP26[70] took place in Glasgow in 2021. Clear commentary from both UK and Scottish Governments demonstrates both funding being available, and investment required within the "Green Economy". The Scottish Governments Infrastructure Investment Plan has as its first Theme: Enabling the transition to net zero emissions and environmental sustainability. It describes why this is important "Public infrastructure investment has a critical role to play in tackling the twin crises of climate change and biodiversity loss. We will increase spending on low carbon measures, climate resilience, and nature-based solutions." The targeted review maintains that emphasis, with Climate change being included as an enduring priority.

4.1.19 One of the Verity House Agreement shared priorities is **transform our economy through a just transition to deliver net zero**, recognising climate change as one of the biggest threats to communities across Scotland. It is clear this remains uppermost in the minds Scottish and Local Government and action has to be taken. The overriding concern for the MTFS is the funding of this transition, as there are no clear routes for this and we should expect this to be iterative over a period of many years rather than something that will be funded now.

4.1.20 On 22 February 2023[71], the Council agreed to "Join local authorities across the world which have responded to the twin crises of climate change and nature loss and declare a "Climate and Nature Emergency"; acknowledging the urgency of the crises, their cascading impacts and commit to address these emergencies."

4.1.21 The commitment extends to a number of specific points:

- Commit to tackling the climate and nature emergencies together; recognising the many and various societal, economic and environmental co-benefits that can be achieved from taking action on climate change and nature recovery; including for skills, products, services, placemaking, health and wellbeing.

[70] COP26

[71] Aberdeen City Council, February 2023, Notice of Motion by Cllr Yuill

- Reaffirm its commitment to take effective action through the current and successive Council Climate Change Plans to limit the impact from Council assets and operations and meet the Council's net zero targets, climate resilience and nature recovery priorities.
- Commit to continuing proactive work with other public, private, third and community sector partners towards Aberdeen becoming a net zero city by 2037 and to build climate resilience and nature recovery, delivering the Net Zero Aberdeen Routemap, enabling strategies; and Aberdeen Adapts, Climate Adaptation Framework[72].
- Plan, develop and manage a Just Transition response to the climate and nature emergencies to ensure fair and positive societal change, tackling inequality and injustice.
- Consider and address the impact, challenges and opportunities of climate and nature in all Council decisions, policies, strategies, plans and projects.

4.1.22 With Council ambition contained in the Net Zero Vision, the Council must seek to harness this over the medium term and is well placed to capitalise on its position within the energy market. In February 2022 the Council approved[73] the city-wide approach to addressing climate change, as articulated through a *Net Zero Routemap* which sets a net zero target for Aberdeen City by 2045 across six themes and the refreshed *Aberdeen Adapts*, providing a climate adaptation framework for Aberdeen.

4.1.23 Clear alignment within the Local Development Plan (LDP) and the future investment within the city (both by the public and private sector) are critical to providing land availability to allow future investment to take place.

4.1.24 The LDP clearly has ear-marked land for the Energy Transition zone and outline business cases are already in development to bring this aspect of the planning regime to life.

4.1.25 This is coupled with the already approved Strategic Investment Plan[74] approved by the Council and begins to articulate the future investment required to ensure the city is at the forefront of future energy sources as well as moving towards a net zero carbon footprint.

4.1.26 Investment in electric and hydrogen vehicles, sustainable energy sources for heating as well as Low Emission Zones will all be key to delivering a successful city of the future. All these investment strands are being brought forward at a pace to help deliver against this climate change backdrop. The Capital Programme continues to support several initiatives, including investment in electric and hydrogen vehicles, charging infrastructure and the hydrogen hub (a joint venture with bp).

[72] Net Zet Aberdeen and Aberdeen Adapts: Annual Report 2024/25

[73] Council, 28 February 2022, Climate Change: Citywide strategy and COUNCIL Carbon budget

[74] Net Zero Vision and Infrastructure Plan, UBC May 2020

4.1.27 However, a city must be able to offer a much more diverse offering to attract the investment to make it a city of choice in terms of where to live and work. While pre-Covid-19 urbanisation was seen as the future in a post Covid-19 world this becomes blurred as human behaviour may well have changed forever.

4.1.28 As individuals and businesses seek to find a new "norm" the pressure on cities to redefine themselves will become ever more important. As people potentially work from home, children are educated out with a traditional school setting, on-line shopping becomes even more prevalent and other health issues begin to manifest themselves traditional capital investment by a local authority needs to be paused and re-examined.

4.1.29 Where people live and the type of housing they live in will no doubt change in the future. For example, people working from home and children being educated in a blended way means the Council will have to adapt.

4.1.30 The current house building programme approved by the Council in February 2020, presciently, set a new "Gold Standard" which would ensure space in a residential setting would provide for:

- Space to work from home;
- Energy Efficiency and tackling fuel poverty;
- Dedicated space for children to learn at home;
- Dedicated "Green Space"; and
- Encouraging fit and healthy lifestyle (cycling and walking).

4.1.31 In support of the vision, the Net Zero Vision prospectus recommends five co-dependent strategic objectives that will support the economic imperative to transition to a different energy future beyond oil and gas anchoring talent and the energy supply chain; innovation and technology transfer; a new energy destination of choice; and leading and advocating for the city and energy sector:

i. Leading the Global Transition - Our city is a world-class destination for inward investment in alternative energy research, innovation, and commercialisation, underpinned by our credentials and track record;

ii. Accelerating Transition Demand - Our city and its institutions are an anchor of demand and aligned local investment for alternative energy technologies, infrastructure and services, particularly those relating to hydrogen, offshore wind, carbon capture, utilisation and storage, and decommissioning;

iii. Resilient, Productive and Dynamic Place - Our city is recognised the world over as the resilient, productive and dynamic place at the heart of a world-class energy transition cluster;

iv. Climate Positive Exemplar - We play our full part – as a climate positive advocate and exemplar – in meeting the headline global goal of the Paris

Agreement on Climate Change by limiting average global warming to no more than 1.5oC above pre-industrial levels;

v. Putting People First - Everyone contributes to and shares in the proceeds of an equitable, sustainable and prosperous transition and future.

4.1.32 The plan aligns to the overall objective of Aberdeen meeting the net carbon zero target by 2045 and, ultimately, to achieve climate positive status, and the goals of:

- Clean energy supply for the city, UK and internationally
- Aberdeen's infrastructure is adaptable to changes in climate
- Sustainable mobility
- Building Energy Efficiency
- Sustainable Waste Management

4.1.33 Building on all of this, capital investment decisions on the future infrastructure requirements of the city will have to align to these principles.

4.1.34 The Capital Programme for the General Fund was approved in March 2025 with investment in city projects over the five years to 2029/30. Following the end of 2024/25, as reported in the Council Financial Performance - Quarter 1, 2025/26 – CORS/25/181 report to Finance and Resources committee at the beginning of August 2025, budget carry forwards and re-profiling exercises have been carried out, and the programme has also now been updated with various additional capital grants which have been confirmed in the first 6 months of 2025/26. Details of the updated 5 year programme of £759 million are shown in Appendix 2.

4.1.35 The General Fund Capital Programme includes significant future investment in education and school estate, while supporting the modernisation of technology infrastructure over the five years. Funding for transport and for the City Centre and Beach Masterplans remains a core part of the approved programme, shifting the emphasis on transport towards alternatives to the car, prioritising public transport and infrastructure for electric and hydrogen technologies, as the same time supporting the transformation of the City Centre and the Beach areas. As referred to above, the programme is again being reviewed in light of economic conditions and capacity and supply chain challenges.

4.1.36 Shaping the future, taking account of the ambition described above will be managed within the framework of the Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities, which requires this to be prudent, affordable and sustainable. With the financial challenge so significant in revenue terms, a choice will be to decide on the level of capital investment that is affordable and sustainable. Options would be to stop potential investment projects, reduce the scope or quantity of investment provided, and delay and extend the period of investment. These options would have an impact on both the financing costs of the projects but also the revenue implications of new facilities and assets being created and becoming operational.

4.1.37 The financial environment across the Scottish public sector is challenging, with the Scottish Fiscal Commission forecasting that if public services in Scotland continue to be delivered as they are today, government spending over the next 50 years will exceed the estimated funding available by an average of 1.7% each year[75]. All local authorities will be affected by such pressures. Aberdeen's successful economy and well-run governance provide some resilience. However, the ageing population is putting additional demands on services, particularly in healthcare and adult social care. With more over 65s than under 16s in Scotland, local government budgets are increasingly strained as they prioritise funding for these essential services.

[75] Scottish Fiscal Commission, March 2023

5. RESPONSE TO THE CONSOLIDATED MEDIUM-TERM OUTLOOK FOR THE GENERAL FUND

5.1 2025/26

5.1.1 The Council's allocation of resources and budget is set annually within the context of a commissioning cycle which aligns available resources to a broad range of commitments which are described through:

- Statutory duties;
- Implementation of the Council's Partnership Agreement;
- Commissioning intentions which support the delivery of the Local Outcome Improvement Plan and other strategic outcomes; and
- Service standards which specify the level of service to be delivered.

5.1.2 It is essential that the Council balances its budget in-year and does not add unplanned expenditure into the financial modelling and MTFS. The monitoring of the current year is being carried out in line with the Council's quarterly financial reporting Based on the Quarter 1 Financial Performance Report[76] the Committee noted 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. Continuing action and controls…..will remain in place for the remainder of the financial year.

5.1.3 Following a period of intense negotiation with trade unions, the Council agreed an implementation plan for the reduction to a 35 Hour Working Week, and staff transitioned to the new arrangements from 1 July 2025. The reduction to the on-going baseline payroll cost for the Council's General Fund is £7m and included in the MTFS modelling for 2025/26 and beyond. Further details will be included in the Quarter 2 Financial Performance Report.

5.1.4 Sustaining the balanced position described in the Quarter 1 report assumes that pay negotiations do not create additional cost to the Council and that any additional monies required to reach an agreement are fully funded by the Scottish Government. A two year pay deal for non-teaching staff was agreed just prior to the Finance and Resources committee, and implemented for the August payroll. This is the first time for several years that a pay award has been agreed in advance of the financial year, which gives more comfort on the certainty of future financial modelling. The Scottish

[76] Finance and Resources Committee, August 2025, Council Financial Performance Quarter 1 2025/26 – CORS/25/181

Government has provided additional funding to partially support all the pay negotiations agreed to date.

5.1.5 Negotiations are continuing with the Teachers bargaining group. Teaching staff constitute roughly a third of the Council's payroll costs, so a level of uncertainty on future payroll costs still remains.

5.2 2026/27 and beyond

5.2.1 Resource allocation for future years will be derived from the council's commissioning cycle. Specifically, the services which the Council delivers will be reviewed annually with analysis of the operating environment through:

- Horizon scanning
- Scenario planning
- Strategy review
- An analysis of statutory duties
- An analysis of current and projected demand
- Performance levels achieved
- An analysis of financial data
- An analysis of contracts
- An analysis of workforce data

5.2.2 Delivering a balanced budget across the Medium Term Financial Strategy must be tackled thought a range of different approaches, using all of the opportunities that the Council has at its disposal where and when they are available. The tools that Aberdeen City has and has put in place to do this include:

- The Target Operating Model (TOM 1.2) and transformation of the Council
- Multi-Agency Transformation
- Efficiency Savings
- Changing Service Standards
- Exercising discretion to increase income
- Reserves and Fiscal Flexibilities

5.3 Future Transformation Priorities

5.3.1 From 2017 Phase 1 of the Councils transformation shifted the organisation to a new way through the Target Operating Model (TOM). With the implementation of the TOM and delivery of the digital strategy, along with the delivery of required savings and a balanced budget over the five years (2018/19 to 2022/23), the Council refreshed

our transformation journey and the next phase of our Target Operating Model – TOM 1.2[77] was agreed in August 2023.

5.3.2 While transformation is not only about delivering the necessary savings; there is an even more crucial need for organisational culture to be strategically oriented towards the towards the capabilities envisaged by the Council's Operating Model, for example, preventing customer demand, anticipating demand, supporting customers to manage their demand, and in the event, responding to the demand ensuring that staff are working with a focus on outcomes. A very deliberate attempt has been made, and will continue to be made, towards influencing the culture of the organisation as well as ensuring that all staff have the right skills and working environment practices to operate within a changing environment.

5.3.3 TOM 1.2 focuses on further embedding the design principles and capabilities, supporting deeper and broader service redesign, with digital as an enabler. Crucially it will enable the organisation to deliver savings required for the next 5 years from 2026/27 to 2030/31 as set out in this Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS).

5.3.4 The objectives of TOM 1.2 are:

1. Support the Council to address the 5-year funding gap of £134m as outlined in the MTFS 2022. (Now revised as per 3.1.5 above)
2. Continue to exploit digital technologies within the Council's Digital Transformation agenda to enable services to adopt technology for various activities and processes, thus enabling the Council to fully leverage technologies to accelerate their processes.
3. Develop an organisational workforce that is flexible ensuring all staff have the necessary skills to work effectively within the Council's operating model.

5.3.5 In addition to the Council's own transformation programmes, we have established a Multi-agency Transformation Management Group and have worked collaboratively with partner agencies on transformational activity relating to digital services; use of assets; early intervention and prevention through the management of demand; and the design of specific services, with a particular focus on children' services.

5.3.6 Looking forward and within the context described by this medium-term financial strategy, the Transformation Programme has been reviewed and refocused on the capabilities and actions to support deeper and broader service redesign which will be required to ensure financial stability in future years. The priorities for the next phase of the Transformation Portfolio will build upon our systemic redesign of services to

[77] Council, 24 August 2022, Council Target Operation Model (TOM) 1.2

ensure we respond to and shape future demand. Specifically, this transformation activity will focus on:

- Taking full advantage of the opportunities which are presented through the rapid acceleration of digital technology, the availability and management of data and how this can support both planning and transactional services for our customers. The council has, and will continue to, invest in new IT systems and technologies, to increase productivity and efficiency through end-to-end processes, customer journey and improvements in information and technology;
- The flexibility of our workforce and the ability to respond to different demands and a different environment. We will continue to invest in the culture, training and development that will deliver a diverse and inclusive workforce for the future;
- The use of our physical assets to support transformation of our services and deliver an increased return for the Council. The council holds significant physical resources such and through the implementation of an updated Asset Strategy we will continue to work to optimise the use of our assets. We will improve the use of data to ensure we fully understand the nature and value of our assets to support informed decision making; and
- Working closely with our partners, customers and communities to deliver inclusive, whole system redesign. Building on our work to identify and reduce negative demand, much of the demand which local authorities experience can only be effectively reduced through early intervention and prevention activity delivered jointly with our partners including, where appropriate "co-production" of local services with communities. Our partnership work will be driven through both Community Planning Aberdeen and the North East Multi-Agency Transformation Management Group.

5.3.7 In recognition of this approach the initial activity that has been done on our programme of work has resulted in a range of workstreams. While the detailed discovery, planning and analysis is carried out, working towards decisions being taken, a judgement of the value that the Council should be aiming to achieve has been forecast. This covers the transformation workstreams of the Council and also the Multi-Agency transformation that is being worked on.

5.3.8 The value that the Council places against those transformation programmes is included in the table below, which estimates the timescale for when those savings and income streams may be delivered. As the detail is worked through and decisions are taken on specific actions these values will be firmed up and locked in.

Table 8: Proposed Savings / Income Generated from Transformation Programmes

Assumed Savings/Income Generated through Transformation Programmes of Work	2024/25 Indicative budget saving £'000	2025/26 Indicative budget saving £'000	2026/27 Indicative budget saving £'000	2027/28 Indicative budget saving £'000	Total 4 Years Indicative budget saving £'000
Transformation of the Council	(7,611)	1,367	(2,699)	(12,744)	(21,687)
Multi-Agency Transformation	(500)	(1,025)	(1,285)	(1,200)	(4,010)
Total	**(8,111)**	**342**	**(3,984)**	**(13,944)**	**(25,697)**

5.3.9 This is not the total extent of what the Council expects to achieve from transformation. Opportunities to close the funding gap will arise that will impact directly on service levels and standards and may affect our commissioning intentions. These have not been baked into the MTFS 2025 and will instead continue to be developed into specific budget options for 2026/27 and beyond.

5.4 *Linked Strategies*

5.4.1 The Strategic Commissioning Committee agreed in November 2019 a revised Strategy Framework[78] which reframed the formal strategies of the Council to ensure their full alignment to the Local Outcome Improvement Plan and their consistency with each other. Through the adoption of the commissioning cycle, the council's strategies have a fundamental role in the strategic allocation of resources. This Strategy is a key plan which provides context and sets principles which must be reflected within the council's strategies. The council's updated strategy frameworks are shown at Appendix 3.

5.5 *Efficiencies*

5.5.1 These have been a necessity of local government financial settlements, that the sector does more with less year on year, and this has been essential given the real terms cut in funding that local government has received over the last decade, referenced earlier in the document.

5.5.2 Experience shows that managers year on year are able to deliver savings as part of business as usual, based on decisions to not purchase the same volumes of goods and services, to change the product or commodity that is purchased, to negotiate and tender for better prices, to identify if work can be done in a different way that improves productivity or removes inefficiency of historic work or procedural processes.

5.5.3 These do not have to be described as transformation or be a fundamental redesign, these can be achieved through behaviour, through capability and through access to

[78] Strategy Framework, SCC, November 2019

advice and guidance on options. All this points in the direction of the principles of the TOM but results in savings that can be captured because the Council does thing more cost effectively.

5.5.4 Part of the solution to the MTFS budget gap is to year on year secure savings from business as usual, to capture a significant efficiency improvement that results in a lower cost base for the in-year and future service delivery. These efficiency savings are getting more and more difficult to identify. In the event that the change in behaviour required to deliver the saving falls within existing delegated powers to officers, current practice is to simply update the MTFS directly, rather than include it in the list of proposals being submitted to Council for consideration. The assumption that has been made by the Council is that it should expect savings from achieving efficiencies going forward, these are still being quantified for 2026/27 and beyond. These are summarised in the table below:

Table 9: Proposed Savings / Income Generated from Efficiencies

Assumed Savings/Income Generated through Efficiencies	2024/25 Indicative budget saving £'000	2025/26 Indicative budget saving £'000	2026/27 Indicative budget saving £'000	2027/28 Indicative budget saving £'000	Total 4 Years Indicative budget saving £'000
Efficiencies	(335)	(1,412)	0	0	(1,747)
Total	**(335)**	**(1,412)**	**0**	**0**	**(1,747)**

5.6 Raising Income

5.6.1 As described earlier the most significant fiscal lever at present is the Council Tax and the ability now for Councils to adjust this unconditionally means that it is an important tool to address rising costs on a recurring basis so that financial sustainability is also address, in part at least.

5.6.2 A key principle of the MTFS is to exercise the discretion it has over local taxation and increase the Band D charge for Council Tax annually to support future budgets. In the current climate the strategic position to take is to plan for real terms increase in the rate that Council Tax is charged so that the value keeps up with the rising costs that have to be funded. To address a significant budget gap in the future this provides an excellent means of doing so.

5.6.3 Other fees and charges, both internal and external, are valuable sources of funding. The description earlier in the document forecasts the change in the underlying value of the customer base and use of services that are charged, the MTFS does not present the options or assume the value of additional income that can be generated as this is subject to the discretion of the Council. The principle is clear, that the Council must apply its Service Income Policy to support the effective and sustainable delivery of

services where charges can be applied and exercise that discretion annually and collect the income that is rightfully owed.

5.6.4 Further insight into the core income streams that the Council relies upon is included in the Financial Resilience Framework, described in Section 6.

5.6.5 Overall financial sustainability is improved where there is income being received to cover costs and that the income is recurring. With the ability to exercise discretion over only on a number of the lower value funding streams from fees and charges (i.e. excluding Council Tax) the Council should do what it can to secure additional revenue annually in support of the budgets.

5.7 Reserves and Fiscal Flexibility

5.7.1 The opportunity to use reserves, while a legitimate funding source, it must always been seen and dealt with as one-off in nature. The Council position on Reserves is included in Section 6.

5.7.2 The emergence of fiscal flexibilities over the last two years, brought on or progressed at pace because of the impact of the pandemic, has provided local government with opportunity to take one-off savings or income streams to assist in managing the financial position. The Council has taken advantage of these in recent years, using capital receipts to support the voluntary severance and early retirement of staff rather than charge that to revenue budgets; in 2022/23 the Council deferred the repayment of debt principal (or more accurately, it did not have to account for the repayment, thereby meeting legal obligations to repay debt as it falls due while achieving a saving); and finally in 2023/24 the Budget[79] meeting of Council agreed to exercise the final flexibility, the Service Concession.

5.7.3 As stated earlier these are legitimate and appropriate sources of income or achieving savings provided they are treated properly and responsibly. This includes consideration of the benefits that are achieved from a one-off source of funding – it is recommended that a return is received in the form of financial (and non-financial) benefits from what can be classified as investment, spend to save being a well-used term to describe it. Transformation for example will require a level of investment to make the change take effect and an example where the Council has undertaken this has been using a Transformation Fund, where money is committed and drawn down to support technology or skills investment that once purchased delivers a saving or new income stream. In respect of the Service Concession Flexibility, the reserve that was created has funded capital expenditure in the Capital Programme and the remainder is committed to funding the reduction of the workforce, through the

[79] Aberdeen City Council, March 2023, General Fund Revenue & Capital Programme 23/24-27/28 RES/23/085

Voluntary Severance / Early Retirement Scheme which requires upfront funding for longer term financial benefit.

5.7.4 No other fiscal flexibilities are available for the Council to implement.

5.7.5 It should be noted that the Chief Officer – Finance has recommended use of reserves, specifically the Capital Fund, as a means of funding the Council's proposed acquisition of the RAAC (Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete) affected private properties in Torry. A recommendation has also been made that the Capital Fund could also be utilised to support of implementation of the 35 Hour Working Week, if required, to meet the total cost of the two Buy Out payments to staff.

5.8 Conclusion

5.8.1 The challenge set out in the MTFS is increasingly significant and increasingly uncertain with the gap in the scenarios growing. The Council will have difficult decisions to make to balance the budget gap over the 5 years, particularly in light of the economic environment, the ongoing and extreme market conditions in which we operate and a reinforcement, through the SG MTFS, that the Scottish Government are not going to, or cannot afford to, provide additional funding to meet the rising cost of services over the medium term.

5.8.2 The solutions come from a mixture of actions. The work that was started several years ago through the original Target Operating Model is now assessing the stages of a new five-year period with the ambition to contribute towards the 2022 budget gap, referencing the central scenario outlined in this. The Council needs the Transformation programmes outlined in TOM 1.2 to deliver the savings required in the timeframe and is determined that these programmes of work deliver cashable benefits as outlined above.

5.8.3 Multi-agency work, through our engagement and working together with partner organisations also provide the opportunities to use resources more effectively across organisations, savings must be delivered from these programmes of work too.

5.8.4 Efficiencies will play an enduring part of managing the budget position and to drive out where efforts can be taken to be more cost effective, productive and efficient in what the Council does, this is across the Council not just a select few.

5.8.5 On a regular and consistent basis the use of the discretion that the Council has to increase income to support the cost base it has should be taken, whether fees and charges, new discretionary powers or Council Tax. Securing income is a fundamental part of making the Council sustainable over the medium to long term.

5.8.6 Finally there is the option to consider how one-off funding streams (that may be available) are applied to the financial position, and care will need to ensure that these

finite resources are used to the medium and long term benefit of the Council's financial position, preference being for receiving a clear financial return from investment of one-off funding.

5.8.7 Through a combination of all these mechanisms the Council aims to find the solutions that balance the financial challenges over the next five years.

5.8.8 The current position for the Central Scenario, as shown in section 3.1.3 provides a budget gap as shown in the following table:

Table 10: Central Scenario Forecast from 2025/26 to 2030/31 (Net)

General Fund	**Forecast 2025/26**	**Forecast 2026/27**	**Forecast 2027/28**	**Forecast 2028/29**	**Forecast 2029/30**	**Forecast 2030/31**
	£'000	**£'000**	**£'000**	**£'000**	**£'000**	**£'000**
City Regeneration & Environment	35,062	40,847	46,693	48,968	51,309	53,718
Corporate Services	46,994	49,608	48,732	50,083	52,481	54,927
Familiies & Communities	346,333	379,166	387,455	395,318	400,962	404,654
Integrated Joint Board	140,461	136,261	136,261	136,261	136,261	136,261
Corporate	95,300	96,539	106,959	115,874	120,397	122,617
Net Expenditure	**664,151**	**702,421**	**726,101**	**746,504**	**761,410**	**772,178**
Funded By						
General Revenue Grant	(306,025)	(321,866)	(325,332)	(325,332)	(325,332)	(325,332)
NNDR	(200,361)	(202,365)	(202,365)	(202,365)	(202,365)	(202,365)
Council Tax	(154,640)	(155,183)	(155,727)	(156,270)	(156,813)	(157,357)
Use of Reserves	(3,124)	(4,821)	(5,252)	(5,423)	(5,419)	(3,651)
Core Funding	**(664,151)**	**(684,235)**	**(688,676)**	**(689,391)**	**(689,930)**	**(688,705)**
Net Position (MTFS Central Scenario)	**0**	**18,186**	**37,425**	**57,114**	**71,480**	**83,473**

5.8.9 The Upside and Downside Scenarios are summarised as follows:

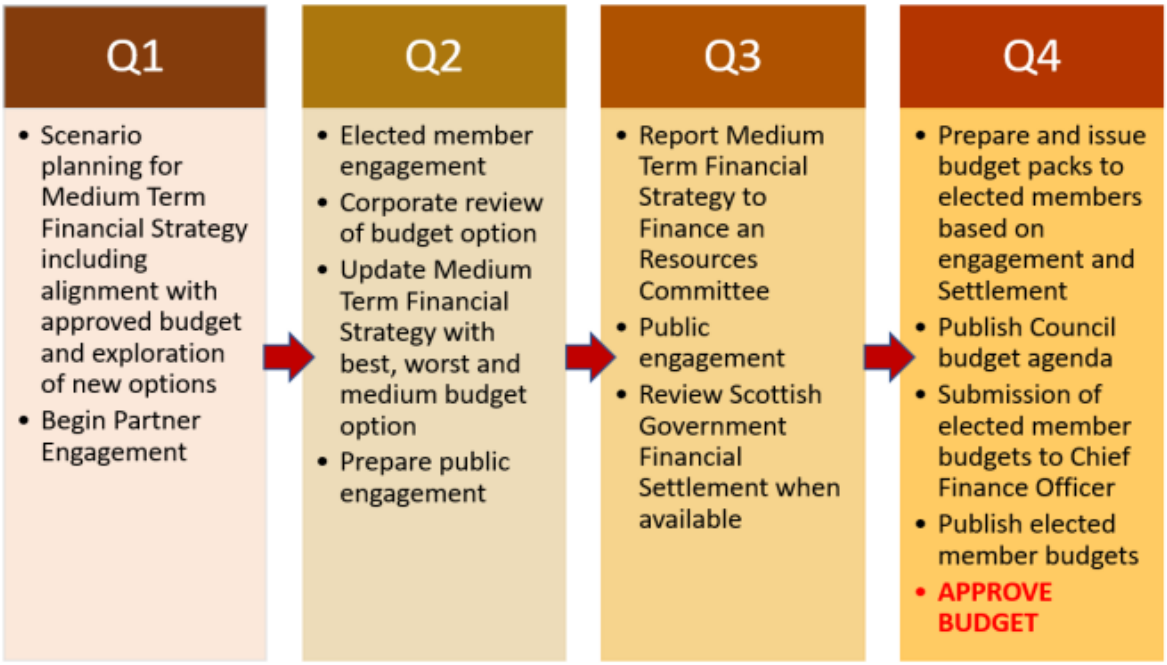
Table 11: Revised MTFS Budget Gap Scenarios

After Assumed Savings	**Actual 2025/26**	**Forecast 2026/27**	**Forecast 2027/28**	**Forecast 2028/29**	**Forecast 2029/30**	**Forecast 2030/31**
General Fund Budget Gap	**£M**	**£M**	**£M**	**£M**	**£M**	**£M**
Downside Scenario	0	48	96	143	184	227
Central Scenario	**0**	**18**	**37**	**57**	**71**	**83**
Upside Scenario	0	13	21	28	34	41

5.8.10 Given the low likelihood of the Council facing the Upside scenario given all that is described in this report, the Central Scenario remains the focus of attention. However recent announcements and the level of financial uncertainty, the changing nature of the financial and economic conditions mean that the Council must be aware of and able to respond to a shift towards the Downside scenario.

5.90 Consultation & Engagement

5.9.1 The Central Scenario will be subject to consultation and engagement in line with the Budget Protocol, approved as part of the Council's refreshed Scheme of Governance in April 2025[80].



5.9.3 The Central Scenario, shown above at 5.8.9 will be the primary focus for this consultation, however given the level of uncertainty involved in the MTFS forecasts, the consultation will look at budget options that have been prepared to support "closing the gap" for both the Upside and Downside scenarios e.g. differing levels of grant funding, or income raised from Council Tax.

[80] Aberdeen City Council - Scheme of Governance Review - 2025 - CORS/25/070

6. RESERVES AND FINANCIAL RESILIENCE FRAMEWORK

Useable Reserves

6.1 Local authorities must consider the level of reserves needed to meet estimated future expenditure when calculating the budget requirement. The Chief Officer - Finance is required, as part of the budget setting process each year, to provide a statement on the adequacy of reserves that is subject to an external audit review to assess value for money and a going concern opinion.

6.2 The Council keeps a level of reserves to protect against the risk of any uncertainties or unforeseen expenditure. This is considered best practice and demonstrates sound financial planning. Much like using savings to offset monthly household bills the use of financial reserves cannot solve a budget problem outright but allows for smoothing of impacts or allows the Council time to ride any short-term situations before returning to normal.

6.3 Therefore, reserves are mainly available to;

- ✓ Manage the impact of cuts over a longer period;
- ✓ Invest in schemes that allow services to be delivered cheaper;
- ✓ Take "one-off hits" for the council as a whole without the need to further reduce service budgets;
- ✓ Provide capacity to absorb any non-achievement of planned budget reductions in each year;
- ✓ To temporarily roll over unused portions of grants that can legally be used at a later date;
- ✓ To insure against major unexpected events (such as flooding);
- ✓ To guard against general risk (such as changes in contingent liabilities);
- ✓ To guard against emergent specific risks (such as Covid-19).

6.4 The likelihood of these risks arising is predicted to continue to increase.

Reserves Statement[81]

6.5 The council's policy on reserves is outlined within the MTFS principles as follows:

- The council will maintain its general reserve at a minimum of £12m to cover any major unforeseen expenditure. The council will aim to balance its revenue budget over the period of the MTFS without reliance on the use of the unearmarked General Fund Reserve.
- The council will maintain earmarked reserves for specific purposes which are consistent with achieving its key priorities. The use and level of earmarked reserves will be reviewed annually.

[81] Council Reserves Statement, March 2025, Report Number 2, Appendix 6

- The council's general reserve is available to support budget setting over the period of the MTFS and usage should be linked to the achievement of financial sustainability over the medium term.

Review of Reserves

6.6 A review of reserves is undertaken twice a year and covers:

- The purpose for which the reserve is held,
- An assessment of the appropriate level of the reserve to meet potential future liabilities, in line with the Council's reserves policy and aligned to the risk management framework,
- Procedures for the reserve's management and control,
- A process and timescale for future reviews to ensure continuing relevance and adequacy.

6.7 The Audited Annual Accounts for 2023/24[82] show the balance of General Fund usable reserves of £93m (including earmarked reserves of £81m).

6.8 An explanation of each earmarked reserve and values as at 31 March 2025 can be found in the council's audited annual accounts for 2024/25.

6.9 For financial resilience the council should consider use, replenishment and increase of the unearmarked General Fund Reserve over the MTFS period.

6.10 The overall level of financial resources available to the council is finite and therefore any continued use of reserves cannot be sustained in the longer term without placing the council's financial position at risk. The MTFS recognises that the council's financial reserves are maintained at a prudent level to protect present and future council services.

6.12 The council accepts that while balancing the annual budget by drawing on general reserves can be in certain circumstances a legitimate short-term option it is not considered good financial management to finance recurrent expenditure in this way. Where this approach is adopted, the council will be explicit as to how such expenditure will be funded in the medium to long term to achieve financial sustainability. The council recognises that usage of reserves is one-off in nature and must be linked with expenditure and income plans to support financial sustainability in the medium term.

Financial Resilience Framework

6.13. **Introduction**

[82] Urgent Business Committee, Audited Annual Accounts 2024/25, CORS/25/169

6.14 For Local Authorities generally, the measure of financial resilience has been to rely on in-year contingencies and its Reserves Policy.

6.15 The Council acknowledged, in the reports to the Urgent Business Committee and City Growth and Resources Committee in 2020, that financial resilience was a crucial aspect of financial management that became more important in times of crises, such as a global pandemic.

6.16 It was recognised that financial resilience was more than about its reserves and there was a need to be more comprehensive in the assessment of the measures of resilience. In the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2020, approved on 28 October 2020 it was agreed that the Council's approach to financial resilience was to be developed further.

6.17 While the Covid-19 pandemic brought a specific focus to the subject, it was not the sole reason for further work. The ongoing national debate on the financial sustainability of the local government sector in Scotland, the increasing number of local authorities in England in recent years that have found themselves in financial difficulty, resulting in Chief Financial Officers having to prepare formal s114 notices.[83]

6.18 There has been greater emphasis from external auditors on the assurance and demonstration of the concept of 'going concern' for local authorities and this being a key area of audit activity now.

6.19 All of this adds up to the need for greater attention to be paid to the financial resilience of the Council and to consider what financial resilience is, how it is defined and measured and what it leads us to do.

6.20 The development of a financial resilience framework to shape the Council's understanding of key aspects of financial strength is the starting point and to define the areas that are most appropriate to consider. Further work will be done to develop this further, to look at the comparators and where this applies, and to consider in more detail the exposure the Council has from its Group entities.

6.21 The framework is developing in terms of the data that we are collecting, and it will continue to be further developed to support our approach to financial resilience.

6.22 **Background**

6.23 The Council has always reviewed and paid attention to its usable reserves, those that it can draw on in a time of need. To this effect the Council has in place its Reserves Policy, which it reviews annually as part of the budget setting process. This is done in the context of assessing the level of reserves needed to meet estimated future

[83] Section 114 notices are the mechanism through which English local authorities report that they are unlikely to achieve a balanced budget for the financial year.

expenditure when calculating the budget requirement. The Chief Officer - Finance is required, as part of the budget setting process each year, to provide a statement on the adequacy of reserves that is subject to an external audit review to assess value for money and a going concern opinion.

6.24 The Council keeps a level of reserves to protect against the risk of any uncertainties or unforeseen expenditure. This is considered best practice and demonstrates sound financial planning. Much like using savings to offset monthly household bills the use of financial reserves cannot solve a budget problem outright but allows for smoothing of impacts or allows the Council time to ride any short-term situations before returning to normal.

6.25 Therefore, reserves are mainly available to;

- ✓ Manage the impact of cuts over a longer period;
- ✓ Invest in schemes that allow services to be delivered at lower cost;
- ✓ Take "one-off hits" for the council as a whole without the need to further reduce service budgets;
- ✓ Provide capacity to absorb any non-achievement of planned budget reductions in each year;
- ✓ To temporarily roll over unused portions of grants that can legally be used at a later date;
- ✓ To insure against major unexpected events (such as flooding);
- ✓ To guard against general risk (such as changes in contingent liabilities);
- ✓ To guard against emergent specific risks (such as a pandemic or financial crisis).

6.26 The Council looks at financial resilience as a much wider subject as it is about our ability to anticipate, prepare for and respond to the changing financial environment, derived from internal decisions and external factors. To be financial resilient, is to know what would be available in the time of crisis, is to understand the exposure to loss of income, and commitment to expenditure, as well as understanding the flexibility the Council has in terms of accessing funds when they are needed.

6.27 In this strategy financial resilience has been broken into the following four areas:

- Review of the Council's Balance Sheet
- Capital financing; investment, and borrowing
- Build financial resilience and independence
- Identify those that should pay by minimising fraud and avoidance

6.28 Maintaining a strong balance sheet provides the assurance that the Council can respond in the time of crisis, it can meet its obligations and provides confidence in the Council's ability to participate with our full range of stakeholders. They include our external auditors, our bond holders, credit rating agency, contractors and suppliers, and ALEOs. Notably the Local Government Benchmarking Framework (LGBF), in the

analysis of 2019/20 it started to incorporate financial sustainability information which is of a similar nature. This provides a Scotland wide comparison of some of the key elements that are included in the Council Framework.

6.29 Supporting our resilience in our balance sheet includes:

- In-year financial performance to manage the budget position, including cashflow;
- An annual review of the balance sheet by our treasury advisors, with a focus on capital financing requirement, liquidity and long-term borrowing;
- Regular review of usable reserves and the appropriateness of sums earmarked; and
- Regular review of provisions held.

6.30 Bringing all of this together to provide the information to the Council in a form that it can take account of in its decision making is an important next step. To inform that, further consideration has been given to the LGBF financial sustainability measures, CIPFA Resilience Index that has been prepared with English Local Authorities, Moody's credit rating assessment reports and careful thought about what is important to the resilience of the Council the areas will be refined to be more specific.

6.31 **Framework**

6.32 The framework has the following components:

- Council reserves and liquidity *(the availability of resources)*;
  - Reserves
  - Net Worth
  - Liquidity
  - In this section further work is anticipated regarding the Council exposure to its Group
- Capital financing; investment, and borrowing *(the creation of resources and gearing)*;
  - Capital Finance Requirement
  - Debt
  - Prudential indicators
  - Investment
- Build financial resilience and independence *(the longevity and trends in resources)*;
  - Top income streams
  - Top expenditure commitments
  - Operational Cashflow understanding
  - Exposure to areas of high demand (e.g. Adult and Children Social Care, Education), with consideration also to be given to the proposals for a National Care Service in Scotland

- In this section further work is anticipated regarding the Council exposure to its Group

- Identify those that should pay by minimising fraud and avoidance *(the security of resources)*.
  - Counter fraud policy and procedure
  - Counter fraud resource
  - National Fraud Initiative
  - Internal and external audit assurance

6.33 The Council's financial resilience framework now sits within this document and has been populated based on the audited annual accounts up to 31 March 2025.

6.34 The framework uses relevant information to measure the Council finances using the Financial Statements and additional information obtained from the Annual Accounts. This provides the data to calculate a consistent set of relevant ratios that are important to measuring the strength and depth of the Council finances.

6.35 The intention is to go further and understand other aspects of the Council's financial position using trend data to consider the impact of history and where possible to look forward based on Council approved plans and strategies. This remains work in progress with resources required to consider fully.

6.36 The relevance and purpose of ratios needs to be carefully considered as they should all have a purpose. The proposal is to avoid simply listing lots of calculations just because they can be calculated, they will have a defined purpose. Examples of the type of ratio that are likely to be included are:

Ratios/Measures	**2020/21**	**2021/22**	**2022/23**	**2023/24**	**2024/25**	
Availability of Resources						
Usable Reserves / Net Revenue inc. HRA (%)	16.4%	22.0%	25.0%	23.6%	25.1	✓
Usable Reserves - GF / Net Revenue (%)	14.2%	15.7%	16.4%	16.7%	15.2%	✓
Usable Reserves - HRA / HRA Revenue (%)	14.3%	14.7%	16.0%	13.5%	9.7%	✓
Reserves Sustainability Measure	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	✓
Level of Usable Reserves	16.4%	22.0%	25.0%	23.6%	21.2%	✓
Change in Usable Reserves	50.7%	128.5%	159.4%	59.6%	14.6%	✓
Council Tax Requirement / Net Revenue (%)	24.5%	25.5%	25.4%	25.0%	23.4%	✓

Ratios/Measures	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	
Unallocated Reserves	2.5%	2.4%	2.3%	2.1%	2.0%	
Earmarked Reserves	11.7%	13.3%	14.1%	14.5%	13.2%	
Change in Unallocated Reserves (over last 3 years)	10.0%	16.1%	0.8%	-2.9%	1.3%	
Change in HRA Reserves (over last 3 years)	24.6%	23.6%	22.7%	-3.6%	-28.4%	
Current Ratio	81.6%	63.6%	49.7%	47.1%	40.9%	
Working Capital	£0k	£0k	£0k	£0k	£0k	
Creation of Resources & Gearing						
Net Worth / Net Direct & Indirect Debt (%)	101.8%	101.9%	97.4%	78.3%	66.5%	
Net Direct & Indirect Debt / Net Revenue inc. HRA (%)	228.9%	235.8%	248.2%	256.7%	261.9%	
Capital Financing Requirement / Total Gross Income (%)	115.8%	121.9%	142.2%	137.2%	150.7%	
Short-Term Direct Debt / Direct Debt (%)	18.8%	17.6%	22.4%	26.3%	25.7%	
Interest Payments - GF / Net Revenue (%)	7.9%	8.5%	9.7%	10.6%	10.7%	
Interest Payments - HRA / HRA Revenue (%)	5.7%	6.5%	10.0%	13.3%	17.3%	
Interest Payments / Net Revenue inc. HRA (%)	7.5%	8.1%	9.7%	11.1%	11.7%	
Net Worth	£1,413m	£1,461m	£1,501m	£1,350m	£1,262m	
Gross External Debt	£1,388m	£1,434m	£1,542m	£1,723m	£1,899m	
Longevity & Trends in Resources						
Adult Social Care Ratio	18.7%*	20.9%	23.4%	21.4%	21.8%	
Children Social Care Ratio	8.7*	8.7%	n/a	n/a	n/a	
Education Ratio	36.5%*	35.9%	n/a	n/a	n/a	
*** Note:** 2020/21 figures show the impact of increased government funding to support the Covid-19 pandemic, which means that Net Revenue for the year was increased beyond the						

Ratios/Measures		2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	
	approved Local Government financial settlement, money was received late in the financial year and remained unspent at 31 March 2021, also resulting in increased useable reserves. This should be considered when reviewing the indicators – 2020/21 was not a regular year.						

6.37 The data on income and expenditure trends has been taken from audited Annual Accounts, budgets, CIPFA and Scottish Government returns, the contracts register and Scottish Government finance circulars.

6.38 For the purposes of materiality and relevance, we have focused on the highest value 'top 20' income streams and expenditure commitments that the Council has (Appendix 1).

6.39 Security of resources will rely on the three lines of defence in the Risk Assurance Maps, including findings and the opinion of internal and external auditors.

6.40 **Using the Financial Resilience Framework**

6.41 Financial resilience ratios, trends and data collated to support a comprehensive view of the Council is not about there being one answer, nor is about a statement of right or wrong. Instead, it is about providing context for decision making and planning. Through understanding other aspects of Council finance, it's expected the Council can consider more than simply balancing the budget. This might include decisions to grow reserves or address an adverse trend in expenditure commitments or reduce borrowing. This will assist the Council to be well informed and can make the choices it is entitled to make.

6.42 Councils have a very long history and decisions have been taken at different times for different reasons both at a local and national government level that leaves each Council today in the situation it is. Therefore, every Council is in a different position, no two Councils will have experienced the same history and it is inevitable the financial resilience of all will be different.

6.43 The financial resilience framework is be used as the basis for understanding the underlying financial position of the Council, from which decisions must be taken, to provide the basis for highlighting where action is required or where it should be considered. The opportunity to get an insight into aspects of Council finance that may only emerge over time and that on an annual cycle could be overlooked or not given sufficient consideration.

6.44 Some ratios having a direct impact on the short-term financial planning of the Council, while other being considered with aspiration and objectives stretching out over the medium to long term.

6.45 The data can act as triggers for action, with the final chosen ratios, where appropriate, to have in place some parameters to define or describe the urgency, scale and pace of action that is required. As the information accumulates then it can act as an early warning of emerging pressures.

6.46 Interpretation of the data has been indicated in the table at 6.36 and if the ratio appears to be stable or improving or if we should be watching it .

Chief Officer – Finance : Summary

6.47 In relation to the "Availability of Resources" indicators there is an unnatural financial position created by the funding provided to support the Covid-19 pandemic as at the end of March 2021. Increased income was paid late in financial year 2020/21, resulting in large sums of funding being carried forward by the Council and this was replicated in all other Scottish Local Authorities. The indicators do show that the Council has maintained its strong reserves position going into subsequent financial years with healthy values of usable reserves and an appropriate sum uncommitted for specific purposes. Rising reserves in 2021/22 and again late funding in respect of resettlement programmes for Ukrainians in 2022/23 pushed reserves further upwards, as did a revaluation of long term investments and a recategorization of capital grants, which are all committed for future projects. Working capital values and the standard affordability test don't present what would be seen as an ideal position (i.e. under 100%) but given the Council's statutory position and treasury management strategy there are no concerns about being unable to meet short-term obligations.

6.48 The Council has maintained strong financial performance into 2025/26 and based on the assumptions within the Quarter 1 Financial Performance results, referred to earlier, the Council aims to maintain a balanced budget although this relies on continued delivery of the budgeted savings and no exposure to additional financial shocks or liabilities. At present use of earmarked reserves is limited to the purposes they are held for and the Council continues to hold uncommitted usable reserves, which it expected to be retained at the end of the financial year.

6.49 The 'Creation of Resources & Gearing" indicators show the cost of capital investment tracking upwards, with the cost of interest on both the General Fund and HRA borrowing now over 10% of net revenue. Upward pressure has also been applied from the higher inflation levels in the last two years and this applying to financing arrangement such as the Bond where the additional cost, alongside rising interest rates has the effect of increasing the future Loans Fund pooled interest rate. This is important as this underpins the calculation of changes that the General Fund and HRA will have to fund in the future. The means of reducing this would be through reducing expenditure (reducing the capital programmes) increasing external grant funding or

contributions from partners. The Council has applied all the most recent accounting policy options in respect of the capital financing costs and prudently extending the useful lives of assets to better reflect the actual consumption of the assets a few years ago.

6.50 The value of total external debt must be viewed in the context of the overall assets and resources of the Council as debt arises from investment in our assets. The Net Worth of the Council, after accounting for the debt owed, has reduced to £1.26bn at 31 March 2025. The value of debt has increased over the years in line with the capital programme decisions that have been made for both General Fund and Housing. Through reference to the approved Prudential Indicators, that accompanied the 2025/26 budget in March 2025, the capital financing requirement (CFR, as referenced in section 4) is planned to increase and there will be corresponding increases to the annual repayment values. These have been included in the financial scenario planning within this strategy. Changes in interest rates have also been factored into forward projections in the MTFS for the cost of financing debt however the cost of borrowing is continuing to increase and inflation impacts approximately 25% of the external debt, the remaining 75% being based on fixed interest agreements.

6.51 The longevity and trends in resources is the least developed currently, and while there is information available it requires further analysis before fully presenting it. That includes the schedule of most valuable income streams and highest value contractual obligations and have been updated to show 2024/25 as the base year. These are shown in Appendix 1.

6.53 An overview of the top 20 income streams shows a picture of generally increasing income on major areas of the budget. Notable however is the extent to which high value income is often associated directly with spend on specific functions and obligations, such as Housing Benefit (where the downward trend is to be expected due to the rollout of Universal Credit), and the Aberdeen Roads Ltd Contract payment, which matches the expenditure also incurred.

6.54 General Revenue Grant shows the impact of additional funding being provided and passported to the Health and Social Care Partnership through the financial settlement and direction of Scottish Government. There has also been funding to support pay awards now for the last three years, and expected for the confirmed 2026/27 pay awards, and this is making a difference. None of this represents an underlying increase in funding for core/current services making the analysis complex. Council Tax increases in recent years were showing as a positive development. The acceptance of the Council Tax freeze grant provided by Scottish Government for 2024/25 shifted the emphasis towards reliance on Revenue Grant Funding to support services for that

financial year, but the trend was restored for 2025/26 when the Council Tax Band D increase was approved at 9.85%

6.55 Over the 20 categories of income it represents over £900m of income to deliver the gross cost of Council services, showing how much the Council relies on these very specific funding streams.

6.56 Looking at the expenditure table, there is substantial fixed cost associated with the top 20 commitments, determined and influenced by national conditions, contractual obligations and statutory duties. Representing over £750m of expenditure it demonstrates the categories of spend that need to be influenced and changed to support major resource changes, savings and cost reductions.

6.57 As noted above there are many of these expenditure categories or contracts that need to be looked at as cost neutral as the income is funding the delivery of our services. The Council should continue to ensure that is the case and not commit additional expenditure/cost to these fully funded areas of spend.

6.58 Similar to the income the influence of potential change coming in the future from statutory or policy changes and review is an important factor, and the Council should use this as a means of determining how cost reduction can be incorporated alongside the changes.

6.59 **Future development**

6.60 As referred to above, the Council has group entities that are incorporated into its accounts and therefore holds risk and reward from the relationships that it has. Given the cost of living, inflation and supply chain challenges plus the legacy impact of the pandemic on the group entities, to work with them and analyse their balance sheets and income and expenditure sensitivities, will be an important next step in understanding the relevant exposure that the Council has to each and to document this in an appropriate way. Prioritisation of this work is required when resources allow. This is more important as the resources and demand for social care services continue to be under increased pressure and financial constraint.

6.62 The ambition is that with further development and engagement with stakeholders in Scotland this can become more meaningful. Work already published in the Local Government Benchmarking Framework (LGBF) from 2019/20 onwards shows the extent of variation in respect of some of the key indicators that support sustainability and care needs to be taken in interpreting the results, particularly differences between Councils where, for example, some no longer have Housing Revenue Accounts.

6.63 Further work will have to be done on appropriate comparison with other Councils to set the Aberdeen City data in context, rather than for direct comparison, as each

Council is following a different strategic plan and are at different stages in those plans and by using information from a common data set, prepared using the same accounting standards it gives the opportunity to compare the Council with its peers. Taking this forward, our Framework has been shared with the Director of Finance Section for Scottish Local Government and has been added to their work plan. Conclusions and recommendations from that work will be updated as part of future strategies.

APPENDIX 1 : TOP 20 INCOME AND EXPENDITURE CATEGORIES

	Top 20 Revenue Income Sources by Value 2024/25 Title	Type of Income	2024/25 Actual Value £'000	last 3-year change (22/23) £'000	last 5-year change (20/21) £'000	Continues for at least 5 years?	Subject to regulation/ policy change in next 2 years?	Dependencies
1	GRG + NDR Distribution	Non-Specific Grant	469,337	79,324	89,644	Yes	Yes	Barclay review - Spending Review
2	Council Tax	Fiscal Powers	143,678	10,541	20,277	Yes	Yes	SG / LG Fiscal Framework Outcomes
3	Building Services	Fees & Charges	55,114	7,841	24,690	Yes	No	HRA work programme
4	NHS Grampian	Specific Grant	48,175	2,060	(3,277)	No	Yes	NCS (Scotland) Bill
5	AWPR / Aberdeen Roads Ltd	Specific Grant	44,781	(1,005)	(4,770)	Yes	No	Contract terms and conditions
6	Housing Benefit	Specific Grant	35,851	(509)	(8,610)	Yes	No	Universal Credit & Economic Conditions
7	Capital cluster - General Fund Capital	Fees & Charges	23,732	511	(6,043)	Yes	No	Capital programmes
8	Property Letting	Fees & Charges	20,495	(2,352)	7,290	Yes	Yes	Economic conditions in Aberdeen
9	Adult Social Care Residential	Fees & Charges	13,305	4,092	7,558	No	Yes	NCS (Scotland) Bill
10	Capital cluster - Housing Capital	Fees & Charges	9,328	3,218	7,668	Yes	No	Capital programmes
11	Parking Charges/Fines	Fees & Charges	9,803	5,524	6,216	Yes	No	Customer behaviour
12	Aberdeenshire Council Charges	Fees & Charges	7,913	(13,307)	(18,949)	Yes	No	Capital programmes
13	Common Good Charges	Fees & Charges	4,264	2,162	2,418	Yes	Yes	Council review of Common Good
14	Temporary Homeless Flats	Fees & Charges	3,692	1,257	177	Yes	No	Homeless numbers
15	Moray Council Charges	Fees & Charges	2,919	17	9,450	Yes	No	Capital programmes
16	NESPF Charges	Fees & Charges	2,161	227	580	Yes	Unknown	National LGPS Review in Scotland remains a commitment
17	Planning / Building Control Fees	Fees & Charges	2,146	(35)	407	Yes	Yes	Statutory basis, resourcing consultation summer 2024
18	Bereavement Services Fees	Fees & Charges	1,918	171	73	Yes	No	Competition
19	Secondary School Meals	Fees & Charges	1,586	625	1,151	Yes	Unknown	Competition/Scottish Government Policy
20	Childcare	Fees & Charges	837	249	666	Yes	No	Customer behaviour
			901,036	100,610	136,617			

APPENDIX 1 : TOP 20 INCOME AND EXPENDITURE CATEGORIES (cont.)

	Title	Type of Expenditure	2024/25 Actual Value £'000	last 3-year change (22/23) £'000	last 5-year change (20/21) £'000	Continues for at least 5 years?	Subject to regulation/ policy change in next 2 years?	Dependencies
1	Pay bill - non teachers	Staff	228,761	76,842	43,312	Yes	No	Local Terms & Conditions & National pay negotiations NCS (Scotland) Bill
2	Pay bill - teachers	Staff	134,360	21,226	34,828	Yes	No	National Terms & Conditions & pay negotiations
3	Care Home Placement - Adults	Contracts	67,177	11,288	15,456	No	Yes	NCS (Scotland) Bill
4	Capital Financing Costs	Capital Financing	60,101	23,017	26,090	Yes	Yes	Capital programme
5	AWPR / Aberdeen Roads Ltd	Contracts	44,842	(944)	(4,708)	Yes	No	Contract terms and conditions
6	Housing Benefits	Transfer	38,694	(388)	(7,701)	Yes	No	Universal Credit & Economic Conditions
7	Bon Accord Care - ALEO	Contracts	35,954	(2,217)	3,233	No	Yes	NCS (Scotland) Bill
8	Unitary Charge - Schools	Assets	22,262	2,088	2,930	Yes	No	Inflation & Number of Buildings
9	Utilities	Assets	21,436	2,029	11,288	Yes	No	Inflation
10	Waste Disposal Contracts	Contracts	18,968	(12)	1,076	No	Yes	Contract terms and conditions
11	Out of Authority - Children	Contracts	16,759	4,834	4,098	No	Yes	NCS (Scotland) Bill
12	Non-domestic Rates	Assets	14,889	754	4,911	Yes	Yes	Number & Value of Buildings
13	ELC Provider Payments	Contracts	12,343	2,013	507	Yes	Unknown	Living Wage & sustainable rate
14	External Rents	Assets	8,817	1,538	1,666	Yes	No	Contract terms and conditions
15	Fostering Payments - External	Contracts	8,768	(737)	(1,608)	No	Yes	NCS (Scotland) Bill
16	Software Licences	Contracts	7,848	1,823	4,095	Yes	No	Inflation
17	Hire of Vehicles	Contracts	5,606	704	1,558	Yes	Yes	Number of Employees
18	Sport Aberdeen - ALEO	Contracts	3,392	(1,423)	(1,277)	Yes	No	Budget decisions
19	Homeless - Hotel & B&B Charges	contracts	2,319	1,662	2,027	Yes	No	Rapid Re-housing programme
20	Provision for Bad Debt	Contracts	612	(2,714)	(2,912)	Yes	No	Collection levels
			753,907	**141,382**	**138,869**			

APPENDIX 2 :
2025/26 – 2029/30 GENERAL FUND CAPITAL PROGRAMME

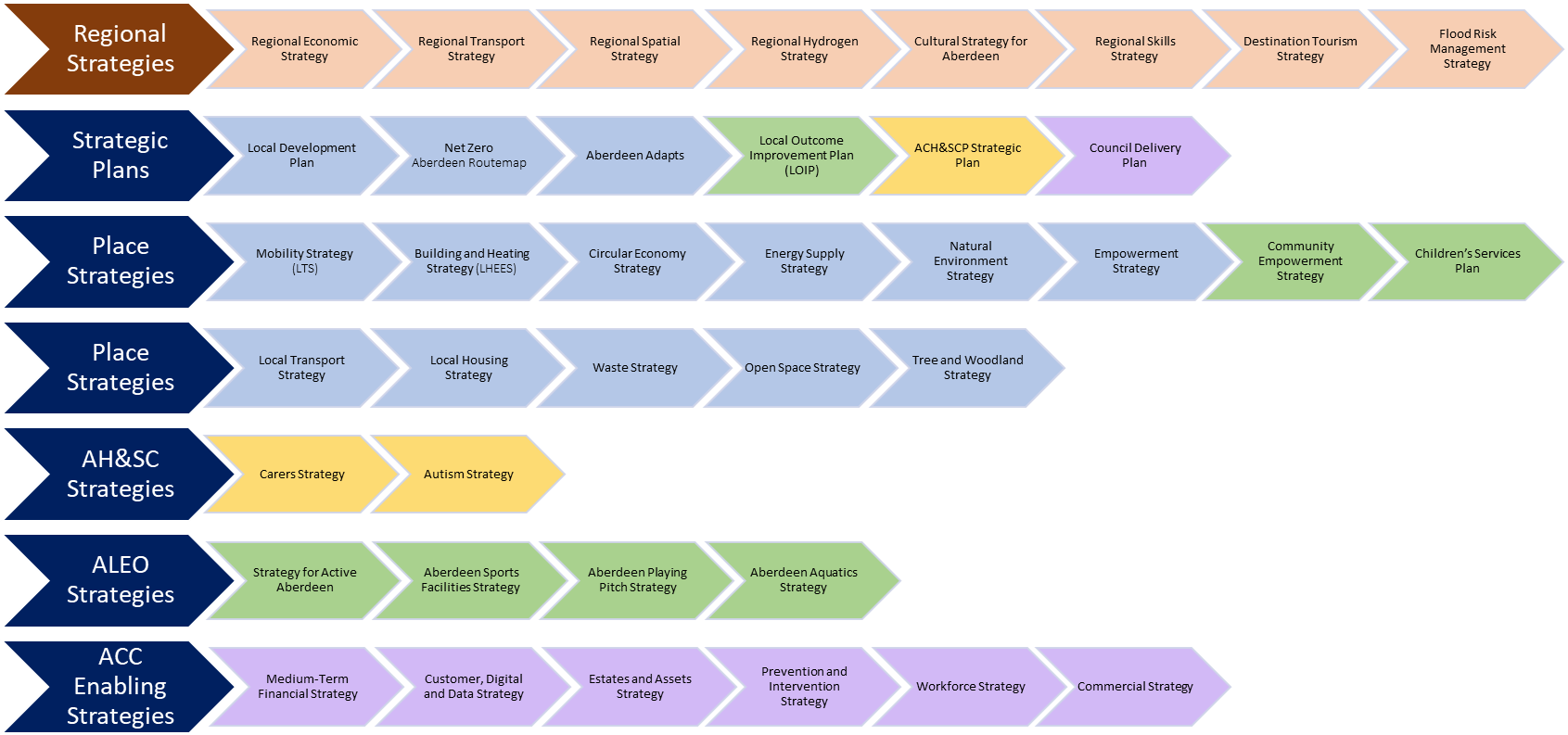
NHCP No.	Updated General Fund Capital Programme	Forecast Outturn 2025/26 £'000	Budget 2026/27 £'000	Budget 2027/28 £'000	Budget 2028/29 £'000	Budget 2029/30 £'000	5 Year Total £'000
	Projects Due for Completion in 2025/26						
841	Greyhope School and Hub	354	0	0	0	0	354
887	Play Park Renewal Programme	206	0	0	0	0	206
888	Nature Restoration Fund	198	0	0	0	0	198
894	Joint Integrated Mortuary	3,325	0	0	0	0	3,325
939	Investment in Education ICT	3,413	0	0	0	0	3,413
947C	Council Climate Plan Increase natural grassland and wildflowers	60	0	0	0	0	60
947D	Council Climate Plan Community run greenspaces	31	0	0	0	0	31
949	Tillydrone Cruyff Court	105	0	0	0	0	105
960	Refurbishment Business Case for Beach Ballroom	200	0	0	0	0	200
963	Recycling Improvement Fund - Re-Use Hubs	579	0	0	0	0	579
		8,471	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**8,471**
	Rolling Programmes						
294	Corporate Property Condition & Suitability	8,545	8,750	8,750	8,750	8,750	43,545
551	Cycling Walking Safer Routes / Tier 1 Active Travel	1,660	0	0	0	0	1,660
765G	Nestrans Capital Grant	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	5,000
779	Private Sector Housing Grant (PSHG)	761	650	650	650	650	3,361
784	Fleet Replacement Programme	6,102	5,411	5,000	4,500	4,500	25,513
789	Planned Renewal & Replacement of Roads Infrastructure	6,696	5,336	4,452	4,000	4,000	24,484
789E	Street Lighting	1,000	920	919	800	800	4,439
789H	Coast Protection - Aberdeen Beach Seawall	2,000	2,000	2,000	0	0	6,000
861	Additional Investment in Roads	4,388	2,500	4,500	4,500	4,500	20,388
875	Investment in Digital Transformation	2,402	0	0	0	0	2,402
		34,554	**26,567**	**27,271**	**24,200**	**24,200**	**136,792**
	City Region Deal						
825	City Deal	20	0	0	0	0	20
845	City Deal: Strategic Transport Appraisal	410	500	0	0	0	910
847	City Deal: Digital Infrastructure	765	750	0	0	0	1,515
852	City Deal: City Duct Network	1,088	0	0	0	0	1,088
854	City Deal: Transportation Links to Bay of Nigg	7,270	7,980	6,419	0	0	21,669
909	City Deal: Wellington Road	106	0	0	0	0	106
957	City Deal: Wellington Road	95	0	0	0	0	95
		9,754	**9,230**	**6,419**	**0**	**0**	**25,403**
	Fully Legally Committed Projects						
587	Access from the North / 3rd Don Crossing	150	140	140	140	100	670
810J	Bridge of Don Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC)	1,161	110	0	0	0	1,271
810K	Energy from Waste (EfW) Construction	778	0	0	0	0	778
810K	Torry Heat Network	2,197	0	0	0	0	2,197
819	Tillydrone Community Hub	279	0	0	0	0	279
824	City Centre Regeneration	2,849	0	0	0	0	2,849
840	Tillydrone Primary School	3,165	597	0	0	0	3,762
859	ICT: Human Capital Management System	92	0	0	0	0	92
868	Car Parking Infrastructure	876	0	0	0	0	876
883B	City Centre and Beach Masterplans: Union Street Central	9,933	5,229	0	0	0	15,162
884	Torry Development Trust - Former Victoria Road School	0	0	0	0	0	0
885	Place Based Investment Fund	491	0	0	0	0	491
891	Aberdeen Hydrogen Hub (Joint Venture with bp)	8,792	3,000	0	0	0	11,792
910	Inchgarth Community Centre	1,906	1,500	250	0	0	3,656
911	A5 - Review signage in all schools	62	0	0	0	0	62
918	H3 - Ferryhill School Suitability Improvements	6,979	5,800	200	0	0	12,979
932	Expansion of mandatory 20mph limits in residential areas	1,026	400	400	400	0	2,226
940	Bairns Hoose Business Case	1,286	29	0	0	0	1,315
954	Bucksburn Pool Refurbishment	2,492	25	0	0	0	2,517
958	Demolition of Beach Leisure Centre	2,366	0	0	0	0	2,366
998	Final Retentions & Snagging	2,790	0	0	0	0	2,790
		49,670	**16,830**	**990**	**540**	**100**	**68,130**

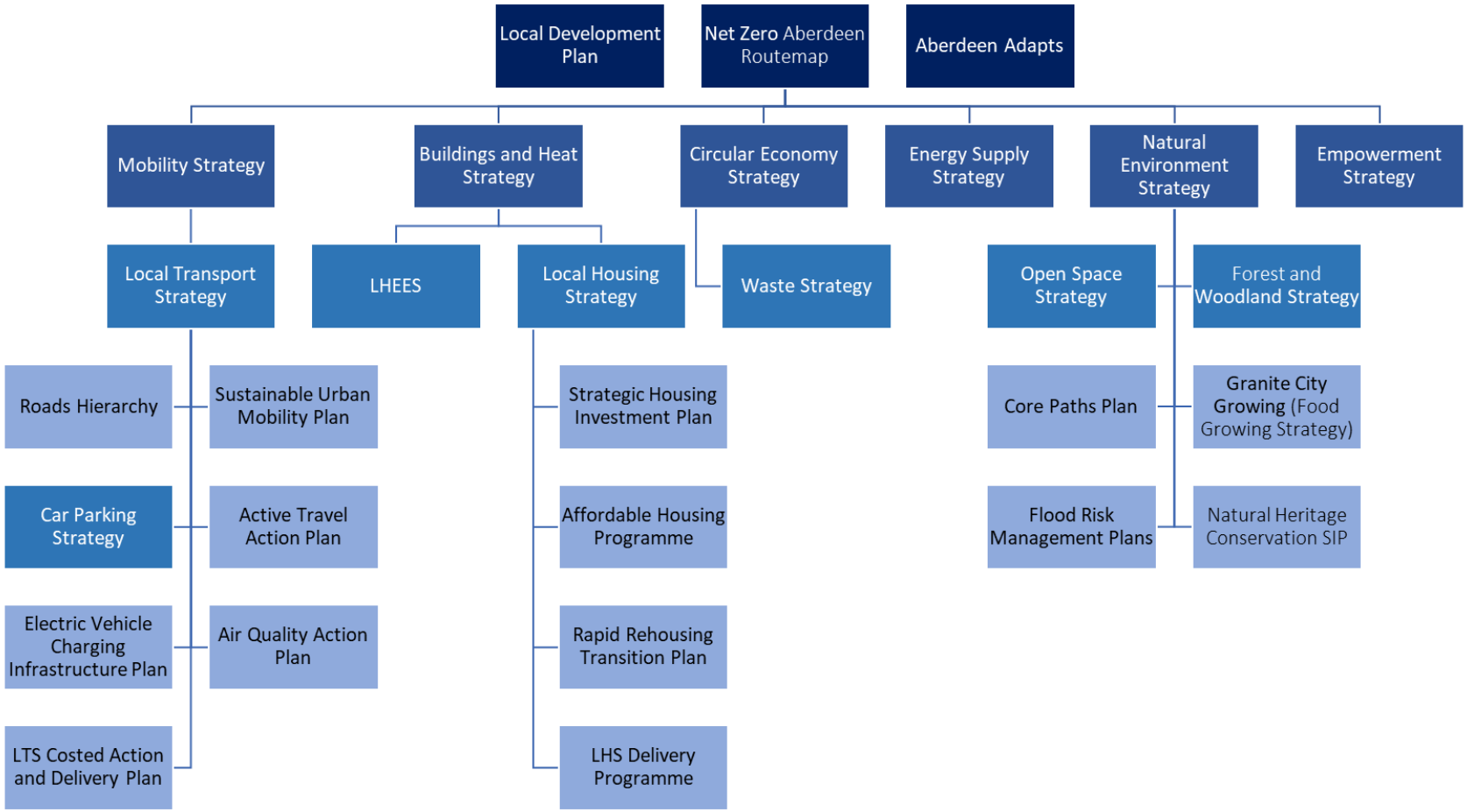
	Partially Legally Committed Projects						
791	Strategic Land Acquisition	2,134	2,500	0	0	0	4,634
806B	CATI - Berryden Corridor (Combined Stages 1, 2 & 3)	2,795	21,500	20,300	9,000	1,500	55,095
806D	Berryden Corridor - Ashgrove Connects	1,316	0	0	0	0	1,316
808B	New Academy to the South - Infrastructure Improvements	0	0	280	0	0	280
836	Flood Prevention Measures: Flood Guards Grant Scheme	101	100	100	100	48	449
844	Sustrans Active Travel Infrastructure Fund	0	465	400	0	0	865
869	Safety and Security Measures (including CCTV)	942	0	0	0	0	942
872	Smart City	0	270	0	0	0	270
873	Queen Street Redevelopment (Phase 1) - Urban Park	2,108	3,500	3,300	3,000	0	11,908
874	B999 Shielhill Road Junction Improvements	1,535	400	0	0	0	1,935
881	Hydrogen Programme	2,500	772	0	0	0	3,272
883A	City Centre and Beach Masterplans: Market Redevelopment	10,881	17,323	3,518	0	0	31,722
883C	City Centre and Beach Masterplans: Beachfront	43,462	5,000	0	0	0	48,462
883D	City Centre and Beach Masterplans: Other Projects & Grants	8,017	4,000	0	0	0	12,017
883E	CCMP Phase 4: Castlegate	8,987	3,981	150	0	0	13,118
883F	CCMP Phase 4: Union Street East	1,500	500	0	11,000	7,500	20,500
883K	Demolition for Former Police HQ Queen Street	2,000	4,500	0	0	0	6,500
895	St Peters RC Primary Relocation	6,660	16,000	3,750	170	0	26,580
904	Photovoltaic Systems	300	300	0	0	0	600
907	School Estate Plan - Fesibility Studies	257	0	0	0	0	257
908	Expansion of Free School Meals	2,000	1,172	0	0	0	3,172
913	B1 - Bucksburn Academy Extension	2,451	15,735	2,720	269	0	21,175
916	H1 - Rubislaw & Harlaw Rd Sportsfields review	2,744	50	0	0	0	2,794
917	H2 School Estate Plan and Improvements	4,323	2,000	350	0	0	6,673
920	HH2 - Hazlehead / Countesswells Secondary Provision	10,333	43,000	53,000	16,836	0	123,169
927	S3 - St Machar Academy outdoor space improvements	989	0	0	0	0	989
930	Road Safety Fund	596	200	200	0	0	996
931	New Cycle Lockers	22	10	10	10	10	62
933	Installation of New Bus Shelters	208	142	142	0	0	492
935	Electric Vehicle Charging Network	4,263	3,000	3,000	0	0	10,263
937	Extend Aberdeen's district heating network	1,972	13,000	15,000	4,534	0	34,506
943	Union Street Empty Shop Units	703	0	0	0	0	703
944	Asset Rationalisation - Site Preparation & Clearance	50	450	450	450	450	1,850
947A	Council Climate Plan Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy	60	60	0	0	0	120
947E	Council Climate Plan Increase food growing	100	0	0	0	0	100
947F	Council Climate Plan Redesign Car Club	52	0	0	0	0	52
948	CCMP Phase 3: Schoolhill and Upperkirkgate	0	0	0	0	0	0
951	Denburn Restoration	130	318	1,026	90	0	1,564
952	Coastal Change Adaption Grant	199	0	0	0	0	199
955	Aberdeen City Heritage Trust	0	150	150	0	0	300
961	Climate Emergency	1,436	0	0	0	0	1,436
		128,126	**160,398**	**107,846**	**45,459**	**9,508**	**451,337**

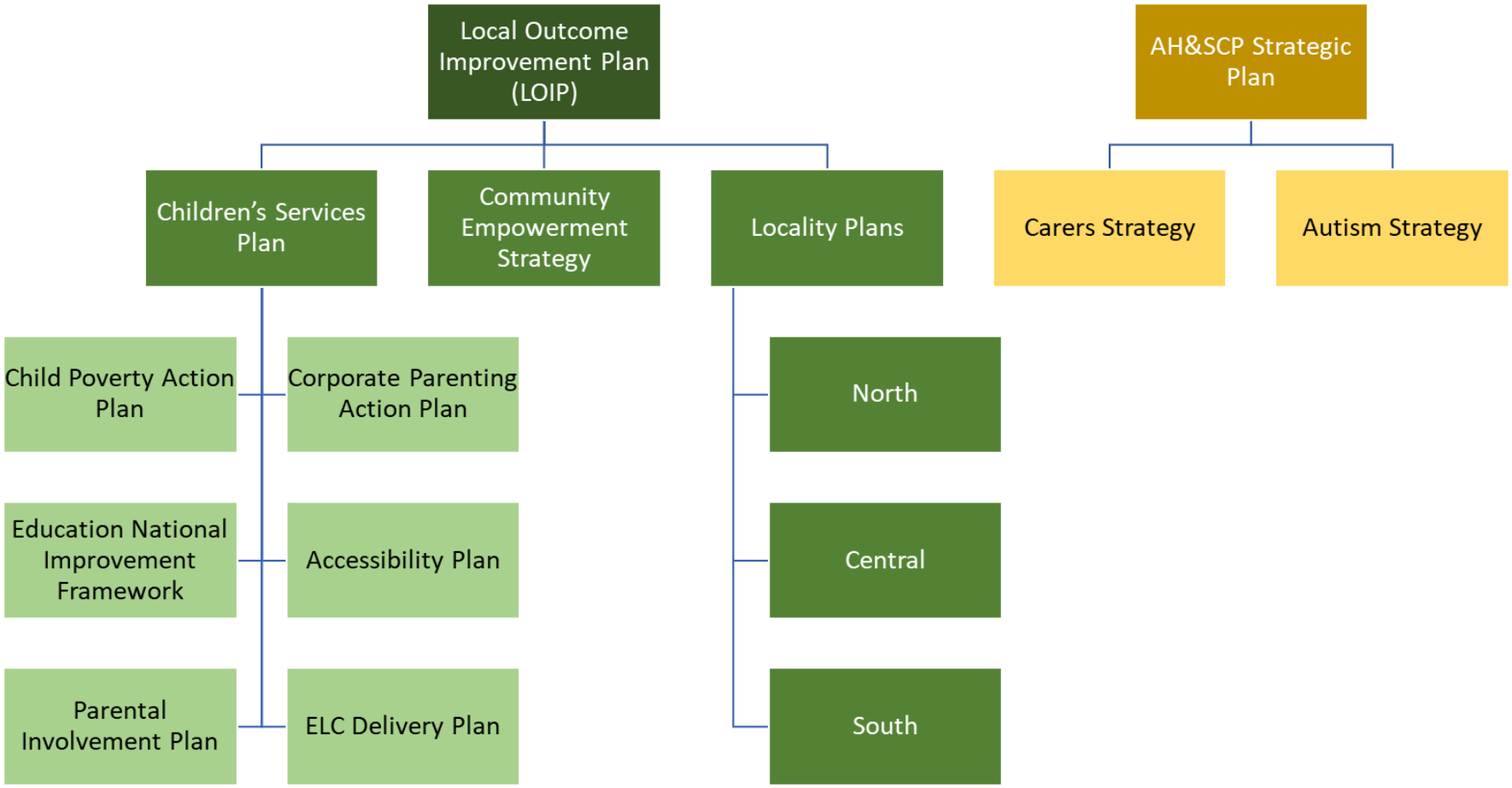
	Projects with indicative budgets						
838	Flood Prevention Measures: Millside & Paddock Peterculter	0	200	2,200	0	0	2,400
883G	CCMP Phase 5: Union Street West and West End	0	0	0	0	0	0
883H	CCMP Phase 6: Market Street to Guild Street Phases 2 & 3	0	0	0	0	0	0
883J	Beach MasterPlan Phases B & C up to end of RIBA 4	0	0	0	0	0	0
912	AG1 - Aberdeen Grammar School increasing roll	150	0	0	0	0	150
914	B2 - Bucksburn / Newhills additional primary school	0	0	0	1,795	14,000	15,795
915	CA1 - Victorian School Buildings	400	0	0	1,000	1,000	2,400
919	HH1 Countesswells 2nd new Primary School	0	0	0	0	0	0
921	L1 - Loirston Loch additional primary provision	0	0	0	0	750	750
922	N2 - Northfield ASG Primary School Excess Capacity	0	0	0	0	0	0
923	NA1 - Grandhome / Oldmachar / Bridge of Don secondary provision	0	0	0	0	3,050	3,050
924	O1 - Grandhome additional primary schools	0	0	1,795	8,100	6,355	16,250
925	O3 - Oldmachar ASG Primary School Excess Capacity	0	0	500	0	0	500
926	RC2 - Denominational Primary Schools Feasibility	0	0	0	5,000	5,000	10,000
928	NA2 - Bucksburn & Dyce secondary provision	0	0	0	500	0	500
929	N1 - Westpark & Heathryburn Schools increasing rolls	0	0	0	0	0	0
934	Options for New River Dee foot and cycle bridge	0	0	0	0	0	0
936	Kittybrewster Feasibility and Condition Suitability	289	1,400	1,100	0	0	2,789
938	Play Park Maintenance and Investment	0	175	175	175	175	700
941	Burial Grounds	100	150	1,600	0	0	1,850
947B	Council Climate Plan Feasibility studies for net zero	300	300	300	244	0	1,144
947G	Council Climate Plan Climate Data Tool	100	0	0	0	0	100
953	Community Bus Fund	4	0	0	0	0	4
959	Kincorth Cruyff Court	300	450	0	0	0	750
962	Bus Infrastructure Fund Tier 1	50	0	0	0	0	50
964	Bus Infrastructure Fund Tier 2	995	0	0	0	0	995
965	Hazlehead Heat Network Expansion	2,210	0	0	0	0	2,210
999	Contingency	3,440	3,000	0	0	0	6,440
		8,338	**5,675**	**7,670**	**16,814**	**30,330**	**68,827**
	Totals	**238,913**	**218,700**	**150,196**	**87,013**	**64,138**	**758,960**

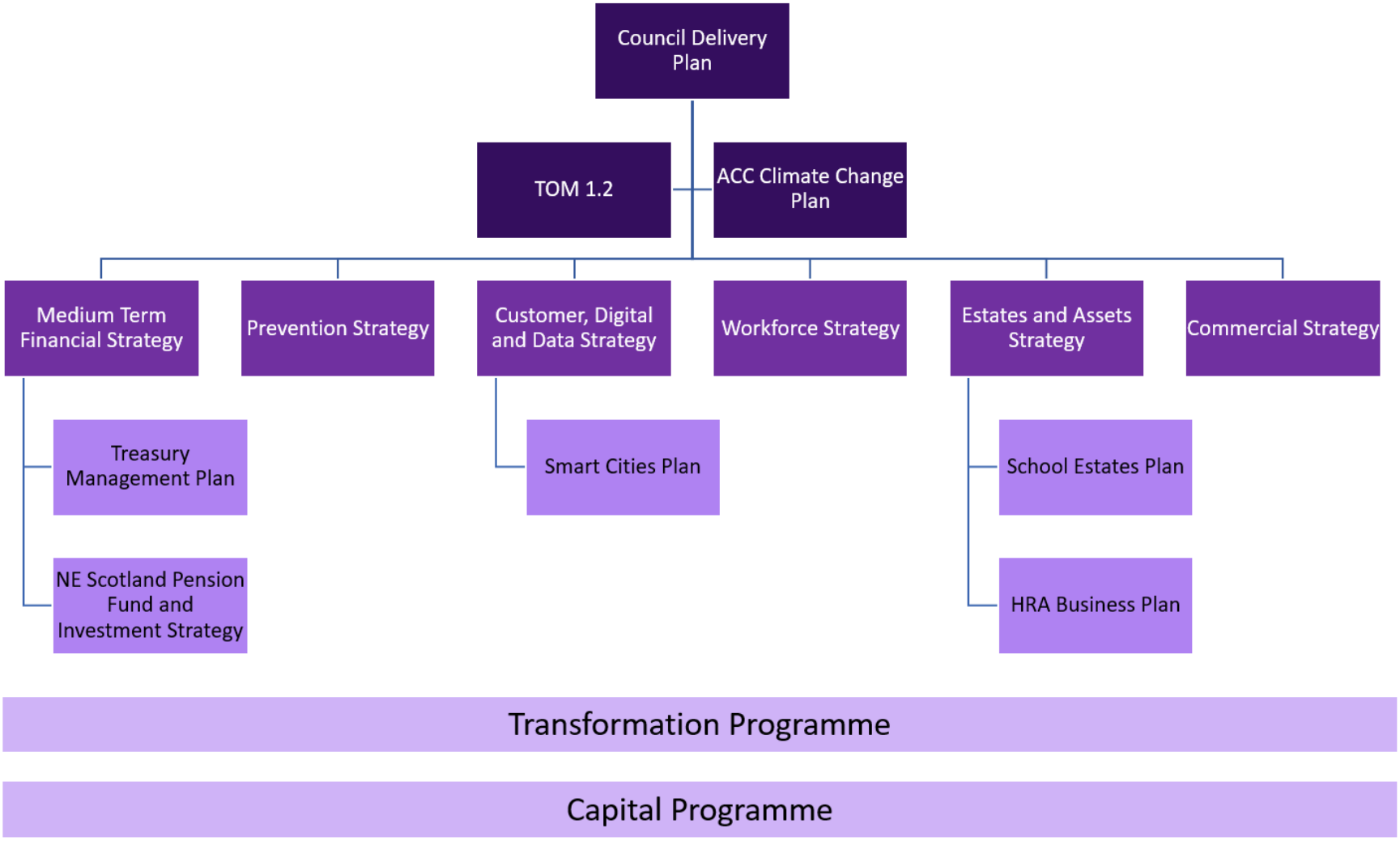
NHCP No.	General Fund Capital Programme - Funding	Forecast Outturn 2025/26 £'000	Budget 2026/27 £'000	Budget 2027/28 £'000	Budget 2028/29 £'000	Budget 2029/30 £'000	5 Year Total £'000
587	Access from the North / 3rd Don Crossing	0	(2,000)	0	0	0	(2,000)
806D	Berryden Corridor - Ashgrove Connects	(1,316)	0	0	0	0	(1,316)
809	New Milltimber Primary	(832)	(800)	0	0	0	(1,632)
828	Greenbrae Primary Extension and Internal Works	0	(115)	0	0	0	(115)
831	Stoneywood Primary	0	(1,000)	(1,000)	(486)	0	(2,486)
836	Flood Prevention Measures: Flood Guards Grant Scheme	(80)	(80)	(80)	(80)	(37)	(357)
838	Flood Prevention Measures - Peterculter	0	(200)	(2,200)	0	0	(2,400)
852	City Deal: City Duct Network	(1,088)	0	0	0	0	(1,088)
854	City Deal: Transportation Links to Bay of Nigg	(7,270)	(7,980)	(6,419)	0	0	(21,669)
865	Countesswells Primary	0	(1,080)	(2,000)	(2,000)	(2,000)	(7,080)
883	City Centre and Beach Masterplans	(4,953)	0	0	0	0	(4,953)
884	Torry Development Trust - Former Victoria Road School	0	0	0	0	0	0
885	Place Based Investment Fund	(491)	0	0	0	0	(491)
894	Joint Integrated Mortuary	(2,863)	0	0	0	0	(2,863)
909	City Deal: Wellington Road	(106)	0	0	0	0	(106)
910	Inchgarth Community Centre	(1,456)	0	0	0	0	(1,456)
913	B1 - Bucksburn Academy Extension - OBC	0	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(4,000)
914	B2 - Bucksburn / Newhills additional primary provision - OBC	0	0	0	(1,500)	(1,500)	(3,000)
920	HH2 - Hazlehead / Countesswells Secondary Provision - OBC	0	0	0	0	(6,300)	(6,300)
921	L1 - Loirston Loch additional primary provision - OBC	0	0	0	0	(1,000)	(1,000)
919	HH1 Countesswells 2nd new Primary School	0	0	0	(1,000)	(1,000)	(2,000)
924	O1 - Grandhome primary schools	0	0	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(3,000)
930	Road Safety Fund	(396)	0	0	0	0	(396)
931	New Cycle Lockers	(12)	0	0	0	0	(12)
932	Expansion of mandatory 20mph limits in residential areas	(1,026)	(400)	(400)	(400)	0	(2,226)
935	Electric Vehicle Charging Network	(3,000)	(3,000)	(3,000)	0	0	(9,000)
951	Denburn Restoration	(130)	(318)	(1,026)	(90)	0	(1,564)
954	Bucksburn Pool Refurbishment	(223)	0	0	0	0	(223)
957	City: Deal: Aberdeen Rapid Transit	(95)	0	0	0	0	(95)
963	Recycling Improvement Fund - Re-Use Hubs	(579)	0	0	0	0	(579)
964	Bus Infrastructure Fund Tier 2	(995)	0	0	0	0	(995)
965	Hazlehead Heat Network Expansion	(2,210)	0	0	0	0	(2,210)
	1. Programme Funding Streams Sub-Total	**(29,121)**	**(17,973)**	**(18,125)**	**(7,556)**	**(13,837)**	**(86,612)**
	2. Capital Grant	**(22,918)**	**(18,000)**	**(18,000)**	**(18,000)**	**(18,512)**	(95,430)
	3. Borrowing	**(186,874)**	**(182,727)**	**(114,071)**	**(61,457)**	**(31,789)**	(576,918)
	Sub-total	**(238,913)**	**(218,700)**	**(150,196)**	**(87,013)**	**(64,138)**	**(758,960)**
	Net Position	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**

APPENDIX 3 : STRATEGY FRAMEWORK




Local Development Plan
Net Zero Aberdeen Routemap
Aberdeen Adapts
Mobility Strategy
Buildings and Heat Strategy
Circular Economy Strategy
Energy Supply Strategy
Natural Environment Strategy
Empowerment Strategy
Local Transport Strategy
LHEES
Local Housing Strategy
Waste Strategy
Open Space Strategy
Forest and Woodland Strategy
Roads Hierarchy
Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan
Strategic Housing Investment Plan
Core Paths Plan
Granite City Growing (Food Growing Strategy)
Car Parking Strategy
Active Travel Action Plan
Affordable Housing Programme
Flood Risk Management Plans
Natural Heritage Conservation SIP
Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Plan
Air Quality Action Plan
Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan
LTS Costed Action and Delivery Plan
LHS Delivery Programme


Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP)
AH&SCP Strategic Plan
Children's Services Plan
Community Empowerment Strategy
Locality Plans
Carers Strategy
Autism Strategy
Child Poverty Action Plan
Corporate Parenting Action Plan
Education National Improvement Framework
Accessibility Plan
Parental Involvement Plan
ELC Delivery Plan
North
Central
South


Council Delivery Plan
TOM 1.2
ACC Climate Change Plan
Medium Term Financial Strategy
Prevention Strategy
Customer, Digital and Data Strategy
Workforce Strategy
Estates and Assets Strategy
Commercial Strategy
Treasury Management Plan
NE Scotland Pension Fund and Investment Strategy
Smart Cities Plan
School Estates Plan
HRA Business Plan
Transformation Programme
Capital Programme

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ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Finance and Resources
DATE	05 November 2025
EXEMPT	Appendix B has a private version which is exempt under paragraph 8: Estimated expenditure on Contracts. 'This report refers to the acquisition or supply of goods/services where disclosure to the public of the amount to be spent would be likely to give an advantage to a person or organisation seeking to enter a contract with the Council.'
CONFIDENTIAL	No
REPORT TITLE	Condition & Suitability 3 Year Programme
REPORT NUMBER	F&C/25/232
DIRECTOR	Eleanor Sheppard
CHIEF OFFICER	Stephen Booth
REPORT AUTHOR	Andrew Jones
TERMS OF REFERENCE	1.1.5, 1.1.8, 4.1

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 This report seeks approval of an updated 3-year Condition and Suitability (C&S) Programme.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

That the Committee:-

2.1 Notes the projects completed in 2024/25 and those completed or legally committed to date in 2025/26, as shown in Appendix A;

2.2 Approves the new framework for planning and managing the Condition and Suitability Programme as set out in this report;

2.3 Notes the new and existing projects listed in Appendix B which have been prioritised for inclusion in the Condition & Suitability Programme over the next three years;

2.4 Approves the allocation of Condition and Suitability capital funding for 2025/26 to 2027/28, to create high level workstream budgets as set out at paragraph 3.14 of this report, and delegates authority to the Chief Officer – Capital, following consultation with the Chief Officer – Corporate Landlord, to: approve projects to be taken forwards within these workstreams; and, following consultation with the Convener of the Finance and Resources Committee, to vire funds between workstream budgets, should this be deemed necessary to

address new emerging priorities, and/or to ensure maximum efficiency of programme delivery, with such changes to be reported retrospectively to the Committee.

2.5 For the purposes of Procurement Regulation 4.1.1.2, delegates authority to the Chief Officer – Capital, following consultation with the Chief Officer - Commercial and Procurement Services, to: consider and approve procurement business cases for projects within each of the workstreams listed in this report; and thereafter to procure appropriate works and services, and enter into any contracts necessary for the projects without the need for further approval from any other Committee of the Council;

3. CURRENT SITUATION

3.1 This report brings together, for Members' approval, the proposed 3-year Condition & Suitability (C&S) Programme (2025/26 – 2027/28), for condition and suitability works on the Council's General Fund property portfolio. The report provides an update on the completed and committed projects and other changes to the programme in the last year, seeks approval of the revised 3-year programme, and proposes the adoption of a new framework for the future planning and management of the programme.

Progress since last annual update

3.2 Since the last C&S Programme update report to the Committee in September 2024, a total of 48 projects to improve the condition and/or suitability of buildings across the property portfolio have been fully completed. These projects are listed at Appendix A.

3.3 Budgets for some of the individual projects which made up the approved programme in September 2024 were found to be insufficient, and this required use of the approved contingency fund to increase budgets, or the removal of some projects from the programme to free up funding. In addition, some urgent new priorities were identified, so a number of new projects were added to the programme, utilising the contingency budget to ensure these priorities could be addressed timeously.

3.4 Over the last 12 months the contingency budget was used for the following projects:

- Tolbooth Museum – repairs to internal plaster works and internal archway stabilisation (new project)
- The Bush Depot, Culter Road – roof replacement (additional budget)
- Denmore Depot – new welfare facilities (additional budget)
- Dyce Academy – kitchen ventilation upgrade (additional budget)
- Central Library – Children's Library lift replacement (additional budget)
- Glashieburn School – replacement facias and soffits (additional budget)

3.5 The projects which were removed from the programme in line with the 2024 Committee approved recommendations were:

- Kincorth Library – curtain wall replacement
- Quarryhill School – boiler replacement
- Westburn Tennis Centre – roof recladding
- Abbotswell School – kitchen refurbishment
- Dyce Community Centre – heating replacement
- Glashieburn School – replacement windows

Updated Programme: Proposed new Framework

3.6 In previous years, the C&S Programme has been compiled from an extensive list of individual projects, each with an allocated project budget, to address a wide range of identified priorities for improving the condition and / or suitability of buildings across the property portfolio, and which are planned to be carried out over a three year period. Running the programme from this individual project approach has presented a number of challenges, including:

- Each new proposed project must be assigned a budget cost before it can be added to the programme for approval. There is insufficient time for officers to carry out detailed costings for each project at the proposal stage, and this means that approved project budgets are often based on very high level estimates only.

- In recent years due to greater volatility in the construction market, there has been an increasing tendency for budget estimates to be significantly under (and in some cases significantly over) the actual costs for delivering the project.

- Where project budgets are found to be insufficient at tender stage, other approved projects need to be removed from the programme, or the contingency budget needs to be accessed to free up additional funding, and a formal change control process is required to re-allocate budgets within the programme, before tenders can be accepted. This impacts on officer time and the efficiency of delivering the programme.

- Committing annually to fixed budgets at individual project level restricts flexibility in managing the programme, and for dealing with urgent new priorities which arise mid-year. A formal change control process is required to add in new projects, which can create delays before new urgent priorities can be progressed. This also impacts on officer time.

- Focusing only on priorities for individual buildings, to determine which projects to take forwards, restricts opportunities to manage the C&S programme strategically, and to prioritise limited C&S funding on key areas of investment, to maintain the property portfolio as a whole.

3.7 To address these challenges, a new approach to planning and managing the C&S programme is proposed. The new approach involves establishing a small number of high level C&S workstreams, which would provide opportunities to channel investment in a more focused way. This would ensure the limited capital funding available for the C&S programme is used more strategically, to

address the highest priorities for maintaining and developing the property portfolio as a whole.

3.8 Officers have identified the following workstreams, which would be used to plan, manage and report on progress within the C&S Programme:

Workstream	Description	Example Types of Work
External Fabric Repairs	External works required to keep buildings wind and water tight and/or to improve their energy efficiency and reduce carbon emissions, and to improve external environments	• Roofing works • Structural works • Window / door replacements • Fence & gate repairs / replacements • Ground works / resurfacing
Mechanical & Electrical Upgrades	Upgrades to key infrastructure, to reduce carbon emissions and running costs, and to ensure buildings remain safe and compliant	• Boilers & heating upgrades • Lighting upgrades • Fire alarm repairs / replacement • Lift repairs / replacement
Internal Refurbishment	Improvements to internal environments to ensure buildings remain suitable and fit for service delivery	• Kitchen upgrades • Toilet & welfare upgrades • Flooring replacement • General redecoration
Statutory / Corporate Requirements	Works required to ensure buildings remain safe, secure and compliant with legislation and local / national policy requirements	• Health and safety improvements • Accessibility improvements and upgrades • Security improvements
Minor Urgent Works	Minor (low cost) works of an urgent nature which are required to ensure buildings can remain operational	• Urgent health and safety repairs • Asbestos removal • Urgent accessibility improvements • Other urgently required and unforeseen repairs / upgrades
Rolling Programmes	Existing rolling programmes of essential maintenance and infrastructure upgrades, and development work to scope out complex projects prior to them being added to the programme	• Playground equipment maintenance and upgrades • Memorial stabilisation • School fixed equipment, fixtures & fittings repairs and upgrades • Greenspace paths, walls & fence repairs • Development work / project scoping

3.9 Rather than assigning budgets to individual projects, an overall budget figure would be attached to each workstream, and it is recommended that the Committee approves the C&S programme based on these workstream budgets, rather than on individual project budgets, with authority delegated to the Chief Officer – Capital, in consultation with the Chief Officer – Corporate Landlord, to determine which projects should be prioritised within each workstream.

3.10 This would provide a clear picture of how effectively C&S Programme funding is being used to target the most significant priorities for maintaining the property estate. It would also provide greater flexibility within the programme, for funding

to be allocated to projects more dynamically, at the point at which actual project costs are known, and for newly identified priority projects to be included within the programme as they arise, rather than waiting until the next annual update report to the Committee before these can be approved.

3.11 Full details of the projects which have been taken forwards within each workstream, along with the actual costs incurred to date for each project, would be reported to the Committee at the end of each year, as part of the annual C&S Programme update report.

Proposed Programme for 2025/26 – 2027/28

3.12 The revised C&S programme for the next three years has been planned using the above proposed new framework, and is presented below and at Appendix B, for the Committee's consideration and approval. If approved, this would replace the previous programme. It was prepared utilising existing property information and after discussions with relevant Council services.

3.13 The total profiled budget allocation for the 3 year programme, which was approved at the Council Budget meeting in March 2025, is **£26.045m**. Projects with a value of £5.487m have already been completed or are legally committed in 2025/26. The completed and legally committed projects are detailed in Appendix A. The remaining available budget for the three year programme is therefore **£20.558m**

3.14 It is proposed that these budgets are allocated to each C&S workstream over the next three years as follows:

Workstream	**Budget Allocation 2025/26 – 2027/28 (£'000)**
External Fabric Repairs	**8,650**
Mechanical & Electrical	**6,700**
Internal Refurbishment	**2,690**
Rolling Programmes	**1,058**
Statutory / Corporate Requirements	**980**
Minor Urgent Works	**480**
Total:	**20,558**

3.15 Appendix B shows the previously approved and proposed new C&S projects which have been identified as priorities for delivery within the programme over the next three years, along with an indication of which workstream these projects fall within. The cost estimates for each project as shown in the exempt version of the appendix have been used as a guide to determine the above workstream budget allocations, however these are indicative estimates only, and are subject to change as the projects are developed and more accurate costings are obtained. The figures are therefore not intended to be used as fixed project budgets.

3.16 Potential new projects for future programmes, which are of a more complex nature and require further investigation to establish a clear scope of works and reliable estimated costs, have been identified and are shown in **Appendix C**. Work on scoping and costing these projects will be carried out over the course of this year, with a view to them being considered for inclusion in the programme at a future date. The scoping work will be funded from the development budget which has been included within the Rolling Programmes workstream, and will help ensure there is confidence in the cost estimates for these more complex projects prior to them being added to the programme. This scoping work will also help to inform the development of separate business cases, where these are required for the larger, potentially higher value projects.

3.17 It should be noted that Appendix C is not an exhaustive list of potential condition and suitability projects. Further projects requiring scoping work may be identified over the course of the coming year and will be added to the scoping list as appropriate.

3.18 Ongoing work associated with the Transformation Programme, the City Centre / Beach Masterplans and the School Estate Plan will lead to changes to the asset portfolio. This may mean that further projects will be removed from the C&S programme. This could also create additional investment requirements for potential inclusion in the programme.

3.19 It is recommended that authority is delegated to the Chief Officer – Capital, in consultation with the Chief Officer – Corporate Landlord, to make changes as necessary to the lists of projects to be included within each workstream, to reflect any changes to the estimated costs for delivering projects which may arise as projects develop, and to add new projects to the programme as required, to address any emerging priorities which may arise during the coming year. It is also recommended that authority is delegated to the Chief Officer – Capital, in consultation with the Convener of the Finance and Resources Committee, to vire funding between workstream budgets, should this be required to ensure the efficient delivery of the programme, or to address any emerging priorities over the coming year.

Procurement Procedures

3.20 When inviting tenders or entering into contracts for the C&S Programme, Aberdeen City Council Procurement Regulations 4.1.1.1 and 4.1.1.2 will be followed, as described below:

3.21 4.1.1.1. Contract Value below £50,000 (supplies/services), £250,000 (works) or £4.5m (concessions): *Subject to budget approval, the relevant Chief Officer may give authority to conduct any procurement where the estimated Contract Value is below £50,000 (supplies/ services) or £250,000 (works), and following consultation with the Co-Leaders of the Council or Convener of the Finance and Resources Committee, the Head of Commercial and Procurement may give authority to conduct any procurement where the estimated Contract Value of a Concession Contract is below £4.5m. Such procurements shall be undertaken by a Delegated Procurer in line with Section 4.3 of these Procurement Regulations.*

3.22 4.1.1.2. Contract Value above £50,000 (supplies/services) £250,000 (works), or £4.5m (concessions): *Contracts with an estimated Contract Value of above these thresholds shall be listed on the workplan to be submitted by the relevant Director or Chief Officer in accordance with Procurement Regulation 14.6. Each individual contract will also require a Business Case (conforming to a template approved by the Head of Commercial and Procurement) to be submitted by the relevant Chief Officer to the Council or the Finance and Resources Committee as appropriate or where the contract relates to a capital project that is already part of the Capital Programme, to the Director of Resources.*

3.23 The value of the majority of the projects is expected to be below the £250k (works) limit and these will be procured under regulation 4.1.1.1. If recommendation 2.5 in this report is accepted, any projects with an estimated contract value greater than £250k will require a procurement business case, to be approved by the Chief Officer – Capital following consultation with the Chief Officer – Commercial and Procurement Services. Should the recommendation not be accepted then these projects will be procured under regulation 4.1.1.2, and the procurement business cases would be submitted for approval as part of an appropriate update of the Resources workplan.

Programme Monitoring and Reporting

3.24 Monitoring of the programme will be carried out in line with the capital monitoring procedures. This includes regular progress reports to the Capital Board chaired by the Chief Officer - Capital.

3.25 An annual report to the Finance and Resources Committee will be required to add a further year to the programme. Details of actual projects completed in the last year along with the actual cost of each project will be included in the annual report.

Property and Estates Strategy and Statutory Performance Indicators

3.26 The approved Property and Estates Strategy has the following strategic aim for property assets:-

> *"The Council will provide property, working with partners, where appropriate, which supports the Council in the delivery of quality services by being fit for purpose, accessible, efficient, suitable, sustainable and delivered within budget constraints".*

3.27 Targets for improving the percentage of assets which are in an acceptable satisfactory condition and level of suitability, and for reducing the required maintenance levels, are reported through the Statutory Performance Indicators (SPI). The C&S programme along with the rationalisation of our portfolio and property related capital projects will provide the main tools for meeting these targets. **Appendix D** of this report provides the SPI definitions and graphical representation of the trends across the last 5 years.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Expenditure will be in accordance with the Council's approved General Fund Capital budget. The budget identified in years 1-5 in the Capital programme for the Condition & Suitability (C&S) programme is £43,545,000, with £26,045,000 currently allocated to years 1-3.

4.2 There will be flexibility within the 3-year programme for expenditure to move between financial years, however the overall spend will remain within the total budgeted profile.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 All contracts to be tendered shall be done in a way to comply with the ACC Procurement Regulations and relevant legislation.

6. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Fifty-one projects on the indicative programme will contribute positively to improving the environmental performance and climate resilience of the Council's assets. These are indicated in Appendix B. The majority of these projects are window/door replacements, heating replacements, lighting replacements and roof replacements.

7. 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?
Strategic Risk	No significant risks identified			

Compliance	Many projects are required to make assets safe. If projects are not completed issues could occur.	Appropriate prioritisation of projects. Committee approval to add projects as per recommendation 2.4.	L	**Yes**
Operational	Assets are required to support service delivery. If projects are not completed the delivery of services could be affected.	Appropriate prioritisation of projects. Committee approval to add projects as per recommendation 2.4.	L	**Yes**
Financial	Total cost of projects is greater than available budget.	Appropriate budget monitoring. Flexibility in new programme framework to make changes to the programme to remain within available budget.	L	**Yes**
Reputational	None identified.			
Environment / Climate	Investment in assets may not positively impact on the environment.	Careful specification of equipment, materials and components.	L	**Yes**

8. OUTCOMES

COUNCIL DELIVERY PLAN 2023-2024	
	Impact of Report
Aberdeen City Council Policy Statement	The proposals in this report have no impact on the Council Delivery Plan.
Aberdeen City Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2016-26	
Prosperous Economy Stretch Outcomes	The proposals in this report have no impact on the Prosperous Economy Stretch Outcomes.

Prosperous People Stretch Outcomes	The proposals in this report have no impact on the Prosperous People Stretch Outcomes.
Prosperous Place Stretch Outcomes	The proposals in this report have no impact on the Prosperous People Stretch Outcomes Prosperous Place Stretch Outcomes.
Regional and City Strategies	The proposals within this report supports the approved Property and Estates Strategy strategic outcomes in particular 'Assets will be fit for purpose, in appropriate condition and with appropriate utilisation' and 'Assets will be environmentally sustainable'.

9. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Assessment	Outcome
Integrated Impact Assessment	No assessment required. I confirm this has been discussed and agreed with Stephen Booth, Chief Officer – Corporate Landlord on 8 October 2025
Data Protection Impact Assessment	Not required
Other	None

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

10.1 Finance & Resources Committee, 12 September 2024: *Condition & Suitability 3 Year Programme* – F&C/24/283

11. APPENDICES

11.1 Appendix A – Complete or Committed Projects

11.2 Appendix B – Indicative Programme

11.3 Appendix C – Future Projects for Scoping

11.4 Appendix D - SPI Tables

12. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

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Appendix A - Complete or Committed

Projects Completed in 2024/25

Asset	Property Type	Summary of Works	Project Cost to Date
Abbotswell School	School - Primary	Window replacement phase 2.	£ 298,000
Altens Community Centre	Community Centre (Leased)	Boiler replacement and new gas line.	£ 43,000
Bridge Of Don Library	Library	Roof, window and external doors replacements.	£ 241,000
Bucksburn Depot	Depot	Replacement perimeter fencing and entrance gate.	£ 62,000
Cults School	School - Primary	Toilet refurbishments.	£ 143,000
Cummings Park Learning Centre	Community Learning Centre	Replacement of obsolete boilers.	£ 98,000
Dyce Academy	School - Secondary	Improvements to Front Entrance (accessibility works).	£ 74,000
Fergus House	Home For the Elderly	Replacement boundary fence	£ 23,000
Hanover Street School	School - Primary	Replacement flooring and treads to stairwells.	£ 22,000
Marischal College	Office	Replacement external lighting. Follow up phase to internal lighting.	£ 361,000
Nellfield Cemetery Depot	Depot	New welfare modular unit. Demolish existing buildings.	£ 90,000
Newhills Churchyard Cemetery Depot	Depot	New welfare modular unit. Demolish existing buildings.	£ 75,000
Newhills Churchyard Cemetery Depot	Depot	Complete new roof to granite store. Part of listed structures.	£ 23,000
Northfield Academy	School - Secondary	Gym boilerhouse M&E upgrade and building repairs.	£ 93,000
Northfield Swimming Pool	Swimming Pool	Additional budget requirement	£ 73,000
Powis Community Centre	Leased Community Centre	Window upgrade/refurbishment.	£ 163,000
Sheddocksley Community Centre	Leased Community Centre	Replacement windows and entrance doors. Accessibility improvements. Repointing of external walls.	£ 117,000
Springbank Cemetery Depot	Depot	New welfare modular unit. Demolish existing buildings.	£ 94,000
St Josephs R. C. School	School - Primary	Tanking of basement to reduce flooding risk. Phase 1.	£ 424,000
St Josephs R. C. School	School - Primary	Window replacement phase 2.	£ 71,000
St Josephs R. C. School	School - Primary	Window replacement phase 3.	£ 196,000
St Josephs R. C. School	School - Primary	Tanking of basement to reduce flooding risk. Phase 2.	£ 277,000
St Josephs R. C. School	School - Primary	Final phase of toilet refurbishments.	£ 315,000
St Machar Academy	School - Secondary	Extension flat roof replacement. Recommission PV panels. RAAC removal.	£ 500,000
The Bush Depot	Depot	Roof replacement to store/workshop building.	£ 73,000
The Jesmond Centre	Indoor Sports Facility	Installation of bird proof netting to roof structure.	£ 53,000
Torry Community Centre	Leased Community Centre	Windows replacement, re-render walls and replace downpipes/gutters.	£ 127,000
Town House Extension, Broad Street	Office	Replacement back up generator.	£ 3,000
Tullos Depot	Depot	Replacement automatic gate.	£ 41,000
Tullos Depot	Depot	Roller shutter door replacements. Eight in total.	£ 63,000
Tullos Primary and Community Centre	School - Primary	Window replacements - phase 1.	£ 354,000
Woodside School	School - Primary	To replace the playing field fencing with new black weld mesh fencing and replacement gates.	£ 66,000

Appendix A - Complete or Committed

Projects Completed / Committed to date in 2025/26 (to end of Period 6)

Project Reference	Asset	Property Type	Summary of Works	Status	Estimated Spend / Commitment in 2025/26
CS24-006	Abbotswell School	School - Primary	Perimeter fence	Completed	£ 98,000
CS24-007	Abbotswell School	School - Primary	Toilet refurbishment, phases 1& 2	Completed	£ 265,000
PP25-110	Aberdeen Treasure Hub	Museum	Gas Suppression System Improvements	Completed	£ 4,000
CS24-006	Abbotswell School	School - Primary	Perimeter fence	Completed	£ 98,000
CS19-043	Balnagask Motte		Reinstatement of historical asset	Committed	£ 224,000
CS22-047	Bridge Of Don Academy	School - Secondary	Replacement boilers and pressurisation system.	Committed	£ 401,000
CS22-053	Broomhill School	School - Primary	Roof refurbishment, repointing, leadwork and rainwater goods replacement.	Committed	£ 587,000
CS21-055	Bucksburn Depot	Depot	provide toilet and welfare facilities. Electrical upgrade to be incorporated.	Completed	£ 203,000
CS24-002	Bucksburn Depot	Depot	Replacement office	Completed	£ 119,000
CS23-061	Culter School	School - Primary	Gym hall flat roof replacement.	Completed	£ 109,000
CS23-060	Culter School	School - Primary	Window Replacements	Committed	£ 251,000
CS23-061	Culter School	School - Primary	Gym hall flat roof replacement.	Completed	£ 109,000
CS19-067	Denmore Depot	Depot	Refurbishment of external areas and welfare facilities. Rationalise buildings on site.	Committed	£ 336,000
CS19-068	Cairnwell Drive Depot	Depot	Refurbishment.	Completed	£ 70,000
CS19-070	Dyce Academy	School - Secondary	Fire Alarm Replacement	Committed	£ 117,000
CS23-076	Glashieburn School	School - Primary	Replacement fascias and soffits.	Completed	£ 111,000
CS19-082	Kincorth Library	Library	Window replacement.	Completed	£ 134,000
CS20-083	Kincorth Sports Centre	Indoor Sports Facility	Replacement of heating plant and essential system improvements.	Committed	£ 438,000
CS20-084	Kingswells Care Home	Home for the Elderly	Swing free door installation.	Committed	£ 277,000
CS23-085	Kingswells Care Home	Home For the Elderly	Handrail installation in corridors.	Committed	£ 26,000
	Muirfield School	School - Primary	Playground resurfacing	Completed	£ 75,000
CS23-101	Northfield Academy	School - Secondary	Resurfacing of section of car park and relining. Including creation of safe pedestrian routes.	Completed	£ 60,000
CS23-105	Oldmachar Academy	School - Secondary	Replacement ramp to modular accommodation.	Completed	£ 45,000
CS24-022	St Machar Academy	School - Secondary	Toilet refurbishment phase 3 (of 5).	Completed	£ 295,000
CS24-023	Stoneywood School	School - Primary	Replacement Flooring to Circulation, Activity Spaces & Toilets	Committed	£ 68,000
CS24-077	Tolbooth Museum	Museum	Roof, parapet and internal plaster repairs	Completed	£ 240,000
CS23-126	Tullos Depot	Depot	Toilet and changing area refurbishment.	Committed	£ 134,000
CSRP-001	Various Properties		Minor Works Budget		£ 210,000
	Various Properties		Rolling Programmes		£ 212,000
	Various Properties		Legacy spend in 2025/26 from previously completed projects		£ 171,000

Total Spent / Committed to date in 2025/26: £ 5,487,000
Total Budget 25/26-27/28: £ 26,045,000
Remaining Budget: £ 20,558,000

Appendix B - Indicative Programme

Workstream: External Fabric Repairs

Project Reference	Asset	Property Type	Summary of Works	Existing / New Project	Indicative Budget (£'000)	Target Year	Energy & Climate
PP25-101	**Aberdeen Arts Centre**	Other	Repair and Maintenance works to the clockface, stonework, timber surrounds and leadwork for the Clocktower on the Arts Centre, 31-33 King Street, Aberdeen.	New		26/27	
CS23-040	**Balgownie Community Centre**	Community Centre (Leased)	Replacement roof. Structural improvements may be required to accommodate enhanced roof specification.	Existing		27/28	✓
CS23-048	**Bridge Of Don Academy**	School - Secondary	Window replacements - Phase 3.	Existing		27/28	✓
PP25-070	**Bridge of Don Swimming Pool**	Swimming Pool	Flat roof replacement	New		25/26	✓
CS19-052	**Broomhill School**	School - Primary	Replacement of atrium roof.	Existing		26/27	✓
CS24-008	**Cornhill Learning Centre**	Community Learning Centre	Window replacements. Windows are in C:Poor condition.	Existing		26/27	✓
PP25-115	**Cornhill School**	School - Primary	Replacement boundary fencing	New		26/27	
CS19-062	**Culter Sports Centre**	Indoor Sports Facility	Roof structure repairs and bay window improvements.	Existing		27/28	✓
CS19-065	**Cummings Park Learning Centre**	Community Learning Centre	Replacement flat roofs.	Existing		25/26	✓
CS24-010	**Danestone School**	School - Nursery	Installation of Canopy to Nursery Building	Existing		26/27	
CS19-066	**Deeside Family Centre**	Family Centre	Car park and access road resurfacing	New		26/27	
CS24-012	**Ferryhill Community Centre**	Community Centre (Leased)	Window replacements. Windows are in C:Poor condition.	Existing		27/28	✓
CS23-073	**Ferryhill School**	School - Primary	Structural repairs to East Elevation walls.	Existing		26/27	
CS24-004	**Ferryhill School**	School - Primary	Window replacements phase 2. Single glazed windows.	Existing		26/27	✓
CS24-005	**Ferryhill School**	School - Primary	Window replacements phase 3. Single glazed windows.	Existing		26/27	✓
CS23-074	**Froghall Learning Centre**	Community Learning Centre	Replacement of lower flat roof.	Existing		27/28	✓
PP25-129	**Glashieburn School**		Window and external door replacements Phase 2	New		27/28	✓
CS23-075	**Glashieburn School**	School - Primary	Window and external door replacements Phase 1	Existing		26/27	✓
CS23-079	**Harlaw Academy**	School - Secondary	Window refurbishment and lintel replacements. Phase 2.	Existing		26/27	✓
CS24-015	**Kincorth Sports Centre**	Indoor Sports Facility	External walls- repointing and realignment of blocks. Bin store also repair or replacement.	Existing		26/27	
CS24-016	**Kings Links, Beach Esplanade**	Golf Course	Replacement of the irrigation system	Existing		27/28	
PP25-118	**Kingsford School**	School - Primary	Resurface existing playground.	New		26/27	
PP25-011	**Kingswells Community Centre**	Community Centre (Leased)	Roof Repairs - The roof is leaking resulting in water penetration into the Coffee Bar. The roof requires replacement/repair.	New		26/27	✓
PP25-099	**Kirkhill School**	School - Primary	Fencing upgrades	New		26/27	
CS24-017	**Kirkhill School**	School - Nursery	Installation of Canopy to Nursery Building	Existing		26/27	
CS23-087	**Loirston Annexe Community Centre**	Community Centre (Leased)	Final phase of roof replacements and refurbishment.	Existing		27/28	✓
CS23-089	**Marischal College Car Park**	Car Park (Multi-storey)	Relay new roof surface and improve steel surface protection .	Existing		25/26	✓
CS23-092	**Mastrick Library**	Library	Flat roof replacement.	Existing		26/27	✓
CS23-093	**Middlefield Community Project**	Community Centre (Leased)	Flat roof replacement to original building.	Existing		26/27	✓
PP25-001	**Scotstown Moor Local Nature Reserve**	Car Park	Scotstown Moor LNR car park needs to be properly resurfaced.	New		26/27	
CS23-111	**Sheddocksley Community Centre**	Community Centre (Leased)	Replacement flat roofs.	Existing		27/28	✓
CS23-113	**Sheddocksley Sports Centre**	Open Space	Improvement of Sheddocksley Playing Fields including the drainage systems.	Existing		27/28	
CS24-020	**Sheddocksley Sports Centre**	Indoor Sports Facility	External works - Replacement windows, replacement timber external doors, including fire doors and overcladding of roughcast entrance facades	Existing		27/28	✓
PP25-124	**St Josephs R. C. School**	School - Primary	Window Replacement/refurbishment	New		27/28	✓
PP25-120	**St Machar Academy**	School - Secondary	To resurface the playground to address the H&S concerns raised by the H&S officer regarding the poor condition of the playground.	New		26/27	
CS24-025	**The Quarry Centre**	Family Centre	Replacement of fascias and rainwater goods. Canopy refurbishment. Elements are in C: Poor condition.	Existing		26/27	
PP25-092	**Town House Extension, Broad Street**	Car Park	Full resurfacing of the underground car park access ramp.	New		26/27	
CS23-096	**Town House Extension, Broad Street**	Office	Works to external decorative tiles.	Existing		27/28	
PP25-059	**Town House Under Ground Car Park**	Office	Town House Underground Car Park Roller Door	New		25/26	
CS19-125	**Tullos Depot**	Depot	Salt store replacement. Development budget.	Existing		26/27	
CS19-056	**Various Buildings**	Cemetery	Rebuilding of cemetery boundary walls.	Existing		27/28	
CS24-028	**Westburn Lounge And Outdoor Sports Centre**	Indoor Sports Facility	Replacement of the timber cladding, rainwater goods replacement and essential improvements to the roof structure.	Existing		26/27	
CS20-130	**Westburn Tennis Centre**	Indoor Sports Facility	Roof structure recladding and Improvements.	Existing		26/27	✓

Workstream: Internal Refurbishment

Project Reference	Asset	Property Type	Summary of Works	Existing / New Project	Indicative Budget (£'000)	Target Year	Energy & Climate
PP25-104	**Aberdeen Sports Village**	Indoor Sports Facility	Changing room 2 upgrade - SC 108	New		25/26	
PP25-106	**Aberdeen Sports Village**	Indoor Sports Facility	Filter sand replacement - AC line 184	New		25/26	
PP25-108	**Aberdeen Sports Village**	Indoor Sports Facility	Café upgrade - SC 138	New		26/27	
PP25-109	**Aberdeen Sports Village**	Indoor Sports Facility	Gym gate replacement	New		27/28	
CS19-039	**B & W Depot (North) Sillerton Lane**	Depot	Refurbish toilets and replace windows in toilets/welfare areas.	Existing		26/27	✓
CS23-063	**Cults School**	School - Primary	Full kitchen refurbishment and dining area.	Existing		27/28	✓
PP25-125	**Cults School**	School - Primary	Cults Primary School - Toilet Refurbishment Phase 2	New		26/27	
PP25-126	**Cults School**	School - Primary	Toilet Refurbishment Phase 3	New		27/28	
CS24-011	**Duthie Park Workshops**	Depot	Toilet and changing refurbishment - Sanitary is C condition.	Existing		26/27	
PP25-123	**Gilcomstoun School**	School - Primary	Toilet Refurbishment Final Phase	New		27/28	
CS24-014	**Harlaw Academy**	School - Secondary	Toilet refurbishment Phase 2. Toilets are in C:Poor condition.	Existing		26/27	
CS19-080	**Harlaw Playing Fields Pavilion**	Indoor Sports Facility	Refurbishment & Extension - additional budget for approved capital project approved by Change Request April 24	Existing		26/27	
PP25-043	**Kirkhill School**	School - Primary	Improvements to environmental conditions	New		25/26	
CS24-076	**Marischal College**	Office	Replacement fire curtains - North wing mazzanine	Existing		26/27	
PP25-015	**Rosemount learning centre**	Learning Centre	Male toilets upgrade	New		26/27	
PP25-103	**Skene Square School**	School - Primary	Install anti glare roller blinds to rooms where there are none or the existing blinds are beyond repair.	New		26/27	
CS23-122	**Town House, Castle Street**	Office	Repairs to Bon Accord room ceiling.	Existing		26/27	

Appendix B - Indicative Programme

Workstream: Mechanical & Electrical

Project Reference	Asset	Property Type	Summary of Works	Existing / New Project	Indicative Budget (£'000)	Target Year	Energy & Climate
CS22-029	**116 Westburn Road**	Family Centre	Replacement of obsolete boilers.	Existing		26/27	✓
PP25-054	**145 Gardner Road Aberdeen AB12 5TN**	Hostel	Fire Sprinkler sytem	New		25/26	
CS23-032	**Aberdeen Art Gallery**	Museum	Replacement of M&E equipment. Including humidifier upgrade; improvements to Building Management System hardware & front end required.	Existing		27/28	
CS23-035	**Aberdeen Music School Hall Of Residence**	Hostel	Install boiler & provide domestic hot water cylinder	Existing		27/28	✓
CS23-036	**Aberdeen Music School Hall Of Residence**	Hostel	Replacement ventilation units.	Existing		26/27	✓
CS22-037	**Aberdeen Snow Sports Centre**	Outdoor Sports Centre	Replacement of the lighting columns and luminaires.	Existing		27/28	✓
PP25-105	**Aberdeen Sports Village**	Indoor Sports Facility	Extract fan replacement	New		25/26	
PP25-107	**Aberdeen Sports Village**	Indoor Sports Facility	LED lights	New		25/26	✓
CS19-049	**Bridge Of Don Academy**	School - Secondary	Upgrade the kitchen gas supply and ventilation system	Existing		26/27	✓
CS23-051	**Brimmond School**	School - Primary	Replace AHU on external plant room.	Existing		26/27	✓
CS19-069	**Dyce Academy**	School - Secondary	Upgrade the kitchen gas supply and ventilation system	Existing		26/27	✓
CS19-070	**Dyce Academy**	School - Secondary	Replacement fire alarm system.	Existing		26/27	
CS20-071	**Dyce Academy**	School - Secondary	Replacement of obsolete light fittings.	Existing		26/27	✓
CS19-072	**Dyce Community Centre**	Community Learning Centre	Heating replacement.	New		27/28	✓
PP25-088	**Fergus House**	Home for the Elderly	Replace or repair platform lift	New		26/27	
PP25-128	**Frederick Street Multi Storey Car Park**	Car Park	Replacement lift	New		25/26	
PP25-026	**Get active @ Peterculter**	Indoor Sports Facility	Full replacement of the sports hall and studio lighting, replacing the existing fluorescent lamps with LED lighting	New		26/27	✓
CS20-077	**Hanover Street School**	School - Primary	Upgrade the kitchen gas supply and ventilation system	Existing		26/27	✓
CS22-078	**Harlaw Academy**	School - Secondary	Install gas testing system in all relevant classrooms.	Existing		26/27	
PP25-071	**Kincorth Sports Centre**	Indoor Sports Facility	Replacement of main air handling units.	New		27/28	✓
PP25-065	**Kingswells Care Home**	Home for the Elderly	Lift replacement or additional lift	New		26/27	
CS19-086	**Kingswells School**	School - Primary	Upgrade the kitchen gas supply and ventilation system	Existing		26/27	✓
PP25-122	**Marischal College**	Office	Repairs to electrical risers	New		25/26	
CS20-099	**Northfield Academy**	School - Secondary	Upgrade the kitchen gas supply and ventilation system	Existing		27/28	✓
CS23-102	**Northfield Academy**	School - Secondary	Install gas testing system in all relevant classrooms.	Existing		26/27	
CS23-104	**Oldmachar Academy**	School - Secondary	Install gas testing system in all relevant classrooms.	Existing		26/27	
CS23-106	**Oldmachar Academy**	School - Secondary	Replacement AHU's to classrooms.	Existing		26/27	✓
CS20-107	**Oldmachar Academy**	School - Secondary	Upgrade the kitchen gas supply and ventilation system	Existing		26/27	✓
CS23-108	**Quarryhill School**	School - Primary	Replacement of obsolete boilers.	New		27/28	✓
CS20-112	**Sheddocksley Sports Centre**	Indoor Sports Facility	Replacement of the boiler and essential improvements to the heating system.	Existing		27/28	✓
CS19-116	**St Machar Academy**	School - Secondary	Upgrade the kitchen gas supply and ventilation system	Existing		26/27	✓
PP25-094	**Tillydrone Community Campus**	Learning Centre	Enhanced Secure Door Entry System	New		26/27	
CS24-026	**Tolbooth Museum**	Museum	Heating and ventilation installation	Existing		27/28	✓
PP25-121	**Tolbooth Museum**	Museum	New fire alarm system and New intruder alarm system	New		26/27	
CS19-109	**Various Buildings**	School - Primary	Replacement of obsolete light fittings in identified Primary Schools	Existing		27/28	✓
CS24-029	**Westburn Lounge And Outdoor Sports Centre**	Indoor Sports Facility	Replacement cold water services	Existing		26/27	
CS19-128	**Westburn Lounge And Outdoor Sports Centre**	Outdoor Sports Centre	Replacement of the boilers and Domestic Hot Water Services and essential system improvements.	Existing		26/27	✓
CS24-030	**Westburn Lounge And Outdoor Sports Centre**	Indoor Sports Facility	Mechanical and Electrical Improvements	Existing		26/27	✓
CS20-129	**Westburn Tennis Centre**	Indoor Sports Facility	Replacement of the boilers and essential improvements to the heating system.	Existing		26/27	✓
CS22-131	**Westburn Tennis Centre**	Indoor Sports Facility	Replacement of indoor tennis courts lighting.	Existing		26/27	✓

Workstream: Statutory / Corporate Requirements

Project Reference	Asset	Property Type	Summary of Works	Existing / New Project	Indicative Budget (£'000)	Target Year	Energy & Climate
PP25-032	**Aberdeen Snowsports Centre**	Outdoor Sports Centre	Install push pad entry to main entrance	New		26/27	
PP25-030	**Aberdeen Tennis Centre**	Indoor Sports Facility	Install push pad entry to main entrance	New		26/27	
CS19-045	**Beach Ballroom**	Leisure Facility	Previously identified need for extended intruder alarm, improvements to security to rear of building including improved external doors and external CCTV. Scope of	Existing		27/28	
PP25-072	**Bridge of Don Swimming Pool**	Swimming Pool	Tiling / grouting repairs and expansion joint renewals.	New		26/27	
PP25-111	**Charleston School**	School - Primary	Replace CCTV system	New		26/27	
PP25-006	**Cummings Park Centre**	Learning Centre	New ramp at accessible entrance and pushpad door	New		26/27	
PP25-116	**Dyce School**	School - Primary	Replace existing flooring throughout.	New		26/27	
CS24-044	**Fernilea School**	School - Primary	Access to Boiler Room Alterations	New		25/26	
PP25-061	**Fergus House**	Home for the Elderly	Install CO monitoring throughout the building	New		25/26	
PP25-117	**Kingsford School**	School - Primary	Replace existing perimeter fence.	New		26/27	
PP25-066	**Kingswells Care Home**	Home for the Elderly	Addition of CO monitoring	New		25/26	
PP25-075	**Linx Ice Arena**	Indoor Sports Facility	Automatic doors installation.	New		27/28	
CS20-090	**Maritime Museum**	Museum	CCTV upgrade including external lighting improvements.	Existing		26/27	
PP25-102	**Mastrick Library**	Library	Priority works to upgrade accessibility to Mastrick Library.	New		26/27	
PP25-100	**Quarryhill School**	School - Primary	Improve site security, and create a secure P1 play area.	New		25/26	
CS24-024	**The Quarry Centre**	Family Centre	Improve security of building to provide a secure waiting area with an intercom and security camerasom system and potentially CCTV.	Existing		25/26	
CS24-027	**Tullos School**	School - Primary	Security to Doors and Playground	Existing		25/26	
PP25-031	**Westburn Lounge And Outdoor Sports Centre**	Indoor Sports Facility	Accessibility improvements	New		26/27	

Appendix B - Indicative Programme

Rolling Programmes / Other

Project Reference	Rolling Programme	Property Type	Summary of Works	Existing / New Project	Indicative Budget (£'000)	Target Year	Energy & Climate
	Memorial Stabilisation	Cemeteries	Rolling programme of stabilisation and H&S works to memorials.	Existing		Ongoing	
	Playground Equipment	Parks	Rolling programme of playground equipment renewal.	Existing		Ongoing	
	School Fixed Equipment, Fixtures & Fittings	Schools	Rolling programme of school fixed equipment and fixtures/fittings replacement.	Existing		Ongoing	
	Greenspace Paths, Walls & Fences Repairs	Open Spaces	Rolling programme of replacement/upgrading of open space path network, including replacement walls / fences	Existing		Ongoing	
	Development Budget	n/a	Development budget to provide robust estimates prior to projects being added to the programme.	Existing		Ongoing	
	Minor Urgent Works	n/a	Budget for minor (low cost) works of an urgent nature	Existing		Ongoing	

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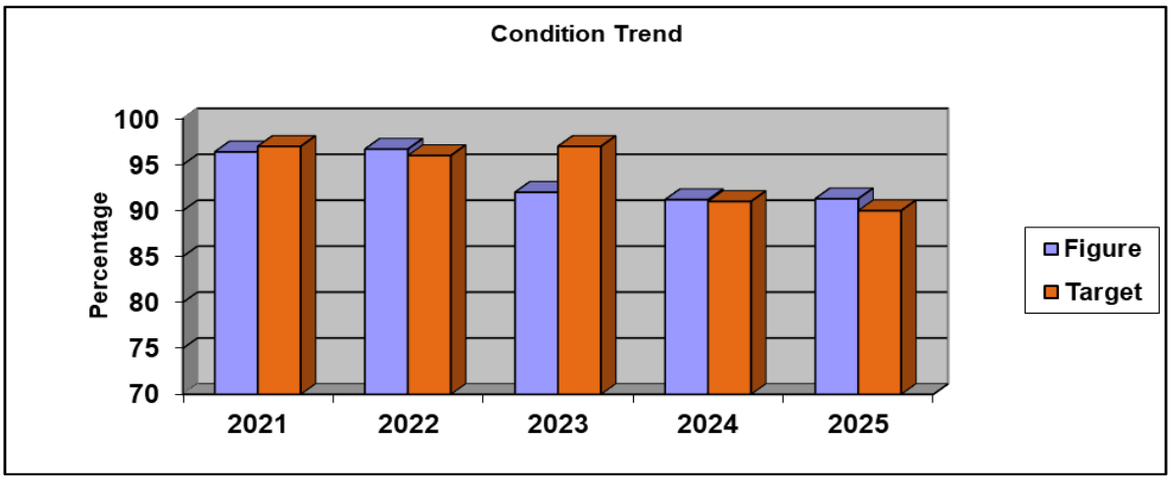
Projects Requiring Further Scoping

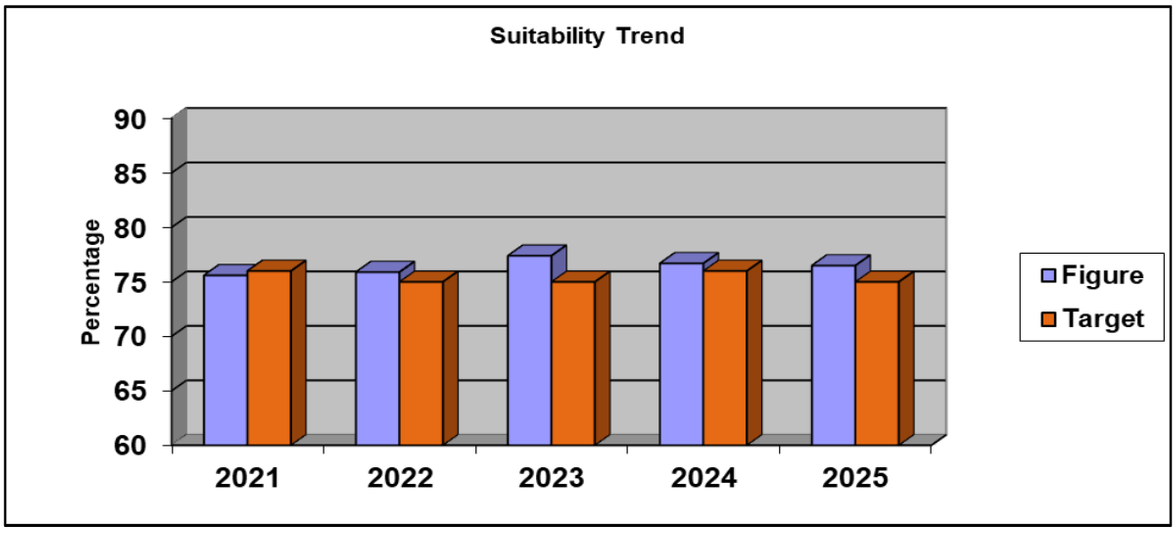
Project Reference	Asset	Property Type	Summary of Works
PP25-098	**116 Westburn Road**	Family Centre	Reinstatement of basement area following water damage
PP24-003	**153 Victoria Street**	Hostel	Dyce Respite Care Maintenance Upgrades
PP25-083	**26A Rowan Road**	Other	General refurbishment
PP25-056	**82 Back Hilton Road**	Hostel	Operation 82 Back Hilton
CS19-044	**Beach Ballroom**	Leisure Facility	Main Ballroom roof access and electrcial upgrades
CS20-050	**Bridge of Don Academy**	School - Secondary	Kitchen Refurbishment
PP25-130	**Broomhill School**	School - Nursery	Create a dedicated entrance to the Nursery
PP25-078	**Fergus House**	Home for the Elderly	General Refurbishment
PP25-068	**Hillylands - Community Special Needs**	Learning Centre	Heating renewal and installation of air conditioning facilities
PP25-091	**Horizons Rehabilitation Resource Centre**	Other	General refurbishment
PP25-081	**Kaim Court**	Office	General refurbishment
PP25-086	**Kingswells Care Home**	Home for the Elderly	Lighting upgrades
PP25-079	**Kingswells Care Home**	Home for the Elderly	General Refurbishment
PP25-063	**Kingswells Care Home**	Home for the Elderly	Fire alarm system replacement
PP25-090	**Kingswood Court Day Centre**	Other	General Refurbishment
PP25-085	**Len Ironside Centre**	Other	General Refurbishment
PP25-069	**Mastrick Industrial Est (OT Store)**	Depot	General refurbishment
PP25-127	**Quarryhill School**	School - Primary	To create boys toilets for the lower stages
PP25-084	**Stocket Parade Hostel**	Hostel	General refurbishment
PP25-097	**Town House Extension, Broad Street**	Office	Replacement of floor coverings, internal decoration.
PP25-096	**Town House, Castle Street**	Office	Replacement of floor coverings, internal decoration.

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Statutory Performance Indicator: Condition & Suitability

The SPI shows the overall position of operational buildings in terms of if they are both suitable and in satisfactory condition. In addition as the SPI has been in use for a number of years it is possible to see long term trends. The SPI figure shows if the investment being made is leading to improvements in condition and suitability grades. Improving figures would suggest investment levels are sufficient while declining figures would suggest that the investment is not sufficient.





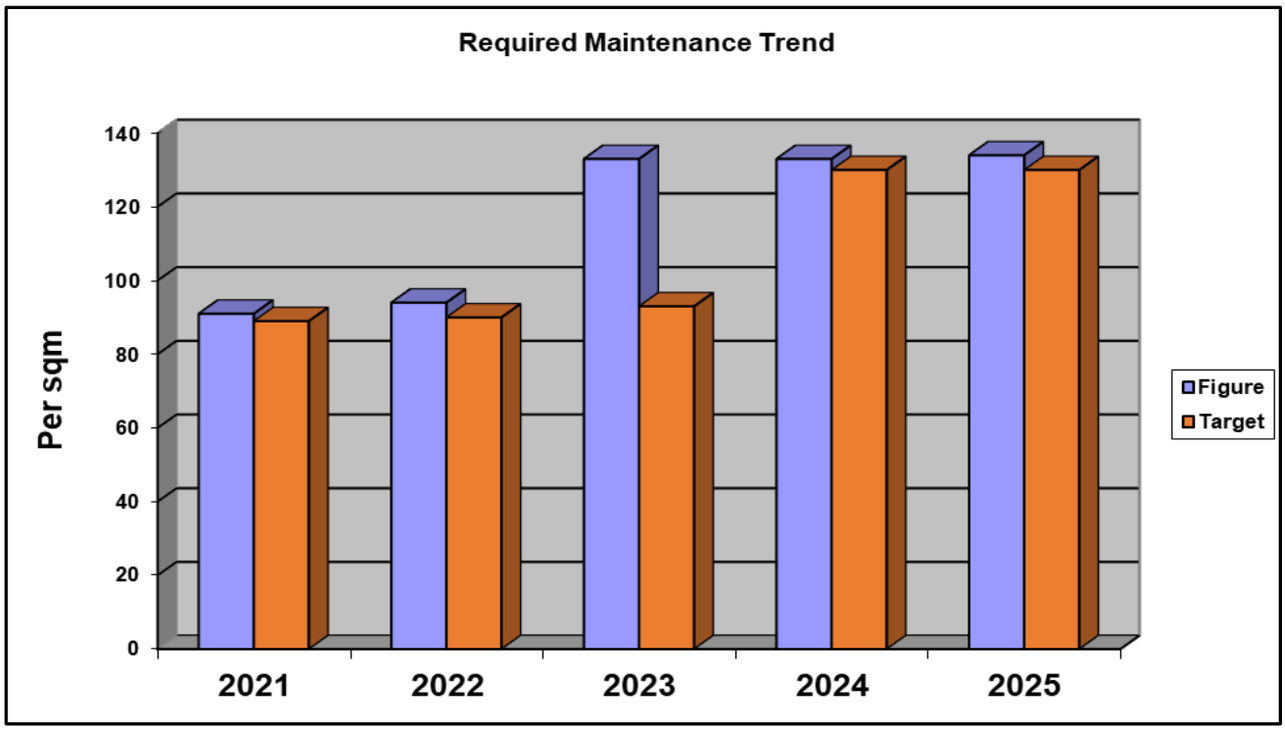
As there have been no new condition or suitability surveys carried out on any properties in the past year, the reported figures in this year's SPI have not changed significantly, with the only differences being created by a net decrease of two properties in the portfolio. However both figures remain above the targets set last year.

The addition of the new Riverbank School as a new educational asset with a considerably large floor area, has also contributed to the changes in this year's figures. As a new building, this is rated A for both condition and suitability.

There are two education buildings within the portfolio which are known to contain Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) – this is likely to affect their condition rating when they are next surveyed and will be reflected in future SPI reporting.

Statutory Performance Indicator: Required Maintenance

The required maintenance cost of operational assets per square metre is an assessment of the cost to bring the property from its present state up to the state reasonably required by the authority to deliver the service or to meet statutory or contract obligations and maintain it at that standard. Betterment should be specifically excluded from the calculations of cost.



The overall required maintenance has increased by £1.5m. The overall floor area has increased significantly by 4,555sqm, primarily due to the opening of a new school. The continued decline in condition of many properties has been identified during the condition survey programme and construction inflation has led to increased costs for repairs. Overall, these combined factors have led to a small increase in the overall cost of required maintenance per square metre.

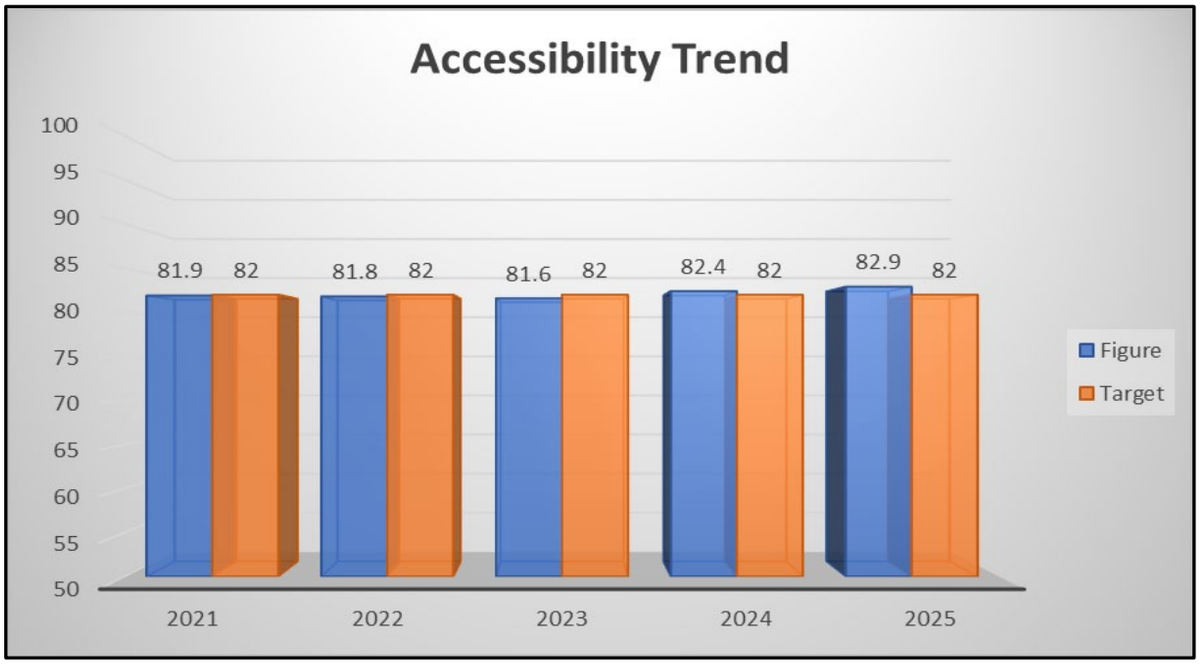
Planned investment figures represent a number of large scale projects which in the longer term will help to improve the overall condition of buildings and impact positively on the figures, although not all of these are likely to be completed within the next year. The target for next year has therefore been kept unchanged at £130 per sqm.

It is important to note that the figures above capture a specific point in time, in terms of the information currently held on required works and likely costs. It is acknowledged that the actual cost of all required works is subject to ongoing survey work, and likely to be significantly higher than the figure shown above.

The C&S Programme will continue to allow for targeted capital spend. This will result in improvements to specific buildings but buildings not included in the programme will decline. Projects within the capital programme such as refurbishment / improvements for Harlaw Academy, Ferryhill School and the replacement Hazlehead Academy will positively contribute over the next 1 to 3 years.

Statutory Performance Indicator: Accessibility

The number of council buildings from which the council delivers services to the public and percentage of these in which all public areas are suitable for and accessible to disabled people.



The small increase in the percentage of accessible buildings, compared with last year, is due primarily to the opening of one new building which is designed to be fully accessible, whilst two accessible and one inaccessible building have been closed this year. The buildings which are not accessible are predominantly historic or listed buildings which can't be easily upgraded due to budget or statutory constraints. Any improvement works undertaken to improve accessibility will also reflect Net Zero aspirations where possible.

The total number of buildings assessed for accessibility reduced slightly this year to 123 properties. The percentage of accessible buildings remain broadly consistent which is in line with the target. The portfolio will continue to change as the Property & Estates Strategy is implemented, which could have both positive and negative impact on this SPI. It is not yet possible to determine what that impact will be. As such the target for next year remains at 82%.

Any works to the external fabric of a building to improve its accessibility, for example the replacement of access doors, should also improve the thermal performance of the building, contributing to our Net Zero aspirations.

Definitions

Condition

A: Good - performing well and operating efficiently

B: Satisfactory - performing adequately but showing minor deterioration

C: Poor - showing major problems and/or not operating adequately

D: Bad - life expired and/or serious risk of imminent failure

Suitability

A: Good - performing well and operating efficiently. The buildings support the delivery of the service and are considered suitable for use now and in the future.

B: Satisfactory - performing well but with minor issues. The buildings generally support the delivery of services and would be considered suitable. There is room for improvement in certain areas but the property is fundamentally okay.

C: Poor - showing major problems and/or not operating optimally. The buildings impede the delivery of services and would not be considered suitable.

D: Bad - does not support the delivery of services at all. The buildings seriously impede the delivery of services and would definitely not be considered suitable.

Accessibility

A: Good - Accessible with little or no works required.

B: Satisfactory - Accessible with only minor works required.

C: Poor - Significant investment required to make accessible.

D: Bad - Major Investment required or cannot be made accessible.

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Finance and Resources
DATE	5 November 2025
EXEMPT	No
CONFIDENTIAL	No
REPORT TITLE	Capital Programme Delivery: Projects Update
REPORT NUMBER	CR&E/25/240
DIRECTOR	David Dunne
CHIEF OFFICER	Alan McKay
REPORT AUTHOR	Alan McKay
TERMS OF REFERENCE	1.1

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 The purpose of this report is to summarise the general progress of delivery of key capital expenditure projects identified within the approved Capital Programme from the General Fund and Housing Revenue Accounts.

1.2 The report highlights those issues considered worthy of particular note which are specific to individual programmes/projects.

2. RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee :-

2.1 Note the status of delivery of the Section 3 highlighted programmes/projects contained within the approved Capital Programmes.

3. CURRENT SITUATION

Background

3.1 At the Finance & Resources Committee meeting held on Wednesday 1 February 2023 a new reporting content/style was submitted to inform key project updates within the approved General Fund and Housing Capital Programme. This report continues with that format and reports progress since then in terms of, but not limited to, contract/construction issues, timeline delivery and financial viability.

3.2 In late 2023, following discussion with the Convener of the Finance and Resources Committee it was agreed that it would be appropriate for the timing and management of the delivery of the new housing developments (under construction) to be reported to the Communities, Housing and Public

Protection Committee. This is with the understanding that any contractual/financial issues would continue to be reported to this Committee.

Tillydrone Primary School (New Riverbank Primary School)

3.3 Practical completion of the construction works was achieved in April 2025 with the school opening to pupils on the 9th May.

3.4 Additional works including snagging were completed during the School Summer holidays.

3.5 The official opening event for the £30m construction build was held on 9th October.

B999/ Shielhill Road Junction

3.6 The process to acquire land for the project is progressing. The necessary Compulsory Purchase Order was made on the 18 September 2024, however, it took until April 2025 for the Scottish Ministers to confirm the Compulsory Purchase Order. The General Vesting Declaration (GVD) was served on the last day of September with the vesting date for the GVD in November 2025. Subject to successful conclusion this will then permit the Authority to take access to the land to undertake the work necessary for the project, this had originally been anticipated for July.

3.7 While every effort has been made to reach the detailed design and preparation milestone in Spring 2025, technical challenges and other unforeseen issues have meant that this milestone was not achieved. With the detailed design being completed, public/ private utility issues resolved, and environmental permits advanced it is anticipated that the new indicative timeline for this milestone will be December 2025. The extended length of time to complete will have an impact for contract award now targeted for Spring 2026.

New Mortuary at Aberdeen Royal Infirmary (ARI)

3.8 As previously highlighted, the delivery of the project has been hampered by a number of factors. The project is waiting for the final contract administration documents to be completed together with snagging related to functional commissioning before the formal handover and commencement of operational use. Since the works were procured as a 'Design and Build' Form of Contract, the significant proportion for this delay rests with the appointed Principal Contractor. Notwithstanding this, the contractual parties continue to monitor progress and seek assurance from the contractor that the target operational date will be met. Recent delays have been associated with addressing issues identified during the commissioning phase. All current identified issues are being successfully addressed and impacts on the operational handover mitigated.

3.9 The delay has had an impact on the coordination of the closure of the existing Council mortuary facility at Queen Street. The interdependence of this element

with the delivery of the new facility is being monitored and co-ordinated in line with the updated programme.

3.10 The current expectation is that the facility will be operational in October 2025.

Bridge of Don Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC)

3.11 Project completion was delayed due to issues with the final water connection. Scottish Water finally completed their works in late August. The contractor was then able to complete the final connections and access surfacing works.

3.12 The project is complete, the site was handed over on the 26th September 2025 and will become operational in November 2025 subject to SEPA issuing the Waste Management Licence.

Tolbooth – Roof and Parapet Works (Condition & Suitability Programme)

3.13 The works to repair and conserve the external fabric of this grade A listed, early 17th Century building are complete. Practical Completion was issued in August 2025.

Union Street Central Streetscaping

3.14 The vision for Streetscaping is one of long-term substantive, beneficial improvement that places the City Centre on a path to regenerate shopping experiences, increase footfall and attract visitors to the city, while creating new employment opportunities.

3.15 The Union Street Central streetscape project shall provide enhanced public realm from Union Terrace to Market Street. The proposals will see the space within the existing streetscape reapportioned in favour of walking, wheeling, and riding users, and public transport whilst still allowing for service vehicle access.

3.16 Since commencement on site, additional works associated with the removal of undocumented redundant utilities and accommodation of buried structures, in addition to productivity issues have resulted in programme delays. Given current measures Hub North has taken to mitigate issues and delay, programme estimates indicate completion in Spring 2026. There are a number of risks still present within the planned works, which if realised, are likely to extend the works into summer 2026.

Castlegate Public Realm

3.17 The vision is to re-establish Castlegate as a central civic location, providing a high-quality space creating a destination and encouraging sustainable economic activity. The space provides an important gateway to the beach. As well as a focus for visitors and tourists, Castlegate will play an important part in delivery of the city's events programme, capable of hosting a range of small-

scale events that will provide a much-needed sense of vibrancy and animation. Tied to the Council's bid to the national Heritage & Place Programme, it is expected that proposals for the Castlegate will also help stimulate interest from surrounding building owners to invest more in the area.

3.18 The Project comprises public realm and streetscaping improvements to the Castlegate including street furniture, public art, improved lighting and enhanced street greening. An active travel route is included through the Castlegate towards the Beachfront, combined with consideration given to vehicular access for servicing businesses. The public realm will include clear unobstructed and segregated footways to enable safe access to residences and businesses surrounding the space.

3.19 The design development and market testing of the Castlegate Streetscaping works had been programmed to achieve Financial Close and a site start in August 2025. All activities have progressed towards a conclusion with the exception of the procurement of statutory utility quotations for the diversions, abandonments and new works required as part of the project.

3.20 The utilities works form a key component of the project works, with the programme requiring the utilities to be undertaken at the front end, as an advance works package. Due to the significant impact of the utility works package on programme, commercials & risk, activities on progressing to Financial Close have paused pending the final procurement of the quotes. Utility works are a critical path dependency to the projects major milestones and required to de-risk the project and ensure a smooth transition to the main construction works. This confirms the construction phasing, targeted completion date and associated cost reports required for Financial Close. Unfortunately these third parties (Scottish Gas Networks and BT Openreach) cannot be controlled directly by our project team nor council officers and we are therefore bound by the utilities companies' commitments and performance.

3.21 On current estimates construction start is expected in the first quarter of 2026. The construction programme is anticipated to last until Summer 2027, although this is currently being reviewed to determine whether it can be condensed. Construction phasing takes into account, where possible, on street trading from surrounding businesses, accommodating outdoor seating for those that require it during the summer months to reduce risks to those businesses.

Bairns' Hoose

3.22 Practical completion of the construction works was achieved in July 2025 with facility operating from early August. Partner organisations have also moved into the facility.

Ferryhill School Suitability Improvements

3.23 Practical completion of the new Nursery was achieved in August 2025, and handed over to the school. The nursery opened at the start of the new school term.

3.24 Enabling work packages commenced in July 2025 to prepare the site for the primary school main works, these include the soft strip of the internal spaces, asbestos removal and the demolition of the link corridor and annex. The tender exercise for the extension and internal refurbishment works is ongoing.

3.25 These enabling packages have identified some additional works that need to be addressed. They are currently under review, these include structural and other Health and Safety considerations.

3.26 The next milestone is to start works on the main school extension and refurbishment, this is dependent on the completion of the tender exercise, which is planned to be completed in the Autumn 2025.

Harlaw Academy Extension

3.27 Due to the site constraints and to ensure the safety of the pupils the erection of steel frame and associated grounds works was identified as a critical activity for the 2025 school summer holidays. These works included a gas main diversion and creation of a new access and playground off Albyn Lane to divert the children away from the front of the school where the site compound would be situated and the installation of new access road to gain access to the location of the new building site. The works also include securing fire escape routes from the existing school after discussion with the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service. These enabling works have now been completed.

3.28 The main works procurement is currently underway with award planned for Autumn 2025.

St Machar External Improvements

3.29 Practical completion for the works was achieved in August 2025 and handed over to the school. The new facilities were available to the school at the start of the new school year.

Harlaw Road Pavilion

3.30 The main works procurement is currently underway with award planned for Autumn 2025 and target completion Spring 2026.

3.31 In advance of the main works the existing Pavilion has been demolished to remove Health and Safety concerns and clear the site for the new building.

Bucksburn Academy Extension

3.32 We now have achieved legal closure for the contract variation with NYOP that has allowed the design team to be appointed. The design process could not begin until there was a legal agreement in place as this property was financed and is managed by NYOP. That process was protracted as we have had to work within the conditions of the existing contract but it is now complete.

3.33 The Design Teams are now all appointed and initial discussions and design development has started.

Bucksburn Swimming Pool

3.34 Morrison Construction was appointed as Principal Contractor in June with construction works commenced on 14th July 2025. The Contractor has advised recently that the procurement and manufacturing of the pool hall air handling unit is likely to delay the works with practical completion now likely to be achieved in Spring 2026.

Inchgarth Community Centre Extension

3.35 The extension is under construction to respond to the increase in demand for services and activities at Inchgarth Community Centre. The Council was successful in securing £1.9m from the Regeneration Capital Grant Fund (RCGF) in June 2023.

3.36 Burns Construction was appointed as main contractor in March 2025. Works started on site in April 2025. Works are due for completion in Spring 2026.

Aberdeen City Vision – Phase A Beach Park, Events Park and Broadhill

3.37 The Beach Park will provide a significantly sized outdoor destination within the unique beachfront context. The core play park is part of the wider landscape masterplan and importantly facilitates connections back to the city centre. The core play park will create a focus for activity and will act as a key ‘gateway’ into the wider park and the beach. The seaside location and the rope factory that was once located to the south of the site have both been key inspirations that have helped shape the design of the play area.

3.38 The Events Park is an area of approximately 2.5 hectares and is intended as a flexible space capable of holding events including festivals, larger concerts and gatherings. The Field will be the central focus of this area, semi-enclosed by woodland planting, providing definition and increased shelter. This area will have direct visual and links to the core play area, with other key routes through woodland to surrounding communities and beachfront facilities.

3.39 The Broadhill is approximately 5 hectares of green natural space, and one of the most distinctive landscape features along this stretch of coastline. The vision for Broadhill is to enhance the natural environment of this distinctive feature in the beach area. This will be achieved through additional planting, furthering the diversity of habitat and ecological value.

3.40 Works are progressing on programme to date with above ground works now progressing across the vast majority of the site. Progress over the next 3 months will consider getting buildings wind and watertight and the continuation of hard landscaping.

3.41 Beach Park

- Drainage works are well progressed across the site alongside utility works
- Superstructure works are complete, building fabric and fit out works are ongoing and will continue across the next period at the gateway and hub buildings.
- Hard landscaping ongoing

3.42 Events Field

- Events field surfacing has commenced
- Canopy roof and gutters are complete
- Amphitheatre building superstructure is complete
- Hard landscaping ongoing

3.43 Broadhill

- The project achieved practical completion on 14 July 2025 and thereafter has been open to the public.
- The expectation is still that works to form all 3 sites should reach practical completion in late summer 2026.

Hazelhead Academy

3.44 Hub North Scotland were appointed in Spring 2024 to manage and deliver the replacement Hazlehead Academy on behalf of the Council.

3.45 Statutory approvals are being sought currently.

3.46 Hub North Scotland are progressing with an advanced package of works including tree felling and subject to statutory approval to demolish the swimming pool block and the former janitors lodges.

3.47 The Council were successful with a Scottish Government grant application for a new energy centre and expansion to the heat network.

3.48 It is anticipated that new school building will be open in Summer 2028 with the demolition of the existing buildings and the construction of the sports pitches to be completed by Summer 2029.

St Peter's RC Primary School

3.49 Hub North Scotland were appointed in Spring 2024 to manage and deliver the refurbished and extended St Peters RC School on behalf of the Council.

3.50 To allow for intrusive investigation works, the school vacated to the Old Riverbank School during the 2025 Summer holidays.

3.51 Hub North Scotland are progressing with an advanced package of works including asbestos removal and subject to statutory approvals carrying out fabric repairs to Old Aberdeen House and demolish St Peters RC School.

3.52 Due to the unique age and characteristics of Old Aberdeen House and its location within the conservation area, the extended design development work and required due diligence has impacted on the overall delivery programme with the planning application for the extension now scheduled for Winter 25/26.

3.53 It is anticipated the school will operate from the site from Autumn 2027.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Notwithstanding all of the above, the Chief Officer – Capital continues to review the approved Capital Programme in light of external pressures, such as, but not limited to;

- Inflation;
- Energy supply and cost;
- Other historical factors such as Covid 19 impacts, War in Ukraine, and Brexit; and
- New risk of global trade wars which could impact on the supply and cost of materials.

4.2 Due to these external factors, there is still a significant risk that costs will increase for those projects under construction and also those in the future pipeline. Close collaboration is being maintained with finance colleagues.

4.3 Members are aware that the Council are obliged to deliver its obligations within a balanced budget. In the context of the approved Capital Programme, and bearing in mind paragraphs 4.1 and 4.2 above, regular consideration needs to be carried out on whether to delay, pause or cancel any projects which are still not legally committed.

4.4 Throughout the financial year the Chief Officer – Finance monitors the budget and uses various controls and tools to ensure a balanced budget is delivered.

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 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) *taking into account controls/control actions	*Does Target Risk Level Match Appetite Set?
Strategic Risk	Failure to manage Council finance and resources could lead to failure to achieve strategic objectives.	Regular financial reporting and monitoring activities, to incorporate financial resilience to address financial pressures arising in year is maintained and monitored.	M	Yes
Compliance	Failure to be able to comply with project requirements	Increase site visits and monitoring of the construction works. If required, review alternative options as soon as possible.	L	Yes
Operational	Balancing the pressures of finite resources both internal and external to the Council	Regular engagement between relevant Clusters within the Council along with ongoing engagement with Framework hosts, Suppliers, Procurement & Services re alternative products or delivery methods.	M	Yes

Financial	Escalation of costs Differing market conditions depending on commodity/service	Development of suitable price mechanisms. Use of Business Intelligence to predict market changes/trends. Price Increase Request Process. Market engagement/use of business intelligence to assist in predicting market changes and trends.	M M M M	Yes Yes Yes Yes
Reputational	Programmes/projects being delayed or stopped	As above.	M	Yes
Environment / Climate	Failure to consider sustainable options due to costs.	Ensure all contracts consider environmental considerations, and early market engagement is conducted to seek market intelligence.	M	Yes

8. OUTCOMES

COUNCIL DELIVERY PLAN 2024-2025	
	Impact of Report
Aberdeen City Council Policy Statement **Working in Partnership for Aberdeen**	Reviewing the approved Capital Programme in light of the cost pressures resulting from external drivers, will enable the Council best to meet and prioritise the delivery of its capital funded programmes /projects.
Aberdeen City Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2016-26	
Prosperous Economy Stretch Outcomes	The recommendations outlined within this report have included consideration of the current stage of programme/project delivery.
Prosperous People Stretch Outcomes	The recommendations outlined within this report have included consideration of the current stage of programme/project delivery.

Prosperous Place Stretch Outcomes	The recommendations outlined within this report have included consideration of the current stage of programme/project delivery.
Regional and City Strategies	Reviewing the approved Capital Programme in light of the cost pressures resulting from external drivers, will enable the Council best to meet and prioritise the delivery of its capital funded programmes /projects to align with its regional and city strategies.

9. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Assessment	Outcome
Integrated Impact Assessment	Update report for noting only Integrated Impact Assessment not required.
Data Protection Impact Assessment	Not required
Other	Not required

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

10.1 Finance and Resources Committee 26 March 2025: Capital Programme Delivery : Projects Update : report no RES/25/066.

11. APPENDICES

11.1 Appendix A – Supporting Project Annex Information

12. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

Name	Alan McKay
Title	Chief Officer Capital
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Appendix A – Supporting Project Annex Information

New Riverbank Primary School

The construction contract for the three-stream primary school and 60 place Early Learning Centre (ELC) setting was awarded to Robertson Construction.

1. Update since last report provided in March 2025.

   Practical completion was achieved in April 2025 with the school opening to pupils in May 2025. Additional works have been undertaken during the school holiday periods.

2. Planned progress in next reporting period

   Monitor operational phase.

3. Spend to date

   Spend to the end of Q2 2025/26 is as follows:

Gross Budget	Spend to Date
£36.35m	**£35.31m**

4. Interdependencies

   St Peters RC School have decanted into the old Riverbank School.

5. Progress Photographs



School playground



School playground



Activity area



Typical classroom



Ribbon cutting ceremony 8th October

North East Scotland Joint Mortuary

In March 2020 the appointment of Kier Construction (PSCP) & AECOM (CA & PM), following a competitive tender process, for the development of a new facility to replace the two existing Aberdeen based mortuaries with a purpose-built facility. This new facility will be operated as a single integrated multi-partner, multi-purpose mortuary serving all providers including NHS Grampian, Aberdeen City Council, Aberdeenshire Council, Moray Council, Orkney and Shetland Island Councils, the University of Aberdeen, Crown Office Procurator Fiscal Service and Police Scotland.

1. Update since last report in March 2025:

- Remedial works on the resin floor have been completed successfully, which was a key delay, and the final water samples results are normal.
- The contract administration needs to be completed together with snagging related to functional commissioning:

2. Planned progress in next reporting period

Works are nearing completion and handover. It is anticipated that handover to operational management will take place in October 2025.

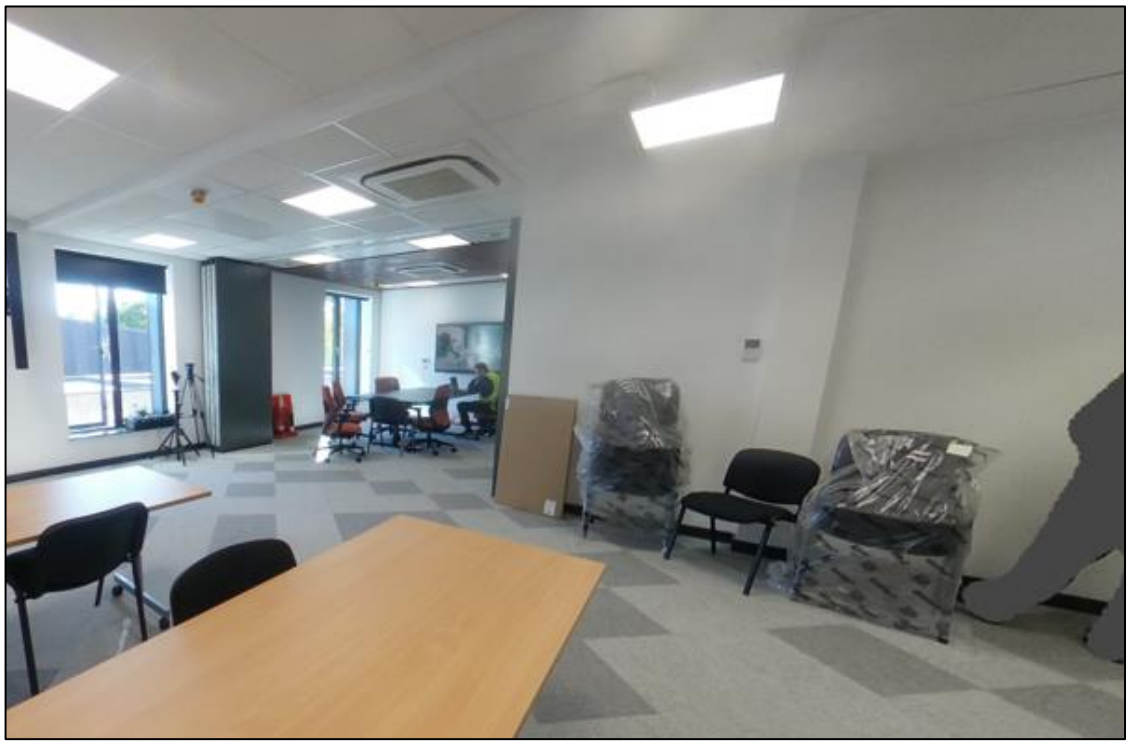
3. Spend to the end of Q2 2025/26 is as follows.

Construction Budget	Spend to Date
£31.00m	**£29.45m**

4. Interdependencies

The delivery of this project will facilitate closure of the existing Council managed mortuary at Queen Street.

5. Progress Photographs



Level 1 Meeting Room



Level 1 Corridor



Ground Floor Corridor at Entrance



Main Entrance



Bereavement Garden

Bridge of Don Household Waste Recycling Centre

The current Bridge of Don Household Waste and Recycling Centre (HWRC) at Scotstown Road, built several decades ago in Bridge of Don, is no longer fit for purpose in regard to the size of site and its location.

A replacement HWRC was identified in the Waste Strategy 2014-2025 under Target 4 to develop facilities within the Aberdeen area to recover our resources (unwanted materials). There is a requirement to construct a modern HWRC to cater to high traffic levels and collect a wider range of recyclable materials.

1. Project Update since last report provided in March 2025.

   The works are complete and facility handed over.

2. Planned progress in next reporting period

   Operational in November 2025

3. Spend to date

   Spend to the end of Q2 25/26 financial is as follows:

Gross Budget	Spend to Date
£4.295m	**£3.43m**

4. Interdependencies

   None.

5. Progress Photographs



Skip Bays & Welfare Unit



Skip yard looking towards skip bays & Welfare Unit



New access road

Tolbooth – Roof and Parapet Works

The works to repair and conserve the external fabric of this A listed, early 17th Century building include renewing the old lead on the existing spire and the repair/conservation of stonework of the external walls and parapets and associated works. Work to replace the lead to the spire was sequential i.e. strip lead - replace wallhead stone - repair spire timbers - fit new lead.

1. Project Update since last report provided in March 2025.

   Works on site completed.

2. Planned progress in next reporting period

   N/A

3. Spend to date:

   Spend to the end of Q2 2025/26 is as follows:

Gross Budget	Spend to Date
£1.36m	**£1.13m**

4. Interdependencies

5. Photographs





Completed leadwork to roof

Union Street Central Streetscaping

The Union Street Central streetscape project shall provide enhanced public realm from Union Terrace to Market Street. The proposals will see the space within the existing streetscape reapportioned in favour of walking, wheeling, and riding users, and public transport whilst still allowing for service vehicle access.

Where possible, carriageways have been reduced in width to 7.3m as to allow footways to be widened. The proposed reapportioning of space within the street allows for the introduction of a new two-way 3m wide cycle track on the north side, public seating at key locations, and will offer welcoming amenity to all and opportunities for rest for the less able whilst encouraging a wide range of visitors to the city centre.

1. Project Update since last report provided in March 2025.

East Section Phase 1

- South kerbline is 95% complete
- Ducting installed in the South footway
- Traffic has been switched onto the new carriageway to allow commencement of works on the North footway.

East Section Phase 2

- New SSE electric main has been installed in the South footway with new supply connections to the commercial properties.
- South footway slabs 80% complete

East Section Phase 3

- North Kerbline 25% complete

East Section Phase 4

- Granite setts have been laid to the new carriageway

East Section Phase 5

- North footway partially excavated with redundant pipes and cables removed.

Central Section Phase 1

- Tram sleepers, redundant water pipes and cables have been removed
- Bus shelters and associated power supplies have been removed.
- New carrier drains have been installed.
- Installation of gullies and connection is ongoing
- Reinforced concrete basecourse has been laid for the new carriageway.
- New SSE electric main has been partially installed in the South footway with new supply connections to the commercial properties ongoing.
- South kerbline is complete

Central Section Phase 2

- South footway slab laying is ongoing

Central Section Phase 4

- Granite sett laying on the carriageway has commenced.

West Section Phase 1

- Removal of existing basecourse slab has commenced
- Carrier drain has been installed
- Gully connections and installation is ongoing

New natural stone paving slabs, kerbs and setts continue to be manufacture and delivered.

2. Planned progress in next reporting period

East Section – Phase 1

- Complete South kerbline

East Section - Phase 2

- Complete stone paving slabs on South footway

East Section - Phase 3

- Complete North carriageway kerbline

East Section - Phase 5

- Install new SSE electric main and new supply connections to commercial properties
- Install ducting
- Install kerbs for cycleway and North footway
- Complete North footway slabs
- Complete cycleway

Central Section – Phase 1

- Complete gullies & connections
- Install North & South kerbline
- Install reinforced concrete carriageway basecourse to complete to Union Bridge

Central Section - Phase 2

- Complete SSE electric supply renewals to commercial properties
- Complete laying stone paving slabs to South footway

Central Section – Phase 3

- Install North carriageway kerbline

Central Section – Phase 4

- Install carriageway setts

Central Section – Phase 5

- Excavate North footway
- Install new SSE electric main and new supply connections to commercial properties
- Commence installing ducts
- Install kerbs for North footway and cycleway

West Section – Phase 1

- Plane off existing carriageway surfacing
- Install carrier drain and gullies
- Install ducting in South footway
- Install South kerbing
- Install new SSE electric main

West Section – Phase 2

- Remove South footway surfacing

West Section – Phase 3

- Install Kerbing

West Section – Phase 4

- Commence laying carriageway setts

3. Spend to date
   Spend to the end of Q3 2024/25 is as follows:

Gross Budget	Spend to Date
£23.79m	**£9.75m**

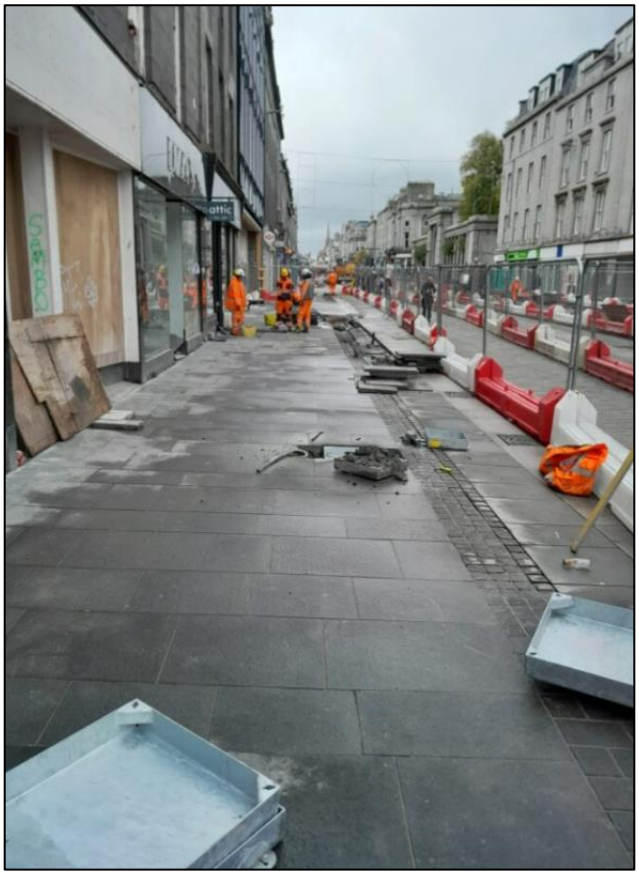
4. Interdependencies

   New Market footway occupation.

5. Progress Photographs



East Section - Traffic Switched to New Carriageway



East Section – South Footway



East Section – North Footway Excavation



Centre Section – Carriageway Setts



West Section - Excavation

Castlegate Public Realm

In July 2024, Finance and Resources Committee instructed the design and delivery of public realm proposals for the Castlegate. The Project comprises public realm and streetscaping improvements to the Castlegate including street furniture, public art, improved lighting, enhanced street greening. An active travel route is included through the Castlegate towards the Beachfront, combined with consideration given to vehicular access for servicing businesses. The public realm will include clear unobstructed and segregated footways to enable safe access to residences and businesses surrounding the space. Hub North Scotland has been appointed to manage the construction contract on behalf of the Council.

1. Project Update since last report provided in March 2025.

- Design work to RIBA Stage 4 complete
- Engagement undertaken with key stakeholders (eg Disability Equity Partnership and cycle groups)
- Site investigations (underground services, ground conditions etc)
- Mercat Cross condition survey
- Authority Construction Requirements agreed

2. Planned progress in next reporting period

- Utilities advanced works to be agreed and costed
- Financial Close to be reached in Autumn 2025 with advanced works commencing thereafter after.
- Expected construction programme start on site first quarter 2026

3. Spend to the end of Q2 2025/26 is as follows.

Construction Budget	Spend to Date
£13.780m	**£1.25m**

4. Interdependencies

None of note, although deliveries and access management procedures will require to be in place throughout the construction period.

5. Progress Photographs



Castlegate new public realm looking east



Castlegate new public realm looking west



Castlegate new public realm seating area

Bairns' Hoose Project Update

The vacant wing of the Links Hub has been transformed to provide accommodation for staff providing services to children, young people and their families for Aberdeen and the wider region. The facility will deliver a Bairns' Hoose model as per the Scottish Government commitment to provide this type of service within each Local Authority area.

1. Update since last report provided in March 2025.

   Practical completion was achieved in July with the facility operating from August.

2. Planned progress in next reporting period

   Monitor operational phase.

3. Spend to date

   Spend to the end of Q2 25/26 financial is as follows:

Gross Budget	Spend to Date
£2.22m	**£1.70m**

4. Interdependencies

   None.

5. Progress Photographs



Main Entrance



Interview room



Interview room

Ferryhill School Suitability Improvements

This project aims to address critical suitability issues that have reached a point of necessitating immediate action. Works include a new dining facility, a new nursery, new PE facilities, improvements to the existing teaching block and external improvements.

1. Update since last report provided in March 2025.

   The new Nursery has been completed and handed over to the school.

   Enabling works for the extension and internal refurbishment have commenced.

2. Planned progress in next reporting period

   Complete the primary school main works tender exercise and complete the enabling works.

3. Spend to date

   Spend to the end of Q2 25/26 financial is as follows:

Gross Budget	Spend to Date
£17.94m	**£4.50m**

4. Interdependencies

   None.

5. Progress Photographs



Main Entrance – Caledonian Place



Albury Road Elevation



Internal view of the playroom

Harlaw Academy Extension

This project aims to address critical suitability issues that have reached a point of necessitating immediate action. Works include a new dining facility, additional PE space onsite, other work to the building that will improve flexibility and better use of space across the whole site.

1. Update since last report provided in March 2025.

   Enabling works packages have been competed and the main works procurement is underway.

   The internal refurbishment works to form two new classrooms and upgrade some toilets were completed during the 2025 summer school holidays.

2. Planned progress in next reporting period

   Award main works contract.

3. Spend to date

   Spend to the end of Q2 25/26 financial is as follows:

Gross Budget	Spend to Date
£7.5m	**£1.76m**

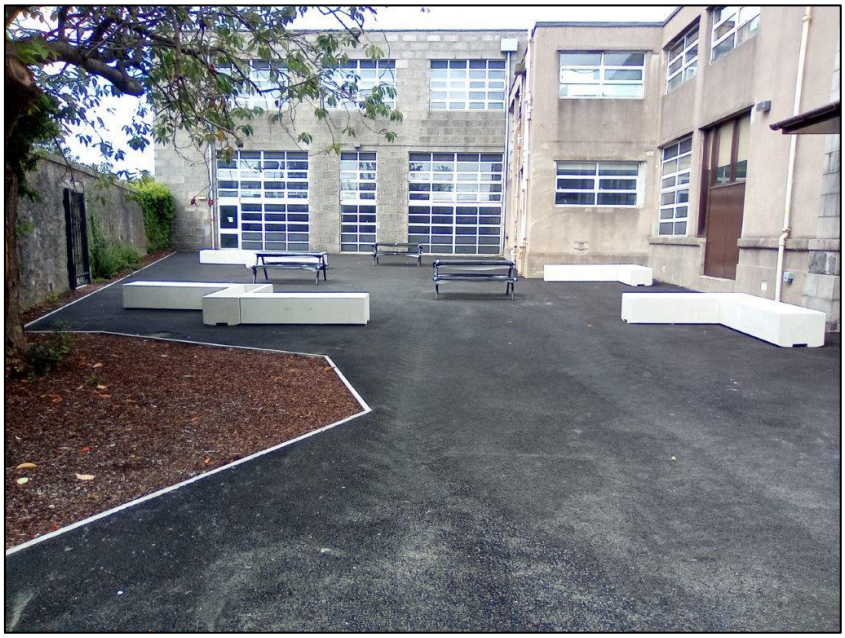
4. Interdependencies

   Relates to NHCP 916 - relocation of PE facilities to Harlaw Road Playing Fields determines requirements for PE facilities on the school site

5. Progress Photographs



New extension steel structure



New play ground and access of Albyn Lane

St Machar External Improvements

This project aims to address critical suitability issues that have reached a point of necessitating immediate action. Works include a new covered outside dining facility with food pod servery that can be used as an outdoor classroom and pupil social space; new sports facilities with a multiuse games area (MUGA); new direct access to the sports field that will incorporate a spectator seating area which can also be used as an outdoor classroom and pupil social space; Improved site security with new perimeter fencing to enable the site to be secured during the school day and prevent members of the public from accessing the playground; and improved fire evacuation with direct safe access to the muster points in the field without the need to leave site.

1. Update since last report provided in March 2025.

   The works have been completed and handed over to the school

2. Planned progress in next reporting period

   None

3. Spend to date

   Spend to the end of Q2 25/26 financial is as follows:

Gross Budget	Spend to Date
£2.07m	**£1.74m**

4. Interdependencies

   None

5. Progress Photographs



New Multi Use Games Area



New external dining space with grab and go catering pod



New direct access from the school to the playing field with seating / viewing area

Harlaw Road Pavilion

This project aims to address critical suitability issues that have reached a point of necessitating immediate action. Following a cost refresh a complete rebuild of the pavilion and demolition of the existing building has been identified as the most cost-effective option, and the project is progressing on that basis. This will allow the Harlaw Road Playing Fields to be used as the main outdoor PE provision for Harlaw Academy.

1. Update since last report provided in March 2025.

   The demolition of the existing pavilion has been completed. The tender has been returned with an award planned for Autumn 2025.

2. Planned progress in next reporting period

   Complete the tender analysis and commence works on site.

3. Spend to date

   Spend to the end of Q2 25/26 financial is as follows:

Gross Budget	Spend to Date
£3.28m	**£0.18m**

4. Interdependencies

   Relates to NHCP 917 - relocation of PE facilities to Harlaw Road Playing Fields will determine requirements for PE facilities on the school site

5. Progress Photographs



The site of the previous pavilion following its demolition in preparation for the new facility

Bucksburn Academy Extension

This project aims to address critical suitability issues that have reached a point of necessitating immediate action. Works include the need to increase the school capacity by 300 pupils based on the future pupils forecast.

1. Update since last report provided in March 2025.

   We have reached legal closure with NYOP for the contract variation and the design team have been appointed.

2. Planned progress in next reporting period

   Proceed with the design development.

3. Spend to date

   Spend to the end of Q2 25/26 financial is as follows:

Gross Budget	Spend to Date
£21.24m	**£0.09m**

4. Interdependencies

   None

5. Progress Photographs

   None.

Bucksburn Swimming Pool – Recommissioning & Improvements

A principal contractor has taken possession of the site to deliver the recommissioning of the pool. The scope of works also includes fabric improvements along with significant plant improvements to reduce energy costs.

1. Update since last report provided in March 2025.

   Construction works commenced in July with practical completion anticipated in Spring 2026.

2. Planned progress in next reporting period

   Monitor construction works and continue to liaise with Sport Aberdeen and other stakeholders regarding the likely delay to practical completion.

3. Spend to date

   Spend to the end of Q2 25/26 financial is as follows:

Gross Budget	Spend to Date
£2.70m	**£0.46m**

4. Interdependencies

   None

5. Progress Photographs



Pool Hall

Inchgarth Community Centre - Extension

The extension is intended to respond to the increase in demand for services and activities at Inchgarth Community Centre. The Council was successful in securing £1.9m from the Regeneration Capital Grant Fund (RCGF) in June 2023.

1. Update since last report provided in March 2025

   Contractor appointed and works on site commenced in April 2025. Regeneration Capital Grant Funding approved.

2. Planned progress in next reporting period

   Work on site will continue to progress.

3. Spend to date

   Spend to the end of Q2 25/26 financial is as follows:

Gross Budget	Spend to Date
£4.1m	**£1.23m**

4. Interdependencies

   None

5. Progress Photographs



Aerial view of ongoing works on site

Aberdeen City Vision – Phase A Broadhill, Events field and Beach Park

The beach works are part of the commitment by Aberdeen City Council towards the City Centre and Beachfront Masterplan. The beach works will act as a key entry point between the city centre and beachfront.

The events field with its amphitheatre effect design will be designed to host festivals, larger concerts and gatherings and at its heart will have a flexible open area semi-enclosed by woodland.

Broadhill is between the Kings and Queens Links and is now complete. Broadhill offers outstanding viewpoints across the city and the North Sea. The existing path network has been upgraded and additional viewing platforms and seating areas added.

1. Update since last report

   The Broadhill works achieved practical completion on 14 July 2025 and thereafter have been open to the public. Works are progressing on programme to date with all other aspects of the project.

2. Planned progress in next reporting period

   Snagging will be reviewed as required as part of the Broadhill post completion schedule.

   Above ground works and below ground construction will continue throughout the events field and beach park areas.

   Commencement of play equipment installation.

   Works to make to new canopy structures alongside the new hub and gateway buildings wind and watertight will have concluded.

3. Spend to date

   Spend to the end of Q3 24/25 financial is as follows:

Gross Budget	Spend to Date
£71.34m	**£32.68m**

4. Interdependencies

   None.

5. Progress Photographs



Photo 1 – Skate landscape, A1 Gateway roof and climbing rocks near complete with landscaping progressing



Photo 2 – Canopy roof and gutters complete



Photo 3- C1 Amphitheatre warm/cold roof details



Photo 4 – Events Field surfacing commenced



Photo 5 – B1 Hub ext wall base detailing

Hazlehead Academy Project Update

Replacement Hazlehead Academy to provide a new 1,600 pupil secondary school, to accommodate pupils from Hazlehead, Countesswells and Kingswells. The Council were successful in gaining Learning Estate Investment Programme (LEIP) 3 funding. Hub North Scotland through their North Schools Programme have been appointed to manage and deliver the project on behalf of the Council.

1. Update since last report provided in March 2025.

   Design proposals were submitted to the Planning Authority in May following significant consultation. The design has progressed into technical and billing stages.

2. Planned progress in next reporting period

   Commence advanced works including tree felling, site compound works and demolition of the swimming pool block and former janitors lodges. Also commencing subject to statutory approval will be the new energy centre and extension of the heat network for the school and surrounding area. The overall construction cost is expected to be confirmed during Winter 25/26.

3. Spend to date

   Spend to the end of Q2 25/26 financial is as follows:

Gross Budget	Spend to Date
£124.46m	**£3.70m**

4. Interdependencies

   None.

5. Progress Photographs



3D visual of main entrance



3D visual of pupil entrance



3D visual of outdoor dining/social space

St Peters RC School Project Update

Proposed refurbishment and extension to Old Aberdeen House to accommodate 434 pupils. Hub North Scotland through their North Schools Programme have been appointed to manage and deliver the project on behalf of the Council.

1. Update since last report provided in March 2025.

   Design development has continued to ensure the final design reflects the best option within the site constraints and user requirements.

2. Planned progress in next reporting period

   Commence advanced works including asbestos removal. Subject to statutory approval fabric works will be carried out to Old Aberdeen House and the demolition of St Peters RC School. Undertake further stakeholder engagement in advance of seeking further statutory approvals.

3. Spend to date

   Spend to the end of Q2 25/26 financial is as follows:

Gross Budget	Spend to Date
£26.63m	**£0.32m**

4. Interdependencies

   None.

5. Progress Photographs



Proposed site plan

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Finance and Resources
DATE	05 November 2025
EXEMPT	No
CONFIDENTIAL	No
REPORT TITLE	Place Based Investment Programme/UK Shared Prosperity Fund
REPORT NUMBER	CR&E/25/241
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	Acting Director: David Dunne
CHIEF OFFICER	Julie Wood
REPORT AUTHOR	Charlotte Farquhar
TERMS OF REFERENCE	1.1.8 & 1.1.11

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 The purpose of this report is to (1) secure the Committee's approval for the proposed allocation of grant funding from the Place Based Investment Programme (PBIP) Fund 2025/26 and (2) seek approval to reallocate underspend from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

Place Based Investment Programme 2025/26

That the Committee :-

2.1 Approve an allocation to Aberdeen Hindu Temple Trust of up to £41,041.00 for the Improving Energy Efficiency Project;

2.2 Approve an allocation to Aberdeen City Council of up to £36,126.46 for the Smart and Clean Street project;

2.3 Approve an allocation to Aberdeen City Council – Business Support of up to £37,400.00 for the Empty Shops Activation Kit Project;

2.4 Approve an allocation to Albury Community Sports Hub of up to £60,676.90 for the Refurbishment of Tennis Courts and Replacement of Existing Fencing Project;

2.5 Approve an allocation to Camphill Wellbeing Trust of up to £71,500.00 for the Compass Project - Road Resurfacing and Accessible Path (Phase 3 Infrastructure) Project;

2.6 Approve an allocation to CFINE of up to £65,889.90 for the CFINE Pantry + project;

2.7 Approve an allocation to Code the City of up to £19,537.00 for The Soap Factory Community Facilities Project;

2.8 Approve an allocation to Fersands and Fountain SCIO of up to £14,300.00 for the Fersands Youth Zone Renovation Project;

2.9 Approve an allocation to Aberdeen Association of Social Service (operating as VSA) of up to £34,137.70 for the Fields of Opportunity: Barn Refurbishment & Learning Hub Project;

2.10 Approve an allocation to Aberdeen Performing Arts of up to £78,750.00 for the Music Hall Energy Saving Encore Project;

2.11 Approve an allocation to Aberdeen City Council of up to £130,641.04 for the Inchgarth Community Centre Project, pending confirmation of Tranche 2 of the proposed 2025/26 PBIP funding from the Scottish Government;

2.12 Authorise the Chief Officer – City Development and Regeneration to approve the reallocation of funding within previously approved projects should any underspends be reported, following consultation with the Convener and Vice Convener of Finance and Resources Committee;

2.13 Authorise the Chief Officer – City Development and Regeneration to approve new projects up to a value of £30,000 should any underspends be reported, following consultation with the Chief Officer – Finance, Chief Officer – Commercial and Procurement Services and Convener of Finance and Resources Committee.

UK Shared Prosperity Fund 2025/26 - Communities and Place

2.14 Note that the Station House Media Unit: Phase 2 Extension Project is now no longer viable to be complete by March 31st 2026; and consequently

2.15 Approve the reallocation of up to £110,000 from Station House Media Unit's Phase 2 Extension Project to Station House Media Unit's Phase 1 Redevelopment Project.

3. CURRENT SITUATION

Place Based Investment Programme

3.1 The 2020-21 Programme for the Scottish Government announced the creation of a Place Based Investment Programme Fund with £275million of capital funding to support community led regeneration, town centre revitalisation, community wealth building and 20 minute neighbourhoods (neighbourhood location where people can access most of their basic needs within a 20-minute

walk.) It is a multi-annual capital fund with the Scottish Government distributing £23 million to Local Government across Scotland.

3.2 The main objectives of the Place Based Investment Programme Fund are:

- to link and align place-based initiatives and establish a coherent local framework to implement the Place Principle;
- to support place policy ambitions such as town centre revitalisation, community led regeneration, 20-minute neighbourhoods and Community Wealth Building;
- to ensure that all place-based investments are shaped by the needs and aspirations of local communities;
- to accelerate ambitions for net zero, wellbeing and inclusive economic development, tackling inequality and disadvantage, community involvement and ownership.

3.3 Scottish Government announced local authority allocations for the Place Based Investment Programme Fund on June 25th 2025. Approval for the partial release of funds was announced, with a second tranche being potentially announced later this year. Aberdeen City Council was awarded £461,970 in Tranche 1 and may receive a further £128,030 in Tranche 2.

3.4 The PBIP Fund Grant Scheme was subsequently launched on August 1st 2025 and closed on 1st September 2025. Non-profit organisations were eligible to apply to support capital projects. As stipulated by Scottish Government, all contracts have to be signed by March 31st 2026. A total of 21 applications were received with a total ask of £1,104,334

3.5 Applications were scored on a number of merits, including: Alignment to PBIP objectives; support of Council priorities, such as the Local Outcome Improvement Plan; risk management and mitigation; and deliverability to ensure that contracts are signed by March 31st 2026. Applicants were also assessed on technical compliance, such as complying with Following the Public Pound guidance and eligible expenditure being capital.

3.6 A significant number of projects did not provide sufficient evidence of their ability to commit to having contracts signed by 31st March 2026, which is a key condition of the fund, due to factors such as awaiting confirmation of match funding and planning permissions. They did, however, address a number of key criteria of the grant and would be encouraged to apply again in future should the programme continue.

3.7 A summary of applications recommended for approval are contained within Appendix 1. A summary of all applications are contained within Appendix 2.

UK Shared Prosperity Fund

3.8 Station House Media Unit (SHMU) were awarded £110,000 from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund at Finance and Resources Committee on 7 May 2025 to support a planned extension of their existing building. Due to inability to secure match funding and cost increases, this project is no longer viable to be delivered by 31st March 2026 – a stipulation of the UK Government funding.

3.9 SHMU had secured funding to enable Phase 1 redevelopment of the existing site. Due to rising costs and unforeseen challenges, overall project costs have increased beyond the original funding secured. SHMU have subsequently requested that the £110,000 originally allocated to support Phase 2 be reallocated to support completion of Phase 1 works. This will enable SHMU to deliver a high-quality, energy-efficient community facility, and deliver immediate, tangible benefits for Aberdeen's priority communities. Details of this are contained within Appendix 3.

3.10 Following unsuccessful applications to secure match funding and cost increases, the extension is no longer viable in the current financial year. Station House Media Unit have requested the transferal of funds from phase two to phase one due to cost increases and unforeseen issues arising during the redevelopment.

3.11 Officers reviewed the capital applications previously submitted to UKSPF that were unsuccessful, to ensure no other projects could be considered for funding. There are no other projects currently in a position to be awarded this funding.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Place Based Investment Programme

4.1 The Council has a confirmed allocation of £461,970 (Tranche 1) of Place Based Investment Programme 2025/26 from the Scottish Government. A further £128,030 (Tranche 2) may be made available at a later date. This paper makes recommendations for the full £590,000 (Tranche 1 and 2 combined) funding, including a provisional recommendation for Tranche 2 funding in the event it becomes available.

4.2 All spend must be committed by 31st March 2026 - this is considered to be a commitment of expenditure which can be evidenced by a fully awarded contract or commencement of works. Only capital costs are eligible. All projects recommended to receive funds have demonstrated that they can achieve this. It is essential that the projects from the Place Based Investment Programme Fund comply with the set requirements to avoid issues around eligibility and potential repayment of grant to the Scottish Government if conditions are not complied with.

4.3 All recommended organisations have been subject to review for compliance with Following the Public Pound.

Table 1: Place Based Investment Programme Allocations 2025/26

Organisation	Project	Total Project Investment	Recommended Grant Award 2025/26	Officer Review Outcome and

				Proposed Award
Aberdeen Hindu Temple Trust	Improving Energy Efficiency	£41,041.00	£41,041.00	To award up to £41,041.00. Project demonstrated a strong link to the objectives of the fund supporting net zero contributions.
Aberdeen City Council	Smart and Clean Streets Project	£36,126.46	£36,126.46	To award up to £36,126.46. The project demonstrates a strong fit with town centre revitalisation.
Aberdeen City Council – Business Support	Empty Shops Activation Kit	£40,000.00	£37,400.00	To award up to £37,400. The project shows strong links to town centre revitalisation.
Albury Community Sports Hub	Refurbishment of Tennis courts and replacement of existing fencing	£95,676.90	£60,676.90	To award up to £60,676.90. Project shows high support to the aims and objectives of the fund.
Camphill Wellbeing Trust	Compass Project - Road Resurfacing and Accessible Path (Phase 3 Infrastructure)	£85,800.00	£71,500.00	To award up to £71,500. Project aligns well to PIBP and LOIP.
CFINE	CFINE Pantry +	£ 65,889.90	£65,889.90	To award up to £65,889.90. Project shows high benefits to community aligning well to the fund.

Code the City	The Soap Factory Community Facilities	£19,537.00	£19,537.00	To award up to £19,537.00. Project aligns well to the fund's objectives.
Fersands and Fountain SCIO	Fersands Youth Zone Renovation	£25,300.00	£14,300.00	To award up to £14,300. Project shows good value for money and is a good fit for PBIP.
Aberdeen Association of Social Service (operating as VSA)	Fields of Opportunity: Barn Refurbishment & Learning Hub	£47,792.78	£34,137.70	To award £34,137.70. Project shows good value for money and strong links to LOIP.
Aberdeen Performing Arts	Music Hall Energy Saving Encore	£164,174.19	£78,750.00	A partial award of up to £78,750 for the screen element of the project. Project aligns well to the ambitions of the fund.
ACC Inchgarth Community Centre	Inchgarth Community Centre Café/ Kitchen Fit Out	£130,641.04	£130,641.04	To award up to £130,641.04 pending confirmation of Tranche 2 funding from the Scottish Government. Project aligns well to the fund's objectives and LOIP outcomes.
Total		**£751,979.27**	**£590,000.00**	

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Grant Agreements will require to be put in place between Aberdeen City Council and those organisations which are awarded grant funding.

5.2 Officers have established a subsidy control scheme for the Place Based Investment Programme 2025-26 (Subsidy Control Number: SC11402) to ensure compliance with the Subsidy Control Act 2022. All awards will be uploaded to the UK Government's Subsidy Control database and Transparency Register, where required.

6. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no direct environmental implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

7. RISK

The assessment of risk contained within the table below is considered to be consistent with the Council's Risk Appetite Statement.

Category	Risk	Primary Controls/Control Actions to achieve Target Risk level	Target Risks Level Low (L) Medium (M) High (H)	Does target Risk Level Match Appetite Set?
Strategic Risk	Projects do not support Council and Regional Priorities	All applications must demonstrate how they support local and regional strategies	L	Yes
Compliance	Non-compliance with grant conditions will require return of grant	External Funding team are familiar with the compliance requirements and will advise and monitor projects as required to ensure compliance	L	Yes
	Subsidy Control	To ensure all external grants awarded are compliant	L	Yes
Operational	Projects cannot deliver signed contracts by 31 March 2026	All projects have been assessed to ensure that they can evidence deliverability by March 31st 2026. Officers will monitor	L	Yes

		projects closely to ensure timescales are met.		
Financial	Any unspent, or unallocated funds will require to be returned to Scottish Government/UK Government	Close project monitoring will take place throughout to ensure these timescales will be met.	L	Yes
Reputational	Risk of reputational damage if funds are not spent in accordance with the grant conditions	Officers will work with projects to ensure proposals and applications meet the conditions of grant	L	Yes
Environment / Climate	No risks identified	None	L	Yes

8. OUTCOMES

COUNCIL DELIVERY PLAN 2025-26	
	Impact of Report
Aberdeen City Council Policy Statement **Working in Partnership for Aberdeen**	All applicants were requested to detail the contribution of their project to Aberdeen City Council policy and strategies. Work constructively with the Scottish Government to seek additional funding for Aberdeen. Seek to gain the maximum benefits for Aberdeen's people and businesses from the Scottish Government.
Local Outcome Improvement Plan	
Prosperous Economy Stretch Outcomes	All applicants were requested to detail the contribution of their project to the LOIP as part of the application process. The projects within this report align with Prosperous Economy LOIP outcomes. For example, Aberdeen City Council - Empty Shops

	Activation Kit project through support for entrepreneurs and SME Growth meeting stretch outcome 1 and 2.
Prosperous People Stretch Outcomes	The projects within this report align with Prosperous People LOIP outcomes. For example, Fersands and Fountain supports delivery of Outcome 4 by providing skill-building workshops and mentoring that prepares young people for employment or further education, as well as outcome 6 by the young people helping to shape and run the space, fostering ownership and civic engagement.
Prosperous Place Stretch Outcomes	The projects within this report align with Prosperous Place LOIP outcomes. For example, Aberdeen Hindu Temple Trust support stretch outcome 12 through the installation of solar panels to the building significantly reducing their carbon footprint.
Community Empowerment Stretch Outcomes	The projects within this report align with Community Empowerment LOIP outcomes. For example, VSA supports delivery of outcome 16 through activities which are co-designed with people who have learning disabilities and mental health conditions. People are supported to participate in decisions to change things for the better and improve their outcomes.
Regional and City Strategies	

9. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Assessment	Outcome
Integrated Impact Assessment	New Integrated Impact Assessment has been completed
Data Protection Impact Assessment	Not required
Other	Not required

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

10.1 CR&E/25/100, UK Shared Prosperity fund 2025-26, Finance and Resources Committee, 7 May 2025.

11. APPENDICES

11.1 Appendix 1 - Application Summaries Recommended for Approval.
11.2 Appendix 2 - Application Summaries Not Recommended for Approval.
11.3 Appendix 3 - UKSPF SHMU Update.

12. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

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Appendix 1: Summary of PBIP 2025 – 2026 Projects

Recommended for Funding – Tranche 1 £461,970 (Listed in order of scoring)

Aberdeen Hindu Temple Trust - Amount requested £41,041

Funding to install a solar PV system with integrated battery storage at Old Stoneywood Church, reducing emissions and energy costs to keep the multi- use community space warm, affordable, and resilient; planning submitted and procurement complete.

CFINE – Amount Requested £65,889.90

Funding is sought to transform CFINE's existing Community Food Pantry into a more inclusive, accessible, and efficient Pantry+ model allowing for increased capacity. The project will regenerate internal space at CFINE's Aberdeen premises, enabling increased access to surplus food, reducing stigma, and advancing wellbeing, and anti-poverty goals through community-led regeneration and wealth building.

Camphill Wellbeing Trust - Amount requested £71,500

Proposal to resurface internal roads and add a delineated accessible footpath at the Compass site in Cults, improving safe circulation for pedestrians, wheelchair users, cyclists and families with buggies, expanding disabled parking, and creating step- free links to new Phase 3 facilities (café, play café, training kitchen and raised- bed gardens).

VSA – Amount Requested £34,137.80

Funding is sought to refurbish two barn rooms at Easter Anguston Farm to create inclusive, flexible learning and training spaces supporting a circular textile economy. The project will enable SQA-accredited programmes, creative upcycling, and wellbeing activities for people with additional support needs, laying the foundation for future phases focused on textile recycling, employability, and community enterprise.

Code the City – Amount Requested £19,537

Proposal to equip The Soap Factory, a community-led tech skills hub in central Aberdeen, with flexible furniture, acoustic meeting pods, and digital training equipment. The project will enhance accessibility for neurodiverse users, support digital inclusion for disadvantaged groups, and enable delivery of coding and data skills programmes for all ages, regenerating an underused urban space and advancing community wealth building and inclusive economic development.

Fersands and Foundation SCIO – Amount Requested £14,300

Bid to renovate and equip a dedicated youth zone within the Woodside Fountain Centre, creating a safe, inclusive space for young people in a regeneration area. The project includes structural improvements, a new kitchen and dining area, and facilities for counselling, creative activities, and life skills development. It supports youth-led regeneration, tackles inequality, and builds community wealth through free services, skills training, and grassroots engagement.

Albury Community Sports Hub - Amount requested £60,676.90

Proposal to refurbish four tennis courts and replace deteriorating perimeter fencing at Albury Outdoor Sports Centre, protecting a high- use community asset, improving safety and playability, and supporting social, school and pay- and- play use.

Aberdeen City Council – Business Support - Amount recommended £37,400

Initiative to create an "Empty Shops Activation Kit" (Shopfit Library) of reusable shelving, counters, POS, vinyl printer, and related equipment to enable low-cost pop-ups and meanwhile uses in vacant units and markets, accelerating town centre revitalisation, circular reuse, and SME trial-to-tenancy pathways.

Aberdeen Performing Arts - Amount requested £164,174.19 amount recommended £78,750.00

Proposal to advance the Music Hall's net- zero journey by upgrading stage lighting to energy- efficient LED (with remote operation) and replacing the Stepping In Screen, reducing energy use and hire/transport emissions while enhancing a key city- centre cultural venue for audiences and community activity.
Recommended: screen only - £78, 750

Aberdeen City Council: Smart & Clean Streets Project – Amount Requested £60,000

Funding requested to replace aging Big Belly Bins and procure modern cleaning equipment to improve waste management and street cleanliness in Aberdeen City Centre. The project supports net zero goals, civic pride, and town centre revitalisation by enhancing public realm infrastructure, empowering community-led regeneration, and enabling responsive environmental services.

Recommended: £36,126.46

Tranche 2

Aberdeen City Council - Inchgarth Community Centre - Inchgarth Community Centre Café/ Kitchen Fit Out amount recommended £130,641.04

This project will deliver increased capacity to the very popular cafe, increase the cooking capabilities and replace kitchen equipment and white goods that are at end of life with new energy efficient appliances within the new extension. The old cafe space will be turned into a library space for the community. This project is in addition to the funding already awarded for the extension of the facility.

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Appendix 2 - Projects not recommended for approval:

Greyhope Bay Ltd – Amount Requested £98,230

Funding will support design development and planning consent for expanding the Greyhope Bay Centre at Torry Battery. The project aims to increase visitor capacity, protect heritage, and improve accessibility, with a strong focus on net-zero energy and community-led regeneration.

Absafe SCIO - Amount requested £36,126.46

Request to install an air source heat pump with associated electrical upgrades at Balgownie Lodge, Bridge of Don, replacing plug-in heaters to cut emissions and costs, ensure year-round warmth, and sustain a multi-use community hub.

Friends of Sunnybank Park – Amount Requested £15,000

Funding requested to expand Sunnybank Park's outdoor calisthenics equipment, increasing accessibility and capacity for free, inclusive fitness activities in a priority neighbourhood. The project will install new equipment tailored to diverse body types and abilities, and support community-led regeneration, wellbeing, and social cohesion through self-organised training groups and volunteer engagement.

St Mary's Episcopal Church– Amount Requested £30,000

Bid to transform a derelict area of St Mary's Episcopal Church grounds into a publicly accessible landscaped garden with seating, a labyrinth, and biodiversity planting. The project will improve drainage, repair historic masonry, and create a safe, inclusive space for local residents, schoolchildren, and business staff, supporting wellbeing, town centre revitalisation, and community-led regeneration.

Aberdeen Inspired - Amount requested £41,926

Proposal to install two Aberdeen Gift Card self-service sales kiosks at high footfall city locations, increasing visibility and ease of purchase to drive local spend, footfall, and city centre vibrancy. The expansion builds on proven kiosk performance and aims to generate incremental sales while promoting shop local behaviour across retail, hospitality, and culture.

Tillydrone Community Development Trust: Jacob's Ladder Restoration – Amount Requested £70,000

Funding requested to restore and reopen Jacob's Ladder, a historic riverside staircase, improving safe pedestrian access, celebrating industrial heritage, and connecting core paths and regeneration areas. The project will deliver structural repairs, lighting, signage, and heritage interpretation, supporting community-led regeneration, active travel, and inclusive access to green and cultural assets.

Tillydrone Community Development Trust: Wallace Tower – Amount Requested £60,395

Proposal to complete the second phase of the community-led restoration of Benholm's Tower, transforming the upper floors into a flexible meeting hall and co-working hub. The revitalised facility will offer affordable workspace for small businesses and artists, a venue for events and exhibitions, and training space for digital and enterprise skills, supporting local economic development and community regeneration.

Aberdeen City Council – Employability Support - Amount requested £100,000

Bid to create a training kitchen and café at Aberdeen Maritime Museum (with Employability & Skills), funding kitchen/café fit-out, equipment, and training resources to deliver Real Living Wage paid work experience for priority groups, build a hospitality talent pipeline, and boost city-centre footfall.

Glow Grey CIC – Amount Requested £16,000

Proposal to pilot Glow Me, a solar-powered smart light system for bus stops that improves visibility and accessibility for passengers, especially older adults, disabled people, and newcomers. The project will install button-activated lights at priority locations across Aberdeen, enhancing safety, reducing missed stops, and supporting inclusive, net-zero public transport through innovation.

Belmont Community Cinema Ltd - Amount requested £50,000

Proposal to buy a portable laser projector to run free/low cost popup screenings in community centres, schools, care settings and outdoor spaces citywide, reaching people facing cost, mobility and transport barriers; the unit will later be installed in Screen 3 to support films, education and hires, providing an energy efficient, flexible asset that grows audiences and activates partnerships across the city.

Aberdeen Ethnic Minority Women's Group CIC - Amount requested £18,000

Funding is sought to establish a permanent, community-owned Threads of Change Skills Hub providing textile reuse/repair training, trauma aware peer support, and pathways to microenterprise for women in SIMD areas and ethnic minority communities, regenerating an underused space and advancing circular economy goals.

Appendix 3 – SHMU Update

Station House Media Unit (shmu) is currently delivering the first phase of a major redevelopment of the Woodside headquarters, supported by UKSPF, PBIP, CARES, Foundation Scotland and Business Energy Scotland. Phase 1 focuses on the refurbishment and environmental upgrade of the original building, creating an energy-efficient, sustainable facility that will provide a long-term community asset, whilst Phase 2 focuses on an extension.

Since works began, unforeseen additional costs have arisen due to the poor condition of the original building, including extensive floor works, enhanced insulation around underfloor heating, and other building interventions required to meet design and regulatory standards. These costs have significantly increased the Phase 1 budget beyond initial projections.

The Quantity Surveyor has confirmed that Phase 2 costs will be significantly higher than originally estimated, largely due to rising contractor and construction sector costs. In addition, given the current timeframe and the delays in completing Phase 1, it is highly unlikely that SHMU will be able to secure the substantial additional investment required for Phase 2 before March 2026.

The £110,000 UKSPF award would fund the following additional elements of Phase 1:

Ground Floor Fit-Out

- Professional-standard studio installation, which will include a digital laser projector, retractable screen, surround sound package, Dolby cinema processor, and audio desk with wall boxes.
- Blackout and green screen drapes with track systems to support film production and live performance.
- Theatre-grade lighting grid with LED fixtures, control nodes and lighting desk to deliver industry standard training and productions.
- Additional electrics and control systems to integrate technical installations with the building infrastructure.
- Flexible furniture (stacking chairs, folding tables and trolleys) to enable adaptable spaces for training, workshops, screenings and community events.

First Floor Fit-Out

- Interactive touchscreen TV to support collaborative, interactive learning.
- Logitech Rally video conferencing system to enable hybrid training and events.
- Tables and stacking chairs to furnish refurbished learning and meeting spaces.

This fit-out is in addition to the Phase 1 construction already funded and is essential to ensuring that the building is fully equipped, flexible and sustainable.

Repurposing the £110,000 UKSPF award to fund the Phase 1 technical fit-out represents a responsible and impactful use of this investment. It will guarantee full spend within the UKSPF timeframe, ensure that a high-quality, energy-efficient community facility is completed, and deliver immediate, tangible benefits for Aberdeen's priority communities. This approach also provides a strong platform from which to secure the significant funding required for Phase 2, avoiding the risk of a partially complete redevelopment and maximising the return on public investment.

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COMMITTEE	Finance and Resources Committee
DATE	5th November 2025
EXEMPT	No
CONFIDENTIAL	No
REPORT TITLE	Performance Management Framework Report
REPORT NUMBER	CORS/25/225
DIRECTOR	Andy MacDonald
CHIEF OFFICER	Martin Murchie
REPORT AUTHOR	Alex Paterson
TERMS OF REFERENCE	2.1.3

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To present Committee with the status of (a) key operational performance measures and activity indicators relating to those Clusters within the remit of the Finance and Resources Committee at Quarter 1 2025-26, and (b) year-to-year comparisons derived from recent national publications.

2. RECOMMENDATION

2.1 That the Committee note the report and provide comments and observations on the performance information contained in the Appendix to the report.

3. CURRENT SITUATION

Report Purpose

3.1 This report is to provide members with key performance measures in relation to Cluster based outputs, outcomes, and Service Standards as expressed within the 2025/26 Council Delivery Plan (the Plan).

Report Structure

3.2 Performance Management Framework Reporting against in-house delivery directly contributing to, or enabling delivery against, the City's Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) has informed development of successive Council Delivery Plans.

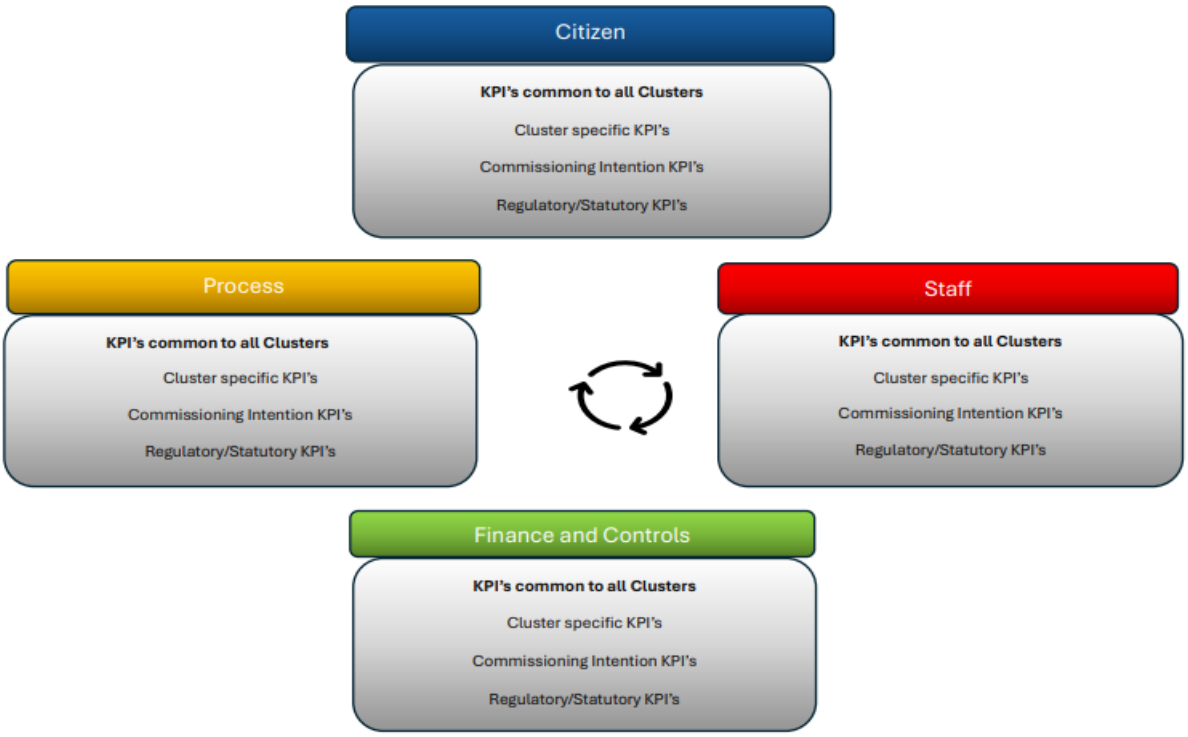
3.3 The 2025/26 Plan was agreed at the meeting of Council on the 16th of April 2025 and will inform Performance Management Framework (PMF) reports to this Committee over the next 12 months.

3.4 Reporting against the Plan, including Service Standards measures agreed at that meeting, is incorporated within Performance Management Framework reports to each of the relevant 'parent' Council Committees.

3.5 The Council's 2025/26 Performance Management Framework update was agreed at the meeting of Council on 20st August 2025.

3.6 Within that report, it was agreed that reporting of the performance management related outcomes from the Digital and Technology Cluster would transfer from the Communities, Housing and Public Protection Committee to this Committee.

3.7 Performance Management Framework Reporting provides for a consistent approach within which performance will be reported to Committees. This presents performance data and analysis within four core perspectives, as shown below, which provides for uniformity of performance reporting across Committee's



Report Content

3.8 Members are asked to note that the measures reflected against in this report align with those first quarter Standards and corporate measures outlined in the 2025/26 Council Delivery Plan.

3.9 Where appropriate, hard and soft data capture against these Standards is incorporated within the suite of measures contained within Appendix A.

Performance Measures

3.10 Within the summary dashboard (Appendix A) the following symbols are used

Traffic Light Icon

Within limits of target/benchmarked outcome

Between 5% to 20% out with target/benchmarked outcome and being monitored

 More than 20% out with target/benchmarked outcome and being actively pursued

 Data only – target not appropriate/benchmarked outcome not available

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no direct financial implications arising 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 direct environmental implications arising from the recommendations of this report

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.

7.2 Within the Appendix, the extent of risk against individual measures is identified through the RAG status applied against each of these. The table below represents the level of aggregated corporate risk arising from this report taking account of controls, interventions and improvement activity described in the Appendix.

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	None	NA	NA	NA
Compliance	No significant legal risks.	Publication of service performance information in the public domain ensures that the Council is meeting its legal obligations in the context of Best value reporting.	L	Yes
Operational	No significant operational risks.	Oversight by Elected Members of core employee health and safety/attendance	L	Yes

		data supports the Council's obligations as an employer		
Financial	No significant financial risks.	Overview data on specific limited aspects of the cluster's financial performance is provided within this report	L	Yes
Reputational	No significant reputational risks.	Reporting of service performance to Members and in the public domain serves to enhance the Council's reputation for transparency and accountability.	L	Yes
Environment / Climate	None	NA	NA	NA

8. OUTCOMES

Council Delivery Plan 2025-26	
	Impact of Report
Aberdeen City Council Partnership Agreement Improving Educational Choices Creating Better Learning Environments City Centre and Beach	The provision of information on cluster performance will support scrutiny of progress against the delivery of the following Agreement Statements: - Work with the city's universities, North East Scotland College and businesses to increase educational and training options and the number of care experienced young people and young people from deprived communities, going onto positive destinations, including further and higher education, vocational training and apprenticeships. - Promote the number of apprenticeships on offer through the council. - Review and invest in our school estate, ensuring all of Aberdeen's schools are fit for the educational needs and the challenges of the 21st century. - Refresh our tourism and cultural strategies for the city. - Expand the Beach Masterplan, extending the footprint from the River Dee to the River Don.

	- Bring forward plans to improve active travel links between the Castlegate and the beach. - Continue to move the City Centre and Beach Masterplans forward, expanding it to include George Street and ensuring it remains current with annual reviews.
The Arts Matter	Our city should become distinguished by the range and depth of active creative expression and artistic enjoyment experienced by those who live here and by visitors. By supporting and working with cultural partners, we will ensure there is richness and diversity of arts activities. - Work with partners to explore opportunities to develop heritage, museum and online services with a special emphasis on local history and stories of our heritage.
Building a Greener and Sustainable City	- Declare a climate emergency. - 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. - Support Aberdeen's continued pioneering of Hydrogen technologies and make the case to bring alternatively powered rail services to the City. - Continue to reduce the carbon footprint of the council's building estate and vehicle fleet and adopt an "environment first" approach to all new Council building projects, seeking to maximise the energy efficiency of, and minimise the carbon footprint of, new buildings
Greener Transport, Safer Streets, Real Choices	- Delivering a revised Local Transport Strategy. - Working with the Scottish Government and NESTRANS to improve the city's bus network, including considering options for an Aberdeen Rapid Transit network, with the support of the Scottish Bus Fund, and consider options for council-run services in the city. - Improving cycle and active transport infrastructure, including by seeking to integrate safe, physically segregated cycle lanes in new road building projects and taking steps to ensure any proposal for resurfacing or other long-term

Homes for the Future	investments consider options to improve cycle and active transport infrastructure. - Work with partners to produce a ten-year plan to increase the stock and variety of Council and social housing to meet the needs of Aberdeen's citizens and continue to deliver Council and social housing projects to tackle the Council house waiting lists and do everything in our power to end homelessness.
A Prosperous City	- Develop our economy in a genuine partnership with the private sector, third sector and residents. - Campaign for Aberdeen to be the home of a new Green Freeport and ensure that fair work conditions and Net Zero ambitions are central to any bid. - 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. - Seek to buy goods, services and food locally whenever possible, subject to complying with the law and public tendering requirements.
Empowering Aberdeen's Communities	- Work with communities to establish trusts, community enterprises, charities or other entities that support community empowerment and community wealth building. - Support people to engage with Community Asset Transfers throughout the process.
Aberdeen City Local Outcomes Plan April 2024 Refresh	
Prosperous Economy 1. 20% reduction in the percentage of people who report they have been worried they would not have enough food to eat and/ or not be able to heat their home by 2026.	The activities reflected within this report support the delivery of LOIP Stretch Outcomes 1 and 2 through the following Aims. Outcome 1 Improvement Aims: Increase to 92% the number of homes that meet an EPC rating of C or better by 2026 Outcome 2 Improvement Aims:

2. 74% employment rate for Aberdeen City by 2026	Supporting 100 people to start a business in Aberdeen who will be coming off the benefits system or significantly reducing their benefits through starting a business by 2026 Support 40 young parents into training and / or employability provision by 2026. Upskill 50 individuals who are experiencing digital barriers to apply for employment opportunities by 2026
Prosperous People (Children) 6. 95% of children, including those living in our priority neighbourhoods, will sustain a positive destination on leaving school by 2026 8. 100% of our children with Additional Support Needs/Disability will experience a positive destination by 2026	The delivery of services referred to within this report supports each of the Children & Young People Stretch Outcomes 6 and 8 in the LOIP. Outcome 6 Improvement Aims Increase by 10% the rate of completion of NPA/FA/HNC courses available to young people across the city by June 2024 Increase the % of learners entering a positive and sustained destination to be ahead of the Virtual Comparator for all groups by 2025. Increase by 20% the number of young people completing courses aligned to support the digital and tech sector by 2026. Outcome 8 Improvement Aims Increase by 5%, the percentage of young people with additional support needs/disability entering a positive destination by 2025.
Prosperous People (Adults) 12. Reduce homelessness by 10% and youth homelessness by 6% by 2026	The report reflects on activity which contributes to Stretch Outcome 12 Outcome 12 Improvement Aims Integrate housing, employment, employability and mental health support pathways for young people to support prevention of homelessness Increase accessibility to a wider range of housing options to people at risk of homelessness
Prosperous Place 13. Addressing climate change by reducing Aberdeen's carbon emissions by at least 61% by	Outcome 13 Improvement Aims

2026 and adapting to the impacts of our changing climate	Reduce public sector carbon emissions by at least 7% by 2026. To have Community led resilience plans in place for the most vulnerable areas (6) in the City by 2025 and increase by 10% the % of people who know where to find information and resources to help prepare for severe weather events by 2025.
14. Increase sustainable travel: 38% of people walking; 5% of people cycling and wheeling as main mode of travel and a 5% reduction in car miles by 2026.	Outcome 14 Improvement Aims Increase % of people who walk and wheel as one mode of travel by 5% by 2026 Increase % of people who cycle and wheel as one mode of travel by 2% by 2026 Reduce car kms by 5% by 2026
15. 26% of Aberdeen's area will be protected and/or managed for nature and 60% of people report they feel that spaces and buildings are well cared for by 2026	Outcome 15 Improvement Aims Increase to 65% the proportion of people who feel they can regularly experience good quality natural space by 2026.
Regional and City Strategies	The report reflects outcomes aligned to the Regional Economic Strategy, Local and Regional Transport Strategies and Regional Skills Strategy, along with Local and Strategic Development Plans

9. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Assessment	Outcome
Integrated Impact Assessment	No assessment required, I confirm that this has been discussed and agreed with Martin Murchie, Chief Officer, Data Insights (HDRCA), on 26th September 2025.
Data Protection Impact Assessment	A Data Protection Impact Assessment is not required for this report.
Other	No additional impact assessments have been completed for this report.

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

COM.25.038 Council Delivery Plan 2025/26, April 2025
CORS.25.189 Performance Management Framework 2025/26, August 2025

11. APPENDICES

Appendix A – Finance and Resources Committee Performance Scorecard

12. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

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FINANCE AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK – APPENDIX A

CITY REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT FUNCTION

City Development and Regeneration Cluster

1. Citizen - City Redevelopment and Regeneration

Table 1. Corporate Complaints Handling Measures – City Development and Regeneration Cluster

Performance Measure	Quarter 2 2024/25	Quarter 3 2024/25	Quarter 4 2024/25	Quarter 1 2025/26	Quarterly Status 2025/26	Target	Long Trend Quarterly
	Value	Value	Value	Value			
Total No. complaints received (stage 1 and 2) – City Development & Regeneration	0	0	1	0			
% of complaints resolved within timescale stage 1 and 2) – City Development & Regeneration	N/A	N/A	100%	N/A		75%	
% of complaints with at least one point upheld (stage 1 and 2) – City Development & Regeneration	N/A	N/A	100%	N/A			
Total No. of lessons learnt identified (stage 1 and 2) – City Development & Regeneration	N/A	N/A	0%	N/A			

Table 2. 2025/26 Service Standards – City Development and Regeneration

Service Standard	Current Status	2025/26 Target
We will, with partners, support established businesses through the Business Gateway service within 5 working days of approach		100%

2. Processes - City Development and Regeneration

Table 3. Service Level Performance Measures – Museums and Galleries, Visits to Museums and Galleries

Performance Measure	Quarter 3 2024/25	Quarter 4 2024/25	Quarter 1 2025/26	Long Trend – Quarterly
	Value	Value	Value	
Number of total visits/attendances at museums and galleries *	342,853	362,679	405,856	
Number of virtual visits/attendances at museums and galleries	264,356	267,282	325,118	
Number of visits at museums and galleries that were in person	75,854	92,627	78.326	

Service Commentary

Table 3. Museums and Galleries Visits

The number of total visits to Museum and Galleries services represented the highest quarterly outcome over the directly comparable seven year timeline of this measure, with a significant increase in online engagement (the highest quarterly level to date) and visits in person figures that closely match those recorded at the same point in 2024/25 which was the previous high tide mark for Quarter 1 visits. Early indications from Quarter 2 are suggesting that both the overall and in person measures are likely to exceed the Quarter 1 outcomes, representing new peak figures for these quarterly outcomes.

The Tall Ships event contributed significantly to this uplift over the weekend the ships were present in the city centre as well as the day of set-up and ships' departure with visitor figures at the Maritime Museum presenting a 238% uplift on the same long weekend (18-22 July) in 2024/25 and the Art Gallery showing a 133% uplit in visitor figures.

In more detail, on the days of the core event on the quayside (Sat-Mon 19-21 July) there were 6,264 visitors to the Art Gallery (176% uplift) and 4,321 visitors to the Maritime Museum (297% increase on same period in 2024/25). On all three of these days the Maritime Museum reached capacity from approximately 11:00 until 15:00 and visitors were then in managed queues for entry.

*This measure incorporates all visits/attendances generated by Museums and Galleries Service, including Enquiries, Outreach activity and Events which are not included in the separate Visits in Person/Virtual Visits data

Table 4. Annual Participation Measure for 16–19-year-olds – Status Breakdown (%), Aberdeen City

Year	Overall Participation	Education	Employment	Training and Development	Not Participating	Unemployed Seeking	Unemployed Not Seeking	Unconfirmed
2025	**91.9**	72.6	17.4	1.8	**4.6**	2.7	2.0	**3.5**
2024	**90.1**	73.2	15.0	1.9	**4.5**	2.4	2.1	**5.4**
2023	**90.2**	72.7	15.8	1.7	**4.2**	2.0	2.1	**5.6**

Service Commentary

Table 4. Annual Participation Measure

The Annual Participation Measure, collated by Skills Development Scotland, represents the most comprehensive and cohesive national evaluation of post-school participation amongst 16–19-year-olds, tracking the longitudinal outcomes of this cohort across a full 12-month timeline.

The Annual Participation Measure for 2024/25 records the highest rate of participation to date for Aberdeen, with a material closing of the distance gap to the national figure (93.3%), and the city's Urban Authority benchmark average.(92.7%).There are above national trend improvements in the proportion of 16-19 year olds in Employment and those whose destinations are Unknown which, in combination, are the main drivers of the increase in overall participation.

Each new cohort of 16-19 year olds (in combination with a rising number of individuals surveyed) presents differing needs and levels of support and the timeline for delivering outcome related improvement, particularly among those who are furthest from the employment market in skillsets, may only be delivered across more than the single 6 or 12 month periods between these national publications.

3. Staff - City Development and Regeneration

Table 5. Corporate Health and Safety Measures – City Development and Regeneration Cluster

Performance Measure	Quarter 2 2024/25	Quarter 3 2024/25	Quarter 4 2024/25	Quarter 1 2025/26	Quarterly Status	Long Trend - Annual
	Value	Value	Value	Value		
H&S Employee Reportable by Cluster – City Development & Regeneration	0	0	0	0		
H&S Employee Non-Reportable by Cluster – City Development & Regeneration	1	0	0	2		

Table 6. Corporate Employee Measures – City Development and Regeneration Cluster

Performance Measure	Quarter 3 2024/25	Quarter 4 2024/25	Quarter 1 2025/26	Quarterly Status	Corporate Average Q1	Long Trend - Quarterly
	Value	Value	Value			
Average number of total working days lost per FTE (12 month rolling figure) – City Development & Regeneration	2.8	1.5	1.7		5.0	
Establishment actual FTE – City Development & Regeneration	143.9	157.0	154.2			

4. Finance & Controls – City Development and Regeneration

Table 7. Corporate Staff Expenditure Measure – City Development and Regeneration Cluster

Performance Measure	Quarter 1 2025/26		Quarter 2 2025/26		Quarter 3 2025/26		Quarter 4 2025/26	
	Value	Status	Value	Status	Value	Status	Value	Status
Staff Expenditure – % spend to full year budget – City Development & Regeneration	30.5%		64.2%%					

Strategic Place Planning Cluster

5. Citizen – Strategic Place Planning

2025/26 Service Standards – Strategic Place Planning

Table 8. 2025/26 Service Standards – Strategic Place Planning

Service Standard	Current Status	2025/26 Target
We will, on average, determine householder planning applications within 10 weeks. (YTD*)	✅	100%
We will, on average, determine local non-householder planning applications within 11 weeks. (YTD*)	✅	100%

*National Planning Performance Planning Framework data covering the full 2024/25 fiscal year is not due to be published until 31st October 2025 and will be captured in the report to the next cycle of this Committee.

Table 9. 2025/26 Service Standards – Building Standards

Service Standard	Current Status	2025/26 Target
We will respond to building warrant applications within 20 working days (see detail below)	✅	90%
We will respond to building warrant approvals within 10 working days (see detail below)	✅	80%

Table 10. Corporate Complaints Handling Measures – Strategic Place Planning

Performance Measure	Quarter 3 2024/25	Quarter 4 2024/25	Quarter 1 2025/26	Quarterly Status	2025/26 Target	Long Trend - Quarterly
	Value	Value	Value			
Total No. complaints received (stage 1 and 2) – Strategic Place Planning	4	6	5			
% of complaints resolved within timescale stage 1 and 2) – Strategic Place Planning	75%	83.3%	100%		75%	
% of complaints with at least one point upheld (stage 1 and 2) – Strategic Place Planning	25%	33.3%	0%			
Total No. of lessons learnt identified (stage 1 and 2) – Strategic Place Planning	0	2	N/A			

Table 11. Service Performance Measures – Building Standards

Performance Measure	Quarter 3 2024/25	Quarter 4 2024/25	Quarter 1 2025/26	Status	Long Trend-Quarterly
	Value	Value	Value		
% of building standards applications responded to within 20 working days	99%	99%	99.5%		
% of building warrant approvals responded to within 10 working days	83%	89%	93%		

6. Processes – Strategic Place Planning

Table 12. Service Activity Measures – Planning Development Management and Building Standards Applications

Activity Measure	Quarter 3 2024/25	Quarter 4 2024/25	Quarter 1 2025/26	Long Trend-Quarterly
	Value	Value	Value	
Number of Development Management Applications	298	270	268	
Number of Building Standards Applications	308	357	335	

Service Commentary

Table 12. Planning and Building Standards Application Activity

Both Planning Application and Building Standards activity levels in Quarter 1 were consistent with that recorded in the previous three quarters. Planning applications were lower than that recorded for Quarter 1 in 2024/25 (322), with Standards activity being almost identical to that in the same period in the previous year.

7.Staff – Strategic Place Planning

Table 13. Corporate Health and Safety Measures – Strategic Place Planning

Performance Measure	Quarter 3 2024/25	Quarter 4 2024/25	Quarter 1 2025/26	Status	Long Trend - Quarterly
	Value	Value	Value		
H&S Employee Reportable by Cluster – Strategic Place Planning	0	0	0		
H&S Employee Non-Reportable by Cluster – Strategic Place Planning	0	0	0		

Table 14. Corporate Employee Measures – Strategic Place Planning

Performance Measure	Quarter 3 2024/25	Quarter 4 2024/25	Quarter 1 2025/26	Status	Corporate Average Q1	Long Trend - Quarterly
	Value	Value	Value			
Average number of total working days lost per FTE (12 month rolling figure) – Strategic Place Planning	2.3	3.0	3.9		5.0	
Establishment actual FTE – Strategic Place Planning	85.8	86.4	83.9			

8. Finance & Controls - Strategic Place Planning

Table 14. Corporate Staff Expenditure Measure – Strategic Place Planning

Performance Measure	Quarter 1 2025/26		Quarter 2 2025/26		Quarter 3 2025/26		Quarter 4 2025/26	
	Value	Status	Value	Status	Value	Status	Value	Status
Staff Expenditure – Spend to full year budget – Strategic Place Planning	23.1%		49%					

Table 15. Service Level Performance Measures – Planning and Building Standard Applications

Performance Measure	Quarter 1 2025/26	Quarter 2 2025/26	Quarter 3 2025/26	Quarter 4 2025/26	Quarterly Status
	Value	Value	Value	Value	
% of budgeted income received from Planning application fees YTD *	24.3%				
% of budgeted income received from Building Warrant fees YTD	32.5%				

Capital Cluster

9.Citizen - Capital

Table 16. Corporate Complaints Handling Measures - Capital

Performance Measure	Quarter 3 2024/25	Quarter 4 2024/25	Quarter 1 2025/26	Quarterly Status	2025/26 Target	Long Trend – Quarterly
	Value	Value	Value			
Total No. complaints received (stage 1 and 2) – Capital	3	6	10			
% of complaints resolved within timescale stage 1 and 2) – Capital	33.3%	66.7%	40%		75%	
% of complaints with at least one point upheld (stage 1 and 2) – Capital	66.7%	83.3%	10%			
Total No. of lessons learnt identified (stage 1 and 2) – Capital	0	5	0			

Service Commentary

Table 16. Complaints

The Capital Cluster are aware of the outstanding complaints and an action plan is in place to reduce the number. Dedicated time has been set aside in responsible Service Managers diaries over the coming weeks to clear the backlog. The number of complaints outstanding is down to officer capacity to draft responses to, complex enquiries requiring cross service and contracted parties input.

10.Staff - Capital

Table 17. Corporate Health and Safety Measures - Capital

Performance Measure	Quarter 3 2024/25	Quarter 4 2024/25	Quarter 1 2025/26	Status	Long Trend - Quarterly
	Value	Value	Value		
H&S Employee Reportable – Capital	0	0	0		
H&S Employee Non-Reportable – Capital	0	0	0		

Table 18. Corporate Employee Measures – Capital

Performance Measure	Quarter 3 2024/25	Quarter 4 2024/25	Quarter 1 2025/26	Quarterly Status	Corporate Figure – Q1	Long Trend - Quarterly
	Value	Value	Value			
Average number of total working days lost per FTE (12 month rolling figure) – Capital	1.4	1.9	1.9		5.0	
Establishment actual FTE – Capital	59.6	59.1	57.4			

12.Finance & Controls - Capital

Table 19. Corporate Staff Expenditure Measure - Capital

Performance Measure	Quarter 1 2025/26		Quarter 2 2025/26		Quarter 3 2025/26		Quarter 4 2025/26	
	Value	Status	Value	Status	Value	Status	Value	Status
Staff Expenditure – % spend to full year budget – Capital	14.6%		34.4%					

CORPORATE SERVICES FUNCTION

Digital and Technology

Table 20. Corporate Complaints Handling Measures – Digital and Technology

13. Citizen – Digital and Technology						
Performance Measure	Quarter 3 2024/25	Quarter 4 2024/25	Quarter 1 2025/26	Quarterly Status	2025/26 Target	Long Trend – Quarterly
	Value	Value	Value			
Total No. complaints received (stage 1 and 2) – Digital and Technology	0	1	2			
% of complaints resolved within timescale stage 1 and 2) – Digital and Technology	NA	100%	100%		75%	
% of complaints with at least one point upheld (stage 1 and 2) – Digital and Technology	NA	100%	100%			
Total No. of lessons learnt identified (stage 1 and 2) – Digital and Technology	NA	0	0			

14. Processes – Digital and Technology

Table 21. Service Level Measures – Digital and Technology

Performance Measure	Quarter 3 2024/25 Value	Quarter 4 2024/25 Value	Quarter 1 2025/26 Value	Quarterly Status	2025/26 Target	Long Trend – Quarterly
Percentage of Critical system availability - average (monthly)	99.5%	99.5%	99.5%		99.5%	
% Incidents logged by IT Helpdesk (including Self-Serve) resolved right first time	76.8%	70.9%	66.0%		70.0%	
% Priority 1 and 2 incidents closed in timescale	66.7%	57.9%	66.7%		99.5%	
% Priority 3 – 5 incidents closed in timescale	77.9%	75.9%	70.3%		95.0%	

Service Commentary

Table 21.- Priority Incidents

As referred to in the report to the May meeting of the Communities, Housing and Public Protection Committee, the workstream to adjust the priority of incidents logged by our monitoring systems reflecting when the premises affected are not in use (for example, schools that are closed for the holidays) has now been implemented,

Measures have also been taken to reduce the number and priority of incidents triggered by automatic system alerts from cloud computing monitoring tools, now that the performance and reliability of the applications and services deployed have been established.

The current figures are influenced by several incidents linked to specific records, which have been responded to but not yet fully closed, affecting resolution times. It is also the case the number of incident calls had risen placing additional pressures on handling teams. In response to this, a review of our catalogue, to better monitor and manage ongoing activities related to these incidents is planned over the course of 2025/26.

15.Staff – Digital and Technology

Table 22 . Corporate Health and Safety Measures – Digital and Technology

Performance Measure	Quarter 3 2024/25	Quarter 4 2024/25	Quarter 1 2025/26	Status	Long Trend - Quarterly
	Value	Value	Value		
H&S Employee Reportable by Cluster – Digital and Technology	0	0	0		
H&S Employee Non-Reportable by Cluster – Digital and Technology	0	0	0		

Table 23. Corporate Employee Measures – Digital and Technology

Performance Measure	Quarter 3 2024/25	Quarter 4 2024/25	Quarter 1 2025/26	Quarterly Status	Corporate Figure – Q1	Long Trend - Quarterly
	Value	Value	Value			
Average number of total working days lost to absence per FTE (12 month rolling figure) – Digital and Technology					5.0	
Establishment actual FTE – Digital and Technology	90.0	92.9	93.1			

16.Finance and Controls – Digital and Technology

Performance Measure	Quarter 1 2025/26		Quarter 2 2025/26		Quarter 3 2025/26		Quarter 4 2025/26	
	Value	Status	Value	Value	Value	Status	Value	Status
Staff Expenditure – % spend to full year budget – Digital and Technology	23.1%		49.6%					

Governance Cluster

17.Citizen - Governance

Table 24. Corporate Complaints Handling Measures – Governance

Performance Measure	Quarter 3 2024/25	Quarter 4 2024/25	Quarter 1 2025/26	Quarterly Status	2025/26 Target	Long Trend – Quarterly
	Value	Value	Value			
Total No. complaints received (stage 1 and 2) – Governance	25	20	20			
% of complaints resolved within timescale stage 1 and 2) – Governance	80.0%	80.0%	70.0%		75.0%	
% of complaints with at least one point upheld (stage 1 and 2) – Governance	28.0%	15.0%	10.0%			
Total No. of lessons learnt identified (stage 1 and 2) – Governance	0	1	0			

18. Processes - Governance

Table 25. 2025/26 Service Standards – Governance

Service Standard Measure	Current Status	2025/26 Target
.% of requests for review acknowledged within 14 days (Local Review Body)		100%
% of School Placing and Exclusion hearings held within 28 days of request		100%
% of Civic licensing complaints acknowledged within 24 working hours.		95%
% of Civic licensing complaints investigated within 10 working days		100%
% of Decision Letters for alcohol applications issued within 7 days of Board meeting		100%
Personal Licence issued within 28 days of date of grant		100%

Service Commentary

The Standards above capture outcomes arising from Legal and Democratic service teams delivery, aligning with the previous Governance organisational heading, Service specific Standards and measures for Protective Services/Community Safety delivery are currently reflected in on-going 'parent Committee' reporting to the Communities. Housing and Public Protection Committee.

15.Staff - Governance

Table 26 . Corporate Health and Safety Measures – Governance

Performance Measure	Quarter 3 2024/25	Quarter 4 2024/25	Quarter 1 2025/26	Status	Long Trend - Quarterly
	Value	Value	Value		
H&S Employee Reportable by Cluster – Governance	0	0	0		
H&S Employee Non-Reportable by Cluster – Governance	1	0	0		

Table 27. Corporate Employee Measures – Governance

Performance Measure	Quarter 3 2024/25	Quarter 4 2024/25	Quarter 1 2025/26	Quarterly Status	Corporate Figure – Q1	Long Trend - Quarterly
	Value	Value	Value			
Average number of total working days lost to absence per FTE (12 month rolling figure) – Governance	3.6	4.1	4.4		5.0	
Establishment actual FTE – Governance	156.2	156.6	156.0			

16.Finance and Controls - Governance

Table 28. Corporate Staff Expenditure Measure - Governance

Performance Measure	Quarter 1 2025/26		Quarter 2 2025/26		Quarter 3 2025/26		Quarter 4 2025/26	
	Value	Status	Value	Value	Value	Status	Value	Status
Staff Expenditure – % spend to full year budget – Governance	24.4%		51.2%					

Commercial and Procurement Cluster

17.Citizen- Commercial and Procurement

Table 26. Corporate Complaints Handling Measures – Commercial and Procurement

Performance Measure	Quarter 3 2024/25 Value	Quarter 4 2024/25 Value	Quarter 1 2025/26 Value	Quarterly Status	2025/26 Target	Long Trend - Quarterly
Total No. complaints received (stage 1 and 2) – Commercial and Procurement	0	1	0			
% of complaints resolved within timescale stage 1 and 2) – Commercial and Procurement	NA	100%	NA	NA	75%	
% of complaints with at least one point upheld (stage 1 and 2) – Commercial and Procurement	NA	100%	NA	NA		
Total No. of lessons learnt identified (stage 1 and 2) – Commercial and Procurement	NA	0	NA	NA		

18.Processes - Commercial and Procurement

Table 27. 2024/25 Service Standards – Commercial and Procurement

Service Standard	Current Status	Target
We will ensure that all contracts above £50K in value can be tracked to show community, local economic and environmental benefits.		100%
We will ensure that all contracts above £50K have standard clauses to require providers to demonstrate commitments towards carbon reduction and efficiency.		100%
We will provide procurement compliance reports to the Risk Board on a quarterly basis, reporting any exceptions and corrective actions taken.		100%

19. Staff - Commercial and Procurement

Table 28. Corporate Health and Safety Measures – Commercial and Procurement

Performance Measure	Quarter 3 2024/25	Quarter 4 2024/25	Quarter 1 2025/26	Status	Long Trend - Quarterly
	Value	Value	Value		
H&S Employee Reportable - Commercial and Procurement	0	0	0		
H&S Employee Non-Reportable – Commercial and Procurement	0	0	0		

Table 29. Corporate Employee Measures – Commercial and Procurement

Performance Measure	Quarter 3 2024/25	Quarter 3 2024/25	Quarter 1 2025/26	Quarterly Status	Corporate Figure – Q1	Long Trend - Quarterly
	Value	Value	Value			
Average number of total working days lost per FTE (12 month rolling figure) – Commercial and Procurement	0.3	0.7	1.0		5.0	
Establishment actual FTE – Commercial and Procurement	46.1	44.2	45.2			

20. Finance and Controls - Commercial and Procurement

Table 30. Corporate Staff Expenditure Measure – Commercial and Procurement

Performance Measure	Quarter 1 2025/26		Quarter 2 2025/26		Quarter 3 2025/26		Quarter 4 2025/26	
	Value	Status	Value	Status	Value	Status	Value	Status
Staff Expenditure – % spend to full year budget – Commercial and Procurement	29.6%		56.6%					

Data Insight (HDRCA) Cluster

21. Citizen – Data Insights

Table 31. Cluster Level 2025/26 Service Standards – Data Insight

Performance Measure	Current Status	2025/26 Target
% Reported Data Protection incidents receiving an initial response within 24 business hours (weekdays)		100%

Table 32. Corporate Complaints Handling Measures – Data Insight Cluster

Performance Measure	Quarter 3 2024/25 Value	Quarter 3 2024/25 Value	Quarter 1 2025/26 Value	Quarterly Status	2025/26 Target	Long Trend - Quarterly
Total No. complaints received (stage 1 and 2) – Data Insight	0	0	0	0		
% of complaints resolved within timescale stage 1 and 2) – Data Insight	NA	NA	NA	NA	75%	
% of complaints with at least one point upheld (stage 1 and 2) – Data Insight	NA	NA	NA	NA		
Total No. of lessons learnt identified (stage 1 and 2) – Data Insight	NA	NA	NA	NA		

22. Processes - Data Insights

Table 33. Service Standards Measure – Data Insight Cluster

Performance Measure	Quarter 3 2024/25 Value	Quarter 4 2024/25 Value	Quarter 1 2025/26 Value	Quarterly Status	Long Trend - Quarterly
% Reported Data Protection incidents receiving an initial response within 24 business hours (weekdays)	100%	100%	100%		

23, Staff - Data Insights

Table 34. Corporate Health and Safety Measures – Data Insight Cluster

Performance Measure	Quarter 3 2024/25	Quarter 4 2024/25	Quarter 1 2025/26	Status	Long Trend - Quarterly
	Value	Value	Value		
H&S Employee Reportable by Cluster – Data Insight	0	0	0		
H&S Employee Non-Reportable by Cluster – Data Insight	0	0	0		

Table 35. Corporate Employee Measures – Data Insight Cluster

Performance Measure	Quarter 3 2024/25	Quarter 4 2024/25	Quarter 1 2025/26	Quarterly Status	Corporate Figure – Q1	Long Trend - Quarterly
	Value	Value	Value			
Average number of total working days lost per FTE (12 month rolling figure) – Data Insights	2.9	2.3	1.4		5.0	
Establishment actual FTE – Data Insights	23.4	24.2	29.4			

24. Finance and Controls - Data Insights

Table 36. Corporate Staff Expenditure Measure – Data Insights

Performance Measure	Quarter 1 2025/26		Quarter 2 2025/26		Quarter 3 2025/26		Quarter 4 2025/26	
	Value	Status	Value	Status	Value	Status	Value	Status
Staff Expenditure – % spend to full year budget – Data Insights	27.3%		56%					

Finance Cluster

25. Citizen - Finance

Table 37. Corporate Complaints Handling Measures – Finance Cluster

Performance Measure	Quarter 3 2024/25	Quarter 4 2024/25	Quarter 1 2025/26	Quarterly Status	2025/26 Target	Long Trend - Quarterly
	Value	Value	Value			
Total No. complaints received (stage 1 and 2) – Finance	4	5	0			
% of complaints resolved within timescale stage 1 and 2) – Finance	100%	60%	NA	NA	75%	
% of complaints with at least one point upheld (stage 1 and 2) – Finance	0%	40%	NA	NA		
Total No. of lessons learnt identified (stage 1 and 2) – Finance	0	1	NA	NA		

26. Processes - Finance

Table 38. 2024/25 Service Standards – Finance Cluster

Performance Measure	Current Status	2025/26 Target
We will provide budget holder meetings across all Council service areas no less than once a quarter (no to be determined based on risk).		100%
We will process care income assessments within 40 days once all relevant information is received from Care Management.		100%
We will pay creditor invoices within 30 days		90%
We will send outstanding debt details to the Sheriff Officer no less than quarterly once our internal collection processes have been exhausted.		100%

Table 39. Service Level Quarterly Performance Measure – Creditor Invoice Payment Processing

Performance Measure	Quarter 3 2024/25	Quarter 4 2024/25	Quarter 1 2025/26	Quarterly Status	2025/26 Target	Long Trend - Quarterly
	Value	Value	Value			
Percentage of creditor invoices sampled that were paid within 30 days (average)	94.9%	87.4%	89.7%		90%	

27.Staff - Finance

Table 40. Corporate Health and Safety Measures – Finance Cluster

Performance Measure	Quarter 3 2024/25	Quarter 4 2024/25	Quarter 1 2025/26	Status	Long Trend - Quarterly
	Value	Value	Value		
H&S Employee Reportable – Finance	0	0	0		
H&S Employee Non-Reportable– Finance	0	0	0		

Table 41. Corporate Employee Measures - Finance Cluster

Performance Measure	Quarter 3 2024/25	Quarter 4 2024/25	Quarter 1 2025/26	Quarterly Status	Corporate Figure Q1	Long Trend - Quarterly
	Value	Value	Value			
Average number of total working days lost per FTE (12 month rolling figure) – Finance	1.1	1.3	1.5		5.0	
Establishment actual FTE – Finance	93.5	94.4	93.3			

28. Finance & Controls - Finance

Table 42. Corporate Staff Expenditure Measure – Finance

Performance Measure	Quarter 1 2025/26		Quarter 2 2025/26		Quarter 3 2025/26		Quarter 4 2025/26	
	Value	Status	Value	Status	Value	Status	Value	Status
Staff Expenditure – % spend to full year budget – Finance	22.7%		49.9%					

People and Citizen Services Cluster

29.Citizen – People and Citizen Services

Table 43. Corporate Complaints Handling Measures – People and Citizen Services

Performance Measure	Quarter 3 2024/25	Quarter 4 2024/25	Quarter 1 2025/26	Status	Target	Long Trend - Quarterly
	Value	Value	Value			
Total No. complaints received (stage 1 and 2) – People and Citizen Services	134	108	105			
% of complaints resolved within timescale stage 1 and 2) – People and Citizen Services	94.8%	87.0%	86.7%		75%	
% of complaints with at least one point upheld (stage 1 and 2) – People and Citizen Services	40.3%	32.4%	28.6%			
Total No. of lessons learnt identified (stage 1 and 2) – People and Citizen Services	6	6	0			

30.Processes - People and Citizen Services

Table 44. Cluster Level 2025/26 Service Standards – People and Citizen Services

Service Standard	Current Status	2025/26 Target
We will complete evaluation panels upon receipt of all completed and verified documentation within an average of 15 working days for each individual job, in relation to Job Evaluation.		100%
All People Development courses will receive employee satisfaction evaluations of at least 75%		100%
We will allocate a People Services advisor to formal casework within 5 working days.		100%
People Services will make initial contact with redeployees within 5 working days of redeployment confirmation.		100%

31. Staff - People and Citizen Services

Table 45. Corporate Health and Safety Measures – People and Citizen Services

Performance Measure	Quarter 3 2024/25	Quarter 4 2024/25	Quarter 1 2025/26	Status	Long Trend - Quarterly
	Value	Value	Value		
H&S Employee Reportable by Cluster – People and Citizen Services	0	0	0		
H&S Employee Non-Reportable by Cluster – People and Citizen Services	0	0	0		

Table 46. Corporate Employee Measures - People and Citizen Services

Performance Measure	Quarter 3 2024/25	Quarter 4 2024/25	Quarter 1 2025/26	Quarterly Status	Corporate Figure Q1	Long Trend - Quarterly
	Value	Value	Value			
Average number of total working days lost per FTE (12 month rolling figure) – People and Citizen Services	3.8	4.1	4.3		5.0	
Establishment actual FTE – People and Citizen Services	356.5	349.6	351.3			

32.Finance & Controls - People and Citizen Services

Table 47. Corporate Staff Expenditure Measure – People and Citizen Services

Performance Measure	Quarter 1 2025/26		Quarter 2 2025/26		Quarter 3 2025/26		Quarter 4 2025/26	
	Value	Status	Value	Status	Value	Status	Value	Status
Staff Expenditure – % spend to full year budget – People and Citizen Services	22.8%		46.1%					

FAMILY AND COMMUNTIES FUNCTION

Corporate Landlord Cluster

33. Citizen – Corporate Landlord

Table 48 . Corporate Complaints Handling Measures – Corporate Landlord Cluster

Performance Measure	Quarter 3 2024/25	Quarter 4 2024/25	Quarter 1 2025/26	Quarterly Status	Target	Long Trend - Quarterly
	Value	Value	Value			
Total No. complaints received (stage 1 and 2) – Corporate Landlord	91	69	81			
% of complaints resolved within timescale stage 1 and 2) – Corporate Landlord	67.0%	65.2%	75.3%		75%	
% of complaints with at least one point upheld (stage 1 and 2) – Corporate Landlord	36.3%	40.6%	33.3%			
Total No. of lessons learnt identified (stage 1 and 2) – Corporate Landlord	1	10	0			

34. Processes - Corporate Landlord

Table 49. Cluster Level National Indicator – Condition of Schools Estate

Performance Indicator	2022-23 Value	2023-24 Value	2024-25 Value	Status	2024-25 National Figure
% of City schools which are evaluated as being in Good (A) or Satisfactory (B) condition	96.7%	96.7%	96.7%		92.0%

Service Commentary – Table 49.

The School Condition measure is influenced year-on-year by the relative size, and uses made of, the Council's schools estate, including removal of and additions of premises from the operational estate, and refurbishment activity. It is also reflective of the extent of additional condition surveying conducted throughout the year. A scheduled survey of Cults Academy was conducted in this fiscal period, resulting in an evaluation of Good.

At 96.7%, the proportion of schools evaluated as being in Good or Satisfactory Condition was equal to that in 2023-24. Aberdeen City is placed within the second quartile of all Scottish Local Authorities for this measure, representing a small positional gain on 2023-24. This value is equal to the median value across all 32 authorities, and above the National figure which, similar to Aberdeen City Council, has also remained static between years.

The number of schools being evaluated as in Good condition was 20, with 39 being graded as Satisfactory, and 2 being evaluated as Poor (St Peter's RC Primary and Hazlehead Academy).This is a similar picture to that presented in 2023-24.

Aberdeen City Council's school estate has consistently been graded more highly for the combined Good and Satisfactory measure than the national outcome over an extended timescale. The overall number and percentage of pupils being educated in Aberdeen City Council settings with a rating of Good and Satisfactory was 25.050* (95.1%) This proportion was the same as in 2023-24 despite an increase in school rolls. In comparison, the Scotland figure for 2024/25 sat at 89.8%, representing a fall of just over 2 percentage points on the previous year,

*Based on 2024 Pupil Census data

39.Staff - Corporate Landlord

Table 50. Corporate Health and Safety Measures – Corporate Landlord Cluster

Performance Measure	Quarter 3 2024/25 Value	Quarter 4 2024/25 Value	Quarter 1 2025/26 Value	Status	Long Trend - Quarterly
H&S Employee Reportable by Cluster – Corporate Landlord	3	1	1		

Performance Measure	Quarter 3 2024/25	Quarter 4 2024/25	Quarter 1 2025/26	Status	Long Trend - Quarterly
	Value	Value	Value		
H&S Employee Non-Reportable by Cluster – Corporate Landlord	13	10	12		

Table 51. Corporate Employee Measures – Corporate Landlord Cluster

Performance Measure	Quarter 3 2024/25	Quarter 4 2024/25	Quarter 1 2025/26	Quarterly Status	Corporate Figure Q1	Long Trend - Quarterly
	Value	Value	Value			
Average number of total working days lost per FTE (12 month rolling figure) – Corporate Landlord	6.0	6.3	6.9		5.0	
Establishment actual FTE – Corporate Landlord	968.25	966.1	966.2			

40. Finance & Controls - Corporate Landlord

Table 52. Corporate Staff Expenditure Measure – Corporate Landlord

Performance Measure	Quarter 1 2025/26		Quarter 2 2025/26		Quarter 3 2025/26		Quarter 4 2025/26	
	Value	Status	Value	Status	Value	Status	Value	Status
Staff Expenditure – % spend to full year budget –Corporate Landlord	25.5%		52.5%					

Appendix Data Notes

- Complaints: Complaints handling data should be viewed in the round across each of the four measures in terms of the performance of individual Clusters against this theme.
- Staff Costs: Staffing costs referred to throughout this Appendix exclude adjustments for the corporate vacancy factor.

- Data Trend Directions: Unless stated to the contrary, Long-Term Data Trends are generated against the average of 3 monthly, quarterly and annual periods respectively

PI Status	
	Alert – more than 20% out with target/ benchmarked figure and being actively pursued
	Warning – between 5% and 20% out with target/ benchmarked figure and being monitored
	OK – within limits of target/benchmarked figure
	Data Only

Long Term Data Trends	
	Improving/Increasing
	No or Limited Change/Stable
	Getting Worse/Decreasing

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Finance and Resources
DATE	05 November 2025
EXEMPT	No
CONFIDENTIAL	No
REPORT TITLE	Annual Procurement Report 2024-25
REPORT NUMBER	CORS/25/237
DIRECTOR	Andy MacDonald
CHIEF OFFICER	Craig Innes
REPORT AUTHOR	Mel Mackenzie
TERMS OF REFERENCE	2.1.8

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 The purpose of the report is to present the Annual Procurement Report 2024-2025 (Appendix 1) to Committee.

2. RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee: -

2.1 Note the Annual Procurement Report (Appendix 1).

3. CURRENT SITUATION

3.1 Section 18 of the Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act 2014 requires every Scottish Public Body with an annual spend in excess of £5,000,000 to publish an annual procurement report on its regulated procurement activities and outline performance against its Procurement Strategy. Regulated procurements are any procurement of goods and services with a value above £50,000 and works contracts with a value above £2 million.

3.2 The Annual Procurement Report (Appendix 1) as appended to this report provides details of the performance of procurement activity across Aberdeen City Council. The report has been produced in accordance with the guidance issued by the Scottish Government and includes the required mandatory sections. The report covers all regulated procurements completed during the financial year 2024-2025; and anticipated procurement activity covering the period (2025-2027).

3.3 The Scottish Government must also prepare an annual report on procurement activity in Scotland which is based upon all the published annual procurement reports for the Scottish Public Sector.

3.4 The Council's procurement function is shared with Aberdeenshire Council and The Highland Council. The Joint Procurement Strategy 2023-26 sets out how the authorities will ensure that procurement activity delivers value for money and contributes to the achievement of each authority's broader aims and objectives. Six key themes have been identified in line with local and national priorities:

- Governance
- Policy
- Food Procurement
- Climate Change, Net Zero and Circular Economy
- Commercialisation
- Community Wealth Building

3.5 The Annual Procurement Report covers the following Sections: -

Title	Content
Section 1 – Summary of Regulated Procurements	Regulated procurements that have been completed in the reporting period.
Section 2 – Review of Regulated Procurement Compliance	Information on how regulated procurements have complied with the key objectives of the Joint Procurement Strategy
Section 3 – Community Benefit Summary	Community benefit requirements imposed as part of a regulated procurement.
Section 4 – Supported Businesses Summary	Steps taken to facilitate the involvement of supported businesses in regulated procurements.
Section 5 – Future Regulated Procurements Summary	Regulated procurement the authority expects to commence in the next two financial years.
Appendix 1 – Regulated Procurements - 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025	
Appendix 2 – Future Regulated Procurements 2025-2027	

3.6 The Annual Procurement Report 2024-2025 provides details of spend and percentage of spend with local suppliers, the current figure of local spend is 31% which is in excess of the target set of 30% and above the national average of 30.7%*. Performance against this metric has decreased from last financial year where local spend was at 33% however spend with local SME's on 23-24 has remained consistent 24%. Participation in Scotland Excel frameworks increased, and local supplier spend through these frameworks rose by £1 million to £6 million.

Figure from Local Government Benchmarking Framework for 2023-24

3.7 Local Supplier Spend is one of the Key Performance Indicators which is monitored and reported quarterly to the Strategic Procurement Board, and the trend is monitored to identify whether any further action is required to prevent a further downward trend.

3.8 The programme of Supplier Development activity is developed for each annual period to build upon current engagement with local and small to medium enterprises which has an increased focus on future, actual contract opportunities (pipelines) across the main commodity categories, particularly where the local business community can help to shape/scope requirements to ensure competitiveness, a diverse marketplace and inclusive participation. The Council's collaboration with the Supplier Development Programme, targeted engagement events and engagement in National and Local Meet the Buyer Events continue to contribute to a more robust and inclusive local supply chain.

3.9 In the reporting period the approach to sustainable procurement has been guided by the commitments expressed in the joint procurement strategy. The themed approach to community benefits continues to evolve and improve in close alignment with local and national priorities. An expanded range and quantity of community benefit outcomes were delivered, including job creation, apprenticeships, skills development, and environmental initiatives. Notably, the Council secured over 1,400 community benefit outcomes in the reporting period, compared to just over 1,000 previously and 100% of all regulated procurements having included Community Benefits and 95 % having included Fair Work practices.

3.10 The illustrative highlights and the case studies in relation to Community Benefits highlight tangible local impacts, such as improvements to sheltered housing facilities and collaborative emergency services training initiatives. In addition, Suppliers delivered over 1,500 hours of community and third-sector support, and made significant contributions to local wellbeing and sustainability.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no direct financial implications arising 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 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) *taking into account controls/control actions	*Does Target Risk Level Match Appetite Set?
Strategic	No significant strategic risk.	The attached report offers assurance around delivery against strategic aims and objectives.	L	Yes
Compliance	No significant compliance risk.	Production and publication of Annual Procurement Report ensures Council is meeting legislative procurement duty.	L	Yes
Operational	No significant operational risk.	Mandatory procurement training supplemented with guidance & support offers assurance around delivery of strategic aims and objectives.	L	Yes
Financial	No significant financial risk.	Performance against savings targets reported on annually.	L	Yes
Reputational	No significant reputational risks.	The presentation of the report to Members and in the public domain ensures transparency.	L	Yes
Environment / Climate	No significant environment or climate risk	The presentation of the report to Members and in the public domain will demonstrate progress on reducing carbon in contracts.	L	Yes

8. OUTCOMES

COUNCIL DELIVERY PLAN	
	Impact of Report
Aberdeen City Council Policy Statement	The provision of information on outcomes achieved in the annual procurement report allows for scrutiny of how activity supports progress against the Aberdeen City Council Policy Statements and the Council Delivery Plan.
Aberdeen City Local Outcome Improvement Plan	
Stretch Outcomes (Prosperous Economy/People/Place)	The provision of information on outcomes achieved against the Joint Procurement Strategy in the annual procurement report will allow for scrutiny of how activity supports progress against the Aberdeen City Council Policy Statements and the Council Delivery Plan.
Regional and City Strategies	Procurement activity conducted in accordance with the Joint Procurement Strategy will deliver outcomes against several Regional and City Strategies, outcomes delivered against the Joint Procurement Strategy will be reported on annually in the annual procurement report presented to Council, allowing for scrutiny by members.
UK and Scottish Legislative and Policy Programmes	Procurement activity is conducted in alignment with relevant UK and Scottish Legislative and Policy Programmes.

9. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Assessment	Outcome
Integrated Impact Assessment	It is confirmed by the Chief Officer - Commercial and Procurement that no Integrated Impact Assessment is required.
Data Protection Impact Assessment	Not required
Other	Not required

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

11. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Annual Procurement Report 2024-2025

12. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

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Aberdeen City Council

Annual Procurement Report



1st April 2024 – 31st March 2025

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

Commercial & Procurement Shared Service

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Introduction

The Aberdeen City Council Annual Procurement Report 2024 - 2025 covers the Council's procurement activity from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025. The report includes a brief forward plan of anticipated procurement activity over the next two financial years – 1st April 2025 to 31st March 2027.

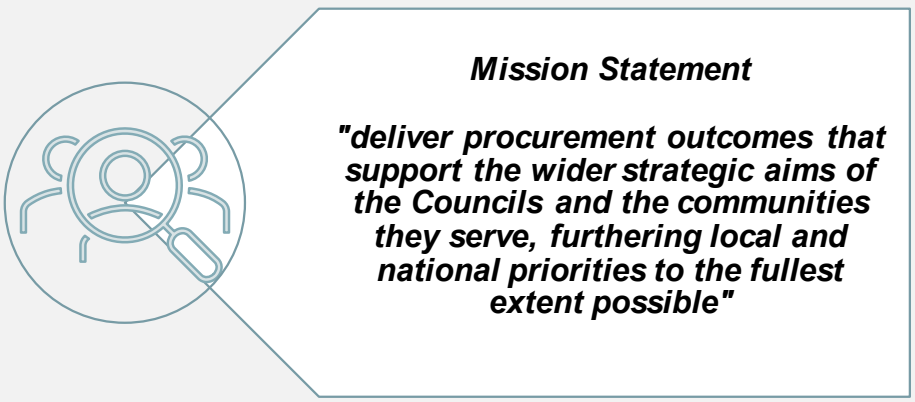
The annual report records and publicises the Authorities performance and achievements in delivering its procurement strategy. This report has been produced in accordance with the guidance issued by the Scottish Government.

Aberdeen City Council's Procurement is delivered under a shared service agreement with Aberdeenshire Council and The Highland Council, - the Commercial & Procurement Shared Service (C&PSS).

The Joint Procurement Strategy 2023 - 2026 for the three Councils was published in October 2023, the Joint Procurement Strategy is designed to enable the partner Councils to ensure compliance with the Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act 2014, to achieve their strategic objectives and meaningfully contribute to national priorities through innovative, compliant and collaborative market solutions demonstrating value for money and genuine return on investment.

The Joint Procurement Strategy sets out the Procurement Vision and Mission Statement:





Within the Joint Procurement Strategy six key themes have been identified in line with local and national priorities, each strategy theme will support a key priority and support the enablement and delivery of procurement and commercial activity:

Theme	Strategic Driver
1. Governance	– How procurement will support Council(s) functions and outcomes – Achievement of best value – Equal treatment, transparency – Procurement Priorities
2. Policy	– How the Council(s) will deliver Community Benefits (Social Value) through procurement activity – How the Council(s) will consult and engage with those affected by its procurements – How the Council will incorporate Fair Work Practices into procurement activity – How the Council(s) will Promote compliance by contractors and sub-contractors with the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 Act 1974 (c.37) and any provision made under that Act, and – Policy on the procurement of fairly and ethically traded goods and services, – Policy on prompt payment (ensuring payment to contractors and sub-contractors within 30 days)
3. Food Procurement	– Set out an approach to procurement of food related contracts which will – improve the health, wellbeing and education of communities in the Council(s) area, and – promote the highest standards of animal welfare
4. Climate Change, Net Zero & Circular Economy	– Policy on incorporation of Climate Change & Circular Economy in procurement activity to support Net Zero targets
5. Commercialisation	– Strategy for Commercial activity which will allow for generation of income to support delivery of the Council(s) functions/outcomes
6. Community Wealth Building	– Set out how procurement activity can support Community Wealth Building, supporting local economic development, and redirecting wealth back into the local economy - placing control and benefits into the hands of local people.

To support delivery of themes within the Joint Procurement Strategy, the Commercial & Procurement Shared Service offers a range of strategic services with dedicated teams providing these services to the partners to the Shared Service agreement, the teams include:

- Category & Commercial Management Team
- Commissioning, Procurement and Contracts (Social Care) Team
- Commercial Legal Team
- Shared Insurance Service

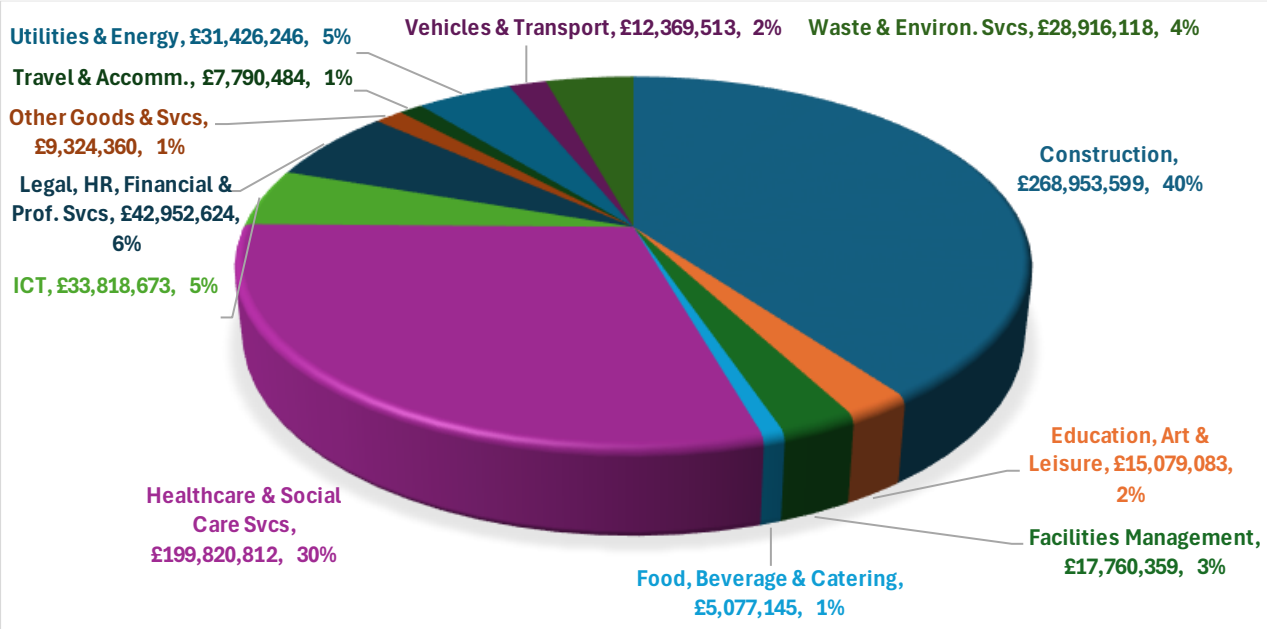
Category & Commercial Management Team

The primary role of the Category & Commercial Management Team is to enable the partner councils to achieve their strategic objectives through the delivery of goods, works and services procured externally and to deliver improved value/increased revenue opportunity.

The strategic services provided by the team are:

- Data management, performance, analytics and insight.
- Procurement strategy, legislation, policy and advice. .
- Strategic Category Management (for all strategic categories of spend).
- Commercial Management – covering revenue opportunities

The below graphic shows the annual expenditure by Category area for 2024 - 2025.



***A breakdown of the categories included in Other Goods & Services can be found below:**

Category	Spend	Category	Spend
Charitable & Religious Activity	£120,606	Not Classified	£1,356,587
Clothing	£171,596	Personal Care	£56,368
Community Development	£202,013	Public Sector Bodies	£2,452,387
Economic Development	£849,641	Purchasing Services	£167,826
Laboratory	£418,378	Retail & Wholesale	£418,601
Manufacturing & Machinery	£576,511	Stationery & Office Products	£255,289
Marketing & Media	£2,278,556		

The data is obtained from Spikes Cavell (Scottish Procurement Hub for publication of annual procurement related spend) and is based on the VCode Classification system, which classifies suppliers by their business activities and is specifically designed to allow public sector organisations a more accurate method of classification of suppliers.

Commissioning, Procurement and Contracts (Social Care) Team

Because of the complex nature of health and social care services, procurement and contract management are conducted by a separate Commercial and Procurement Shared Service team – the Commissioning, Procurement and Contracts (Social Care) Team. The remit of the team is:

- Commissioning – supporting customers to develop and implement strategic commissioning plans
- Procurement – tenders; direct awards; compliance with governance
- Contract management – contract administration; routine monitoring; non-compliance activity; supplier relationship management

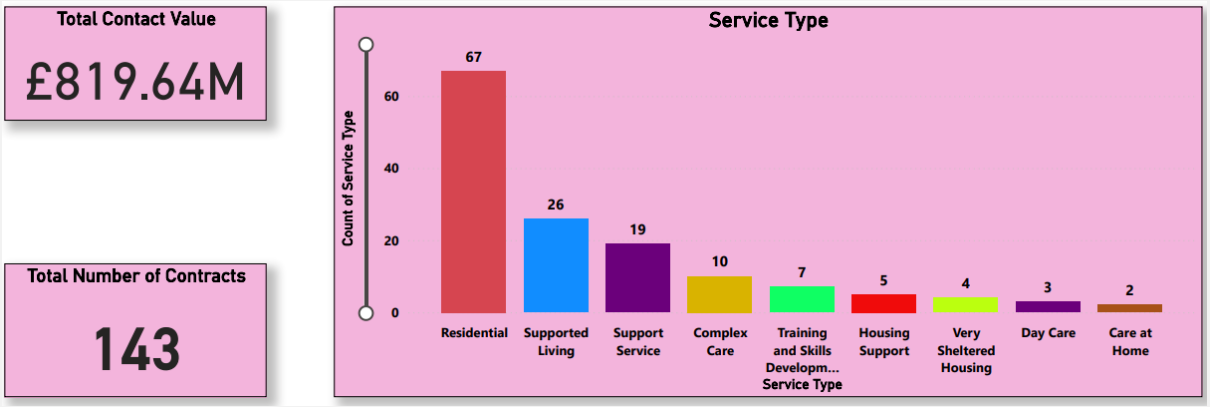
Social Care procurement of services is driven by strategic commissioning intentions for services listed under Schedule 3 – Social and Other Specific Services, of the Public Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2015. Together with Aberdeen City & Aberdeenshire's Health and Social Care Partnerships the shared service social care team has established Commissioning and Procurement boards to create a clearer link between the programmes of work, the associated budgets, and the procurement work plan, in line with the Commissioning Cycle. Collaboration is central to the work of the social care team.

Similarly, the shared service social care team supports and manages the commissioning and strategic procurement of social care services for Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Council's Children's Services, Housing Services, and some Education provision.

The social care team's aim is to deliver innovative, cost effective and high-quality strategic procurement services that maximise best value from all commercial relationships, exploiting new opportunities, while ensuring a robust and effective governance framework in support of the wider strategic, financial, and operational needs of the individual Councils and their

partners. We procure high quality services delivering the right services to people in Aberdeen City/Aberdeenshire and commission these in a lawful, fair, and transparent manner.

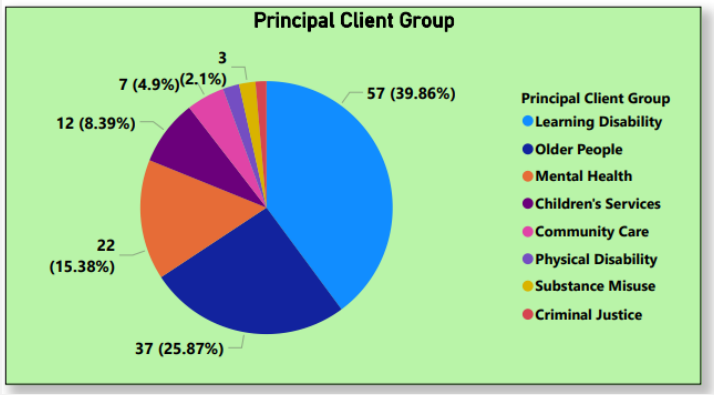
The Social Care team manages 143 Aberdeen City contracts spread across nine different service types. The dashboard below shows the split of adult services and shows the value of those contracts across the duration:



In this dashboard, you can see the split of the total contract spend of £819.64m:

Service Type	Count of Service Type	Sum of Total Contract Value £ :
Care at Home	2	£83,058,545.18
Complex Care	10	£0.00
Day Care	3	£2,965,419.47
Housing Support	5	£9,056,512.00
Residential	67	£575,697,231.96
Support Service	19	£35,463,005.62
Supported Living	26	£97,247,444.28
Training and Skills Development	7	£6,838,254.00
Very Sheltered Housing	4	£9,317,691.00
Total	**143**	**£819,644,103.51**

Below we see the principal client group – as you can see, the largest groups are those with a learning disability and older people which matches with the largest spends.



Principal Client Group	Count of Principal Client Group
Children's Services	12
Community Care	7
Criminal Justice	2
Learning Disability	57
Mental Health	22
Older People	37
Physical Disability	3
Substance Misuse	3
Total	143

Strategic Procurement Board

The Shared Service is overseen by the Strategic Procurement Board, the board is comprised of Senior Leaders from across the three partner Councils and has responsibility for:

- Oversight of the delivery of the services set out in the Service Level Agreement (SLA) between the partners to the joint arrangement.
- Reviewing the performance of the service using Key Indicators (such as the following) and providing scrutiny and challenge, where appropriate:
    - Local Supplier Spend.
    - Collaborative Spend.
    - Community Benefits.
    - % of spend on and off contract.
    - Savings flowing from the joint arrangements.
- Oversight of a programme of digitisation of as many procurement processes as possible across the shared arrangement.
- Providing oversight of the roll out of a procurement capability programme across the shared arrangement.

Section 1 – Summary of Regulated Procurements

Section 18(2)(a) of the Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act 2014 requires organisations to include: "a summary of the regulated procurements that have been completed during the year covered by the report". Regulated procurements are any procurement for goods and services with a value above £50,000 and works contracts with a value of above £2 million. A summary of the regulated procurements awarded within financial year 1 April 2024 and 31 March 2025 is provided in the table below.

The information below includes the award of mini-competitions or call-offs from established frameworks. The Council use several national framework providers including Scotland Excel and Scottish Government.

A detailed list of the regulated procurements can be found in Appendix 1 –Regulated Procurements 01 April 2024 – 31 March 2025.

Regulated Procurements - 1 April 2024 until 31 March 2025	
Number of regulated procurements awarded	55
Total estimated value of procurement contracts awarded	£470,489,377
Number of regulated service contracts awarded	49
Number of regulated supply/goods contracts awarded	4
Number of regulated works contracts awarded	2

Low value/Non-regulated Procurements

The Council promotes the utilisation of Public Contracts Scotland for low value procurements, by facilitating quotes via Quick Quotes for requirements above £10,000 (supply/goods and services) above £50,000 (works), below regulated procurement threshold.

Low value/Non-regulated Procurements - 1 April 2024 until 31 March 2025	
Number of low value/non- regulated procurements awarded	109
Total estimated value of procurement contracts awarded	£6,659,775
Number of low value/non- regulated service contracts awarded	57
Number of low value/non- regulated supply/goods contracts awarded	2
Number of low value/non- regulated works contracts awarded	50

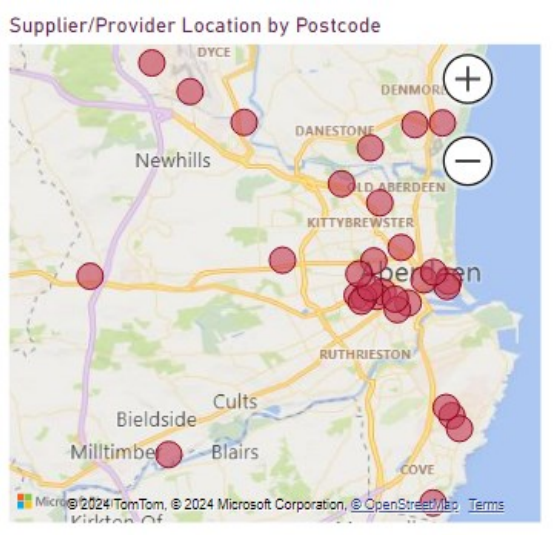
The Council maintains and publishes a contract register of contracts awarded on its website. The contract register provides information on current contracts and can be viewed by suppliers to identify any future opportunities they may be interested in.

External Frameworks (Scotland Excel Membership) 1st April 24 – 31st March 25

Management information from Scotland Excel at the end of Quarter Four 23/24 shows that Aberdeen City Council participated in fifty-five out of sixty-six (83%) of the available framework agreements. Local suppliers being available for use across these frameworks on 31st March 2025 are as shown below:

Suppliers/	Contracts	All Councils Actual Spend	Aberdeen City Spend	Council % Spend
30	21	£33M	£6M	16.8%

Location of the framework suppliers by postcode is as shown below:



The Aberdeen City Council spend was £6,000,000 with local suppliers on Scotland Excel framework agreements, which represents an increase of £1M on the previous financial year.

Section 2 – Review of Regulated Procurement Compliance

Section 17 of the Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act 2014 requires that regulated procurements be carried out in accordance with the organisation's procurement strategy, so far as reasonably practical. Section 18(2) states that an annual procurement report must include, at 18(2)(b), "a review of whether those procurements complied with the authority's procurement strategy" and, at 18(2)(c), "to the extent that any regulated procurements did not comply, a statement of how the authority intends to ensure that future regulated procurements do comply".

In the Governance Theme of the Joint Procurement Strategy the approach agreed by the three partner Councils to the below is outlined:

- How procurement will support Council(s) functions/outcomes
- Achievement of best value
- Equal treatment, transparency
- Procurement Priorities

Deliver Value and Innovation and increased collaboration and standardisation

C&PSS enables a greater level of collaboration and standardisation across the three partner councils in the following areas: -

- Identification of consolidation & aggregation of spend opportunities to generate best value
- Identification of product rationalisation and alternatives to generate best value
- Sharing of best practice and processes
- Identification and delivery of commercial opportunities, e.g. - Electric Vehicle Infrastructure. These commercial projects will also deliver significant Community Benefits, Environmental and Economic Outcomes
- Maximising the benefits of digital technology for example p2p processes, electronic tendering, e-auctions and dynamic purchasing systems

Financial Efficiencies

Inflationary pressures, and global supply chain uncertainty still present risk to our supply chain, rigorous monitoring of both contractual and exceptional price increases is vital to measure the impact, contract management and negotiation strategies is essential to minimise any budgetary impact around costs of supplies and services, fuel, and energy.

Despite these challenges the team supported and enabled the delivery of activity to support savings within the Medium-Term Financial Strategy and in addition Gainshare reviews

resulted in an additional **£179,822** budget reduction (Revenue Budget) during the period 01 April 2024 to 31 March 2025.

In addition, the Social Care team supported delivery of cost avoidance savings in relation to Social Care as shown below. The team has contributed to efficiency savings and cost avoidance initiatives in the commissioning of services on behalf of the Health and Social Care Partnership in Aberdeen City, through:

- Renegotiating Contract rates saved **£44,674**
- Utilising National Care Home Contract Homes and creating bespoke services within them that were better quality, value for money, easier to monitor and most importantly, prevented individuals having to move out of the city, away from family saved **£206,534** with the biggest individual placement saving at **£88,400** per year.
- Ensuring respite beds were fully utilised i.e. do not send client to nursing home placement for respite if they have no nursing needs; use residential placement instead saved **£234,000**
- Ending the End-of-Life beds and Interim beds by March 2024 saved **£624,000**
- Catering Service – move from provision saving **£30,000**
- Very Sheltered Housing – change of Bariatric interim bed to mainstream interim bed saving **£11,494**

Review of Regulated Procurement Compliance

All regulated procurement in the Council is undertaken in accordance with a legal and procedural framework which ensures that each procurement is compliant with Procurement Regulations and supports delivery of the outcomes within the Joint Procurement Strategy.

Legal requirements are set out in the Council's internal Procurement Regulations and procedural requirements are set out in the Scottish Government Procurement Journey (for general procurement best practice) and through our Procurement Manual (used in conjunction with the internal Procurement Regulations and the Scheme of Governance). Processes, procedures and guidance are subject to regular review and internal audit to ensure that all procurement activity is compliant with internal and external regulations.

An Internal Audit review was carried out on Procurement Compliance and report presented to Audit, Risk and Scrutiny Committee on 28 November 2024, a number of recommendations were included within the report across Procedures & Governance, Procurement Checklists, Delegated Procurement Authority, Procurement Documentation, Procurement Planning, Aggregate Spend and Exceptions, Approvals, Contract Notices, Tenders & Quotations, Framework Agreements, Direct Awards, Purchase Orders and Payments.

Within the continuous improvement section are details of improvement actions both as a result of internal audit recommendations and best practice carried out in this financial year and planned activity for next financial year.

Management of Supply Chain Risk

Processes are in place to monitor and manage risks to the Supply chain that could influence pricing or supply reliability, horizon scanning is carried out quarterly with any emerging risks reported to the Risk Board and the Strategic Procurement Board.

The financial robustness of key suppliers is a growing concern. Economic uncertainty, rising operational costs, and shifting market demand are stretching the resources and adaptability of businesses across our supply chain. A Supplier Risk Dashboard is reviewed quarterly by the Strategic Procurement Board to closely monitor suppliers within the Supply Chain. The Council's approach to managing supply chain risk is grounded in the 'three lines of defence' model, designed for robustness and clarity. This model ensures that responsibilities are clearly defined and that checks and balances are in place to prevent risks from escalating unchecked.

Within Social Care the risk of both provider failure and service failure has increased since the pandemic. Engagement with providers supplies market intelligence. Information to support the assessment and registering of risk is critical to its control and for contingency planning to support effective service delivery. The impact of Brexit and Covid-19 on the adult social care workforce services has exacerbated challenges in the local labour market. For 2024/2025, additional questions were included in the desktop monitoring process conducted to include key areas of risk management.

The workforce challenges are being responded to proactively through positive recruitment strategies; contingency planning; remuneration and incentive schemes; a professionalisation of the workforce and flexible ways of working. However, the competition within the sector and across the labour market, and relative levels of pay limits the effectiveness of recruitment and retention plans, and responses include new operating arrangements or strategic withdrawal from areas of operation.

Mitigating actions for support services identifying risks to financial viability include diversification, income maximisation through social enterprise and implementation of marketing strategies. Mitigating actions for support at home services identifying risks to financial viability include the sharing of resources, office relocation, consolidation of core business and attainment of efficiencies through business merger.

The Commissioning for Outcomes project is moving services from a time and task model to a weekly budget model. This will create flexibility for the commissioned services as to how they deliver a holistic service to their clients, allowing more flexibility in staff rota's which could make the posts more attractive and improve recruitment.

Procurement & Commercial Improvement Programme (PCIP)

In May 2024 the Council underwent its third Procurement & Commercial Improvement Programme (PCIP) assessment. The table shows what level was aimed for prior to the assessment and the levels that were achieved on the day.

Question Title	Level Council Aiming for	Level Achieved
Procurement Influence	Advanced Practice	Advanced Practice
Procurement Strategy	Advanced Practice	Advanced Practice
Learning & Skills – Capability	Good Practice	Improving
Risk Management	Good Practice	Good Practice
Commercial Awareness & Acumen	Advanced Practice	Advanced Practice
Continuous Improvement	Good Practice	Good Practice
Climate Change	Good Practice	Good Practice
Implementation & Exit Strategies, Life Cycle Planning	Advanced Practice	Advanced Practice
Contract and Supplier Management	Good Practice	Good Practice
Contractual Obligations & Additional Benefits	Good Practice	Good Practice
Lessons Learned	Good Practice	Advanced Practice

The report highlighted key areas of strengths and opportunities for further improvement, these areas will be considered further by the Strategic Procurement Board for the three Councils the Commercial and Procurement service support under the collaboration agreement and any actions monitored by the board to progress improvement.

Continuous Improvement

The Commercial & Procurement Shared Services are continually driving improvement, through innovative approaches to delivery of projects and provision of comprehensive guidance and training, all members of staff involved in procurement activity across Aberdeen City Council are required to be approved to a certain Delegated Procurement Authority (or DPA) level, depending on the procurement tasks they perform - from low level purchases to full competitive tenders.

Please see below for continuous improvement highlights for financial year 2024-25.

- Development and/or support for Commercial Opportunities, including:
    - Electric Vehicle Infrastructure – Aberdeen City is a partner in the project which will support development of a regional electric vehicle (EV) network in collaboration with Aberdeenshire, Highland and Moray Councils, this will support the Council's climate change commitments and accelerate the transition to low carbon transport for the Council and its communities along with providing an income stream for the Council over a 20 year contract.
- Further development of assurance reporting in conjunction with Internal Audit, compliance issues will be reported through the Risk Board
- Updates and revisions to Procurement Guidance incorporating best practice and internal audit recommendations in reference to areas listed below:
    - Procedures & Governance
    - Procurement Checklists
    - Delegated Procurement Authority
    - Procurement Documentation
    - Procurement Planning
    - Aggregate Spend and Exceptions
    - Approvals
    - Contract Notices
    - Tenders & Quotations
    - Framework Agreements
    - Direct Awards
    - Purchase Orders and Payments
    - Revised Contract Management Website
- Development of Communication and Events Plan for delegated procurers, regular communication issued via SharePoint sites and e-mail to provide updates and information on best practice, plan in development for webinars
- Continued commitment to Supplier Development Activity in this period

Go Awards

The GO Awards Scotland set out to recognise the achievement and successes of procurement teams from all aspects of the public, private and third sector organisations. The Commercial & Procurement Shared Service team in conjunction with colleagues involved in projects submitted entries for and were finalists in the categories as shown below:

- Procurement Team of the Year
- Social Value (joint entry including Scarf and BP)
- Procurement People of Tomorrow

The team were highly commended in both the Social Value and Procurement Team of the Year Awards at the event held on 24 October 2024.

Overview of highlights of 2024/25 for the Social Care Team include:

- All team procedures have been reviewed and updated, as appropriate, including the procurement process documents
- Leading on ensuring all necessary work around supporting services to meet savings targets has been completed
- Excellent working in the residential Category between Contracts and Category manager with processes being aligned with governance
- Processes in place for practitioners and continued development of these will be an important guide for practitioners with regards to governance and how this affects them.
- Engagement with the Senior Leadership Team, Service Managers, Practitioners has helped immensely in ensuring governance is complied with.
- Prior to tenders being carried out, a series of workshops were held to support the co-design of the service specifications for the Adult Supported Living and Care and Support at Home services. Practitioners and providers worked together to identify the key areas for development within these services.
- Successful Tender Processes conducted and contracts awarded, longer terms have been considered where appropriate to allow for the current model of delivery to be consolidated and areas of development to progress within the lifetime of the contract:
    - Care & Support at Home (5+2yr) block funded contract awarded to Granite Care Consortium. The longer.
    - Justice Employability and Outreach Services (3+2yr) block funded contracts awarded; Aberdeen Foyer retained the Employability Service whilst Turning Point Scotland took over the Outreach contract.
    - Complex Care Framework. A call off from the framework was then carried out, identifying The Richmond Fellowship Scotland as the successful provider of care and support for the new Stoneywood Development. The purpose-built facility will provide accommodation and support to individuals with complex needs who are currently placed out of area, delayed in hospital or at risk of placement breakdown in line with the Coming Home agenda.
    - Housing First and Outreach Support Service was successfully awarded following a Route 3 open tender exercise in April 2024.
    - Adult and Young Carers Support Services, in partnership with City non-residential team. The new contracts started on 1st April 2025. These services help the Council meet its duties under the Carers Strategy.
    - The Children and Housing Team has begun work to help children's social work teams on new processes for making out of authority residential placements.

A look ahead to objectives for delivery in financial year 2025-26:

- Further development of the system to capture Community Benefits, Fair Work Practices, Sustainability and Climate data
- A comprehensive review and revision will be completed of the Community Benefit and Sustainable Procurement Policy
- A review of Delegated Procurer E-Learning will be undertaken, the E-Learning provision to be supplemented by hosting of webinars on key subjects such as Contract Management
- A programme of events will be developed in conjunction with the Supplier Development Programme to facilitate involvement of the local supply chain, events and activity will be linked to aims of Community Wealth Building with a Supplier Development Action Plan developed on targeted activities
- Identification of opportunities for regional collaboration with members of the North-East Procurement Anchor Group, the group will identify areas of focus to progress in financial year 2025-26
- Green Energy Revenue Opportunities – review of potential opportunities for the Council including market engagement, route to market development to identify future income streams.
- Review of Supply Chain Risk Management processes and procedures

Supporting the local economy

Local Supplier Spend - The Accounts Commission (the public spending watchdog for local government) has a statutory power to specify information that councils must publish about their performance. They do this through statutory performance indicators (SPIs). Each Council collects and publishes its information.

The remit for SPI reporting requirement was amended during 2018-19; with a request that all local authorities report on spend with Core Trade suppliers only. Core Trade being defined as: Suppliers with whom over £1000 has been spent in a 12-month period, that have also been classified as a health, social care, arts, political, religious or trading organization.

Two SPIs relevant to the local economy and procurement related spend are - spend with local suppliers and local SMEs.

The procurement and commissioning of goods and services by local authorities and key anchor institutions is a crucial lever in the building of community wealth. Procurement is one of the five core principles of Community Wealth Building, which has been incorporated into the revised Joint Procurement Strategy for 2023-2026.

The Annual Procurement Report 2024-2025 provides details of spend and percentage of spend with local suppliers, the percentage of spend with local businesses is (31%) the percentage remains above the target of 30%, and above the national average.

The data on local supplier spend is obtained from Spikes Cavell (Scottish Procurement Hub for publication of annual procurement related spend) and is based on locality and size of business. The table below shows a comparison of core trade spend with local businesses and SME's in financial year 2024-25 and 2023-24:

Categories	23/24 (£)	24/25 (£)	23/24 (% of Total Spend)	24/25 (% of Total Spend)	23/24 - Suppliers	24/25 - Suppliers
Core Trade - All Suppliers	£618,933,475	£656,313,534	100%	100%	1961	2231
Core Trade - Local Suppliers	£201,185,621	£202,810,688	33%	31%	396	606
Core Trade - Local SME's	£148,806,766	£145,984,379	24%	22%	291	324

SME definition as per Spikes is:

Legend	Details
Small	Less than 50 employees, regardless of turnover, or, if the number of employees is unknown, then turnover of less than £5.6m will be taken as an indicator that it is a small enterprise.
Medium	Between 50 and 249 employees, regardless of turnover, or, if the number of employees is unknown, then turnover of greater than or equal to £5.6m and less than £22.8m will be taken as an indicator that it is a medium enterprise.
Large	Greater than or equal to 250 employees, regardless of turnover, or, if the number of employees is unknown, then turnover of greater than or equal to £22.8m will be taken as an indicator that it is a large enterprise.

Spend in the annual report is based on spend by local authority area based on core trade creditors only; the Local authority areas as defined by the ONS (Office of National Statistics); Core-Trade: Suppliers with whom over £1000 has been spent in a 12 month period, that have also been classed as a trading organisation or as a non-trade social care provider.

The Local Supplier Data does not include any spend with Sub-Contractors locally due to the fact that these are not paid directly by the Council and therefore this is not captured in the data.

The spend with local suppliers can be influenced significantly by changes in high spend sectors such as construction, Social Care and ICT, often national suppliers can deliver at the scale to meet Council needs. However, the Council continues to seek to engage with local SMEs around opportunities elsewhere in the supply chain, such as through sub-contracting opportunities.

The Commercial and Procurement team have been working in collaboration with officers in City Development & Regeneration who are leading the Councils Community Wealth Building Group to deliver the CWB Action Plan. Supplier engagement continues to be planned around specific opportunities in the pipeline to encourage the local supply chain to explore public

sector opportunities to support building wealth within the local and regional economy, as well as hosting of events providing general advice on how businesses can be supported, helped and grow by supplying the Council or wider public sector locally through direct or sub-contracting opportunities.

Sub-contracting can offer vital support to local SMEs by providing them with access to opportunities that may not be able to bid for directly given the scale. Many large contracts awarded by the Council often require significant capacity, resources or specialist expertise that smaller enterprises may not be able to offer alone. By engaging in sub-contracting, SMEs can:

- Develop relationships with larger contractors, gaining valuable experience and visibility within the supply chain.
- Access a broader range of projects, which can help them to grow their business and build a track record for future direct contract bids.
- Benefit from knowledge transfer, skills development and innovation through collaboration with more established firms.
- Contribute to local economic development by keeping more of the supply chain activity within the community.

Therefore, even when SMEs are not the primary contractor, sub-contracting opportunities can play a key role in supporting their growth, sustainability and long-term success within the local economy.

Supplier Development Programme

The Supplier Development Programme (SDP) was established in 2008, and is a partnership of Local Authorities, Scottish Government and other public bodies that works together to bring free support in all aspects of tendering to Scottish-based SMEs.

The Commercial & Procurement Shared Service (C&PSS) including Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire and Highland Councils have participated in the below events and activities with the Supplier Development Programme over the period 1 April 2024 - 31 Mar 2025

Meet the Buyer National 2024 – 05 June 2024

Aberdeen City Council exhibited at Meet the Buyer National, this annual event provides suppliers with access to buyers and decision makers, from organisations across the public and private sectors. Suppliers have the chance to introduce their company, talk to key buyer contacts, and discover opportunities in their pipelines.

The event had 3169 bookings with 87 bookings from people based in Aberdeen City

Meet the Buyer North 2024 – The Music Hall Aberdeen – 11 September 2024

Aberdeen City Council exhibited at Meet the Buyer North, this annual event is designed to support micro, small and medium sized businesses in the North of Scotland, including the Highlands and Islands, to engage with business opportunities in the public sector. Suppliers have the chance to introduce their company, talk to key buyer contacts, and discover opportunities in their pipelines.

The event had 1061 bookings with 171 bookings from people based in Aberdeen City.

Section 3 – Community Benefit Summary & Community Outcomes

Statutory Requirement

Section 18(2) (d) of the Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act 2014 requires annual procurement reports to contain: *"a summary of any community benefit requirements **imposed** as part of a regulated procurement **that were fulfilled** during the year covered by the report".*

Interpretation

"Imposed" has been interpreted to mean community benefit requirements **included** within regulated procurements published in the reporting period. Reporting is intended to capture community benefit inclusion at all stages of incorporation, implementation and fulfilment.

The point at which community benefit requirements are "fulfilled" can be a matter of interpretation. Some community benefits outcomes can take a period of years to complete. "Fulfilled" has been interpreted to include community benefits **"underway"** and **"in process."** Maximum flexibility is offered to suppliers as to when community benefit requirements commence and are ultimately "fulfilled". Community benefit requirements and quantities are commonly designed in terms of the total number of outcomes to be delivered over the entire contract term. Suppliers are held to their total community benefit commitments (imposed and volunteered) over the life of the contract

Reporting Period

In the reporting period, the approach to community benefits within procurement activity has been guided by the commitments and aspirations expressed in our Joint Procurement Strategy. Our "Mission Statement" commits to delivery of:

"ethical and sustainable value for money solutions that support the operational needs and wider strategic aims of the councils and the communities they serve to further local and national priorities to the fullest extent possible."

Beyond mandatory (£4M) and regulated thresholds (£50K for goods and services/£2M for works) the partner councils routinely seek:

"leverage opportunities (including social, economic and environmental value) aligned to the needs and priorities of our communities"

Our themed approach to community benefits continues to evolve and improve in close alignment with the following local and national priorities, As detailed in the Community Benefits Analysis Summary as an organisation we have included, in process or delivered a total of 1410 Community Benefits in this period 01 April 2024 – 31 March 2025.

COMMUNITY BENEFITS SUMMARY ANALYSIS

2024–2025



1,410 community benefit outcomes were included, are in process or were delivered in the reporting period



16 of 17 Regulated contracts included requirements relating to Fair Work Practices (including Real Living Wage)



17 of 17 Regulated contracts included Community Benefit requirements

483 Community benefit outcomes imposed across **17** regulated contracts in the reporting year.

Fair Work/real Living Wage **25**	Job Creation (Anticipated) **4**	Apprenticeships **45**	Placements/Work Experience **82**
Developing The Workforce (skills) **125**	FE/HE Engagement **21**	Graduate Opportunities **2**	School Engagement **38**
Employability Engagement **28**	Environmental Wellbeing **25**	Community/3rd Sector Support (710 Hrs) **20**	Environmental (Fuel Poverty) **10**
Prompt Payment in the Supply Chain **6**	Equalities (contract specific) **1**	Community Engagement **1**	Local Economy Development **4**
Promote Adoption & Fostering **16**	Vacancy Sharing **4**	Meet The Buyer Events **2**	Support Formation of Resident's Association **1**
Ethical Trading and Social Justice **1**	Case Studies/Innovation **22**		

Highlights: Underpinned by fair work principles, the volume and quality of apprenticeships, placements and skills development outcomes is significant.

A strong, proportionate environmental focus is coupled with securing commitments from suppliers to provide **710 hours** of local community/3rd sector support which is likely to not only cement strong relationships but likely to secure legacy donations to benefit local good causes during the life of the contracts and possibly beyond the life of the contracts.



927 Community benefit outcomes delivered across **15** regulated contracts not advertised in the reporting year but delivering benefits in the reporting year.

Fair Work/real Living Wage **15**	Jobs Created (44 Actual + 40 Anticipated) **84**	Apprenticeships **17**	Placements/Work Experience **57**
Developing The Workforce (skills) **372**	FE/HE Engagement **44**	Graduate Opportunities **3**	School Engagement **128**
Employability Engagement **61**	Environmental Wellbeing **20**	Community/3rd Sector Support (867.5 Hrs +£41K) **17**	Environmental (Fuel Poverty) **7**
Prompt Payment in the Supply Chain **9**	Equalities (contract specific) **1**	Community Engagement & Collaboration **13**	Local Economic Development **20**
Promote Adoption & Fostering **10**	Case Studies/Innovation **24**	Vacancy Sharing **25**	

General highlights: Underpinned by fair work principles, the volume and quality of jobs created (actual and anticipated), apprenticeships, work experience and skills development outcomes is significant. A strong, proportionate environmental focus is coupled with delivery of **867.5 hours** of local community/3rd sector support and over **£41,000** in donations, cementing strong relationships and partnerships likely to endure beyond the life of the contracts.

Illustrative Community Benefit Highlights

- A contractor installed pergolas for residents of a very sheltered housing complex in Aberdeen (Kingswood Court.) Over 170 hours of labour (joiners, painters, builder, general labour) was provided free of charge as well as materials valued at circa £1650. Following installation, one resident was approached who was out enjoying sitting in the sun under the pergola listening to music, having a cup of tea and playing games on her iPad. The resident reported she was delighted to have an area to sit out in and thought the pergola made a great improvement on the garden area. The resident thinks it will encourage other residents to spend more time out their own properties and mingle more in the fresh air. Staff reported that residents and visitors have complimented the pergolas saying they will be a valuable communal space for residents to get together and enjoy the outdoors.

- As an example of collaboration and collaborative working between the public and private sector working, a construction supplier made a site available to enable Scottish Fire and Rescue (SF&R) to give and receive vital training/safety information in a suitable environment SF&R do not commonly have access to. Structures can pose a serious potential business risk resulting from arson or build fire (temporary electricity on site, transformers lighting etc) as part of on-site "fire risk assessment." This knowledge might save the lives of firefighters or the lives of others in an emergency situation on the site or other flatted dwellings of timber kit construction. S.F & R resources deployed to the site to tackle a mock emergency situation located within an existing heavily populated residential area. If an emergency occurs, time may be saved on tackling a fire based on early engagement, knowledge and understanding of the site. This initiative reduced SF&R budgetary pressures, contributed significantly to public health and safety and cemented a trusting relationship where a strong relationship did not previously exist.

A significant contribution has been made to the delivered Community Benefits through the Aberdeen City Vision – Beachfront, International Food Market and Streetscape project.

Below are some infographics demonstrating the power of Social Value and the invaluable contribution made through collaboration with our partners and contractors since the commencement of the project which has and will continue to deliver Community Benefits across multiple reporting periods.


ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL
GENERATION ABERDEEN
OUR CITY OF OPPORTUNITY
hub North Scotland
ROBERTSON
Morrison Construction
Aberdeen City Centre & Beachfront Master Plan social impact figures so far
20 apprentices
17 work experience placements
10 new jobs created
Engagement with 1600+ school pupils
Engagement with 160+ further education students
Four graduates hired
£3.7m local SME spend
161 people upskilled
Employability engagement with 200+ participants
558 volunteering hours including foodbanks
£19,499 of donations in money, materials and in-kind

Community Energy Efficiency and Money Saving Sessions

Saving Energy, Money and Carbon

In partnership with Scarf and Home Energy Scotland, Robertson delivered **5** community energy efficiency and money saving sessions in priority regeneration areas. Sessions were facilitated in local schools after normal school hours for the convenience of parents and guardians. Delivered outcomes include:

- Increased awareness of energy saving tips and techniques;
- Promoted energy saving in the home;
- Helped people save money;
- Provide signposting for wider support and advice;
- Increase awareness of entitlements and eligibility;
- Proof of concept established for future events

Sessions attended by households across Aberdeen priority regeneration neighbourhoods and attendees took away advice and relevant, free material.

The sessions were very well received by all attendees and agencies . 100% of attendees reported they took something valuable from the sessions and would be keen to attend future events.

It was a great informal helpful advice session, accessible to all, different advice shared that will benefit a variety of family circumstances – Session Attendee





scarf
ENERGISING COMMUNITIES

HOME ENERGY SCOTLAND

Climate Emergency Response

Community Support

Climate Literacy and Climate Action

Critical Appraisal of Net Zero Toolkit (NZT)

Expanding on basic contractual compliance, Morrisons undertook a robust and detailed critical appraisal of the Edinburgh Science NZT from both the perspective of a larger, progressive construction company and through the lens of an SME.

Advantages derived:

- Comfort and assurance re compatibility/alignment with contractor activities pertaining to shared net zero aspirations on the project;
- Consensus that NZT a practical, free and relevant resource for SMEs within the Morrisons supply chain;
- Feedback loop created by the initiative has prompted a positive, collaborative relationship re potential joint working on climate literacy events, product/policy development and cascade to wider supply chains.
- Positive reinforcement that the Contracting Authority is justified in continuing to anchor climate requirements around a supportive culture of engagement and progression aligned with NZT.



"Morrisons critically appraising the Edinburgh Science Net Zero toolkit in such depth exceeded expectations and the feedback from Morrisons will undoubtedly prove invaluable to Edinburgh Science.

A significant legacy for the City Vision project with potential to move the national conversation forward" (Aberdeen City Council)

Morrison

EDINBURGH SCIENCE

THE NETZERO TOOLKIT
BY EDINBURGH SCIENCE

Climate Emergency Response

SME Support

Section 4 – Supported Businesses Summary

Statutory Requirement

Section 18(2) (e) of the Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act 2014 requires annual procurement reports to contain: **"a summary of any steps taken to facilitate the involvement of supported businesses in regulated procurements during the year covered by the report".**

Related Duties

- Engaging with those affected by our procurements;
- Ensuring regulated procurements contribute to the carrying out of our functions/achieving our purposes;
- Acting in a transparent and proportionate manner;
- Policy on the use of community benefit requirements;
- Compliance with the sustainable procurement duty.

The Council recognises the important role of businesses that support social and professional integration of disabled or disadvantaged persons and has continued to reserve contracts where appropriate, details of contracts in 2024-2025 with supported businesses is shown below.

Contracted Supported Businesses

Contract(s) with Passion4Social:
£23,114 in the reporting period

Contract(s) for Website Design and Hosting including for the Commercial & Procurement Shared Service

Report Images courtesy of Norman Rose, Audio Visual Content Officer, Aberdeen City Council

Community Benefit Illustrated Examples courtesy of Hub North Scotland

Section 5 – Awarded and Future Regulated Procurements Summary

Appendix 1 – Regulated Procurements - 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025

PCS Document ID	Description	Contract Type	Total Value	Supplier Name(s)	Award Date
793940	Early payment service	Services	£ 360,000	Oxygen Finance Ltd (GB)	27/03/2025
794292	Care Home for Adults with Learning Difficulties	Services	£ 1,363,875	Tigh a'Chomainn Camphill Ltd (GB)	25/03/2025
794276	Adult Care Home for Substance Misuse	Services	£ 5,044,338	Aberdeen Cyrenians (GB)	25/03/2025
793916	Award of Invitation to Participate in a Further Competition for the provision of Actuarial, Benefits...	Services	£ 2,716,000	Hymans Robertson LLP (GB)	20/03/2025
793883	Award of Additional Builder Materials - Scotland Excel "Construction Materials" - 1422	Services	£ 224,954	M.K.M. BUILDING SUPPLIES (HOLIDNGS) LIMITED (GB)	20/03/2025
793227	Provision of Delivery Partner Services for Aberdeen Just Transition Collaboration	Services	£ 189,598	Business in the Community (GB)	13/03/2025

PCS Document ID	Description	Contract Type	Total Value	Supplier Name(s)	Award Date
792232	Aberdeen City Complex Care Services	Services	£91,584,511	The Richmond Fellowship (Scotland) Ltd (GB) / Community Integrated Care (GB) / Living Ambitions Ltd (GB) / ENABLE Scotland (leading the Way) (GB) / Cornerstone (GB) / Scottish Autism (GB) / Turning Point Scotland (GB) / Specialist Resource Solutions Ltd (GB) / North East Community Care Limited (GB) / Tanshe Limited (GB)	05/03/2025
792225	2024 Aberdeen City Council Care and Support at Home	Services	£120,089,858	Granite Care Consortium (GB)	04/03/2025
789034	Craighill New Build Housing Project	Works	£16,191,382	CHAP Group (GB)	19/02/2025
787931	Care At Home & Housing Support Service in Victoria Grange Very Sheltered Housing, Aberdeen	Services	£ 1,976,400	My Care (Tayside) Limited (GB)	15/01/2025
787857	Dementia Advice & Support Service	Services	£ 289,125	Alzheimer Scotland (GB)	15/01/2025
787672	Aberdeen City Council - Justice - Employability & Outreach Support Service	Services	£ 530,088	Aberdeen Foyer (GB) / Turning Point Scotland (GB)	14/01/2025
787612	Award of SXL (0820) Mini Comp: Berryden Corridor Improvement	Services	£ 645,292	Jacobs U.K. Limited (GB)	13/01/2025

PCS Document ID	Description	Contract Type	Total Value	Supplier Name(s)	Award Date
	Project - Engineering and Technical.				
787371	Roads Services framework	Supply	£ 1,100,000	A&R Services (GB) / ALAN MEARNS ELECTRICAL LTD (GB) / Hunter Construction (Aberdeen) limited (GB) / Leiths (Scotland) Ltd (GB) / Leiths (Scotland) Ltd (GB) / Leiths (Scotland) Ltd (GB) / Leiths (Scotland) Ltd (GB) / Leiths (Scotland) Ltd (GB) / Hatton Traffic Management Limited (GB) / Hatton Traffic Management Limited (GB) / nuphalt (GB) / Seivwright Brothers Ltd (GB) / Seivwright Brothers Ltd (GB) / john hay plant hire (GB) / Jim Ellis Plant Hire (GB) / Sunbelt Rentals Limited (GB) / DAMM Environmental (GB) / John McGeady Ltd (GB) / John McGeady Ltd (GB) / John McGeady Ltd (GB) / John McGeady Ltd (GB) / D. Logie & Son (GB) / Glenmavis Traffic Management (GB) / Markon Limited (GB) / Markon Limited (GB) / Markon Limited (GB) / Markon Limited (GB) / Markon Limited (GB) / Highland Fencing & Barrier Contractors (GB) / ASW Aberdeen Ltd (GB) / ASW Aberdeen Ltd (GB) / ASW Aberdeen Ltd (GB) / J H Civil Engineering Ltd (GB) / J H Civil Engineering Ltd (GB) / FOSTER CONTRACTING (North) LIMITED (GB)	09/01/2025
787381	Dynamic Purchasing System for the Provision of Contracted Passenger Transport Services (Q3 2024/25)	Services	£ 1,038,350	Falcon Coach Hire Ltd (GB) / Falcon Coach Hire Ltd (GB) / Falcon Coach Hire Ltd (GB) / Falcon Coach Hire Ltd (GB) / McGills Midland Bluebird (GB) / First Group t/a First Aberdeen Limited, First Glasgow Limited, First Scotland East Limited (GB) / First Group t/a First	09/01/2025

PCS Document ID	Description	Contract Type	Total Value	Supplier Name(s)	Award Date
				Aberdeen Limited, First Glasgow Limited, First Scotland East Limited (GB) / First Group t/a First Aberdeen Limited, First Glasgow Limited, First Scotland East Limited (GB) / First Group t/a First Aberdeen Limited, First Glasgow Limited, First Scotland East Limited (GB) / First Group t/a First Aberdeen Limited, First Glasgow Limited, First Scotland East Limited (GB) / First Group t/a First Aberdeen Limited, First Glasgow Limited, First Scotland East Limited (GB) / First Group t/a First Aberdeen Limited, First Glasgow Limited, First Scotland East Limited (GB) / First Group t/a First Aberdeen Limited, First Glasgow Limited, First Scotland East Limited (GB) / First Group t/a First Aberdeen Limited, First Glasgow Limited, First Scotland East Limited (GB)	
786935	Award of Employability DPS Lot 9 - Provision for Care Experienced Young People	Services	£ 95,027	Working Rite (GB)	06/01/2025
786912	Award of Employability DPS Lot 3 - Provision for Sector Based Skills Training	Services	£ 54,672	Apex (GB) / CFINE Ltd (GB) / Aberdeen Foyer (GB) / Barnardo's (GB)	06/01/2025

PCS Document ID	Description	Contract Type	Total Value	Supplier Name(s)	Award Date
786310	2024-Aberdeen City-Housing First and Outreach Support Services	Services	£ 3,825,450	Turning Point Scotland Services Ltd (GB)	19/12/2024
785621	Shared Alarm Receiving Centre (ARC) Technology Solution	Services	£ 720,500	Chubb Fire & Security Limited (GB)	12/12/2024
785362	Award of REPAIRS/ REFURBISHMENT OF VOID PROPERTIES 2023-2025 - MINI COMPETITION - SPA WH DPS	Works	£10,000,000	Ogilvie Construction Limited (GB) / Everwarm Ltd (GB) / Galliford Try Construction Ltd t/a Morrison Construction North East (GB)	10/12/2024
784973	Energy Efficiency Information, Support and Advice Services	Services	£ 750,000	Scarf (GB)	04/12/2024
783496	Provision of National Assistance Funeral Services	Services	£ 328,000	Funeral Services Limited T/A Co-op Funeralcare (GB) / Berriedale Funeral Home Limited (GB) / William T Fraser & Son (GB) / Jamie R Rodgers Funeral Directors (GB)	04/12/2024
784624	Fireworks Display Services	Supply	£ 400,000	21CC Group Ltd (GB)	02/12/2024
784489	Structural Testing of Street Lighting Apparatus in Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire	Services	£ 106,505	Electrical Testing Ltd (GB) / Electrical Testing Ltd (GB)	28/11/2024

PCS Document ID	Description	Contract Type	Total Value	Supplier Name(s)	Award Date
783990	Award of SXL (0820) Mini Comp : Ashgrove Connects - Design Development	Services	£ 181,714	Ironside Farrar (GB)	22/11/2024
783505	Crowd Management	Services	£ 600,000	Showsec international ltd (GB)	18/11/2024
783201	Over the Counter Third Party Payments	Services	£ 223,000	allpay Limited (GB)	15/11/2024
781966	Award of Temporary Propping Works @ Gilcomstoun Court	Services	£ 66,423	Abscaff Ltd (GB)	30/10/2024
780731	Tenants Home Contents Insurance Scheme	Services	£ 720,000	Aon Limited (GB)	17/10/2024
780375	Denis Law Mural Commission	Services	£ 62,600	Blank Walls (GB)	11/10/2024
779997	Dynamic Purchasing System for the Provision of Contracted Passenger Transport Services (Q2 2024/25)	Services	£ 1,834,251	AJS Contract Cars Ltd (GB) / AJS Contract Cars Ltd (GB) / AJS Contract Cars Ltd (GB) / Central Taxis (abdn) Ltd (GB) / Central Taxis (abdn) Ltd (GB) / Central Taxis (abdn) Ltd (GB) / Central Taxis (abdn) Ltd (GB) / Central Taxis (abdn) Ltd (GB) / Central Taxis (abdn) Ltd (GB) / Central Taxis (abdn) Ltd (GB) / Central Taxis (abdn) Ltd (GB) / Central Taxis (abdn) Ltd (GB) / Central Taxis (abdn) Ltd (GB) / Falcon Coach Hire Ltd (GB) / Falcon Coach Hire Ltd (GB) / Falcon Coach Hire Ltd (GB) / Falcon Coach Hire Ltd (GB) / Falcon Coach Hire Ltd (GB) / Falcon Coach Hire Ltd (GB) / Falcon Coach Hire Ltd (GB) /	08/10/2024

PCS Document ID	Description	Contract Type	Total Value	Supplier Name(s)	Award Date
				Fairview Executive Hire (GB) / Fairview Executive Hire (GB) / Fairview Executive Hire (GB) / WILLIAM ANDERSON CARS LTD. (GB) / First Group t/a First Aberdeen Limited, First Glasgow Limited, First Scotland East Limited (GB) / Pele's taxis (GB)	
778391	Nursing Interim Beds	Services	£ 156,000	Care Concern Group (GB)	18/09/2024
778204	Care Homes for Adults with Learning Disabilities and Mental Health Issues	Services	£32,000,000	Community Integrated Care (GB) / Beannachar ltd (GB) / The Richmond Fellowship Scotland (GB)	17/09/2024
777907	National Care Home Contract (NCHC)	Services	£32,000,000	Balhousie Care Group (GB) / Kennedy Care Group (GB) / Meallmore Ltd (GB) / CrossReach (the operating name for The Church of Scotland Social Care Council) (GB) / Care Concern Group (GB) / BARCHESTER HEALTHCARE (GB) / Renaissance Care (Scotland) Ltd (GB) / Parklands Ltd (GB) / Skene Enterprise (Aberdeen) Ltd (GB) / Care UK (GB) / Sanctuary Care Limited (GB)	16/09/2024
778148	National Care Home Contract (NCHC)	Services	£35,573,367	Care Concern Group (GB) / Belsize Healthcare (GB) / Barchester Healthcare (GB) / Care UK (GB) / Caring Homes Healthcare Limited (GB) / Four Seasons Health Care Group (GB) / Renaissance Care (Scotland) Ltd (GB) / HC One Ltd (GB) / Holmes care Group Scotland (GB) / Healthcare Management Solutions Ltd (GB) / Aberdeen Association of Social Service T/A VSA (GB)	16/09/2024

PCS Document ID	Description	Contract Type	Total Value	Supplier Name(s)	Award Date
776682	2023 - Aberdeen City - Whole Family Support Services	Services	£ 7,030,227	Children 1st (GB) / Includem (GB) / Action for Children (GB)	02/09/2024
774837	Award of Aberdeen City Council Managing Agent EES-ABS 2024-25	Services	£ 212,882	Changeworks (GB)	08/08/2024
773305	Award of Treasury Management Services - Aberdeen City Council	Services	£ 65,805	Link Treasury Services (GB)	24/07/2024
772238	Dynamic Purchasing System for the Provision of Contracted Passenger Transport Services (Q1 2024/25)	Services	£ 590,111	AJS Contract Cars Ltd (GB) / AJS Contract Cars Ltd (GB) / AJS Contract Cars Ltd (GB) / AJS Contract Cars Ltd (GB) / Falcon Coach Hire Ltd (GB) / Falcon Coach Hire Ltd (GB) / Falcon Coach Hire Ltd (GB) / Falcon Coach Hire Ltd (GB) / Falcon Coach Hire Ltd (GB) / Watermill Coaches Ltd (GB) / Central Taxis (abdn) Ltd (GB)	11/07/2024
770909	Aberdeen City Adult Supported Living Services	Services	£92,000,000	Affinity Trust (GB) / Community Integrated Care (GB) / Cera Care Operations Ltd (GB) / Care UK (GB) / The Richmond Fellowship Scotland (GB) / Cornerstone (GB) / Specialist Resource Solutions (GB) / SAMH (Scottish Association for Mental Health) (GB) / Sense Scotland (GB) / Real Life Options (GB) / Penumbra (GB) / Archway (GB) / Enable Scotland (GB) / Mears Care Ltd (GB) / Aberdeen Association of Social Service T/A VSA (GB) / North East Community Care Limited (NECC) (GB) / Leonard Cheshire Disability (GB) / Tanshe care services (GB)	28/06/2024

PCS Document ID	Description	Contract Type	Total Value	Supplier Name(s)	Award Date
770691	Award of Supply of Aluminium columns from the Yorkshire Purchasing Organisation, Street Lighting ...	Supply	£ 94,720	Light and Energy Distribution Ltd (GB)	27/06/2024
770671	Aberdeen City Advocacy Services	Services	£ 2,059,612	Advocacy Service Aberdeen (GB)	27/06/2024
770634	Award of Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Fibre Optic Cable Aberdeen	Services	£ 51,420	Pegasus Power & Communications Ltd (GB)	26/06/2024
769532	Award of Community Building Net Zero Study 2024	Services	£ 61,000	DSSR Ltd (GB)	14/06/2024
769143	Aberdeen City Community Mental Health Interventions Service	Services	£ 749,138	Penumbra (GB)	11/06/2024
769018	Aberdeen Car Parking Review 2024 Scope	Services	£ 66,652	AECOM (GB)	10/06/2024
767858	Stoneywood School Modular Classroom (8456)	Supply	£ 319,622	Portakabin (Scotland) Limited (GB)	05/06/2024
768013	Delivery Contract for Aberdeen Christmas Village 2024 – 2026	Services	£ 600,000	JCPF (GB)	30/05/2024

PCS Document ID	Description	Contract Type	Total Value	Supplier Name(s)	Award Date
766218	Award of EMERGENCY LIGHTING - PUBLIC BUILDINGS	Services	£ 585,740	RB Grant Ltd (GB)	09/05/2024
765382	Award of Bridge Scour Assessment-Level 2	Services	£ 53,353	Amey OW Ltd (GB)	01/05/2024
765374	Award of EMERGENCY LIGHTING – HOUSING	Services	£ 414,825	Nucore Group Limited (GB)	01/05/2024
765147	Award of Ground Investigation - Shielhill Road	Services	£ 56,749	Soitechnics Limited (GB)	29/04/2024
764890	Crowd Management (24-28)	Services	£ 1,000,000	Showsec international ltd (GB)	26/04/2024
762964	Award of IT Service Management Suite	Services	£ 334,000	Computacenter (UK) Limited (GB)	04/04/2024
762795	Dynamic Purchasing System for the Provision of Contracted Passenger Transport Services (Q4 2023/24)	Services	£ 1,102,241	Central Taxis (abdn) Ltd (GB) / Central Taxis (abdn) Ltd (GB) / Central Taxis (abdn) Ltd (GB) / Central Taxis (abdn) Ltd (GB) / Falcon Coach Hire Ltd (GB) / Falcon Coach Hire Ltd (GB) / Falcon Coach Hire Ltd (GB) / Falcon Coach Hire Ltd (GB) / Falcon Coach Hire Ltd (GB) / WILLIAM ANDERSON CARS LTD. (GB) / WILLIAM ANDERSON CARS LTD. (GB) / WILLIAM ANDERSON CARS LTD. (GB) / WILLIAM ANDERSON CARS LTD. (GB) / Fairview Executive Hire (GB) / Fairview Executive Hire (GB) / Pele's taxis (GB)	03/04/2024

Appendix 2 – Future Regulated Procurements 2025 - 2027

Contract Name	Type of Contract	Estimated Contract Notice Publication Date	Estimated Contract Value	Comments
Translation Services	Open Tender	May-2026	£400,000	
Training DPS	Dynamic Purchasing System	Sep-2026	£5,000,000	
Visible Learning Teacher Training	Direct Award	Sep-2025	£150,000	
Curriculum Support for SVQ, Foundation and Modern Apprenticeships	Direct Award	Sep-2025	£110,000	
Temporary Homeless Accommodation	Renewal	Jul-2025	£1,000,000	
School Meals Conveyancing	New Procurement	May-2025	£60,000	
Collection & Storage	New Procurement	May-2025	£725,000	
Electoral Services Framework	Renewal	Dec-2026	£340,000	
Microsoft - Anywhere 365	Direct Award	Aug-2025	£297,000	
Capita One Revs & Bens	Direct Award	Mar-2026	£543,000	
Phase 4 - Robotic Automation	Direct Award	Jun-2026	£550,000	
Master Data Management	Direct Award	Mar-2026	£379,000	
Bird Hazard Management	Renewal	Nov-2025	£193,500	
Destruction of Confidential Waste	Renewal	Aug-2025	£100,000	

Contract Name	Type of Contract	Estimated Contract Notice Publication Date	Estimated Contract Value	Comments
Investment Consultancy Services	Renewal	Feb-2026	£1,000,000	
Prepaid Card Services	Renewal	Mar-2026	£60,000	
Skip hire general	Renewal	Aug-2026	£1,800,000	
Inspection, Servicing and Maintenance of Technical Machinery and Equipment	Renewal	May-2027	£93,850	
Tenant Satisfaction Survey	New Procurement	Aug-2025	TBC	
Road and pavement weed spraying	New Procurement	May-2025	£120,000	
Structural Lighting Column Testing	New Procurement	Aug-2025	£150,000	
Beach Ballroom – Wines	New Procurement	Aug-2025	£93,000	
Security Services - Building (Kittybrewster)	Renewal	Aug-2025	£128,000	
Energy Efficiency Support (SCARF)	Renewal	Oct-2025	£740,000	
CPCC010153 (Wernham House)	Services	2026/27	£600,000	Work ongoing presently re timelines/costs – work at an early stage
National Care Home Contract (NCHC) – various contracts	Services	NA	£40,000,000	Renewal of NCHC placements
Out of Area & Cross Border	Services	NA	TBC	Extension or Direct Award of Out of Area and Cross

Contract Name	Type of Contract	Estimated Contract Notice Publication Date	Estimated Contract Value	Comments
				Border individual placements
Suicide Prevention Service	Service	March 2024	£200,000	
Dual Sensory Service	Service	March 2025	£3,500,000	Current contract ends 30.9.26.
Training & Skills Development Services	Service	January 2026	£6,300,000	Current contracts end on 30/06/2026
Autism and Neurodiversity North Scotland	Day Care	N/A – Direct Award	£50,000	6-month contract, following on from current service.
Aberlour – CWD	Residential respite and support service	N/A – Direct Award	£974,150	One year extension from 01/11/2025, new contract in 2026-2027, depending on outcome of service review
Residential School – Curo Salus Ltd	Residential and Education	N/A – Direct Award	£3,000,000	Spot purchased placements so this is an estimate
Housing Support Service Young People - Accommodation Based	Housing Support	June 2026	£1,638,000	Current funding (not including RLWs)
Scotland Excel Fostering and Continuing Care Framework – 18-month Extension	B	N/A	£12,658,717 (for 18-month extension)	Scotland Excel advised the Local Authorities in April 2025 of the 18-month extension to

Contract Name	Type of Contract	Estimated Contract Notice Publication Date	Estimated Contract Value	Comments
			£42,726,791 (whole framework)	the current contracts due to a delay to the new framework tender.
Scotland Excel Secure Framework	B	Early 2026	£6,214,893	Estimate based on a 4-year framework, however, term TBC
Scotland Excel Fostering and Continuing Care Framework	B	Autumn 2026	£35,070,000	Estimate based on a 6-year framework, however, term TBC

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Finance and Resources
DATE	5th November 2025
EXEMPT	No
CONFIDENTIAL	No
REPORT TITLE	Tall Ships Aberdeen 2025 Evaluation
REPORT NUMBER	CR&E/25/245
DIRECTOR	David Dunne
CHIEF OFFICER	Julie Wood
REPORT AUTHOR	Matthew Williams
TERMS OF REFERENCE	1.1.2, 1.1.3, 1.1.8, 2.1.1

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Committee with an interim evaluation of the Tall Ships Races Aberdeen 2025 including contracted and additional elements of the event, and an interim budget.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

That the Committee:-

2.1 Notes that a designed evaluation document will be circulated in the new year with full budgets included in the year end budget pack;

2.2 Instructs the Chief Officer – City Development and Regeneration to engage with cultural and heritage partners to develop Festival of the Sea 2026, in order to build upon the legacy of Tall Ships and by allocating monies from the Coastal Communities Fund and seeking further grants and private sponsorship to support; and

2.3 Instructs the Chief Officer – City Development and Regeneration to work with regional youth sail training partners to ensure opportunities for young people from Aberdeen to take part in the Tall Ships Races 2026 on a fully-funded basis; and to seek grants and sponsorship to widen this programme as far as possible.

3. CURRENT SITUATION

3.1 Aberdeen successfully staged the Tall Ships Races Aberdeen 2025 as noted in the Urgent Notice of Motion by the Convener and Cllr Greig which was approved by the Special Finance and Resources meeting on 31st July 2025. The event met and exceeded a range of goals, performance indicators and contractual obligations as outlined below. The goals for the event were set out in the Tall Ships Aberdeen 2025 Report from 7th August 2024 (CR&E/24/227) They were:

- Stage a world-class event at the heart of the city.
- Recruit 100+ Aberdonian youth sail trainees to join the Tall Ships Races.
- Recruit 400+ Volunteers to help run the event.
- Deliver a Tall Ships education programme in our schools.
- Create a Discovery Zone on the Castlegate.

- Create high quality sport, culture and entertainment programmes.
- Drive Aberdeen's economic growth.

This Report and attached appendices will outline how those goals were achieved using responses and data from a range of evaluation surveys of visitors, city businesses, trainees, volunteers and retail vendors on the site, as well as financial data from the budget, returns from all food and beverage vendors, and city footfall monitoring via Huq. Anecdotal feedback has also been included where appropriate using written submissions or media recordings.

Meeting the Event Goals

3.2 **Stage a world-class event at the heart of the city.**
Boosting Aberdeen's reputation and people's pride in the city

The Tall Ships Races Aberdeen 2025 took place very successfully from 19th to 22nd July at Port of Aberdeen and other sites including Castlegate, Union Terrace Gardens, the City Centre and Aberdeen Sports Village. It exceeded the scale and scope of the Tall Ships in 1997 becoming the largest event ever held in the city and the most attended free event in Scotland in 2025.

Key Metrics:
- 496,000 visits to the event
- 94% of visitors rated their experience as Excellent (71%) or Good (23%)
- 91% agreed that the event had a positive impact on their perception of Aberdeen
- 86% agreed that the event increased their pride in the City
- 91% strongly agreed that the event should be repeated
- 0 arrests resulted in Aberdeen being called 'the Friendly City' in national media

Wider reputation: The event had huge positive media impact for the city with a total of 1343 media articles across broadcast, print and online. This included UK and Scottish major news and radio channels with multiple live broadcasts from the Port of Aberdeen. Of all media coverage 74% was positive and 25% balanced. A media overview is attached as Appendix A.

3.3 **Recruit 100+ Aberdonian youth sail trainees to join the Tall Ships Races.**
Focusing on young people aged 15-25 from all backgrounds.

Recruitment
This was a contractual requirement and reputationally important for Aberdeen with Sail Training International, ship operators and other host ports. Traditionally recruiting trainees from disadvantaged and marginalised backgrounds is very difficult for all Host Ports so this area was a focus for 2024/25.

- 41 presentations were delivered in schools, youth clubs, children's care homes and colleges in the City and Shire
- 40% of all sign-ups were as a direct result of this activity
- Trainee Working Group included
    - Ocean Youth Trust
    - Association of Sail Training Organisations
    - Sea Cadets
    - Previous youth sail trainees
- 673 applications received

Selection and Engagement

- Assessment methodology developed and applied.
- Trainee engagement programme following selection including full day activities in April, May and June.
- Safeguarding programme in consultation with ACC educational visits lead and sail training specialist agency Windseeker, including 15 chaperones travelling with more vulnerable trainees.

Results
The project team beat all expectations by sending 244 trainees, a breakdown of trainee details and the exceedingly high feedback scores can be found in Appendix B

3.4 **Recruit 400+ Volunteers to help run the event.**
Aligned with the city's new Volunteer Charter (CORS/24/179)

The Volunteer Working Group encompassed over 40 external members drawn from a variety of charitable and sailing organisations from Aberdeen and beyond. A full breakdown of those involved is included in Appendix B The team met monthly delivering a large number of events and locations in the lead-up to volunteer recruitment.

It was determined that 320 volunteers would be optimal for event delivery. They were selected from over 1400 applicants and participated in a number of roles, including nearly 100 Volunteer Liaison Officers who directly looked after the needs of visiting ships and their crews during the event.

Key Outcomes:

- Overall volunteer experience rated at 4.4 stars
- 87% felt valued
- 86% felt they had a tangible impact on the event
- 91% thought that their Team Aberdeen uniform promoted the event well

More details can be found in Appendix B

3.5 **Deliver a Tall Ships education programme in our schools.**
Meeting curriculum aims and nurturing pupil interest in the event

A full breakdown of the activity strands outlined below can be found in Appendix B

An extensive education programme, including all Primary Schools in Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire, was managed by Aberdeen City Council's Education and Lifelong Learning teams, the Youth Music Service, and additional activity from the Creative Learning team. The education programme was part-funded by a grant from the UK Shared Prosperity fund. Key strands included:

- Tall Ships Learning Packs and Treasure Boxes
- Adopt a Ship!
- Tall Ships Anthem and the Big Sing!
- Tall Ships Art Competition
- Creative Learning – Fish n' Ships project

Support
The combined education programme was a hugely valuable part of the Tall Ships Races project which went unseen by most in the city. However, the impact on children

and young people, and resulting attendance by families at the event, stands as testimony to the skills and hard work of teachers, musicians and education leaders across the city. In this work they were supported by organisations who provided information for learning packs, materials for the treasure boxes, and classroom learning support, including, Ocean Youth Trust Scotland, Royal Yachting Association, Association of Sail Training Organisations, Aberdeen Line 200 Heritage Group, Whale and Dolphin Conservation, Royal National Lifeboat Institution

More details can be found in Appendix B

3.6 **Create a Discovery Zone on the Castlegate.**
Three days of STEAM activities for children aged c.5-12. Delivered by partners.

Discovery Zone Main Partners
The Discovery Zone on the Castlegate was a great success for the event and project partners. It attracted around 60,000 visits to a wide-range of educational activities for families and helped to disperse activity around the event site and bring the tall ships experience into the city centre. Partners were: University of Aberdeen, North East Scotland College, Skills Development Scotland, MacDuff Marine Aquarium, Aberdeen Line 200 Heritage Group, Aberdeen Science Centre, Sea Cadets, Royal National Lifeboat Institution, Gordon Highlanders Museum, Aberdeen Archives, TechFest, Norco Energy

A full breakdown of additional activities, including the Military Village which saw attendance of 26,500 is included in Appendix B

3.7 **Create high quality sport, culture and entertainment programmes.**
Working with the city's major venues, production companies and creative sector.

There were three main areas of activity – as set out below:

A. Festival of the Sea 2025 programme
The Festival was delivered by partners across the city and beyond with activities which wrapped around and enhanced the main event, giving the opportunity for groups to join in with Tall Ships without having events clash with the fleet visit.

More details are included in Appendix B with the full programme attached as Appendix C which details the 5 exhibitions, 33 further activities and 16 event partners involved in the Festival.

B. Stage Programme

Peterson Seabase: An enormous event space donated by Peterson as part of their in-kind sponsorship of the event. This was used for Quayside Concerts and the main stage daytime programme

Quayside Concerts: A 7000-capacity festival-standard space was created in Peterson Seabase. Kilimanjaro Live Ltd acted as booking support agent. Deacon Blue, Ministry of Sound Orchestra, Tidelines and Kaiser Chiefs were secured with significant support acts. All gigs old out.

Key Outcomes:
- 22,000 tickets sold
- Direct revenue from tickets was £171,000

- The Tidelines gig raised £31,000 for the Royal National Lifeboat Institution
- 300 customers were facilitated on the Accessible Viewing Platform which was funded by Event Scotland
- Paid social media advertising had nearly 2m impressions

Main Stage Daytime Programme
A free programme with community, amateur and professional acts from the city with a variety of acts including a focus on trad music. This provided a showcase of citywide talent and an opportunity for acts to perform at a scale not usually open to them. A full breakdown of acts can be found in Appendix B.

Transit Stage Programme
This stage was located on Regent Quay and utilised the Council's trailer stage for a free daytime and evening programme. The line-up consisted of regional high-quality bands showcasing the range and diversity of acts in the city. A full breakdown can be found in Appendix B.

Family Zone
The Streamline yard on Blaikie's Quay was secured. This allowed extra space for a Family Zone. A Children's Stage was added with a programme of entertainment and events which included Zumba, dancing and storytelling including in the Doric language.

C. Official Events
In addition a range of official events took place, many supported by cultural and heritage activities. These included the Opening Ceremony with youth and community performances, and the Crew Parade featuring the Band of His Majesty's Royal Marines.

An overview of Tall Ships concerts and events can be found in Appendix B

3.8 **Drive Aberdeen's economic growth.**
By increasing visits to the city for the event, post-event tourism, and heightened economic activity by programme participants.

Economic impact measures:

Performance Indicator	Total
Gross Spend	£21.8m
Gross Value Added	£32.2m
Employment (FTEs)	703

Projection was for between £12.5m and £20m GVA so the event impact has far exceeded expectations.

Increasing visits to the city:

There were 496,000 visits to the event.

This includes 406,000 visits at Port of Aberdeen, Peterson Seabase, Discovery Zone on Castlegate, King Street Funfair, and Military Village in Union Terrace Gardens. Plus a further 90,000 visits to Aberdeen Beach, Torry Battery and Peterson Seabase for the arrival and departure of the fleet, the Red Arrows display, and the Deacon Blue concert.

Visits by location (Sat-Tues):

Location	Percentage
Aberdeen City	48.5%
Aberdeenshire	30.4%
Elsewhere Scotland and UK	18.9%
Overseas	2.2%

Heightened economic activity by programme participants

Direct income after any taxes or associated costs:

Revenue Source	Income
Combined hospitality and bar	£293,000
Combined retail sales	£19,000
Park and Ride	£21,000
Concert Programme	£158,000
Sponsorship (in cash)	£266,000
Sponsorship (in kind valuation)	£241,000
Grant support	£1.08m
TOTAL	£2.08m

Other economic data shows an increase in hotel occupancy and room rates, positive business impacts for stall holders, and a majority of city businesses reporting that the event was good for their business with 44% seeing increased turnover.

Post-event tourism

Noting the reach of the Comms programme in 3.2, and the total race route coverage in France, Norway and Denmark, this objective is likely to be met as the profile of the city was raised across the UK and Europe. Data gathered by VisitAberdeenshire's Scottish Tourism Economic Activity Model, including data from accommodation providers, will be used to monitor effects on future tourism.

3.9 **Legacy**

A number of measures were outlined in Tall Ships Aberdeen 2025 (CR&E/24/227). Realisation of these objectives is underway. Use of the Festival of the Sea 2026 and continuing sail traineeships as ways to build on the event are outlined in 3.14 and 3.15.

3.10 On 30th September a jobs fair was held at the Beach Ballroom as part of ABZ Works existing programme. All trainees and volunteers were invited to attend, and all sponsors with live recruitment were invited.

3.11 On 9th October a sponsor debrief was held at Aberdeen Art Gallery which saw the soft launch of a campaign to bring in sponsors for major city events including Festival of the Sea, Christmas Village, Spectra and NuArt. The aim is to keep sponsors engaged via a 'one-stop-shop' to ensure that each opportunity is matched to their aims e.g. corporate social responsibility, client entertainment or brand visibility.

3.12 Educational assets outlined in Appendix B have been retained by schools for future use. This could be linked to future Festivals of the Sea, providing a flexible approach to involvement in those events.

3.13 Links with cultural organisations will be maintained through future Festivals of the Sea with certain assets, such as the BookBench sculptures, re-used in future years.

3.14 The event sought to build Aberdeen's reputation as the perfect stage for major international events. Measures taken included winning the Host Port Seminar for the city (see Appendix B, Civic Events), attendance by the CEO and officers from EventScotland, and visits by the First Minister of Scotland and the Minister for Business of Scotland.

3.15 **Festival of the Sea 2026**

To capitalise on the success of the Tall Ships and drive further tourism in the years ahead, Officers recommend proceeding with plans for Festival of the Sea 2026 (see 2.3) with costs met from the Coastal Communities Fund, a UK-wide programme created and funded by the UK Government with the aim of encouraging the economic development of UK coastal communities, alongside external grant funding or sponsorship. This will fulfil some of the legacy aims laid out in Tall Ships Aberdeen 2025 (CR&E/24/227) including:

- Re-use of existing cultural and educational assets (as noted above)
- Maintaining sponsor and supporter relationships through engagement for Festival of the Sea and other high-profile events in the city.

3.16 As part of the legacy for the event, it is recommended that Aberdeen City Council commits to working with Scottish sail training organisations, including Ocean Youth Trust and Swan Trust to continue to build a culture of youth sail training in the city through the Festival of the Sea 2026 (see 2.4). This will reinforce positive links with the international sail training community and help the city build toward any future sailing events. This would be subject to grant or sponsor funding being found, and at a cost of around £2,000 per trainee where fully-funded.

3.17 **Target Operating Model 1.2**

Noting the event's strategic fit with the Council's health-centred prevention approach as part of Target Operating Model 1.2. The assessment outlined above and in the attached appendices shows that the event aims were fulfilled in terms of activity which attracted visitors to the event, encouraged participation in mental and physical activity, and created and sustained jobs. The event met the objectives of fostering community cohesion, participation in culture and active travel. Supporting evidence:

Metric	Measurement
Total Visits	496,500
Walked or Cycled to the event	20%
Employment Impact (FTEs)	703
Felt increased pride in Aberdeen	86%

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Tall Ships Aberdeen 2025 Report in August 2024 (CR&E/24/227) noted the original budget from 2022 projected a total cost of £2.99m (including 15% contingency) with Council contribution estimated at £1.18m and liability for a £955,000 funding gap. A potential total cost to the Council of the event of £2.14m

4.2 The Report outlined an increase in cost to £3.85m (including 15% contingency) with a Council contribution of £1.18m and liability for a £1.97m funding gap (or £1.33m after external funding to that date). A potential total cost to the Council of the event of £2.51m

4.3 The contribution from the Council included core support of £1.18m, plus a further £702,000 from the funding gap. The total cost to the Council of the event was therefore £1.8m, including a 5% contingency pending some final invoices and income payments.

4.4 Allocation of monies from the 2025 Coastal Communities Fund to support the Festival of the Sea 2026 in order to leverage external grant funds, provide information to potential sponsors, and allow for timely engagement with culture and sport partners to co-create the programme.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 No direct implications arise from the recommendations. Previous contractual obligations to Sail Training International have been fulfilled.

6. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 No direct implications arise from the recommendations.

7. RISK

Category	Risk	Primary Controls/Control Actions to achieve Target Risk level	Target Risks Level Low (L) Medium (M) High (H)	Does target Risk Level Match Appetite Set?
Strategic Risk	Failure to capitalise on the success of the event or learn lessons as part of a full evaluation	Evaluation processes are underway, alongside the other legacy measures outlined above.	L	Yes
Compliance	No risks identified	None	L	Yes
Operational	Staffing levels	Current pressure on the City Events team and other areas could lead to a reduced Festival of the Sea programme.	M	Yes
Financial	Failure of grant or commercial income to support	A scaled-down version of the event would be delivered using all or part of the Coastal Communities Fund.	L	Yes

	Festival of the Sea			
Reputational	Risk of reputational damage if event does not meet public expectation following Tall Ships 2025	Officers will work to maximise effective use of budget. Comms strategy would be revised to manage expectations	M	Yes
Environment / Climate	No risks identified	None	L	Yes

8. OUTCOMES

COUNCIL DELIVERY PLAN	
	Impact of Report
Aberdeen City Council Policy Statement	All applicants were requested to detail the contribution of their project to Aberdeen City Council policy and strategies, and these were assessed by officers to ensure clear links.
Aberdeen City Local Outcome Improvement Plan	
Prosperous Economy Stretch Outcomes	2.8 Support 25 individuals to gain employability skills through volunteering opportunities by 2026
Prosperous People Stretch Outcomes	4.4 Increase by 5% the number of S1-S6 pupils who report that they feel confident by 2025. As outcome of continued sail training commitment.
Prosperous Place Stretch Outcomes	15.1 Increase to 65% the proportion of people who feel they can regularly experience good quality natural space by 2026. 15.3 25% of people report that they understand the importance of nature on both their neighbourhood and individual wellbeing by 2026 Through engagement with the city's coastal environments.

9. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Assessment	Outcome
Integrated Impact Assessment	Full impact assessment completed
Data Protection Impact Assessment	None
Other	Not required

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

10.1 Tall Ships Project, Urgent Business Committee, 21st October 2022 (COM/22/251, section 4)

10.2 Tall Ships Aberdeen 2025, Finance and Resources Committee, 7th August 2024, (CR&E/24/227)

11. APPENDICES

11.1 Appendix A: Tall Ships Comms Report

11.2 Appendix B: Tall Ships Additional Information

11.3 Appendix C: Festival of the Sea Programme

12. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

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Tall Ships Races
Aberdeen 2025
Media Evaluation – JULY

Weber Shandwick

THE TALL SHIPS RACES
Aberdeen 2025
organised by Sail Training International

Coverage Breakdown – July 2025

1,343
Total number of coverage
(Broadcast, Print & Online)

701,871,634
OTS
(Opportunities to see/hear)

707
Pieces of broadcast coverage

253,167,847
Total OTS of broadcast coverage

310
Pieces of print coverage

7,081,361
Total OTS of print coverage

326
Pieces of online coverage

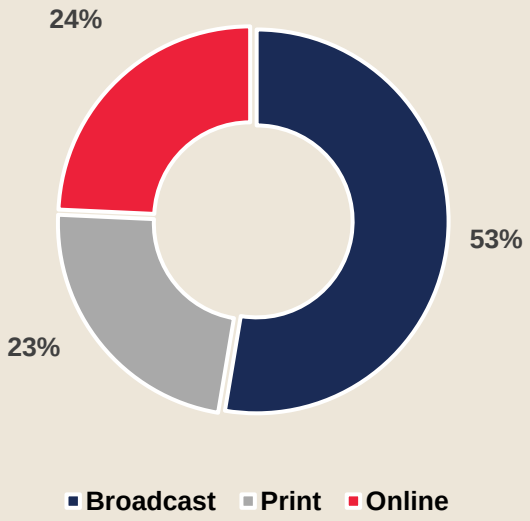
441,622,426
Total OTS of online coverage

FOR INTERNAL DISTRIBUTION ONLY •

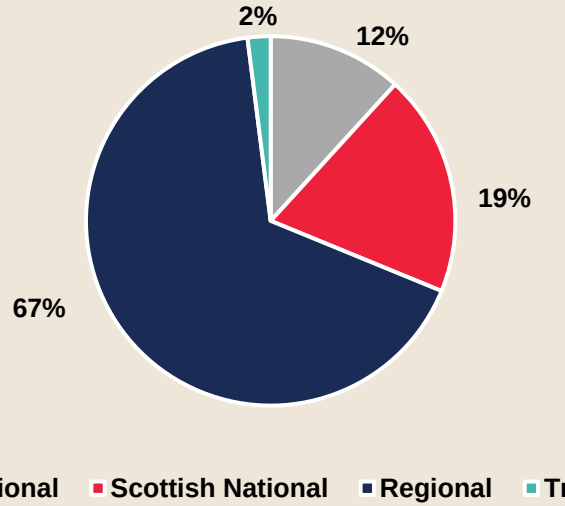
THE TALL SHIPS RACES
Aberdeen 2025
organised by Sail Training International

Coverage Breakdown – July 2025

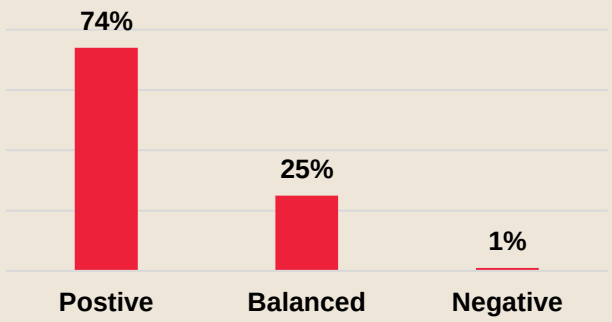
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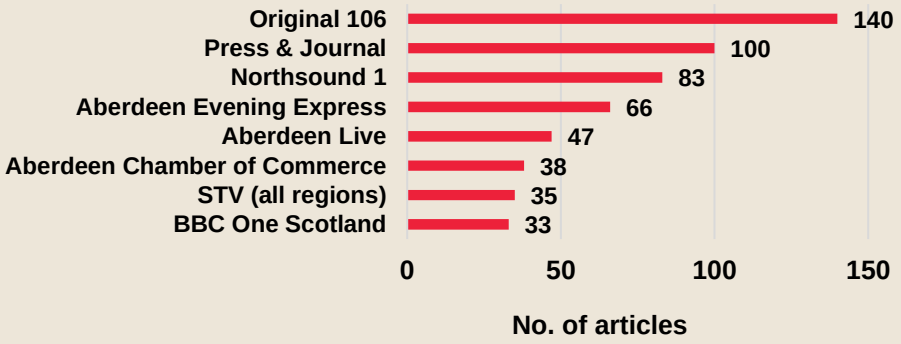
MEDIA CATEGORY



SENTIMENT



TOP PUBLICATIONS



FOR INTERNAL DISTRIBUTION ONLY •

THE TALL SHIPS RACES
Aberdeen 2025
organised by Sail Training International

Broadcast Highlights



BBC News, 19 July 2025 (10:47)



428,333
Total views

FOR INTERNAL DISTRIBUTION ONLY •

THE TALL SHIPS RACES
Aberdeen 2025
organised by Sail Training International

STV News, 18 July 2025 (18:01)



29,000
Total views

FOR INTERNAL DISTRIBUTION ONLY •

THE TALL SHIPS RACES
Aberdeen 2025
organised by Sail Training International

BBC One Scotland News, 19 July 2025 (17:39)



917,000
Total views

FOR INTERNAL DISTRIBUTION ONLY •

THE TALL SHIPS RACES
Aberdeen 2025
organised by Sail Training International

GB News, 22 July 2025 (12:53)



25,333
Total views

FOR INTERNAL DISTRIBUTION ONLY •

THE TALL SHIPS RACES
Aberdeen 2025
organised by Sail Training International

Print Highlights



Print Highlights: National & Scottish Nationals



The Herald

Tall ships start to arrive in Aberdeen ahead of festival's start

Lucinda Cameron

VESSELS taking part in the Tall Ships Races 2025 have begun arriving in Aberdeen ahead of a four-day festival.

The race began in Le Havre in France in early July and the ships sailed round the coast to Dunkirk before travelling on to the Granite City.

They will stay in Scotland until Tuesday and then race to Kristiansand in Norway and finally to Esbjerg in Denmark, arriving there in early August.

The festival in Aberdeen is expected to attract around 400,000 visitors between tomorrow and Tuesday.

Around 50 ships from around the globe will be berthed at the quaysides, which will host a range of attractions from food and craft stalls to street performers and concerts, while visitors will also be able to board some of the vessels.

Events will also take place elsewhere in the city, including an international crew parade on Sunday with more than 1,500 sailors expected to take part, plus exhibitions, free activities and art installations.

On Tuesday, the ships will depart with a 'parade of sail' along the quayside and beach esplanade.

On Tuesday, the ships will depart with a "parade of sail" along the quayside and beach esplanade, which thousands of people are expected to watch as dozens of vessels from around the world take part.

Aberdeen previously hosted the prestigious event in 1991 and 1997.

The races are designed to encourage international friendship and training for young people in the art of sailing.

Vessels are divided into four classes, including square-rigged vessels to cruisers, single-masted boats.

The ships will be berthed in Waterloo Quay, Regent Quay, Trinity Quay, Upper Quay, Jamieson's Quay and Pocra Quay.

The BAP Union is coming to Aberdeen from Peru – a journey which is about 7,500 nautical miles (13,890km).

She will be being the longest traveller. BAP Union is also the newest tall ship taking part in the event, having been built in 2015.

At the other end of the scale, Christabella is 130 years old, having been built in 1895 – 120 years earlier than BAP Union.

It was announced on Wednesday that tall ship TS Mirandart has been denied entry to the Port of Aberdeen due to current national and international legislation.

The UK owner of the ship was born in Russia and sanctions introduced following the invasion of Ukraine mean the vessel cannot enter a UK port.

The Mirandart had originally entered to take part in race four between Kristiansand and Esbjerg.

The TS Mirandart has released an open letter to the port authorities stating: "The tall ship entering ship TS Mirandart has been denied entry to the Port of Aberdeen.

"As a result, she and her crew have been excluded from the list of participants in the 2025 Tall Ships Races.

"Let us be absolutely clear: TS Mirandart is not a Russian ship.

"She does not fly the Russian flag. She is not registered under the flag of the Czech Republic.

"She is owned by a Finnish citizen, operated by a German company and



SCOTLAND

Early arrival: Gulden Leeuw, from the Netherlands, enters Aberdeen Harbour PA

Tall Ships vessels start arriving ahead of four-day festival in the Granite City

VESSELS taking part in the Tall Ships Races 2025 have begun arriving in Aberdeen ahead of a four-day festival.

The race began in Le Havre in France in early July and the ships sailed round the coast to Dunkirk before travelling on to the Granite City.

They will stay in Scotland until Tuesday and then race to Kristiansand in Norway and finally to Esbjerg in Denmark, arriving there in early August.

The festival in Aberdeen is expected to attract around 400,000 visitors between tomorrow and Tuesday.

Around 50 ships from around the globe will be berthed at the quaysides, which will host a range of attractions from food and craft stalls to street performers and concerts, while visitors will also be able to board some of the vessels.

Events will also take place elsewhere in the city, including an international crew parade on Sunday with more than 1,500 sailors expected to take part, plus exhibitions, free activities and art installations.

On Tuesday, the ships will depart with a 'parade of sail' along the quayside and beach esplanade.



i

Smooth sailing for tall ships race

The Dutch-built, three-masted topsail schooner Gulden Leeuw arrives at Aberdeen harbour yesterday, having sailed from Dunkirk on the second leg of this year's Tall Ships Races.

More than 40 tall ships from around the world will be in the city this weekend before continuing on to Kristiansand in Norway, in a race series organised by the charity Sail Training International. PA



Scottish Daily Mail

Aberdeen welcomes an invasion by tall ships

By Lucinda Cameron

THEY are a throwback to the more adventurous and elegant golden age of sail.

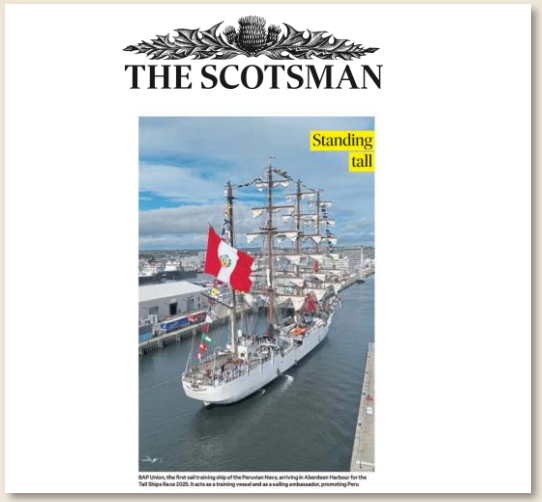
Now vessels taking part in the Tall Ships Race 2025 have begun arriving in Aberdeen ahead of a four-day festival.

Around 50 ships left Le Havre in France at the start of the month then sailed round the coast to Dunkirk before travelling on to Aberdeen. On July 22 they will race to Kristiansand in Norway and

finally to Esbjerg in Denmark. More than 1,500 sailors are also expected to take part in an international crew parade on Sunday.

It emerged on Wednesday that tall ship TS Shtandart has been denied entry to the Aberdeen. The captain was born in Russia and sanctions prevent the vessel from entering a UK port.

Dutch of class: TS Gulden Leeuw (Golden Lion) from the Netherlands arrives at Port of Aberdeen



THE SCOTSMAN

Standing tall

BAP Union, the first sail training ship of the Peruvian Navy, arriving in Aberdeen Harbour for the Tall Ships Race 2025. It acts as a training vessel and as a sailing ambassador, promoting Peru



The Herald

Sails on parade

Tall ships leave Aberdeen Harbour to take part in the Parade of Sail during the Tall Ships Races in Aberdeen Harbour.



i

City blown away by Tall Ships

Crews said a fond farewell to Aberdeen after the Tall Ships event in the city, which has been running since Saturday, attracted at least 400,000 spectators. The ships left the harbour yesterday for the onward journey to Norway PA



DAILY Mirror

Ship race is a tall order

THE TALL SHIPS RACES Aberdeen 2025

organised by Sail Training International

Print Highlights: Top Regionals



The P&J

'I greet the first of the Tall Ships'



EveningExpress

It's overcast, me hearties... but fun goes on



The P&J

Colourful crews dazzle on spectacular parade



EveningExpress

City bids fond farewell to the Tall Ships Races

Crowds turn out to wave off dozens of vessels

BY ROSS HEMPSEED

WITH the Tall Ships Races coming to an end in Aberdeen, crowds waved goodbye to dozens of ships as they set sail for Norway.

For the past four days, the Granite City has played host to Europe's largest free family event, bringing in record numbers of visitors.

Around 400,000 visits were made during the event, which showcased sailing ships from different countries including Poland, Germany, Oman and Peru.

Aberdeen is just one of several stops on the race route, having last hosted the Tall Ships Races in 1997.

Around 50 Tall Ships were docked at the Port of Aberdeen, allowing visitors to marvel at them, while the crews explored what Aberdeen had to offer.

Amid cloudy conditions, crews untethered their ships and set sail – destined for their next stop in Kristiansund, Norway.

The Evening Express was able to get up close and personal with the ships as they left via the media boat.

First Tall Ship to depart was the Morgenster, a Dutch ship built more than 100 years ago in 1918.

The media boat manoeuvred around the ship with the crew giving an enthusiastic wave as they headed out into Aberdeen bay.

Following on were some of the smaller vessels including the Willemsay, Jolie Brise and the Roma II.

One of the larger ships to come to Aberdeen was the Christian Radich from Norway.

Meanwhile, excited crowds had gathered at Fittie and Torry Battery to wave the ships off on their journey.

In addition, the Aberdeen lifeboat was out as well as the smaller ribs to see off the ships.

One of the most popular ships, the Shabab Oman II, left port with crew members stationed along the rigging ready to deploy the sails, as the wind at sea began to pick up.

Following on was the BAP Union of the Peruvian Navy, which got into a horn competition with the media boat.

Sailors were lined up on deck in their signature red and white uniforms for the next leg of the races.

The BAP Union was quickly followed by the Alexander Von Humboldt II with its signature green sails and hull.

With dozens of ships leaving port, the horizon soon became scattered with ships and sails.

THE TALL SHIPS RACES
Aberdeen 2025
organised by Sail Training International

Print Highlights: Regionals & Trade

The Huntly Express

Students given dream voyages on tall ships





The ELLON TIMES

The big read

Tall Ships trainees share their stories of life at sea



The Fraserburgh Herald

Tall Ships leave lasting legacy in the North-east





YACHTING MONTHLY

Aberdeen celebrates the 2025 arrival of Tall Ships Race



THE TALL SHIPS RACES Aberdeen 2025
organised by Sail Training International

Online Highlights

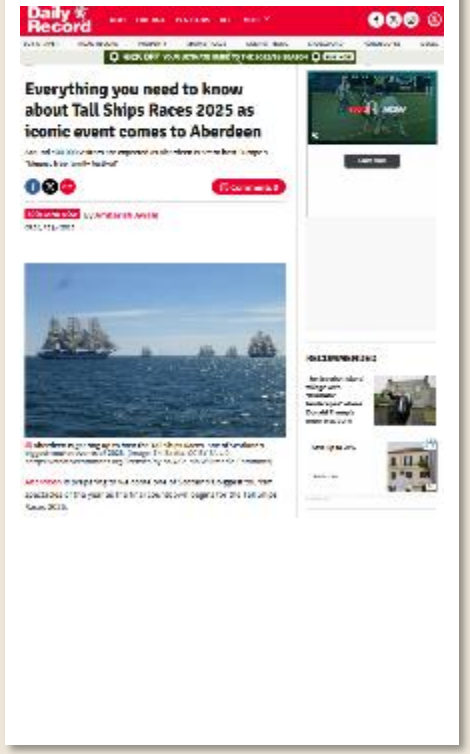


Online Highlights: National & Scottish Nationals

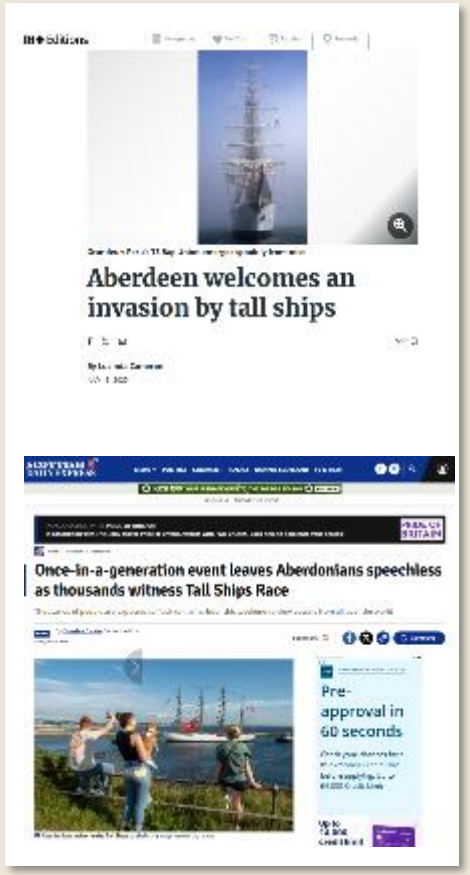

The Telegraph

TRAVEL

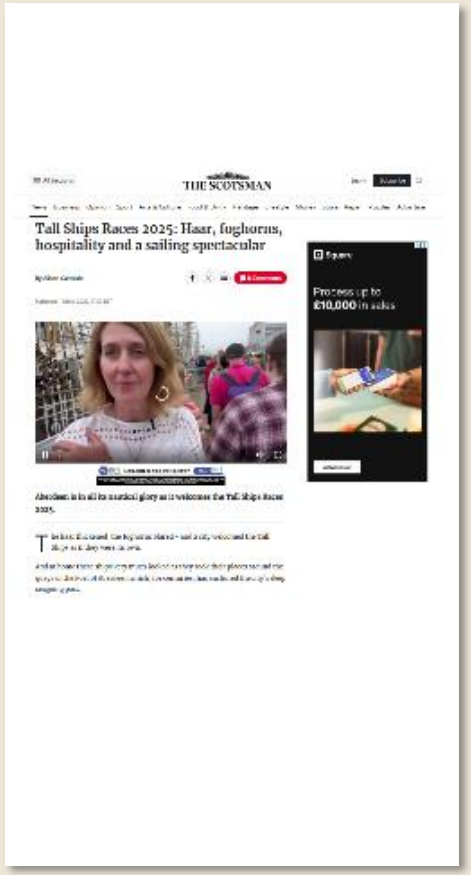
How resurgent Aberdeen is capitalising on its maritime heritage


Daily Record

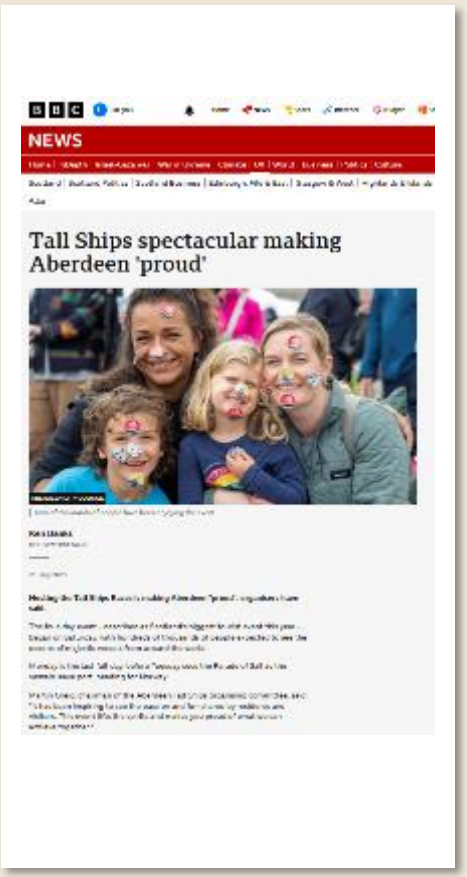
Everything you need to know about Tall Ships Races 2025 as iconic event comes to Aberdeen


Aberdeen welcomes an invasion by tall ships

Once-in-a-generation event leaves Aberdonians speechless as thousands witness Tall Ships Race


THE SCOTSMAN

Tall Ships Races 2025: Haar, foghorns, hospitality and a sailing spectacular

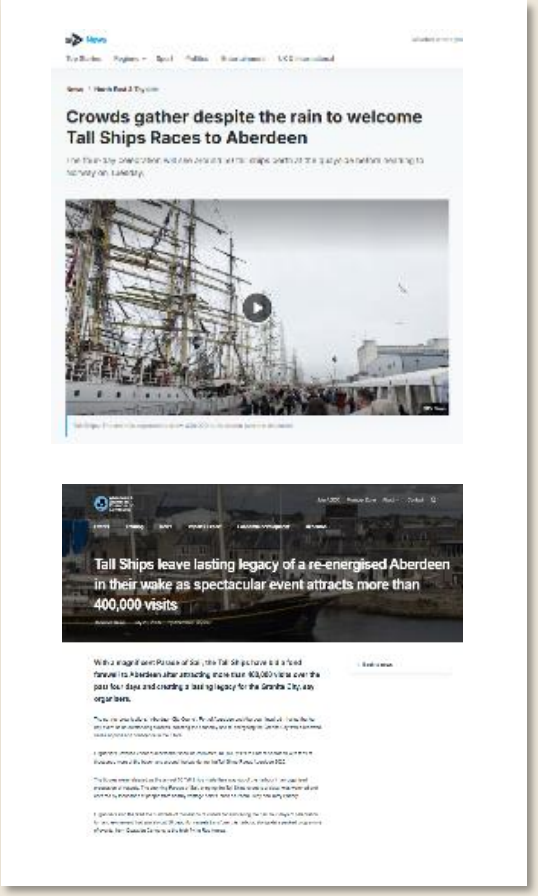

BBC NEWS

Tall Ships spectacular making Aberdeen 'proud'

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THE TALL SHIPS RACES Aberdeen 2025
organised by Sail Training International

Online Highlights: Regional & Trade









FOR INTERNAL DISTRIBUTION ONLY •

THE TALL SHIPS RACES
Aberdeen 2025
organised by Sail Training International

Summary

- **1,343** articles across broadcast (TV & Radio), print and online
  - Broadcast had the most mentions particularly on local radio stations in the lead up to the event and post event
  - Good TV coverage appearing on both national and Scottish regional channels
  - Some of the online coverage was repeated but still had a brief mention of the event

- Overall sentiment was **74%** positive, **25%** balanced and less than **1%** negative (negative coverage was from a story around traders being charged additional Wi-Fi fees during the event)

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THE TALL SHIPS RACES
Aberdeen 2025
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THE TALL SHIPS RACES
Aberdeen 2025
organised by Sail Training International



THE TALL SHIPS RACES ABERDEEN 2025

APPENDIX B: Additional Information

HOST PARTNERS

PORT OF ABERDEEN EST.1136

ABERDEEN inspired BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

CONTENTS

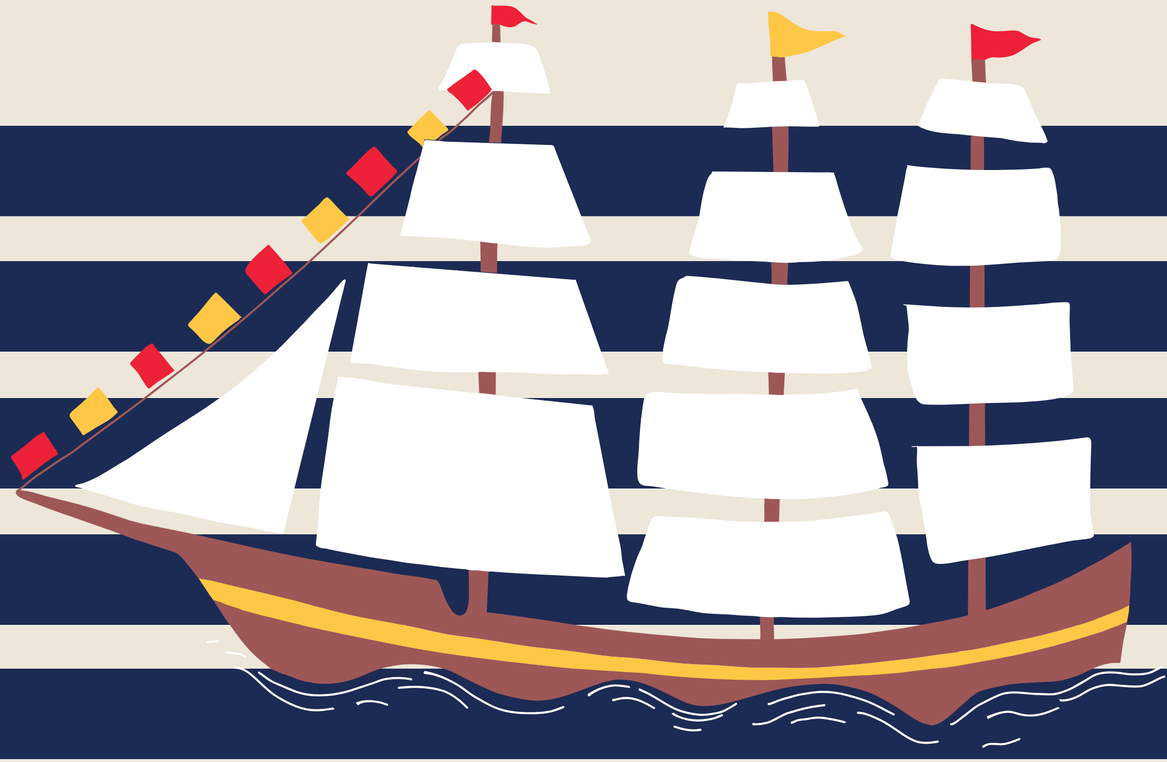
THE TALL SHIPS RACES
Aberdeen 2025
organised by Sail Training International

1. Trainees
2. Volunteers
3. Education Programme
4. Discovery Zone
5. Sport and Entertainment



THE TALL SHIPS RACES
Aberdeen 2025
organised by Sail Training International

1. TRAINEES



TRAINEES – Recruitment

THE TALL SHIPS RACES
Aberdeen 2025
organised by Sail Training International

Recruitment

This was a contractual requirement and reputationally important for Aberdeen with Sail Training International, ship operators and other host ports. Traditionally recruiting trainees from disadvantaged and marginalised backgrounds is very difficult for all Host Ports so this area was a focus for 2024.

- 41 presentations were delivered in schools, youth clubs, children's care homes and colleges in the City and Shire
- 40% of all sign-ups were as a direct result of this activity
- Trainee Working Group included
  - Ocean Youth Trust
  - Association of Sail Training Organisations
  - Sea Cadets
  - Previous youth sail trainees
- 673 applications received



TRAINEES – Application & Selection

THE TALL SHIPS RACES
Aberdeen 2025
organised by Sail Training International

- All applications were **scored using a matrix** designed by Aberdeen City Council economists
- Fully funded applications were **considered by physical barriers, care experience and financial barriers.** Scores were ranked and the top 100 were most eligible for a fully funded place.
- The applications were then **considered by a selection panel** of Project Officers, a sailing expert from Ocean Youth Trust and the Council's Senior Project Officer for Employability and Skills.
- The selection panel **scored applicants' personal statements** using three criteria: the **impact** the experience would have on their life, their **enthusiasm** to take part in the Tall Ships Races, and the **skills** they would bring to the ship.
- This scoring, combined with the economists scoring, **produced the top 100 applicants** eligible for a fully funded place.
- Self funded applicants were assessed on their personal statements only, rating potential impact, enthusiasm and skills.



TRAINEES – Events & Engagement

THE TALL SHIPS RACES
Aberdeen 2025
organised by Sail Training International

Weekly Q&A Calls: Tuesdays at 4.30pm
- A platform for trainees and parents to ask questions and engage in all things Tall Ships Races.

Welcome Day – Saturday 5th April
- Trainees introduced to Team Aberdeen
- Explored motivations for joining
- Next steps: passport info, dietary requirements

Discovery Day – Saturday 17th May
- Introduced to fellow trainees on their ship
- Team building activities
- Team Charter
- CV development

Ahoy Adventure – Saturday 28th June
- Sailing kit collection
- Ropework and knot skills
- Travel arrangements
- Q&A



TRAINEES - Travel & Safeguarding

THE TALL SHIPS RACES
Aberdeen 2025
organised by Sail Training International

SAFEGUARDING AND WELFARE

- All travel plans to Dunkirk and home from Kristiansand were produced in consultation with Aberdeen City Council's educational visits lead.
- The Safeguarding Management Plan was informed by previous host port learnings and travel agency Windseeker's safeguarding protocol for ships.
- 9 chaperones joined 141 trainees to Dunkirk, 6 chaperones joined 97 trainees home from Kristiansand
- All chaperones that accompanied trainees during their travel held a PVG (Protecting Vulnerable Groups clearance).
- Chaperones included Tall Ships Project Managers, Ship Liaison Officers, School Teachers, Aberdeen Ambassadors, Port of Aberdeen staff and Youth Workers



TRAVEL PLANNING

- Sail Trainees were assisted with passport applications
- Funded trainees had passport costs covered by the programme
- Sail Trainees purchased their own travel insurance
- Sail Trainees applied for the GHIC card, free from the NHS

TRAINEES - Metrics

THE TALL SHIPS RACES
Aberdeen 2025
organised by Sail Training International

Metric	Breakdown
Totals	Target: 100 Total: 244
Funding	Fully Funded: 111 Self Funded: 133
Gender	Male: 133 Female: 106 Non-binary: 5
Ages	15-17: 161 18-25: 83
Race	Race 2 (Dunkirk – Aberdeen): 145 Race 3 (Aberdeen – Kristiansand): 99
Trainee Cost	£2000 includes travel, ship fees, agency fees, uniform, training, admin, hardship funds Ships receive approx £1,040 per trainee directly as income

AWARD WINNER!

Aberdeen-funded trainee Keiran Side was selected over 5,700 other trainees to receive the Torbay Cup for his outstanding contribution and personal development.

The Captain of his ship the Gulden Leeuw wrote a detailed account of why Keiran should win citing his extraordinary effort, outstanding contribution and how he had overcome personal challenge to make remarkable progress.



14 NEWS

Sailor Keiran's on top of the world as Tall Ships winner

PLAIN SAILING: Keiran Side impressed his Tall Ships Race skipper enough to land the Torbay Cup for best trainee.

BY JENNA SCOTT



TRAINEES – Feedback Survey

THE TALL SHIPS RACES
Aberdeen 2025
organised by Sail Training International

Overall, my confidence has improved massively. Summer of 2025 was the BEST, all thanks to getting such a great opportunity. P.S, I love you Team Aberdeen

The programme gave me the confidence to step outside the comfortable life I had built for myself and make a massive change by going to university in a new city. It's a huge step, and I don't think I would have been able to take it without the confidence and self-belief I gained from this experience.

Its something that would stay with anyone forever, and it will give you stories to tell for years to come. I know these are all very generic things that you'll hear everyone say, but it truly is impossible to put something this life changing into words.

I have autism and was made welcome and felt included the experience has made me realise that I can do anything.

I honestly just want to thank you all so much for this opportunity, it has been the most exciting thing I've ever done and likely will ever do in my life. Nothing could ever compare to the memories I've made and people I've met.

It has encouraged me to volunteer more and help others

It has motivated me to say yes to every opportunity I get and reach out to more people





99% of trainees felt well supported by the Tall Ships teams throughout the Sail Trainee Programme

98% of sail trainees think the programme has had a positive impact on their lives

91% of sail trainees reported their confidence and self-esteem had grown

67% of sail trainees described the experience as life changing

THE TALL SHIPS RACES
Aberdeen 2025
organised by Sail Training International

2. VOLUNTEERS



VOLUNTEERS – Recruitment

THE TALL SHIPS RACES
Aberdeen 2025
organised by Sail Training International

- Early engagement saw volunteers attend events across the city and wider region raising awareness of the event and volunteering opportunities. The wide variety is shown in the table.
- The involvement of specialist sail training and other third sector organisations was vital to the success of the entire programme from recruitment to recognition and reward.
- 1400 applications received with 320 volunteers recruited to ‘Team Aberdeen’

Ocean Youth Trust Association of Sail Training Organisations Royal Yacht Club Sea Cadets Royal National Lifeboat Institution	Assocation of Voluntary Organisations, etc AWAITING CONFIRMATION OF FULL LIST

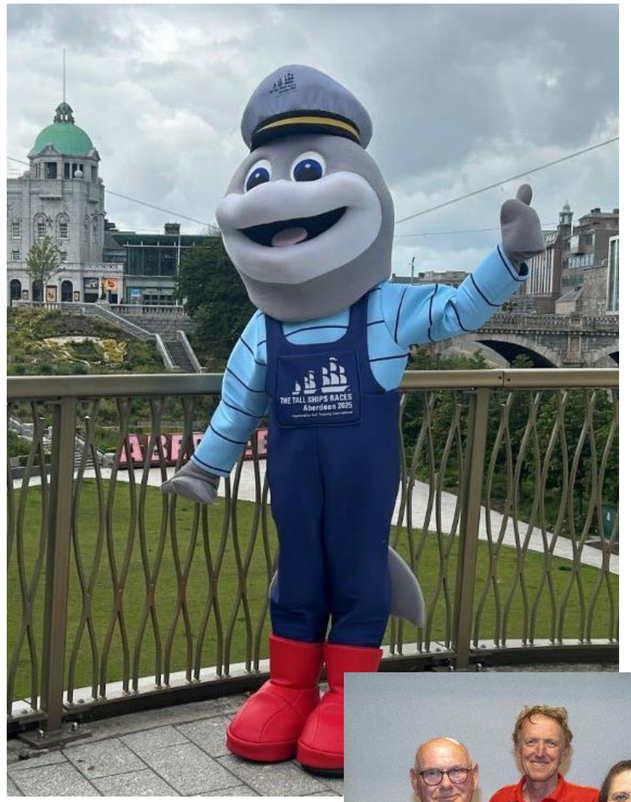
Community Councils Youth Clubs Port of Aberdeen Big Belmont Bash University of Aberdeen Deen Divas Aberdeen Football Club Union Square Schools – City & Shire Robert Gordons College RACH Aberdeen Art Gallery	Aberdeen Inspired Bon Accord Grampian Pride Braemar Highland Games Alzheimer Scotland NorthLink Ferries Van Gogh Live TECA Aberdeen Highland Games VisitAberdeenshire Discovery Dundee Port Soy Boat Festival



VOLUNTEERS – Programme

THE TALL SHIPS RACES
Aberdeen 2025
organised by Sail Training International

- Volunteers joined ‘Team Aberdeen’ – a brand that was used successfully throughout the event to generate inclusivity and group pride
- A volunteer welcome event at Pittodrie brought the whole team together to galvanise them in advance of the event
- Dorry the Dolphin became a key part of the event outreach programme and a focus for the volunteer team
- Familiarisation visits to the event site helped volunteers to better understand the event areas and their roles
- A volunteer welfare centre was established for the team’s use throughout the event
- Team Aberdeen kit helped to make the team feel unified, identifiable and fully part of the event
- Reward and recognition included souvenirs, Lord Provost certificates, awards, and a Team Aberdeen Wrap Party on the final day celebrating individual and collective success of the team in delivering the Tall Ships event





VOLUNTEERS – Feedback Survey

THE TALL SHIPS RACES
Aberdeen 2025
organised by Sail Training International

I LOVED being a part of it. It was such an amazing thing for the city and I feel really proud to have played a part of it. I've certainly gained lots of experience from it and learning for other volunteering.

Speaking with visitors from all over the world and local areas. Meeting fellow volunteers and being part of Team Aberdeen. In general, it was a memories for life experience with a terrific team.

It was just so wonderful to be part of the team! To have been selected/ trained/ felt valued and welcomed. An incredible time in my life I will never forget. On the CV now and something I will treasure forever.

I think volunteering at Tall Ships has really helped me to speak more openly and keep more calm at big events like Tall Ships 2025

The highlight was seeing everybody (all ages) so so happy and excited to be at Tall Ships 2025

Great to see a major event organised and hosted in Aberdeen, enjoyed the chance to be part of it.

My confidence has been boosted, I feel that I've done something really worthwhile





Overall volunteer experience rated at 4.4 stars

91% of volunteers thought that there Team Aberdeen kit promoted the event

87% of volunteers felt valued

86% of volunteers felt that they had a tangible impact on the event

THE TALL SHIPS RACES
Aberdeen 2025
organised by Sail Training International

3. EDUCATION

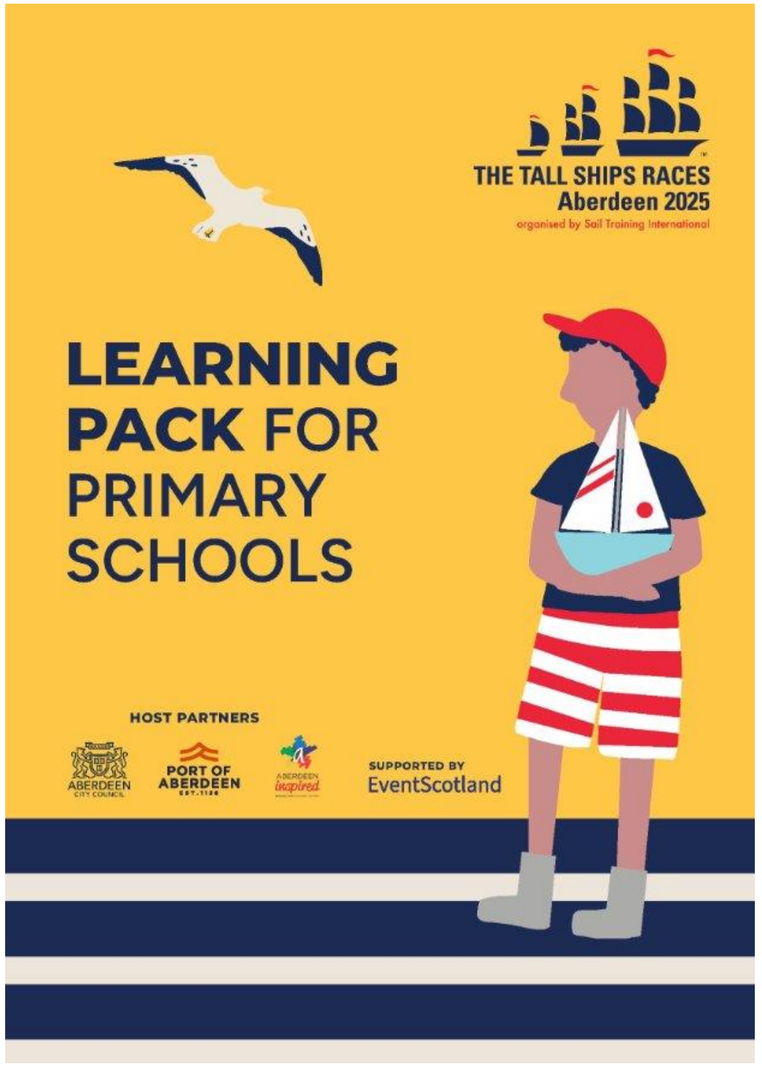


EDUCATION – Learning Packs

THE TALL SHIPS RACES
Aberdeen 2025
organised by Sail Training International

For all Primary Schools in Aberdeen, alongside a condensed version for independent schools and Primary Schools in Aberdeenshire. The packs were a specially developed programme of maritime-related activities related to key themes of the event and meeting curriculum aims around arts, culture and STEM. Activities included:

- History and Significance of Tall Ships
- Life of a Sailor: Navigation, sailing skills and more
- Ships Ahoy! Play based learning ideas
- Maritime Culture and Traditions
- Marine Wildlife
- Water Safety
- Paper Boats Activity
- Activities for sensory learners



EDUCATION – Treasure Boxes

THE TALL SHIPS RACES
Aberdeen 2025
organised by Sail Training International

All city Primary Schools received a treasure chest in April containing materials in support of the Learning Packs with an additional box developed for Orchard Brae.

Materials included fiction and non-fiction books, nautical flag charts, a reproduction map of the Port, educational games, rope for sailing knots, and a Captain's hat!





EDUCATION – Adopt a Ship!

THE TALL SHIPS RACES
Aberdeen 2025
organised by Sail Training International

Every Primary School adopted a Tall Ship from the fleet coming to Aberdeen. This was key to strengthening pupil and family engagement with the event, and fostering the international friendship and understanding so crucial to the aims of the Tall Ships Races.

All Primary Schools chose to adopt a ship and received an Adoption Certificate and Ship Information Sheet. They were encouraged to learn more about the history and crew by connecting with the ship through emails, video or letters. They were also able to follow their ship's location through a marine tracking website. Pupils were encouraged to develop projects and share presentations about their adopted ship with the wider school community.

Engaging directly with Captains and crew members aimed to inspire a future generation of sailors and applicants to the Tall Ships Races.



THE TALL SHIPS RACES
Aberdeen 2025

ADOPT A SHIP

The Adopt a Ship program allows classes to establish a connection with one of the Tall Ships participating in the Aberdeen 2025 races.

HOW IT WORKS:

Step 1 Schools will be entered into the Adopt A Ship Programme and will be matched with a Tall Ship through a number generator.

Step 2 Each school will receive an Adoption Certificate and Ship Information Sheet, including contact details for the ship's captain.

Step 3 Learn more about the history, crew, and journeys through updates from the ship's crew through emails, videos, or letters.

Step 4 Track your ship's journey through the YB tracking website

Step 5 Pupils can develop projects and presentations about their adopted ship to share with the school community.

3

EDUCATION – Anthem & Big Sing!

THE TALL SHIPS RACES
Aberdeen 2025
organised by Sail Training International

The Youth Music Service commissioned an anthem to celebrate the Races returning to Aberdeen. Local emerging composer Clara-Jane Maunder wrote the anthem ‘A Sea Journey’ which focused on feelings of nostalgia and returning home and features prominent city landmarks.

The anthem was first performed by a primary school children’s choir at the Cowdray Hall in March before an audience of 150 people, and received good coverage including a package from STV News. One young singer describing the performance on stage as ‘the happiest moment of my life’!

The anthem was performed again at The Big Sing in Duthie Park in May with over 3000 pupils participating accompanied by a youth orchestra wearing their sailor hats. French schools from Aberdeen’s twin-city Clermont-Ferrand joined the event through videocall and sang together with the children from Aberdeen in a nod to the Tall Ships voyage from Dunkirk.



EDUCATION – Anthem & Big Sing!

THE TALL SHIPS RACES
Aberdeen 2025
organised by Sail Training International











EDUCATION – Art Competition

THE TALL SHIPS RACES
Aberdeen 2025
organised by Sail Training International

This wide-ranging competition to create a Tall Ships artwork had 2490 entries from 34 Primary and 5 Secondary Schools, including Orchard Brae. This is a remarkable number for any city competition and the entries showed the breadth and depth of the programme with many young people drawing or painting their school's adopted ship.

Winning entries for all age groups were displayed on the quayside at the event for thousands of visitors to enjoy.

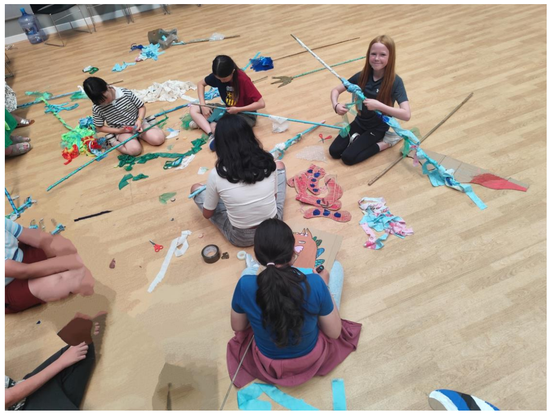




EDUCATION – Creative Learning

THE TALL SHIPS RACES
Aberdeen 2025
organised by Sail Training International

- The Creative Learning Team worked with Aberdeen Young Ambassadors to develop a 3-week ‘Fish n’ Ships’ programme for young people aged 10-15.
- This took place using full-day activities in July, easing the poverty gap for families in need of childcare during the school summer holidays.
- Graduating students from Grays School of Art delivered the creative sessions giving them valuable experience in youth arts programmes.
- The workshops explored maritime heritage and ecology – in particular plastics pollution.
- Outcomes included public engagement around the city swapping artworks for non-recyclable plastics and working from a from a Fish n’ Ships van parked at the beach for the Red Arrows and Parade of Sail.









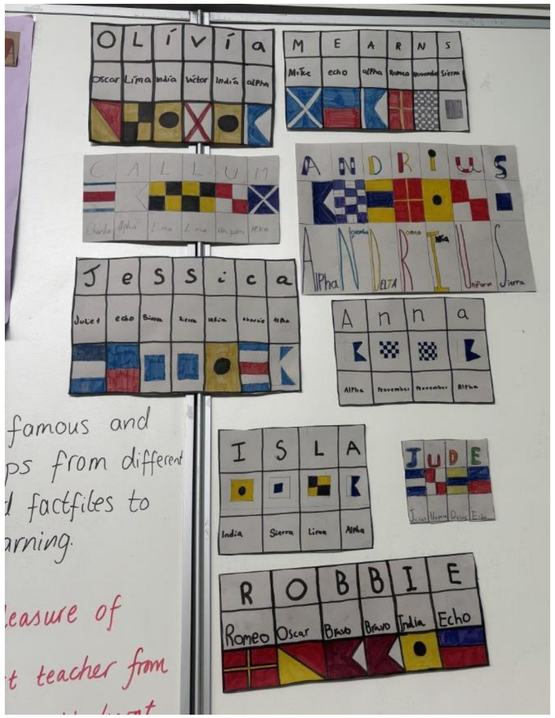
EDUCATION – Engagement Notes

THE TALL SHIPS RACES
Aberdeen 2025
organised by Sail Training International

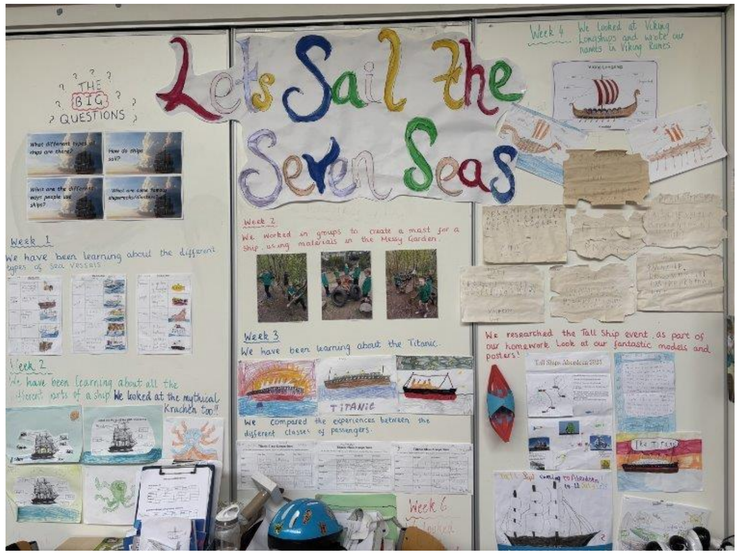
There are too many examples of excellent work to include but they range from a P1 classroom converted into a Tall Ship, to class visits to the Monsters of the Deep exhibition at Aberdeen Art Gallery, to a miniature Tall Ships STEM challenge, wall charts, porthole artwork on paper plates, nautical flag spelling and visits from mascot Dorry.





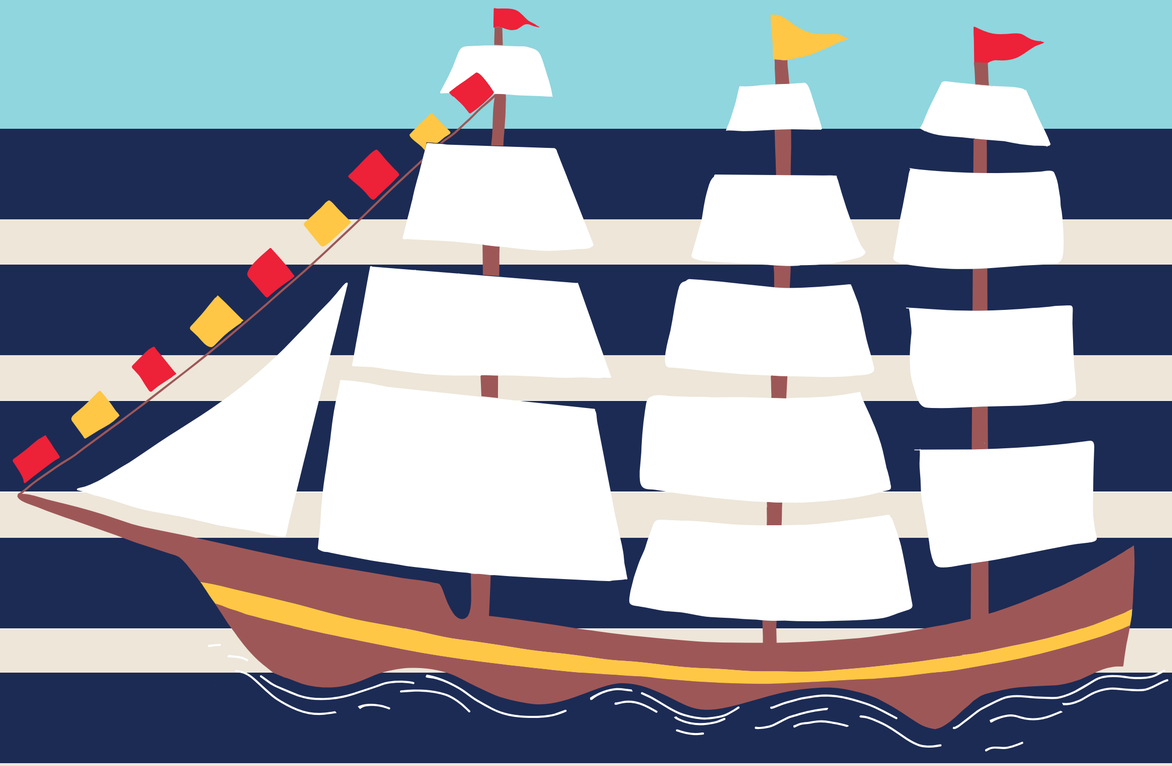






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Aberdeen 2025
organised by Sail Training International

4. DISCOVERY ZONE



DISCOVERY ZONE

THE TALL SHIPS RACES
Aberdeen 2025
organised by Sail Training International

ZONE PARTNERS

- University of Aberdeen
- North East Scotland College
- Skills Development Scotland
- MacDuff Marine Aquarium
- Aberdeen Line 200 Heritage Group
- Aberdeen Science Centre
- Sea Cadets
- Royal National Lifeboat Institution
- Gordon Highlanders Museum
- Aberdeen Archives
- TechFest
- Norco Energy

The Discovery Zone on the Castlegate was a great success for the event and project partners.

It attracted around 60,000 visits to a wide-range of educational activities for families and helped to disperse activity around the event site and bring the tall ships experience into the city centre.

There were additional live performances by groups including Rock Choir, Silver City Singers, Love RaRa, Granite City Brass, a commissioned promenade dance work by City Moves funded by a grant from UK Shared Prosperity Fund, and street performers including mermaids and pirates.



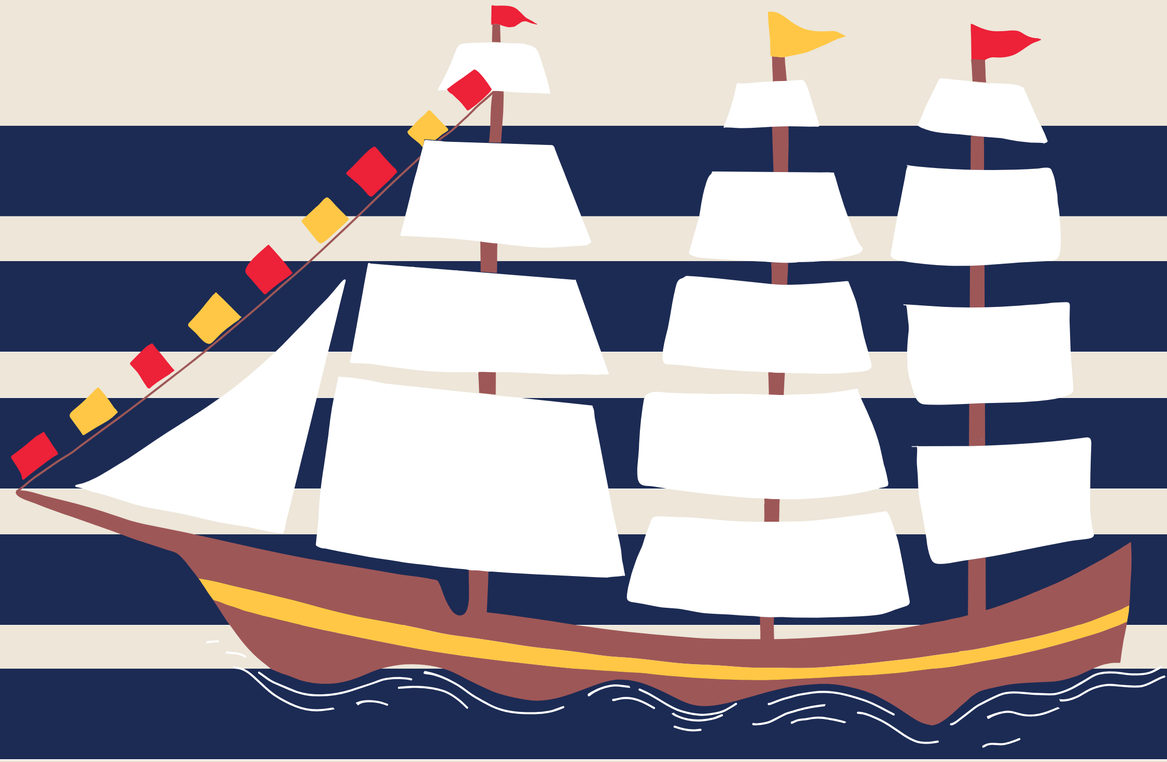
MILITARY VILLAGE– Overview

THE TALL SHIPS RACES
Aberdeen 2025
organised by Sail Training International

- Attendance in Union Terrace Gardens was 26,500.
- Main attraction was the scale model Chinook helicopter from the Royal Air Force
- There were numerous tents from the RAF and other armed forces, with a focus on STEM activity as well as information about careers available within the services.
- Flight Lieutenant George Morris, who co-ordinated the armed services involvement, thanked the team in writing for keeping everything running smoothly, safeguarding the site during the limited protest activity, and the Council for use of the ‘hugely impressive, well situated and useful site’.
- Limited protest was expected and this was dealt with by stewards onsite. The perimeter control of the site made this relatively straightforward, and it was certainly a better location for this activity than the Discovery Zone as originally planned
- The RAF are keen to return to other Aberdeen-based events in future

THE TALL SHIPS RACES
Aberdeen 2025
organised by Sail Training International

5. SPORT & ENTERTAINMENT



CULTURE – Festival of the Sea

THE TALL SHIPS RACES
Aberdeen 2025
organised by Sail Training International

- Festival delivered by city creative partners (see right) and Full Programme, Appendix C
- Opportunity to participate without a direct clash with Tall Ships fleet visit
- Festival co-ordination and central comms activity delivered by Aberdeen City Council and the Art Gallery team with true Team Aberdeen wraparound from partners
- 5 exhibitions and 33 further activities including storytelling, holiday camps, trails, art and creative writing, workshops, dance, theatre and music
- Highlights
  - Monsters of the Deep at Aberdeen Art Gallery
  - Tales of the Tall Ships at Aberdeen Maritime Museum
  - Stepping in Screen: David Cass – Tall Ships Commission at the Music Hall
  - Clan Cancer Support Bookbench Trail feat. 12 Tall Ships Benches funded by UK Shared Prosperity Fund
  - Pirates! by Scottish Dance Theatre at His Majesty's Theatre
  - Coastal Discovery events around Greyhope Bay

Aberdeen Art Gallery
Aberdeen Arts Centre
Aberdeen City Libraries
Aberdeen Maritime Museum
Aberdeen Sports Village
Aberdeen Young Ambassadors
Citymoves Dance Agency
Clan Cancer Support
Deemouth Artist Studios
Fittie Community Development Trust
Greyhope Bay Centre
Harbour Voices Choir
His Majesty's Theatre
Music Hall
Old Aberdeen Library
Open Road
Pushing Out the Boat
Stonehaven Folk Festival
Torry Community Library
University of Aberdeen

FREE DAYTIME PROGRAMME

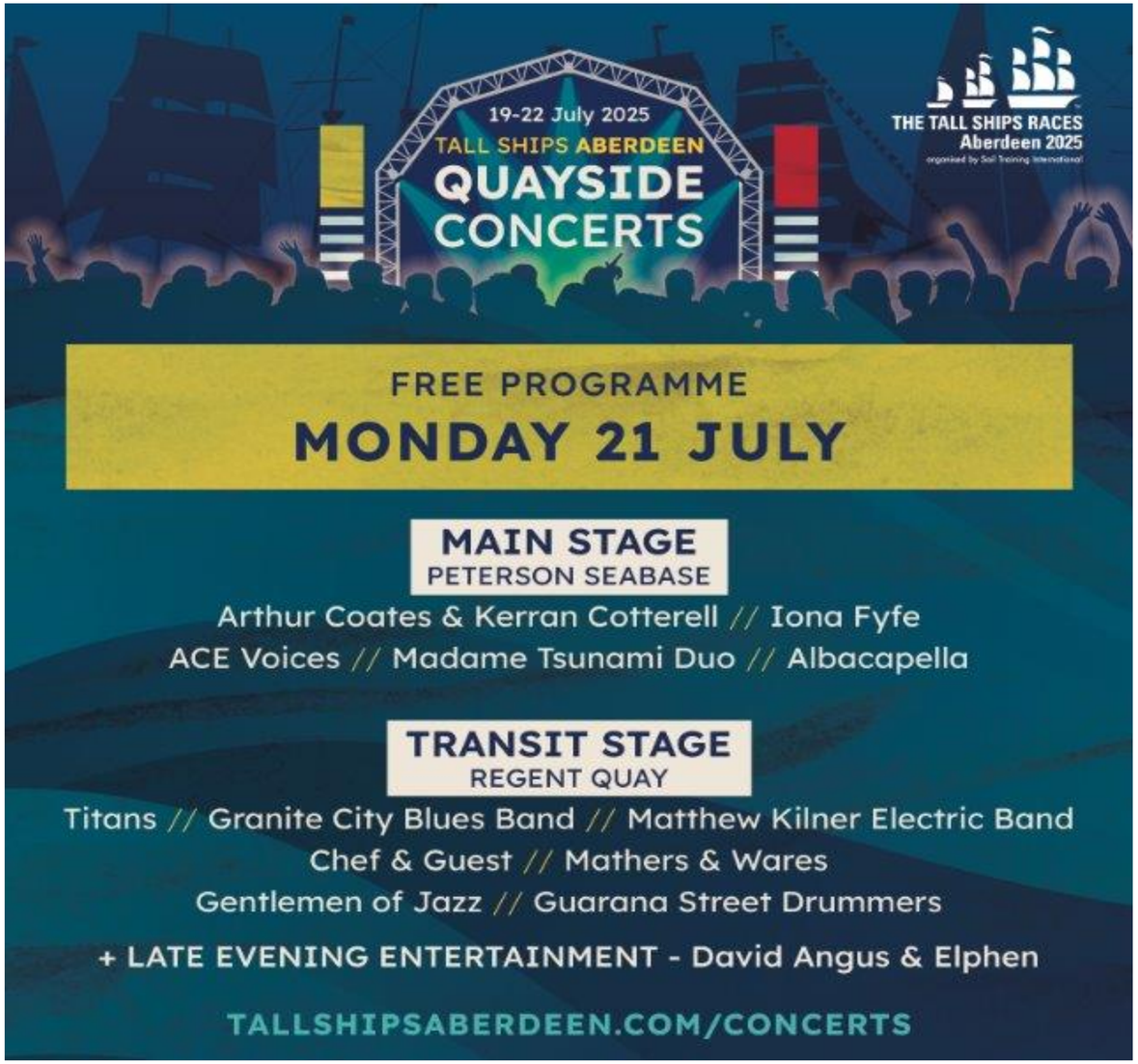
THE TALL SHIPS RACES
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FREE DAYTIME PROGRAMME

THE TALL SHIPS RACES
Aberdeen 2025
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QUAYSIDE CONCERTS - Background

- A large area and mainstage was a contractual requirement of the Tall Ships bid in order to host the crew prizegiving.
- As detailed in the Tall Ships Report in August 2024 REF this resulted in a large cost (approaching £250k) with no income to offset it.
- Permission was granted for Officers to seek major acts, turning the 7000-capacity space into a revenue stream to support the event and reduce costs.
- It was later decided to make the Tidelines gig a £5 minimum donation to the Royal National Lifeboat Institution instead of a paid event.
- Kilimanjaro Live Ltd were secured as booking support agent which resulted in the premium line-up (right)
- Tickets were sold through Ticketmaster, with allocations for Aberdeen Performing Arts and city hotels to encourage overnight stay packages with tickets.



QUAYSIDE CONCERTS - Outcomes

THE TALL SHIPS RACES
Aberdeen 2025
organised by Sail Training International

- All concerts sold out with 22,000 tickets sold
- Direct revenue of £171,000
- £31,000 raised for the Royal National Lifeboat Institution
- Additional income from bars and food concessions at Peterson Seabase
- £20,000 value of sponsor support from Tennents saved bar operating costs
- Ticket sales exceeded music industry expectations as well as national trends for volume and speed
- 300 customers facilitated on the Accessible Viewing Platform which was funded by Event Scotland
- Paid social media advertising had nearly 2m impressions with a unique reach of 600k – growing awareness of the wider event alongside the gig series

Date	Main Act	Support	Ticket Sales
18 July	Deacon Blue	Brook Combe & Little Kicks	6500
19 July	Ministry of Sound Orchestra	Paul Oakenfold & Look Busy Collective	5000
20 July	Tidelines	Calum Bowie	5500
21 July	Kaiser Chiefs	Glasvegas & The Capollos	5000

- Tickets were held in reserve for all crew and trainees to attend the concerts for free
- Fewer were held on Sunday night due to the crew party held at the same time

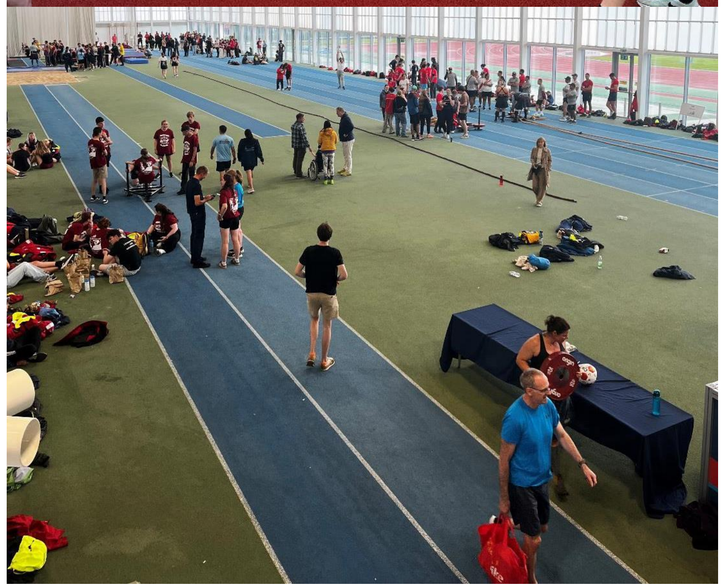
CREW SPORT & CULTURE PROGRAMME

THE TALL SHIPS RACES
Aberdeen 2025
organised by Sail Training International

Tall Ships Aberdeen created an entire programme of events for 1700 international crew to enjoy a taste of Scottish hospitality!

The highlight event: Crew Sports Festival complete with Highland Games, football tournaments and table tennis hosted at Aberdeen Sports Village.





Crew could also enjoy:

- Seabird Safaris
- Pure Gym Group Exercise Classes
- Four Pillars presents LGBTQ+ Maritime History, Crafting, Yoga
- City Centre Walking Tours
- Aberdeen Art Gallery and Aberdeen Maritime Museum Tours
- Martial Arts Classes
- Pilates
- Maritime Careers Presentation, NESCOL
- Peacock Printmaking Studio Tour
- Kiltwear Try On
- ACE Voices Generational Choir Music Session
- Greyhope Bay and Fittie Beach Cleans
- Marine Operations Guided Tour
- Coastal Run by Cosmic Hillbashers
- Celebrating the Home of Norwegian Seafarers for 50 years
- RRS Discovery at the Planetarium, NESCOL

OFFICIAL EVENTS PROGRAMME

THE TALL SHIPS RACES
Aberdeen 2025
organised by Sail Training International

These events are mostly contractual requirements for a Tall Ships Host Port, with the ask that each has a local flavour to give crew the full international experience.

- Ribbon Cutting – featuring a fanfare from the Band of His Majesty's Royal Marines

- Official Opening Ceremony – organised by the Civic Team and including performances from youth groups and community choirs, as well as the Tall Ships Anthem. A real community welcome for the fleet and event visitors.

- Captain's Dinner – held at the Music Hall for all Ship Captains and VIPs, including the His Excellency the Ambassador of Peru, and the mayors of Tall Ships Anchor Ports, Esbjerg and Harlingen alongside representatives from Ports of Lerwick and Antwerp. Guests experienced traditional ceilidh music and dancing and a whisky tasting

- The Crew Parade was a highlight of the official events with the parade taking place from Union Terrace past the Art Gallery, Marischal College and down to Peterson Seabase. It featured the Band of His Majesty's Royal Marines, a pipe band and carnival acts as well as every ship in the fleet.





OFFICIAL EVENTS PROGRAMME

THE TALL SHIPS RACES
Aberdeen 2025
organised by Sail Training International

- Townhouse Reception – organised by the Civic Team this saw VIPs invited to the Town House to view the Crew Parade. It included the Lord Lieutenants as well as representatives from the armed forces, Sea Cadets and Royal Marines.

- Prize Giving – an exuberant celebration of the Races and individual ship achievements and an opportunity for all of the vessels in the fleet to celebrate each others success. This took place on the main stage in Peterson Seabase, featured a live DJ and was compered by local media personality Lauren Mitchell

- Crew Party – held in the two transit sheds on Regent Quay this was a chance for the crews to relax and socialise after a long day with Crew Sports, Parade and Prize Giving. It featured Scottish food and drink on the quayside, traditional ceilidh music and dance from Laura Harrington and Friends, in Shed 1 as well as DJ sets and entertainment from Bongo's Bingo in Shed 2.

- The Red Arrows – not a contractual event, but an added spectacle for the city. Sadly the display was cut short due to adverse weather, but the crowds enjoyed a little of the excitement nonetheless.





OFFICIAL EVENTS PROGRAMME

THE TALL SHIPS RACES
Aberdeen 2025
organised by Sail Training International

- Host Port Seminar – one Port each year hosts this full day workshop series for past, present and future Host Ports organised by the team from Sail Training International. Project organisers were asked to speak alongside sessions from STI. Held in the Cowdray Hall, this was a great opportunity for Aberdeen to show off the city and event organisation to international ports and organisers from across Europe and even Nova Scotia.

- Parade of Sail – the city turned out to bid a fine farewell to the fleet as they left Aberdeen for Kristiansand, or went on elsewhere. The spectacle was enjoyed by over 100,000 people with ships getting under sail once clear of the harbour.

- Blessing of the Sails – orgnised by the Civic team the blessing involved a variety of faiths and organisations from across the city. We know from Sail Training International that this was appreciated by the ships as they departed.



THE TALL SHIPS RACES
Aberdeen 2025
organised by Sail Training International



DISCOVER MORE...

TALLSHIPSABERDEEN.COM

HOST PARTNERS

PORT OF ABERDEEN
EST. 1136

ABERDEEN inspired
BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

SUPPORTED BY

EventScotland

Funded by UK Government

FESTIVAL OF THE SEA

ABERDEEN 12-27 JULY 2025

Ahoy Aberdeen! The Tall Ships are on the horizon and the city's getting ready to celebrate with a whole raft of maritime-themed activities either side of the big weekend - and you're invited! From sports camps to singing and storytelling, dancing to sea dragons and coastal discovery tours, and from creative writing to watercolour workshops, there's something for all ages and interests to enjoy either side of the Tall Ships weekend.



ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

WHATS ON - AT A GLANCE



Aberdeen Art Gallery


Aberdeen Arts Centre: Sky and Sea

Exhibitions

Until 26 July	Exhibition	Stepping in Screen: David Cass – Tall Ships commission	Free	All ages	Music Hall
14–24 July 10:00–16:00	Exhibition	University of Aberdeen: Explore the Zoology Museum	Free	All ages	Zoology Museum
Until 26 October	Exhibition	Monsters of the Deep	£10 adults / £7 Friends of AAGM and concessions / £14 exhibition pass / under 12s free	All ages	Aberdeen Art Gallery
Until 11 January	Exhibition	From the Archive: Aberdeen Harbour	Free	All ages	Aberdeen Art Gallery
Until 29 March	Exhibition	Tales of the Tall Ships	Free	All ages	Aberdeen Maritime Museum

Events

Until 15 August	Holiday Camp	Holiday sports camps and family swim sessions	Various	Camps: Ages 5–4 Family : all ages	Aberdeen Sports Village
Until 23 August	Storytelling	Aberdeen Reads challenge	Free	All ages	Aberdeen City Libraries

30 June–26 August	Trail	Clan Cancer Support BookBench trail	Free	All ages	City Wide
7–18 July	Holiday Camp	Creative Camp: Sky and Sea	£40 per day / £150 per week	Ages 5-11	Aberdeen Arts Centre
10–13 July	Music	Stonehaven Folk Festival	Free and paid events	All ages	Stonehaven Town Hall
Sat 12 July 11:00–13:00	Workshop	University of Aberdeen Collections: Map making	Free	All ages	Sir Duncan Rice Library
Sat 12, Sun 13 July various times	Theatre	Sea Dragon	£8 per child	Families	Aberdeen Art Gallery (Cowdray Hall)
Mon 14 July 18:30–20:30	Workshop	Creative writing: Aberdeen Harbour	£15	Ages 16+	Fittie Community Hall
Tue 15 July 10:00–12:00	Talk	Sailing the fully rigged ship Sørlandet	Free	All ages	Greyhope Bay Centre
Tue 15 July 14:00–16:30	Workshop	Watercolour seascapes for beginners with Emma Louise Wilson	£28	Adults	Greyhope Bay Centre
Wed 16 July 12:30–13:15	Talk	Lunchtime talk: Cool stories of exploration and discovery	Pay what you can	All ages	Aberdeen Maritime Museum
Wed 16 July 18:30–20:00	Music	Harbour Voices choir	Free	All ages	Fittie Community Hall
Thu 17 July 18:00–20:00	Workshop	Seaweed printing on textiles	£20	Families with children aged 5+	Fittie Community Hall
Thu 17 July 19:00–20:00	Talk	Viktor Wynd and the Museum of Curiosities	£10 adults / £7 concessions	All ages	Aberdeen Art Gallery (Cowdray Hall)
Sat 19 July 10:00–16:00	Arts and Crafts	Fittie arts and crafts fair	Free	All ages	Fittie Community Hall
Sat 19 July 18:00–21:00	Workshop	Watercolour seascapes for beginners with Emma Louise Wilson	£28	Adults	Greyhope Bay Centre
Sat 19 July 10:30–11:00	Storytelling	Bookbug - Tall Ships in Aberdeen	Free, booking essential	Under 5s and their families	Old Aberdeen Library


Greyhope Bay: Watercolour Seascapes


Greyhope Bay: Coastal Discovery Beachcombing

Sat 19, Sun 20 July 14:00 & 19:00	Theatre	Scottish Dance Theatre: Pirates!	£17.50 - £12.50	Ages 7-12 and their families	His Majesty's Theatre
Sun 20 July 14:00–16:00	Storytelling	The power of the sea: Stories and poems from Pushing Out the Boat magazine	Entry by donation	Adults and young people 11+	The Blue Lamp
Mon 21 July	Dance	My Friend Selkie: Performances from What moves you / Citymoves Dance Agency	Free	All ages	Street Performance
Mon 21 July 10:00–16:00	Outdoors	Coastal discovery day	Free	All ages	Greyhope Bay Centre
Mon 21 July 13:00–14:30	Outdoors	Coastal bird walk	£10 adult / £5 child	All ages	Greyhope Bay Centre
Mon 21 July 15:00–16:30	Outdoors	Coastal discovery beachcombing	£6 adult / £4 child	All ages	Greyhope Bay Centre
Mon 21–Fri 25 July	Holiday Camp	Creatures of the Deep youth summer camp	£40 per day / £175 per week	Ages 5 – 12	Citymoves Dance Agency
Tue 22 July 18:00–19:00	Talk	Sea monsters on medieval and renaissance maps with Chet Van Duzer	Free	All ages	Online
Wed 23 July 18:30–20:00	Music	Harbour Voices choir	Free	All ages	Fittie Community Hall

WHATS ON - AT A GLANCE



My Friend Selkie performances from What Moves You



Fittie Arts and Crafts Fair

Wed 23–Sun 27 July	Arts and Crafts	Deemouth Artist Studios workshop weekender	From £35	Adults	Deemouth Business Centre
Thu 24 July 14:15–14:45	Storytelling	Bookbug – Tall Ships in Aberdeen	Free	Under 5s and their families	Torry Library
Thu 24 July 18:00–21:00	Workshop	Watercolours of Fittie and the sea	£20	Ages 16+	Fittie Community Hall
Fri 25 July 11:00–12:30	Wellbeing	Memories Scotland – Tall Ships in Aberdeen	Free, booking essential	Adults	Torry Library
Sat 26 July 18:00–20:30	Workshop	Rocks and ripples in watercolour: A coastal art-geology workshop	£28	Adults	Greyhope Bay Centre
Sat 26 July 19:00–20:30	Music	Joss Cameron: The sea salt shore	£10 adult / £8 under 18s	Ages 8+	Fittie Community Hall

Opportunities

Applications open 12 July **Deadline 10 August**	Arts and Crafts	Artist Opportunity: Aberdeen Archives, Gallery & Museums micro-commissions	Free	Adults	Online submission aagm.co.uk

ADDRESSES

Aberdeen Art Gallery Schoolhill, Aberdeen AB10 1FQ

Aberdeen Arts Centre 33 King Street, Aberdeen AB24 5AA

Aberdeen Maritime Museum Shiprow, Aberdeen AB11 5BY

Aberdeen Sports Village Linksfield Road, Aberdeen AB24 5RU

Citymoves Dance Agency c/o The Anatomy Rooms, Shoe Lane, Aberdeen AB10 1AL

Deemouth Business Centre South Esplanade East, Torry, Aberdeen AB11 9PB

Fittie Community Hall New Pier Road, Fittie AB11 5DR

Greyhope Bay Centre Torry Battery, Greyhope Road, Aberdeen AB11 8QX

His Majesty's Theatre Rosemount Viaduct, Aberdeen AB25 1GL

Old Aberdeen Library Sir Duncan Rice Library, The University of Aberdeen, Bedford Road, Aberdeen AB24 3AA

Music Hall Union Street, Aberdeen AB10 1QS

Sir Duncan Rice Library The University of Aberdeen, Bedford Road, Aberdeen AB24 3AA

Stonehaven Town Hall Allardice Street, Stonehaven AB39 2BU

The Blue Lamp 121 Gallowgate, Aberdeen AB25 1BU

Torry Library Greyhope Community Hub, Tullos Circle, Torry, Aberdeen AB11 8HD

Zoology Museum The University of Aberdeen, Zoology Building, Tillydrone Avenue, Aberdeen AB24 2TZ

For full details and to book visit
www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/festivalofthesea

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Finance and Resources
DATE	5th November 2025
EXEMPT	No, but the Appendix C is exempt under paragraph 6 of schedule 7A to the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 - information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (other than the authority)
CONFIDENTIAL	No
REPORT TITLE	World Rally Championship Bid
REPORT NUMBER	CR&E/25/252
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	David Dunne
CHIEF OFFICER	Julie Wood
REPORT AUTHOR	Matthew Williams
TERMS OF REFERENCE	3.2

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To update members on the progress and next steps on a Partnership bid to host the World Rally Championship (WRC) and to seek approval to enter a Memorandum of Understanding with Motorsport UK.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

That the Committee:

2.1 Notes the support for the North East of Scotland to host the World Rally Championships (WRC) by regional partners and Tourism Levy development partners, and the associated benefits. Appendix A;

2.2 Notes the competitive bidding process and timeline partners are following to apply to host this event in the North East of Scotland;

2.3 Agrees that Aberdeen City Council will contribute to the costs outlined by Motorsport UK for three Councils at £3M over three years, with the intention that Aberdeen City's share will be reimbursed by the Visitor Levy;

2.4 Instructs the Chief Officer – City Development & Regeneration to enter a Memorandum of Understanding with Motorsport UK, Appendix B, which will allow Motorsport UK to submit an application to host the World Rally Championships in Aberdeen City Boundaries; and

2.5 Should the bid be successful, instruct Chief Officer – City Development & Regeneration to provide an update on planning proposals and council governance at a future Finance and Resources committee.

3. CURRENT SITUATION

3.1 The FIA World Rally Championship (WRC) is a globally recognised motorsport series. Motorsport UK, in partnership with EventScotland and the WRC Promoter, has identified the North East of Scotland as a preferred host location for a UK round of the WRC for an initial three-year period (2027–2029). The event would be headquartered at P&J Live in Aberdeen, with stages across Aberdeen, Aberdeenshire, and Moray.

3.2 A competitive bidding process is underway, with partners working to a strict timeline to submit a comprehensive application to the WRC Promoter and FIA. Securing Scotland's inclusion on the WRC calendar is subject to a sustainable business model, robust partnership, and demonstration of regional and national support.

3.3 In order to submit a bid, Motorsport UK are seeking the agreement of funding and support from all partners in the form of a Memorandum of Understanding. Aberdeenshire Council, Moray Council and the Scottish Government have also been approached for funding and are considering the opportunity. The Scottish Government recognises that Local Authority funding would be contingent on Scottish Government funding being agreed.

3.4 **Timeline:**

- Aberdeen City Council Committee: 5th November 2025
- Aberdeenshire Committee: 20th November 2025
- Moray Committee: 6th November 2025
- Scottish Government: November 2025
- Motorsport UK Board: 25th November 2025
- Submission of bid: Nov/Dec 2025
- Decision by WRC Promoter/FIA: Expected early 2026
- Event delivery: 2027–2029

3.5 **Roles and Responsibilities:**

- Motorsport UK: Lead organiser, responsible for event delivery, safety, finances sponsorship, and compliance.
- Aberdeen City Council and Partners**:** Provide financial support (up to the agreed amount), infrastructure, communications, community engagement, and access to public assets.

3.6 The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) (Appendix B) sets out the anticipated expectations for Aberdeen City Council. Spanning across Council Clusters Services, officers have had the opportunity to comment on

deliverability and resource. Learning has also been taken from the recently completed Tall Ships 2025.

	MOU	Response
3.7	The three local authorities to contribute £3,000,000 plus inflation to the events budget to secure the event for three years	Should committee agree Aberdeen City's contribution, it is intended that this will be paid back from the Visitor Levy. This proposal has received support from the Visitor Levy Development Group Partners recognising the need to bid years in advance for major events.
3.8	Support in developing and amplification of annual communications plans around the event and its core themes	This would be led by Motorsport UK. ACC role along with City partners would be to promote the comms on existing channels and partnerships. ACC partners, businesses and key media outlets would be invited to support communications in the form of a city wide- communications working group.
3.9	Support in socialisation of the event to local communities and communication of event details and benefits that the event offers residents and local businesses including any community consultations	This would be led by Motorsport UK. ACC role along with City partners would be to embed WRC into existing and planned consultations with communities and to socialise and gain support/sign post communities into the event through existing forums and groups.
3.10	Support liaison with authorities in communication and co-ordination with the local councils, police, safety, emergency services throughout the planning process.	This would be led by Motorsport UK and additional costs would be covered by Motorsport UK. ACC role would be to attend as a category one responder – offering support and learning to the planning process.
3.11	Co-ordination with roads authorities on traffic management strategies, signage, parking plans, and coordinating with highway agencies and the lifting of any road works around the event geographies to facilitate ease of access for event traffic, including competitors, officials and spectators	This would be led by Motorsport UK and additional costs would be covered by Motorsport UK. ACC role would be to attend as a Roads authority and support in the planning and coordination including any requirements for additional bus provision and Park and Ride. ACC will support with applications to existing or new funding streams for example sustainable transport, from Bus Priority Lane Funding.
3.12	Support with social impact and EDI projects to inspire communities	It is anticipated that external funding would be sought for communities to bid into to support the event. Recent success includes UKSPF for this type of event. Education and

		employability teams along with partners, including local businesses would be required to maximise engagement with STEM activities. This is additional activity and not core to event delivery.
3.13	Support with infrastructure for crowd control: With thousands of spectators expected, local police and other authorities are vital for managing crowds and traffic. This can include directing traffic, providing security, and enforcing rules in spectator areas	This would be led by Motorsport UK with assistance from City Events and oversight from Emergency Planning and multi-agency partners. Additional costs for stewards would be covered by Motorsport UK. ACC would support the call-out for volunteers where appropriate. This would involve the Safety Advisory Group
3.14	Access to publicly owned spaces and facilities required in execution of the event or venues including event infrastructure	This would be facilitated by City Events in line with other events. It would involve resource from Roads team, street cleansing, etc, as appropriate.

3.15 The financial ask from Motorsport UK from the Council over three years will be between £1.2m and £1.5m depending on the final agreement, there is a direct ask of staff time to contribute to working groups. These working groups will develop opportunities arising from the event to maximise benefits to the city. As, Motorsport UK are the lead organiser of the event, plus the delivery will be in-venue at P&J Live for much of the programme, this would be less resource intensive than, for example, Tall Ships.

3.16 An initial workshop with relevant council teams explored the resources needed at this stage, and it was agreed that resource support could be offered to working groups to develop proposals, alongside the employment of a project team to oversee the event for three years. Noting the opportunity to accelerate many of the city's strategic objectives, and local outcomes, officers and partners would seek opportunities to embed WRC planning into delivery plans to maximise impact and seek external funding and sponsorship opportunities to maximise benefits of hosting the WRC in this region. The total cost additional activities and staffing would be in the region of £700,000 over three years.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The indicative ask is £1 million per year for three years, shared between Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire, and Moray Councils. This share may not be equal but dependent on the weighting of economic benefit to each Council from hosting the event. The preferred funding mechanism is the Visitor Levy, but Aberdeen City Council may need to underwrite the contribution if revenues are insufficient or delayed. Cost-sharing by partner councils is a condition of underwriting.

4.2 External funding and sponsorship will be sought for maximising community involvement.

4.3 Staff resource should align to delivering existing strategic objectives and outcomes for the city residents as outlined in Section 8 below.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 This Memorandum of Understanding ("MoU") sets out the mutual intentions of Motorsport UK with Aberdeen City Council to collaborate on a bid to host the World Rally Championship. It is a statement of intent and does not create legally binding obligations.

6. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The event racing vehicles will use sustainable fuels (P1 Fuel) and promote low-emission technologies, aligning with Aberdeen's Net Zero Route map. A carbon planning framework will be implemented, and environmental assessments will be undertaken.

6.2 The event should be used to promote Aberdeen as a world energy leader and showcase the cities leading sustainability projects and infrastructure.

6.3 The city could create the opportunity for a renewable fuels conference or similar to highlight existing hydrogen projects in addition to research and development in other areas, such as hydrogen-powered generators for events.

7. 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?
Strategic Risk	Formal approval to submit bid required across all 3 councils and partners is required to proceed.	Formal meetings have been positive, agreed timelines for seeking approval, continued regular partner meetings. However, this is still subject to agreement from all partners committees and board by a Dec deadline.	H	**Yes**
Compliance	Event does not adhere to Council guidelines /risk appetite	Officers will attend working groups and share best practice. All statutory and compulsory legislation will be adhered to.	L	**Yes**
Operational	Complex logistics, multi-location event	Experienced partners, event frameworks	L	**Yes**

Financial	Funding shortfall if Visitor Levy delayed	Underwriting, phased agreements,	M	**Yes**
Reputational	ACC is not leading deliver of event	Experienced teams with proven track record delivering event.	L	**Yes**
Environment / Climate	Misinformation is perceived as a negative.	Opportunity to showcase sustainable fuels, transport models and Aberdeen's clean energy mix as well as driving forward campaign and environmental/climate messaging	L	**Yes**

8. OUTCOMES

COUNCIL DELIVERY PLAN 2025-26	
	Impact of Report
Aberdeen City Council Policy Statement **Working in Partnership for Aberdeen**	**Partnership Working** Multi-agency stakeholder group, broad consultation, shared delivery. **Community Engagement & Empowerment**, Volunteering, STEM, diversity, co-design, local legacy **Economic Growth & Sustainability** €100m impact, tourism, jobs, Net Zero, sustainable fuels **Maximising Resources & Best Value, Underwriting**, diversified funding, cost-sharing, multi-year model **Innovation & Continuous Improvement** STEM, skills, legacy, robust governance, outcome measurement
Local Outcome Improvement Plan	
Prosperous People Stretch Outcomes	4.4 Increase by 5% the number of S1-S6 pupils who report that they feel confident by 2025. 6.4 Increase the percentage of learners entering a positive and sustained destination to be ahead of the Virtual Comparator for all groups by 2025 -Deliver accredited training and upskilling for volunteers. - Provides STEM outreach and education programmes for schools and colleges. - Partners with Scottish Action for Mental Health (SAMH) for wellbeing initiatives. - Implements diversity and inclusion programmes (Girls on Track, Race for Diversity).

Prosperous Place Stretch Outcomes	14.3 Reduce car kms by 5% by 2026 Provision of effective public transport to/from event sites and promote walkability of P&J Live to/from Aberdeen Airport and local hotels
Community Empowerment Stretch Outcomes	15.1 Increase to 65% the proportion of people who feel they can regularly experience good quality natural space by 2026 - Major parts of the event will take place outdoors in Aberdeenshire, with local people expected to spend time in those woodland areas and green spaces.
Regional and City Strategies	**Regional Economic Strategy** The feasibility study demonstrates strong alignment with the Regional Economic Strategy by projecting over €100 million in economic impact for the North East, attracting international investment, and creating jobs in tourism, hospitality, event management, and supply chain sectors. The event supports Aberdeen's designation as an Investment Zone and major events hosting, driving economic transformation and diversification for the region. **References:** Executive Summary (p.9), Economic Impact (p.49), Investment Zone (p.50), Stakeholder Support (p.10), Recommendation (p.13) Regional Transport Strategy WRC Rally Scotland leverages Aberdeen's transport infrastructure, including P&J Live and regional connectivity, and requires coordination with local transport providers. The event promotes sustainable travel, improves accessibility for visitors and residents, and shows how major events can be integrated into regional transport planning, supporting the aims of the Regional Transport Strategy. **References:** Event Operations (p.28–31), Central Hub & Event Layout (p.30), Transport & Logistics (p.54)

	Regional Skills Strategy The feasibility study supports the Regional Skills Strategy by delivering accredited training and upskilling for volunteers, providing STEM outreach and education programmes for schools and colleges, and creating a legacy of expertise for future events. These activities contribute to workforce development and skills enhancement across the region. **References:** Skills Development and Legacy (p.37), STEM Showcase (p.24–25), Education Programme (p.44) Local Development Plan The event invests in local infrastructure, venues, and environmental legacy projects, supporting sustainable development and enhancing Aberdeen's appeal as a vibrant, attractive city. By improving public assets and promoting regeneration, the WRC aligns with the ambitions of the Local Development Plan. **References:** Legacy Infrastructure (p.43), Event Operations (p.28–31), P&J Live Venue (p.31) Local Housing Strategy By attracting international visitors and investment, WRC Rally Scotland can stimulate demand for housing and regeneration, supporting the city's goals for inward investment and sustainable growth. The event's economic impact and legacy infrastructure contribute to the wider housing strategy. **References:** Economic Impact (p.49–50), Investment Zone (p.50) Children's Services Plan The feasibility study includes optional STEM outreach and education programmes, partnerships with schools, and initiatives to inspire young people to pursue careers in engineering, digital media, and event management. These activities could support positive destinations for children and young people, in line with the Children's Services Plan.

	References: STEM Showcase (p.24–25), Education Programme (p.44), Diversity & Inclusion (p.46–47) Net Zero Routemap for the City WRC Rally Scotland showcases Aberdeen's Net Zero ambitions and sustainable event practices, implements a carbon planning framework, promotes sustainable fuels, and achieves FIA Three-Star Environmental Accreditation. The event's environmental commitments directly support the Net Zero Routemap for the City. **References:** Sustainability Leadership (p.9, p.26), Environmental Sustainability (p.32, p.42–43), Net Zero (p.26) Medium Term Financial Strategy Motorsport UK will underwrite the event, protecting public funds and ensuring financial security. The funding model is diversified, with revenue from sponsorship, ticket sales, and host support, reducing reliance on council budgets. Multi-year agreements and cost-sharing across partners support best value and financial sustainability, in line with the Medium-Term Financial Strategy. **References:** Financial Security (p.10, p.52–54), Funding Model (p.13–14), Financial Assessment (p.52–54) Estates and Assets Strategy The event maximises use of existing public assets (e.g., P&J Live, roads, venues), demonstrates flexible, multi-use asset planning, and supports the Council's ambition to optimise estate use for economic and social return. The legacy infrastructure and venue improvements align with the Estates and Assets Strategy. **References:** Event Operations (p.28–31), P&J Live Venue (p.31), Legacy Infrastructure (p.43)

9. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Assessment	Outcome
Integrated Impact Assessment	New Integrated Impact Assessment has been completed.
Data Protection Impact Assessment	Required
Other	

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

10.1 6 August 2025 - Finance and Resources Committee Report:- Opportunity To Host The World Rally Championships In North East Scotland - CR&E/25/184

11. APPENDICES

11.1 Appendix A: Partner Support
Appendix B: Memorandum of Understanding
Appendix C; **Exempt** Feasibility Study

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12. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

Name	Matthew Williams
Title	Service Manager – Commercial
Email Address	matwilliams@aberdeencity.gov.uk

Contact: **Graeme Dale**
Email: grdale@sportaberdeen.co.uk
Phone: 01224 047929

sport aberdeen
Charity no SC040973

Date: 22nd October 2025

Sport Aberdeen
4th Floor, The Bridge
Kings Way
Bridge of Don
Aberdeen
AB23 8BL
01224 507744
www.sportaberdeen.co.uk

To Whom It May Concern

REF: Letter of Support – FIA World Rally Championships

I am writing on behalf of Sport Aberdeen to express it's strong support for Aberdeen City Council's bid to host the FIA World Rally Championship in 2027, 2028 and 2029.

The FIA Rally Championships represents an important opportunity to bring thousands of visitors to the city, raise the profile of Aberdeen through national and internation media coverage and increase the city's standing as a place to host major events. Sport Aberdeen is pleased to endorse this application due to the benefits and opportunities that it would undoubtable bring to the city.

Whilst there are other examples, the success of the Tall Ships highlights not only the economic and cultural impact that these types of events can bring but also the city's ability to successful organise and host high profile events. The FIA World Rally Championships would undoubtable be another one of these.

The use of the new Visitor Levy is an ideal method to provide the funding required to secure the event as the aim of this fund and the outcomes generated by hosting the FIA World Rally Championships are in alignment. Sport Aberdeen is supportive of this funding being used for this type of event.

I sincerely hope that you will give the application to host this event for the 3-year period your full consideration.

Yours sincerely



Graeme Dale
Director of Sport & Active Communities

Sport Aberdeen is a company limited by guarantee, registered in Scotland (company number SC350981) and a registered charity regulated by the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (charity number SC040973). Registered office: Stronachs LLP, 28 Albyn Place, Aberdeen, AB10 1YL.

Aberdeen & Grampian Chamber of Commerce

The Hub
Exploration Drive
Aberdeen Energy Park
Bridge of Don
Aberdeen
AB23 8GX

T 01224 343900
E info@agcc.co.uk
www.agcc.co.uk

Finance & Resources Committee
Aberdeen City Council

15th October 2025

Aberdeen's bid to host the FIA World Rally Championship 2027-2029 - Letter of support

I am writing to you in my capacity as Chief Executive at Aberdeen & Grampian Chamber of Commerce (AGCC).

AGCC is Scotland's largest Chamber representing around 1,300 organisations in the North-east of Scotland region collectively employing over 100,000 people and we are recognised as one of the most active and influential Chambers in the UK. We get things done.

We sit at the heart of 'Team Aberdeen', are a co-author and key delivery partner of the Regional Economic Strategy which, in the last ten years, has made significant progress with supporting key growth sectors to diversify the economy. One of these being tourism.

A hotbed for business and corporate visitors for fifty years, a key part of the sector diversification strategy over the last decade has been putting this part of the world firmly back on the leisure tourism map.

Our destination management organisation VisitAberdeenshire has overseen remarkable growth and recent analysis of tourism data has highlighted that the economic impact of tourism in Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire increased year-on-year to £1.27billion in 2024. Driven by 3.7 million visitors staying overnight in 2024 and further boosted by 2.59 million day visits with our guests experiencing the region's quality tourism and hospitality products and experiences.

As well as our facilities, coastline, countryside, unique architecture, castles, golf courses, museums, art galleries visitor attractions and more, our tourism product is underpinned by a fantastic culture, festivals, events and hospitality offer.

World class events here in the recent past include BBC Sports Personality of the Year together with the Grand Depart and final stage of the Tour of Britain cycling. This year we hosted Europe's largest free event, the Tall Ships Race with hundreds of thousands of visitors enjoying the city at its best.

All of this in turn helps make Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire attractive places to live and work, helping us retain and attract the very best talent here.

Myth would have it that the Aberdeen region is 'far away' and 'difficult to reach'. Not true of course! Our International Airport services 31-36 flights to and from UK cities daily plus a further 12-14 per day to European destinations. This includes connecting hubs like London, Dublin, Amsterdam, Manchester and Copenhagen meaning Aberdeen is one stop from almost anywhere in the world.

Registered in Scotland as a company limited by Guarantee
Registration number SCO 000 791
VAT Number 265 3165 59
Registered Office: The Hub, Exploration Drive, Aberdeen Energy Park, Bridge of Don, Aberdeen, AB23 8GX

And once in the UK, there are hourly trains from and to Glasgow and Edinburgh enabling visitors to be in Aberdeen in around two and a half hours via some of the most stunning scenery on any rail journey in the country as well as direct services from London, Newcastle and Leeds.

The newly completed £420m South Harbour enables our city to host the largest cruise and commercial vessels in the world. It is the largest new build port in the UK for over a century.

With more than 7,000 modern, traditional and luxury hotel bedrooms, the city's accommodation provision is the envy of many, making Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire one of the best and most hospitable destinations for leisure visitors and conference delegates in the UK.

High-end accommodation can provide an unforgettable experience in castles, country houses and boutique urban hotels. While, for delegates on a restricted budget, there is a wealth of affordable guest houses and quality budget hotels – all offering excellent facilities and warm, local hospitality.

Based on product, value for money and available capacity, Scotland's national tourist organisation Visit Scotland now sees the North-east as being the region that will drive future growth.

Having a major global media and live spectator event like the WRC in the region for a three year period will help turn this ambition into reality. It will bring tens of thousands of national and international overnight visitors here, supporting the city's transport hubs, accommodation, hospitality, retail and attractions businesses. And it will introduce millions of viewers from around the world to our region as a 'must visit' destination.

For all these reasons, we believe that Aberdeen should proceed with its bid to host the FIA World Rally Championships. This would be a highly appropriate early use of funding from the Visitor Levy to provide the necessary subvention and signal how, used well, the Levy can be a force for good.

Yours sincerely,

Russell Borthwick
Chief Executive
Aberdeen and Grampian Chamber of Commerce

Registered in Scotland as a company limited by Guarantee
Registration number SCO 000 791
VAT Number 265 3165 59
Registered Office: The Hub, Exploration Drive, Aberdeen Energy Park, Bridge of Don, Aberdeen, AB23 8GX

20th October 2025

ABERDEEN BUSINESS SCHOOL
Robert Gordon University
Garthdee Road
Aberdeen
AB10 7QE
United Kingdom
Tel: 01224 263800

To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of Aberdeen Business School at Robert Gordon University (RGU), we are writing to offer our strong support for Aberdeen City Council's bid to host a stage of the FIA World Rally Championship.
As a vocationally focused University, we recognise the potential that hosting an international event would have on developing the attractiveness of Aberdeen City for our student community.

Our Event Management and International Tourism Management programmes are designed to prepare students to contribute meaningfully to the events and tourism economies at all levels; national, regional and international. The FIA World Rally Championship being held in Aberdeen would offer a real-world learning platform for students to engage directly with a major international event. These opportunities would link to the vocational focus of our school and course in applied learning such as volunteering, research, internships, and live project work. It would allow students to witness first-hand the complexities of staging a world-class event, including areas such as operations, sustainability, stakeholder engagement, marketing, and community impact.

Furthermore, this event aligns with the university's broader strategic aim of enhancing our positioning as a university within a dynamic, visitor friendly and eventful destination. This rally has the potential at industry level to stimulate the hospitality and tourism sectors and inspire the next generation of event professionals emerging from our programmes.

As an institution committed to civic engagement and industry collaboration, RGU would welcome the opportunity to support the planning and delivery of the event through academic expertise, student involvement, and strategic partnership.
Yours sincerely,

Dr Jo Royle
Dean, Aberdeen Business School

K.Goldie

Katie Goldie
Course Leader, BA (Hons) Events Management
On behalf of Craig Leith, Principal Subject Leader Tourism, Hospitality and Events

21 October 2025

Mr Matthew Williams
Service Manager – Commercial Development
Aberdeen City Council
City Development & Regeneration
Aberdeen Art Gallery
Schoolhill
Aberdeen
AV10 1FQ

Dear Matthew,

FIA World Rally Championship (WRC) in 2027, 2028 and 2029

Aberdeen Sports Village is delighted to support the bid to host the FIA World Rally Championship (WRC) in 2027, 2028 and 2029 in Aberdeen.

Aberdeen has experience of successfully securing and hosting international sporting events in conjunction with a range of local, national and international partners. At Aberdeen Sports Village, these events include the British Masters Swimming, Citi Para Swimming World Series and Netball Europe.

The opportunity for Aberdeen to host this prestigious event will support our ambitions to raise the profile of Aberdeen, showcase the city's world class facilities and promote the city as a destination of choice for sporting events.

We believe the city of Aberdeen has the facilities, infrastructure and capabilities to deliver an impactful conference. If this event is successful in coming to Aberdeen, we look forward to working alongside Aberdeen City Council and partners to ensure the event is a success.

Yours sincerely

Graham Morrison
Head of Sport and Events

graham@aberdeensportsvillage.com
01224 438926

Your lifestyle. One village.

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T: 01224 438900

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www.aberdeensportsvillage.com

Julie Wood
Chief Officer – City Development & Regeneration
Aberdeen City Council
Marischal College
Aberdeen

20 October 2025

Dear Julie

Support for World Rally Championship (WRC)

Hosting a round of the World Rally Championships (WRC) will be an excellent fit with the skills, expertise, infrastructure and natural capital of Aberdeen and the North-east. It will also align perfectly with the ambition to further grow the visitor economy in the North-east. Furthermore, the October dates will help to extend the visitor season when there is more capacity to fill hotel rooms without significant displacement of existing business. This will also present an opportunity for greater revenues per available room, and a significant business opportunity for the wider hospitality sector in the city.

Evidence from Jyväskylä, a small city in Finland, illustrates that the impact of hosting a round of WRC is significant, and expansive beyond the visitor economy, as echoed in Motorsport UK's feasibility report for an event in Scotland. Research undertaken in Jyväskylä in 2023 reported 267,000 spectator visits to the rally sites and that attendance has grown by 51% since 2017 indicating strong demand to experience motorsport in urban and rural settings. This brought over 19 million euros into the city economy over the race weekend in 2023. In addition, over 400 accredited media take the story to a cumulative audience of 47 million in 44 territories through 780 hours of broadcast.

Beyond the economic return, there is civic pride, and the opportunity to further build Aberdeen's reputation as a welcoming city not only to visit, but to live, work, study and do business. Considering the potential benefits of binging WRC to the North-east and the forecast revenues from a Visitor Levy, there is a good fit between the proposed objectives and structure for reinvestment of proceeds from a levy, and the requirement to allocate funding to meet the share of costs to host this event.

Yours sincerely



Chris Foy
Chief Executive. Visit**Aberdeen**shire

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East Burn Road
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T +44 (0)1224 900490
E info@visit**abdn**.com
W www.visit**abdn**.com

Company Registration No SC413620
Aberdeen & Aberdeenshire Tourism Company Limited T/A VisitAberdeenshire
Funded by Aberdeen City Council, Aberdeenshire Council & Opportunity North East

13 October 2025

Matthew Williams
Service Manager – Commercial Development
Aberdeen City Council
Schoolhill
AB10 1FQ

Dear Matthew,

Port of Aberdeen is pleased to offer its full support for Aberdeen's bid to host the FIA World Rally Championship (WRC) in 2027, 2028, and 2029.

The recent success of The Tall Ships Races Aberdeen 2025 highlighted the significant potential that major international events such as the WRC bring to our region.

The Championship would provide a significant boost to the local economy, attracting thousands of visitors, generating increased demand for accommodation, hospitality, and transport services, and showcasing the North East of Scotland to a global audience.

The WRC's international media reach would further reignite the Aberdeen's international profile as an ambitious, forward-looking city that embraces innovation and adventure.

Port of Aberdeen would welcome the opportunity to work collaboratively with Aberdeen City Council, Motorsport UK, and partners across the region to ensure the success of the WRC.

Yours sincerely,



Bob Sanguinetti DL
Chief Executive

The Event Complex Aberdeen
East Burn Road
Stoneywood
Aberdeen AB21 9FX

14 October 2025

Julie Wood
Chief Officer – City Development & Regeneration
Aberdeen City Council
Marischal College
Aberdeen

Dear Julie

Subject: Letter of Support – World Rally Championship (WRC) Rally Scotland

I write to you on behalf of P&J Live to express our enthusiastic and full support for Aberdeen and the wider North-East of Scotland to host future rounds of the FIA World Rally Championship (WRC), through the proposed "WRC Rally Scotland" event. This is a unique opportunity not only to bring a world-class motorsport spectacle to our region, but to deliver genuine, measurable benefits to our economy, communities, environment, and future generations.

I have been fortunate to see the detailed feasibility report prepared by Motorsport UK, the governing body for four-wheeled motorsport in the UK, and they have set out an ambitious and socially responsible framework that makes WRC Rally Scotland far more than a sporting event. Under the FIA's 'Beyond Rally' programme, Motorsport UK is committed to delivering a holistic impact agenda, structured around three pillars: Sustainability; Community, Education & Health; and Diversity & Inclusion.

Sustainability: Motorsport UK and the WRC already hold the FIA's Three-Star Environmental Accreditation, the highest possible in global motorsport. The event will showcase the future of sustainable fuels, harnessing biofuels and synthetic carbon-neutral alternatives, while promoting local green partnerships, including collaborations with Scotland's thriving wind energy sector. Responsible forestry practices, tree replanting, road repair commitments, and the integration of eco-friendly infrastructure underscore a clear commitment to responsible land use and carbon reduction.

Community, Education & Health: WRC Rally Scotland presents a unique opportunity to deliver social impact in the North-East. From STEM-based education programmes for schools, mental health awareness in partnership with SAMH, and outreach through Esports and simulators – including for those with disabilities – this initiative offers community access to a global event that educates, inspires, and connects. It is particularly well positioned to engage rural communities across Aberdeen, Aberdeenshire, and Moray.

Diversity & Inclusion: Through initiatives like *Girls on Track*, Motorsport UK and the FIA are leading efforts to break down gender barriers in motorsport. These programmes have already reached thousands of young women and would be expanded locally to create lasting pathways into motorsport, engineering, media, and event roles.

Beyond the core social agenda, the economic opportunity is compelling. International WRC events consistently deliver direct financial impact ranging from €35m to over €50m per year. It is projected that WRC Rally Scotland could deliver more than €100 million to the North-East economy over three years. This includes increased tourism, hotel occupancy, spend in hospitality and retail, temporary job creation, and global media exposure for the region.

Aberdeen has the infrastructure, accommodation capacity, event delivery experience, and international accessibility to host such an event successfully. From the Granite City to rural Aberdeenshire, we have an unmatched natural stage for rallying and an engaged, passionate community ready to welcome the world.

As someone with a strong background in motorsport and an understanding of the value this could bring to the city, region and country, I would strongly urge Aberdeen City Council to offer its backing, both in principle and through the necessary funding and facilitation partnerships, to bring the WRC to Scotland.

This is a chance to lead, to inspire, and to realise substantial return on investment for the region.

Yours sincerely



Rob Wicks
Managing Director – P&J Live

The Event Complex Aberdeen
East Burn Road
Stoneywood
Aberdeen AB21 9FX

14 October 2025

Julie Wood
Chief Officer – City Development & Regeneration
Aberdeen City Council
Marischal College
Aberdeen

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This is a chance to lead, to inspire, and to realise substantial return on investment for the region.

Yours sincerely



Rob Wicks
Managing Director – P&J Live

Matthew

The idea of attracting another large-scale event to the Northeast of Scotland is compelling. The boost that the Tall Ships provided was huge.

The city-centre aspect of the proposed Rally Event makes it exciting and accessible for all.

The boost to the economy would be welcomed.

The boost to public sentiment and morale is very important too.

The boost to our reputation as a great place to host events would be priceless.

This seems to be a wholly appropriate use of the Visitor Levy, and I would support the application for funding from the City Council's Finance and Resources Committee.

We would look forward to working with you and other organisations to ensure that the event reaches as many as possible and that the spin of events that might promote the STEM subjects for instance are fully developed.

Bob Keiller

Chair

Our Union Street

WRC Rally Scotland Heads of Terms/ Concept Paper

SUBJECT TO CONTRACT

Date:

Parties:

1. Motorsport UK, Bicester Motion, Command Works, Launton, Bicester OX27 8AL
2. EventScotland acting for and behalf of the Scottish Government
3. Aberdeen City Council, Marischal College Broad Street Aberdeen AB10 1AB
4. Aberdeenshire Council, Woodhill House, Westburn Road, Aberdeen, AB16 5GB
5. Moray Council, PO Box 6760, Elgin, Moray, IV30 9BX

Whereas;

The Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile ("FIA") is the sole body governing international motorsport for vehicles with more than 3 wheels and recognized by its Members as the sole authority entitled to make and enforce regulations within the territories of the FIA. The FIA owns a number of World Championships including the World Rally Championship (WRC), whose commercial rights are licenced to its nominated WRC promoter. Motorsport UK is recognised by the FIA as the sole authority for the control of motor sport with more than 3 wheels in the United Kingdom ('Motorsport UK') and is in advanced discussions with the FIA's appointed WRC promoter in respect of securing a UK based round of the WRC, based in the North East of Scotland, for an initial three-year term from 2027.

Securing Scotland's inclusion on the WRC calendar is subject to an appropriate and sustainable business model with revenue derived from a number of sources including, but not limited to, entry fees, sponsorship, licencing, concessions, hospitality, merchandise, ticketing, venue fees and upon approval grant award funding from the Scottish Government and Local Authorities.

Purpose

This Concept Paper intends to set out in a non-binding manner potential and likely obligations of each party to the event's successful planning and execution.

These are summarised, but not limited to the following obligations of each party.

Motorsport UK Obligations

Motorsport UK, as the contracting party with the FIA and nominated WRC promoter have a number of obligations to the Scottish Government and Local Authorities as part of any funding agreement, not limited to, but including;

1. Securing a date on the annual WRC calendar for a North East Scotland based event
2. Secure commercial sponsorship of the event
3. Ticket sales of the event

4. Under-writing of annual operating plan and budget
5. Creating and implementing a governance structure of the event that is inclusive of stakeholder representation
6. Organising, promoting and executing a world-class sporting event
7. Sanctioning and permitting the event to be held legally in the UK
8. Oversight of all safety aspects of the event, ensure compliance with FIA, WRC and Motorsport UK safety planning including alignment with Stage Rally Safety Requirements, Incident Management Plans, and Operational Plans to ensure executing of an event safe for competitors, officials, spectators and media
9. As part of Motorsport UK's commitment to sustainability it shall ensure that the event is delivered consistent with the FIA Three Star Environmental Accreditation
10. Creating an event that has wider business and local resident community reach, relevance and involvement
11. Creation and execution of an annual marketing and communications plan to maximise amplification of the event visibility both in the region, across the UK and overseas
12. Creating a legacy for communities and the sport directly resultant from the event
13. Deliver a social impact via programmes to embrace equality, diversity and inclusion
14. Provide post-event reporting evidencing that that the event delivers successfully across Scottish Government and LA events strategies

Scottish Government and Local Authority Obligations

The successful operational execution of a WRC event requires extensive support from local authorities, including regional and the Scottish Government agencies who will be required to support various aspects of the events planning and execution, including, but not limited to the following;

1. Financial and economic contribution in support of the event's viability with a stakeholder contribution to the event's annual budget of three million pounds sterling (£3,000,000 GBP) in 2027 and and a similar fee in future years with annual inflationary rises
2. Support in developing and amplification of annual communications plans around the event and its core themes
3. Support in socialisation of the event to local communities and communication of event details and benefits that the event offers residents and local businesses including any community consultations
4. Support liaison with authorities in communication and co-ordination with the local councils, police, safety, emergency services throughout the planning process.
5. Co-ordination with roads authorities on traffic management strategies, signage, parking plans, and coordinating with highway agencies and the lifting of any road works around the event geographies to facilitate ease of access for event traffic, including competitors, officials and spectators
6. Support with social impact and EDI projects to inspire communities

7. Support with infrastructure for crowd control: With thousands of spectators expected, local police and other authorities are vital for managing crowds and traffic. This can include directing traffic, providing security, and enforcing rules in spectator areas.
8. Access to publicly owned spaces and facilities required in execution of the event or venues including event infrastructure
9. Provision of public services like waste management, sanitation (toilets), and water supply for attendees often requires coordination with local council services.

Specifically with regard to the Scottish Government, they shall support Motorsport UK in facilitating affordable and cost-effective access to the national forest estate managed by Forestry and Land Scotland (FLS), consistent with existing forestry access arrangements. All parties acknowledge that any material reduction in the budgeted fees currently anticipated in the event budget relating to accessing the FLS estate would directly and proportionately reduce the headline financial contribution requested from Government and Local Authorities.

All parties shall work purposefully to secure the requisite funding at the earliest opportunity, in order that by November Motorsport UK can agree terms with the FIA's WRC promoter to secure a three-year term to return the WRC to the UK in a North East Scotland based event from 2027.

Parties acknowledge that calendar availability of both the WRC and the Service Park venue is strictly limited and that time is of the essence to seize the opportunity for Scotland.

Signed by Authorised Signatories:

Motorsport UK

EventScotland acting for and behalf of the Scottish Government

Aberdeen City Council

Aberdeenshire Council

Moray Council

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ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Finance and Resources
DATE	5 November 2025
EXEMPT	No
CONFIDENTIAL	No
REPORT TITLE	Silver City Heritage and Place Programme
REPORT NUMBER	CR&E/25/235
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	Gail Beattie
CHIEF OFFICER	David Dunne
REPORT AUTHOR	Sian Loftus
TERMS OF REFERENCE	3.2, 3.4

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the Heritage and Place Programme bids and to note the success of the grant applications.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Committee:-

2.1 Note that Aberdeen City Council have received grant offers from Historic Environment Scotland and the National Lottery Heritage Fund and is currently reviewing these offers;

2.2 Approve the allocation of the £2.1M from the General Fund Capital Programme in respect of the match funding required from Aberdeen City Council;

2.3 Approve the delivery of the Silver City Heritage and Place Programme (SCH&PP) 5-year project subject to the Chief Officer – Strategic Place Planning approving the grant offers in 2.1 and subject to 2.2. being approved; and

2.4 Note the proposed programme of twice-yearly reports and requests for third-party grant approval from the Committee (in line with the approved Governance Structure), over the 5-years of the project.

3. CURRENT SITUATION

3.1 As Members will already be aware, the Union Street Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme (CARS) is due to conclude 2025, and Historic Environment Scotland (HES) has launched a replacement funding programme, entitled the Heritage & Place Programme (H&PP). On 12 November 2021 the former City Growth and Resource Committee instructed the Chief Officer - Strategic Place Planning to seek additional funding from HES and other sources

such as The National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) and to report back to Committee once funding arrangements had been identified (RES/21/297). This report satisfies this instruction.

Bid Process

3.2 To support delivery of the City Centre and Beach Masterplan, in December 2022 first round (Development Phase) applications were submitted to HES and NLHF for the Silver City Heritage & Place Programme (SCH&PP), with successful outcomes received in May 2023. In line with Committee approval of 29 March 2023 (COM/23/100), the Development Phase offers of grant were accepted in June 2023, with the NLHF 'Permission to Start' issued 15 August 2023, triggering the start of the 18-month development phase.

3.3 In line with Committee approval of 7 August 2024 (CR&E/24/208), the second round (Delivery Phase) applications for the SSCH&PP were submitted to HES and the NLHF in February 2025.

3.4 In June 2025 offers of grant for the project Delivery Phase were received from HES and NLHF, for the amounts requested (£1,138,090 from each organisation). To date Aberdeen City Council is only the third grantee under the H&PP. Comments received on the second-round submission were highly favourable, noting a strong bid including an exciting Training Plan.

Delivery Phase

3.5 The Silver City Heritage and Place Programme will deliver outcomes through third-party capital grants, heritage skills training and community heritage activities, in line with the requirements of the H&PP funding scheme. Third-party grants will be available for repairs to traditional buildings through twice yearly application rounds. Third party grants will also be offered for the approved priority projects, for building repairs, public realm upgrades and greenspaces. These projects were developed in consultation with owners and stakeholders during the 18-month development phase. The area covered by the SCH&PP is shown at Appendix 2, and the projects listed in the bid documents are as follows, with estimated costs provided in Appendix 1:

- Priority projects building repairs - Justice Street shopfronts
- Priority projects building repairs - Peacock's printworks
- Priority projects building repairs - Seabury House
- Public realm - Castlegate north courts
- Greenspaces - Smith's/Peacock's Close sensory garden and community growing
- Greenspaces - Castlehill community garden

3.6 The HES and NLHF grant offers are currently being reviewed by the Council's Commercial and Procurement Services Legal Team and the Council's Finance team, and in line with Delegated Powers, it is anticipated that the offers will be accepted on behalf of the Council in due course, if terms and conditions of the grant offers are acceptable to the Council. 3.7 Representatives from HES and

NLHF attended in the city on 10 September, announcing the grant offers. On receipt of the formal 'Permission to Start', a communication plan will be developed with the Council's External Communications team with the formal launch of the scheme (including promotion of the third-party grants) anticipated in March 2026.

3.7 In line with the project governance structure, approved by Committee on 7 August 2024 (CR&E/24/208), applications for third-party capital grants (for building repairs, greenspaces and public realm in the project area) will be reported to Committee twice a year. The Project Board will assess all applications and report its recommendations to Members at these meetings.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The £2.1M match funding from Aberdeen City Council is available from within the General Fund Capital Programme (City Centre and Beach Masterplans: Other Projects and Grants). The £2.1M is an increase of £100,000 over the £2M provisionally allocated by the City Growth and Resources Committee in November 2021 (RES/21/297) due to increase in project costs, predominantly construction costs. This increase is also reflected in the increased grant requested from (and awarded by) HES and NLHF.

4.2 The SCH&PP team will comprise 3.5 FTE staff (new, fixed term), funded through the project. The H&PP Project Team draw on the support of colleagues from across a number of Council services (predominantly Finance and Legal) in the delivery of the project. There are resource implications to this (covered through existing budgets), though opportunities too for coordinating efforts and ensuring the H&PP activity contributes to and supports wider Council outcomes, particularly around the City Centre Masterplan.

4.3 Where specific professional services are required in support of the SCH&PP project which might be commissioned from external suppliers (and therefore qualify as a grant eligible cost), these have been budgeted for in the delivery phase budget.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The SCH&PP third-party capital grants programme, the Heritage Careers Bursaries and the Community Grants have been assessed as qualifying as subsidy schemes. It is the intention that Subsidy Schemes will be established under delegated powers and published on the UK Government's Subsidy Control Transparency Database.

5.2 The Council will be under a contractual obligation to deliver the SCH&PP in accordance with the terms and conditions of the HES and NHLF grant offers. Distribution of funding requires grant agreements to be entered into with third parties, on terms and conditions approved by HES and NHLF, and for higher value grant, the Council will be required to obtain standard securities and conservation burdens in relation to the buildings which the grants are being

applied for. Legal support will be required throughout the delivery phase in relation to this.

6. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are positive environmental impacts in the awarding of third-party grants. Building Repair Grants support Net Zero ambitions through bringing historic buildings into good repair and supporting climate adaptations. Greenspaces grant support new and improved greenspaces, increasing the area and biodiversity of greenspaces in the city centre.

7. 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?
Strategic Risk	The project does not deliver against outcomes	Approved outcomes clearly defined, all actions cross-referenced to outcomes, regular evaluation, review and reporting	L	Yes
Compliance	Council fails to comply with legislation in relation to subsidy scheme.	Scheme established and published no less than 30 days before the first grant or bursary offer. Due process followed in assessing individual grants under the scheme.	L	**Yes**
Operational	Activities not delivered, spend not achieved, due to staffing issues	Project appropriately resourced against all activities. Overlap of insight for core activities, ensuring continuity in critical areas in the event of reduced staffing due to extended leave or change of staff.	L	Yes
Financial	Project is over	Regular monitoring and reporting, in compliance	L	Yes

	forecast spend	with ACC and funder requirements. Quarterly funder and project Board reporting and twice-yearly Committee reporting.		
Reputational	Failure to deliver project outcomes	All activities cross-references against approved outcomes. Regular monitoring, evaluation and reporting.	L	**Yes**
Environment / Climate	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

8. OUTCOMES

COUNCIL DELIVERY PLAN 2025-26	
	Impact of Report
Aberdeen City Council Policy Statement **Working in Partnership for Aberdeen**	The project supports greater partnership working and community participation in protecting and enhancing the historic environment and pride in place.
Local Outcome Improvement Plan	
Prosperous Economy Stretch Outcomes	The outcomes of the project aim to support the stretch outcome 2, specifically; 2.1 Support 25 people from ethnic minorities into sustained, good quality employment by 2026 2.3 Increase employer sign up to the Real Living Wage by 5% year on year to 2026 to achieve Real Living Wage City Status by 2026. 2.4 Support 100 people into sustained, good quality employment by 2026, with a particular focus on those from priority neighbourhoods and people over 50. 2.6 Support 40 young parents into training and / or employability provision by 2026. 2.8 Support 25 individuals to gain employability skills through volunteering opportunities by 2026.
Prosperous People Stretch Outcomes	The outcomes of the project aim to support stretch outcomes 4, 6, 7, 9, 10 and 12 specifically: 4 .4 Increase by 5% the number of S1-S6 pupils who report that they feel confident by 2025. 4.5 Increase by 10% the % of children living in areas of deprivation who feel safe in their communities by 2025.

	6.3 Increase by 10% the rate of completion of NPA/FA/HNC courses available to young people across the city by June 2024. 6.4 Increase the % of learners entering a positive and sustained destination to be ahead of the Virtual Comparator for all groups by 2025. 7.5 Reduce by 15% the number of instances of youth anti-social behaviour calls to Police Scotland by 2025. 9.9 Reduce by 10% the number of adult anti-social behaviour calls to Police Scotland by 2026 10.4 To support 50 low-income families in priority neighbourhoods to improve healthy eating behaviours and adopt good life choices to support healthy weight by 2026. 12.9 Increase accessibility to a wider range of housing options to people at risk of homelessness
Prosperous Place Stretch Outcomes	The outcomes of the project aim to support stretch outcome 15, specifically; 15.1 Increase to 65% the proportion of people who feel they can regularly experience good quality natural space by 2026 15.3 25% of people report that they understand the importance of nature on both their neighbourhood and individual wellbeing by 2026 15.4 At least 23 organisations across all sectors in Aberdeen pledging to manage at least 10% of their land for nature by 2024 and at least 26% by 2026 15.5 Increase by 50% the number of community groups delivering local environmental improvements in their neighbourhoods by 2026
Community Empowerment Stretch Outcomes	The project aims to support Stretch Outcome 16, specifically; 16.1 100% of decisions which impact on children and young people are informed by them by 2026. 16.4 10% increase in amount of funding distributed by local funders across Aberdeen City using non-traditional methods by 2026. 16.5 Increase the number of community led projects promoted and celebrated across the City, and increase by 20% the proportion of policy and decision makers who feel they have a good awareness of community-led initiatives in the City by 2025. 16.6 Increase the number of people (staff and communities) who state that they have the skills, tools and support they need to work together to

	make improvements in the community to 50% by 2025.
Regional and City Strategies	The project will help conserve Aberdeen's historic built environment which supports policy D6- Historic Environment of Aberdeen Local Development Plan 2023.

9. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Assessment	Outcome
Integrated Impact Assessment	Previous Integrated Impact Assessment relating to Silver City Heritage and Place Programme has been reviewed and no changes required.
Data Protection Impact Assessment	Required. At the time of drafting this report the DPIAs for the Capital Grants, Activities Plan and Training Plan were in train and will be finalised by The Committee meeting on 5 November 2025
Other	

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

10.1 Finance and Resources Committee (7 Aug 2024) - CR&E/24/208
Finance and Resources Committee (29 March 2023) – COM/23/100
City Growth & Resources Committee (12 Nov 2021)- RES/21/297

11. APPENDICES

11.1 Appendix 1- SCH&PP Project Budget
11.2 Appendix 2- SCH&PP Scheme boundary

12. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

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APPENDIX 1

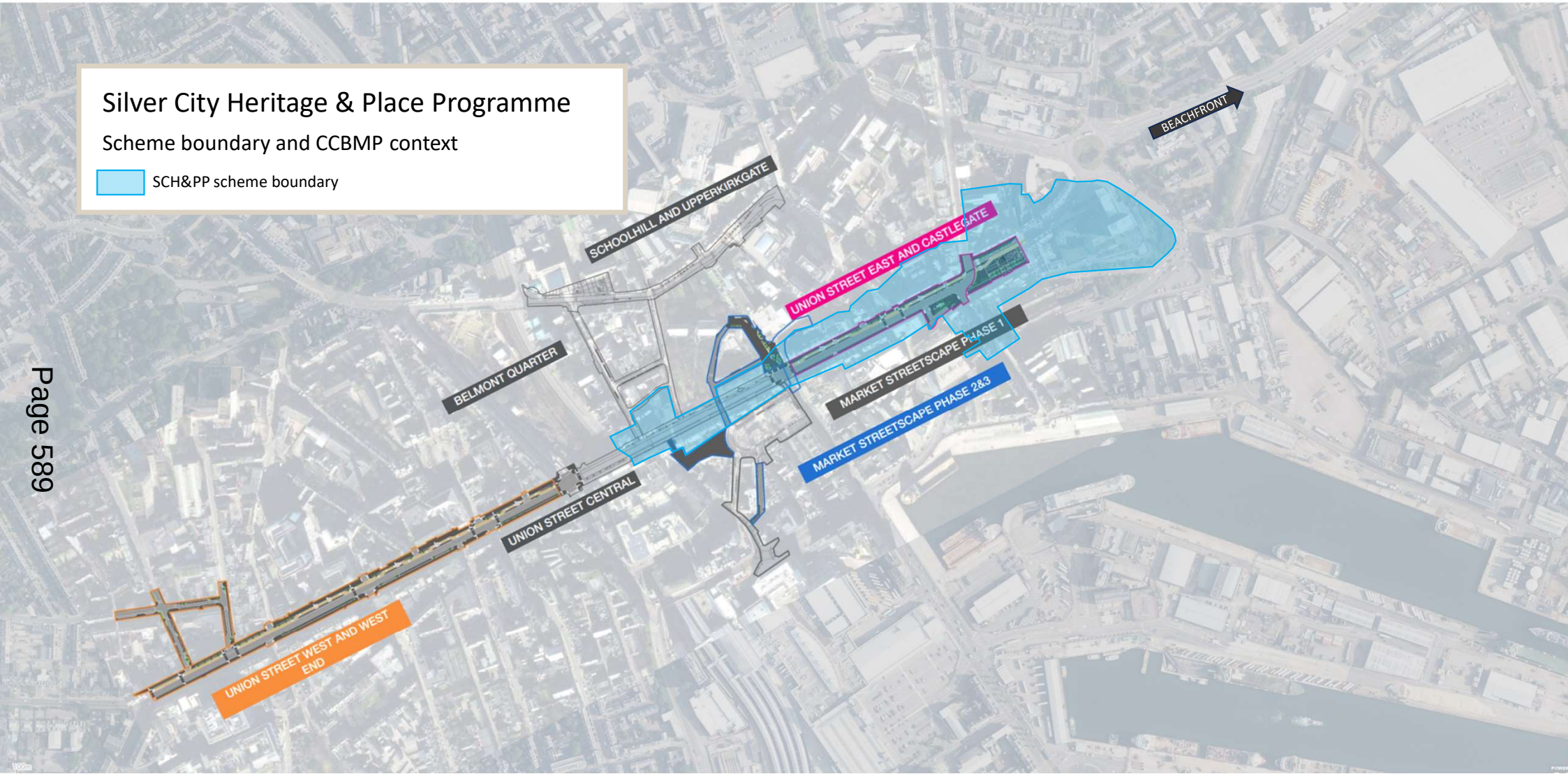
Budget- Silver City Heritage and Place Programme

Expenditure	**Costs**	(of which grant award)	(of which owner contributions)*
Project Staff (3.5FTE)	934,760		
Specialist fees (legal, marketing, professional services, evaluation services)	120,000		
Capital projects-			
Priority projects building repairs- Justice St shopfronts	612,755	412,939	199,816
Priority projects building repairs- Peacock's printworks	531,199	344,535	186,664
Priority projects building repairs- Seabury House	442,201	285,645	156,556
Public realm- Castlegate north courts	499,387	486,214	13,173
Greenspaces- Smith's/Peacock's Close sensory garden and community growing	36,626	36,626	
Greenspaces- Castlehill community garden	115,773	115,773	
General Grants (Building Repair Grants open round applications)	1,190,303	772,467	417,836
Traditional Skills Training Plan	440,724		
Community Heritage Activities Plan	457,097		
Management and maintenance strategy	6,000		
Evaluation	30,000		
Expenditure	**5,416,825**		
Income			
ACC	2,100,000		
HES	1,138,090		
Match funding (NLHF & TPNo.14 match funding)	1,138,090		
Training Plan partner funding (Activity No.14- Schools NAT5s)	12,000		
Other income (volunteer contribution)	54,600		
Owner contributions	974,045		
Income	**5,416,825**		

*Based on estimated costs for grant eligible costs (GEC) and (for General Grants) based on an average grant intervention rate of 65% of GEC.

**Costs include inflation and contingencies

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Silver City Heritage & Place Programme
Scheme boundary and CCBMP context
SCH&PP scheme boundary
SCHOOLHILL AND UPPERKIRKGATE
UNION STREET EAST AND CASTLEGATE
BEACHFRONT
BELMONT QUARTER
MARKET STREETSCAPE PHASE 1
MARKET STREETSCAPE PHASE 2&3
UNION STREET CENTRAL
UNION STREET WEST AND WEST END

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ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Finance and Resources
DATE	05 November 2025
EXEMPT	Appendix 1 to this report is exempt under the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (Paragraph 9 – Contractual Terms)
CONFIDENTIAL	No
REPORT TITLE	Aberdeen eBike Hire Scheme
REPORT NUMBER	CORS/25/238
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	Gale Beattie
CHIEF OFFICER	David Dunne
REPORT AUTHOR	Jane Obi
TERMS OF REFERENCE	1.1.5; 2.1.1

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To inform Members of the outcome of a procurement exercise undertaken to identify a supplier to provide and operate an eBike hire scheme in Aberdeen.

1.2 To seek approval from Members to formally appoint and enter into contract with the identified supplier

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Committee:-

2.1 Note the procurement exercise undertaken to identify a preferred operator to provide and operate an eBike hire scheme in Aberdeen within approved budget;

2.2 Note the outcome of the procurement exercise which identifies the preferred operator; and,

2.3 Instruct the Chief Officer – Strategic Place Planning to formally enter into contract with the preferred operator as set out in the conditions of contract associated with the procurement, for a period of 3 years with option to extend by two further 12 month periods, with a financial contribution from the Council as detailed in this report.

3. CURRENT SITUATION

3.1 Aberdeen previously had an operational bike hire scheme from autumn 2022 to spring 2024. Since its termination, Aberdeen City Council has received enquiries from members of the public expressing interest in reinstatement of the scheme, indicating a sustained appetite for accessible cycling options in the city.

3.2 In response, a report was submitted to the Finance and Resources Committee on 8 May 2024, seeking approval "*to explore options around how a future*

scheme might operate" and to report findings to the Net Zero, Environment and Transport Committee in September 2024.

3.3 Subsequently, on 3 September 2024, a report was presented to the Net Zero, Environment and Transport Committee informing Members of the options available to operate a future eBike hire scheme in Aberdeen, outlining the available operational models for the scheme (i.e. 100% Private, 100% Public and Public/Private Partnership). The recommendation was to proceed with a public/private partnership model.

3.4 The Committee resolved "*to instruct the Chief Officer – Strategic Place Planning to prepare a Business Case for a new eBike scheme based on the public/private partnership model and to report this Business Case to a subsequent meeting of the Finance and Resources Committee".*

3.5 This was followed by a report to the Finance and Resources Committee on 12 September 2024, where it was agreed by Committee to "*instruct the Chief Officer – Strategic Place Planning to undertake a procurement exercise to identify a private partner to enter into a public/private partnership model with the Council to deliver a new eBike hire scheme for the city, with public funding to support the programme identified as being taken from the Bus Lane Enforcement surplus"* [please note, following the Council Budget Meeting decision of March 2025, this funding source to support the scheme was revised to the Low Emission Zone surplus].

3.6 The procurement exercise commenced with an Invitation to Tender (ITT) launched on Public Contracts Scotland on 8 July 2025 with a deadline of 21 August 2025. Lessons learned from the previous eBike hire scheme were reflected in the requirements of the ITT for the new scheme.

3.7 The table below provides an overview of the features of the scheme which were reflected in the Invitation to Tender. The scheme is supported by a set operational subsidy from the *Low Emission Zone surplus* and is designed to be inclusive, accessible, and financially self-sustaining, with a robust performance framework and Community Benefit commitments.

Table 1: An Overview of some features of the eBike Hire Scheme as required of the Invitation to Tender

• Minimum of 200 eBikes at launch, scalable to over 350 during the contract
• An initial contract period of 3 years. This period can be extended by a further 12-months on two occasions.
• Use of zero-emission vehicles for operation of the scheme
• Inclusion of Community Benefits, such as employment, in the contract
• Partnership with Getabout to champion sustainable travel
• Robust monitoring and scheme management built-in with reports and Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

• The Council's financial contribution will be released based on attainment of key milestones and KPIs as outlined in the ITT
• Inclusive pricing (i.e. includes concessionary rates) with all rates fixed for the first year of the scheme
• 24/7 scheme availability with a minimum 85% fleet availability at all times
• Parking compliance greater than or equal to 90%
• Profit-sharing mechanism during extension years of the contract

3.8 A robust assessment of the tender responses was undertaken, based on both the quality of the submissions received, and the anticipated cost to the public of using the scheme. Exempt Appendix 1 provides further details. The award criteria was 60% Quality, 40% Price. The preferred operator scored higher on both quality and cost criteria. Their proposal demonstrated clear strengths across all seven method statements in the Award Questionnaire, offering a scalable, inclusive, and environmentally aligned solution.

3.9 The preferred operator represents a delivery partner that combines commercial viability with public value, offering a scalable, inclusive, and climate-aligned solution that supports Aberdeen's transport, health, and environmental sustainability ambitions.

3.10 The preferred operator's pricing structure is designed to ensure affordability, accessibility, and financial sustainability. These measures, supported by the Council's operational subsidy, all aim to maximise public benefit and ensure the scheme is inclusive, equitable, and financially sustainable.

3.11 The mobile application for booking/hiring and parking the bikes at the end of a hire will also be fully configured for Aberdeen.

3.12 The Council is now in a position to formally appoint the preferred operator and enter into contract, enabling mobilisation to begin. The scheme is anticipated to launch in Spring 2026, following a mobilisation period of four to six months to enable successful logistics around procurement and deployment of the bikes and human resources to commence the scheme. The operator will be responsible for all aspects of the scheme delivery, including infrastructure deployment, customer service, maintenance, financial and performance reporting.

3.13 Given the public interest, strategic alignment with transport and sustainability goals, and the successful outcome of the procurement exercise, the recommendations in Section 2 seeks approval to appoint and enter into contract with the preferred operator. This will allow the Council to progress towards working with a partner to deliver a high-quality, inclusive eBike hire scheme for Aberdeen again.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Aberdeen City Council will provide a financial contribution of £200,000 to support the operation of the eBike hire scheme over the initial three-year contract period. This contribution will be drawn from the Low Emission Zone surplus (see Council Budget Decision (lxiv) 5 March 2025).

4.2 The financial contribution will be disbursed in milestone-based instalments, aligned with key delivery stages of the scheme, including mobilisation, infrastructure deployment, system readiness, scheme launch, and annual performance reviews. Each payment will be subject to satisfactory evidence of progress and compliance with agreed Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), as outlined in the Invitation to Tender.

4.3 The Council's contribution is strictly for operational support and will not be used for the procurement of eBikes, which remains the responsibility of the preferred operator. The scheme is expected to become financially self-sustaining during the initial contract period, with no further public funding anticipated beyond the agreed contribution.

4.4 There are no additional staffing costs to the Council arising from the recommendations of this report. While the operator's staff will be responsible for all aspects of the scheme's delivery, including operations, maintenance, and customer service, Council staff time will be required to manage the contract. This will be accommodated within existing revenue budgets.

4.5 The financial implications have been assessed and are considered to be proportionate and manageable within existing budgets. The scheme offers a cost-effective approach to delivering sustainable transport outcomes and aligns with the Council's strategic priorities. `

4.6 In accordance with the contract terms, a profit-sharing mechanism will apply should the Council exercise the optional extension periods (in Years 4 and 5).

4.7 In conclusion, the financial commitment represents a targeted investment in sustainable mobility, with clear controls in place to ensure value for money and alignment with the Council's transport and environmental objectives.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The Council's Commercial and Procurement Legal team developed a bespoke terms and conditions of Contract for the scheme ensuring legal safeguards are in place to protect the Council's interests. This document was appended to the ITT package and made available to all tenderers. Consequently, there are no direct legal implications out with the contract, arising from the recommendations of this report.

5.2 This contract does not prohibit others from operating a similar scheme in Aberdeen without financial support from the Council, subject to the necessary approvals and permissions being issued.

5.3 The operator can terminate this contract with 6 months written notice, provided that the council is compensated up to the level of Council contribution already paid to the operator plus any costs and expenses reasonably and properly incurred by the Council as a result of such termination.

6. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The preferred operator commits to net-zero operation of the scheme integrating the Net Zero Toolkit, enabling quantification of carbon savings and continuous improvement in environmental performance.

6.2 The re-introduction of an eBike hire scheme is expected to continue delivering positive environmental impacts as demonstrated by the previous scheme as data collected between December 2022 and January 2024 showed a consistent month-to-month increase in estimated emissions savings, rising from 1,760kg in the first month to 49,463kg by January 2024. This upward trend reflected a growing uptake and use of the scheme, supporting a shift to cycling for short journeys. The preferred operator's commitment to operate a net-zero scheme provides strong assurance that a reintroduced scheme will continue to contribute meaningfully to Aberdeen City Council's net-zero targets and broader climate commitments.

6.4 The scheme's proposed design encourages responsible parking through in-app prompts and verifications, public awareness efforts to minimise street clutter and protect pedestrian access.

6.5 In conclusion, the scheme aligns with the Council's duty to act sustainably and is anticipated to deliver measurable environmental benefits through modal shift, operational practices, and infrastructure design.

7. 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?
Strategic Risk	Failure to deliver the scheme could impact Aberdeen's transport and sustainability goals.	Contractual obligations, milestone-based funding, and performance monitoring.	L	**Yes**
Compliance	Risk of non-compliance with procurement regulations.	Procurement conducted under Public Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2015.	L	**Yes**

Operational	Disruption to service delivery due to supplier failure or poor performance.	Monthly and quarterly performance reviews, KPI framework, open-book accounting.	L	**Yes**
Financial	Risk of poor value for money or misuse of public funds.	Milestone-based payments, audit rights, financial reporting requirements.	L	**Yes**
Reputational	Negative public perception if scheme fails to meet expectations or experiences service issues.	Community engagement, robust customer service, transparent reporting, contract management procedures and performance monitoring.	L	**Yes**
Environment / Climate	Risk of underperformance in carbon reduction or environmental sustainability targets.	Net zero operations from launch, use of zero-emission vehicles.	L	**Yes**

All identified risks are considered manageable within the Council's risk appetite, with appropriate controls and monitoring mechanisms in place.

8. OUTCOMES

COUNCIL DELIVERY PLAN 2025-26	
	Impact of Report
Aberdeen City Council Policy Statement **Working in Partnership for Aberdeen**	The proposals within this report support the delivery of the following aspects of the policy statement: ***Greener Transport, Safer Streets, Real Choices***
Local Outcome Improvement Plan	
Prosperous Economy Stretch Outcomes	The outcome of the proposal within this report supports the delivery of the LOIP *Prosperous Economy Stretch Outcome 2* by contributing to an increased access to sustainable transport, improving connectivity to employment and services.
Prosperous People Stretch Outcomes	The outcome of the proposal within this report supports the delivery of LOIP *Prosperous People Stretch Outcome 10* by contributing to: - Improved physical and mental wellbeing through increased

	access to active travel. - Reduced transport barriers to education, employment, and health services. - Inclusive access for disadvantaged groups, including young people, care-experienced individuals.
Prosperous Place Stretch Outcomes	The outcome of the proposal within this report supports the delivery of LOIP *Prosperous Place Stretch Outcome 14 by* contributing to: - reducing reliance on private vehicles for short journeys. - promoting active travel through a bike hire scheme. - delivering net zero operations from launch, including the use of zero-emission support vehicles.
Community Empowerment Stretch Outcomes	The outcome of the proposal within this report supports the delivery of LOIP *Community Empowerment Stretch Outcomes* by -Engaging with communities through Getabout and other outreach channels to promote sustainable travel and identify new locations for the bikes as well as further expansion of the scheme. -Offering concessionary pricing and inclusive access for disadvantaged groups, enabling broader participation in a city-wide mobility system.
Regional and City Strategies *Regional Strategies: Regional Transport Strategy* *City Strategies: Local Transport Strategy*	The proposal within this report support both the Regional and Local Transport Strategies by recommending the formal appointment of a supplier to provide and operate an eBike hire scheme in Aberdeen, thereby enhancing sustainable travel options within the city.

9. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Assessment	Outcome
Integrated Impact Assessment	Previous Integrated Impact Assessment relating to Aberdeen eBike Hire Scheme has been reviewed and changes made.
Data Protection Impact Assessment	Required
Other	N/A

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

10.1 NZET Committee, 03 September 2024, Item 15 Operation of a Future Aberdeen eBike Hire Scheme - CR&E/24/255 (Pages 1347 - 1356)

10.2 F&R Committee, 08 May 2024, Item 12 Aberdeen eBike Hire Scheme - CR&E/24/132 (Pages 141 - 148)

11. APPENDICES (Exempt)

- Appendix 1 – Tender Outcome

12. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

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ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Finance and Resources
DATE	05 November 2025
EXEMPT	No
CONFIDENTIAL	No
REPORT TITLE	Northfield Area Asset Review – Strategic Outline Business Case
REPORT NUMBER	F&C/25/233
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	Eleanor Sheppard
CHIEF OFFICER	Stephen Booth
REPORT AUTHOR	Andrew Jones
TERMS OF REFERENCE	4.1

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 This report presents a Strategic Outline Case, which summarises the findings of the recent Northfield Area Asset Review, and includes high level options for improving future primary and secondary education and potential consolidation of other assets in the Northfield area, to bring about improvements in the delivery of Council services to members of the Northfield community.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Committee:-

2.1 Approves the Strategic Outline Case included at Appendix A of this report; and

2.2 Notes the decision of the Education and Children's Services Committee on 16 September 2025, to:

- Instruct the Chief Officer – Corporate Landlord to develop an Outline Business Case, to present detailed options and costings for the creation of new community campus facilities to serve the Northfield Area, which would support the delivery of the Family Support Model in Northfield, allow for the reduction of excess school capacity, and provide opportunities for the consolidation of existing Council buildings in Northfield.

- Instruct the Chief Officer – Corporate Landlord to submit the completed Outline Business Case for approval to the budget setting process for 2026/27.

3. CURRENT SITUATION

3.1 A feasibility study was undertaken in 2023, focusing on the primary schools within Northfield and with the intention of identifying options for reducing excess

pupil capacity within these. The feasibility study did not lead to any conclusive recommendations, and officers were instructed by the Education and Children's Services Committee in February 2024 to carry out further work to identify potential future options for primary school provision in Northfield, alongside a review of the long term future for Northfield Academy, to provide solutions for removing any risks associated with Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) known to be present within the building.

3.2 At its meeting of 17 September 2024, the Education and Children's Services Committee further instructed officers to widen the scope of the review to include all Council owned assets in the area, alongside the schools. This was to allow for a wider range of options to be considered, in terms of consolidating buildings and offering services in different ways, which would help to maximise the potential savings and improvements which could be achieved.

3.3 An area wide asset review was carried out between March and June 2025, which focused on all Council operational assets within the Middlefield, Mastrick, Cummings Park, Northfield, and Heathryfold localities (collectively referred to within this report as 'the Northfield area'). This included education, sports, leisure, and community facilities, with the objective of identifying potential asset consolidation and enhancing Council services across the area.

3.4 The Strategic Outline Case, presented at Appendix A of this report, provides the findings of the asset review and sets out a number of high level options for improving and consolidating assets in the Northfield area.

3.5 The options presented within the Strategic Outline Case focus on opportunities to enhance community and learning provision, which follow the principles of the Community Campus Model and Family Support Model.

3.6 The Council's Community Campus model was approved by the former Education Operational Delivery Committee in November 2021, and aims to encourage the shared use of facilities by communities, to improve collaboration and integrated service delivery, and encourage more effective and efficient use of resources to meet a broader range of community needs at a single location. This approach supports delivery of multi-agency spaces, drives efficiency through the co-location of services, supporting the needs of a particular community, and has the potential to maximise opportunities for early intervention, in keeping with the Local Outcome Improvement Plan.

3.7 The high level options set out within the Strategic Outline Case at Appendix A therefore include opportunities for providing new primary and secondary education facilities in Northfield, which would support the principles of the Community Campus model. This would allow for some existing primary school provision to be consolidated, helping to reduce the excess capacity which exists within the primary schools, and provide solutions for removing RAAC at Northfield Academy. The options also give consideration to the possibility of improving the delivery of other Council services in Northfield, which could lead to the consolidation of other Council assets in the area.

3.8 The Family Support Model, approved by the Education and Children's Services Committee in July 2024, is intended to help tackle poverty and deprivation by improving wellbeing, increasing income and employability and reducing the cost of living for individuals and families, especially in priority areas such as Northfield. It focuses on building stronger communities and emphasises early intervention and prevention rather than just a crisis response. This approach recognises the importance of establishing a community space that is accessible without 'referral' and which provides an environment that is welcoming and trauma informed.

3.9 The Family Support Model is currently in development, and officers have identified an opportunity for the outcomes of the Northfield Asset Review to be linked to the development and rollout of the model, by including provision for a new type of community space within the options to be explored for Northfield. This would ensure that any new assets for providing education and wider community services in the Northfield area are planned and designed to facilitate the delivery of the model, for the benefit of the Northfield community.

3.10 At its meeting of 16 September 2025, the Education and Children's Services Committee instructed officers to develop an Outline Business Case, to further develop the high level options presented at Appendix A of this report, and to present this for approval as part of the budget setting process for 2026/27.

3.11 During the development of the Outline Business Case, further work will be undertaken to tie in with the emerging findings from the work on the Family Support Model, so that the options to be presented in the Outline Business Case include further details of how any proposed new assets could support the delivery of the Family Support Model. The Outline Business Case will also present more detailed cost estimates for the available options, to enable an affordability check and to assist elected members in making a decision on preferred next steps.

3.12 The high level options within the Strategic Outline Case include the potential for the development of the existing Northfield Academy site and adjacent playing fields, for the provision of new community campus facilities. Desktop studies undertaken during the asset review have confirmed that this area of Northfield is a former quarry. There is therefore a risk of poor ground conditions, which could add significantly to the cost of any development, and also to delivery timescales. Officers are making arrangements to undertake detailed physical site investigations, during development of the Outline Business Case, so that the extent of this risk and likely cost implications can be fully understood, to support Elected Member decision making. Findings from the site investigations will be reported within the Outline Business Case.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The cost of developing the Outline Business Case and costs associated with site investigations will be met from existing budgets for delivery of the School Estate Plan.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Section 1 of the Education (Scotland) Act 1980 provides that it shall be the duty of every education authority to secure that there is made for their area adequate and efficient provision of school education.

5.2 Section 17 of the Education (Scotland) Act 1980 provides that it shall be the duty of an education authority in the performance of their functions under sections 1 to 6 of the Act, to provide for their area, sufficient accommodation in public schools and other educational establishments under their management to enable them to perform their said functions. In addition, an education authority shall maintain and keep efficient every public school, and other educational establishment under their management, and shall from time to time provide such additional accommodation as may be necessary to enable them to perform their functions under the Act and may, provide, alter, improve, enlarge, equip and maintain schools and other educational establishments within their area.

6. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 This report outlines the approaches which could be taken to bring about positive impacts on the environment in the future, through proposing new build assets which would contribute to the Council's net zero carbon ambitions, and through ensuring improved resource efficiency by rationalising assets where appropriate.

6.2 All new build and refurbishment projects are compliant with the Council's Building Performance policy, and through the location and design of new buildings we will seek to promote active and sustainable travel to school.

6.3 Designing new assets for the future presents opportunities to make positive impacts on other aspects of the natural environment, including, for example, making space for nature through sustainable approaches to landscaping, avoiding over-use of synthetic materials in school grounds, and providing space for food growing initiatives. Officers will continue to work closely with colleagues in Environmental Planning when designing new and refurbished outdoor spaces, to ensure consideration is given to these important factors.

6.4 However it is also recognised that carrying out physical changes to the Council estate, such as removing surplus capacity or constructing new buildings, could potentially result in a negative impact on the environment, for example through disturbance to habitats and roosting animals, or affecting existing open spaces. Any such activity will be planned carefully to minimise any such negative impacts wherever possible.

7. RISK

Category	Risks	Primary Controls/Control Actions to achieve Target Risk Level	*Target Risk Level (L, M or H) *taking into account	*Does Target Risk Level Match

			controls/control actions	Appetite Set?
Strategic Risk	No significant risks identified			
Compliance	(1) Failure to plan effectively for the school estate, leading to the Council being unable to fulfil its duty to make adequate and efficient provision (2) Failure to consult formally with stakeholders on changes to schools would be in breach of legislation	1) The report sets out opportunities to ensure adequate and efficient provision is maintained (2) Any proposed changes to schools arising from the proposed Outline Business Case will incorporate full statutory consultation to ensure compliance with legislation	L	Yes
Operational	Failure to engage and consult with communities on the future of the school estate which serves them, could lead to reputational damage for the Council.	Any proposed changes to existing assets and services arising from the proposed Outline Business Case will be subject to full community consultation prior to any final decisions being taken.	L	Yes
Financial	There is currently a high risk of poor ground conditions at the Northfield Academy site and adjacent playing fields which could add	Physical site investigations to be carried out during development of the Outline Business Case would ensure any risks can be fully identified and would allow mitigations to be put in place.	M	Yes

	significant costs to the project.			
Reputational	Failure to engage and consult with communities on the future of the school estate which serves them, could lead to reputational damage for the Council.	Any proposed changes to existing assets and services arising from the proposed Outline Business Case will be subject to full community consultation prior to any final decisions being taken.	L	Yes
Environment / Climate	Development of new assets could lead to increased carbon emissions	Climate risks and the need for the estate to contribute to the Council's net zero carbon emissions targets will be embedded into planning and decision making.	L	Yes

8. OUTCOMES

COUNCIL DELIVERY PLAN 2025-26	
	Impact of Report
Aberdeen City Council Policy Statement **Working in Partnership for Aberdeen**	The report supports the delivery of the following policy statements: A City of Opportunity Policy Statement 2 - Review and invest in our school estate, ensuring all of Aberdeen's schools are fit for the educational needs and the challenges of the 21st century. The report presents options for improving the school estate in Northfield. A Prosperous City Policy Statement 8 - Seek to buy goods, services and food locally whenever possible, subject to complying with the law and public tendering requirements. Opportunities to do this will be considered for any projects which are progressed as a result of the proposed Outline Business Case.

Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2016-2026	
Prosperous People Stretch Outcomes	The report supports the delivery of Stretch Outcome 6 in the LOIP – children living in our priority neighbourhoods will sustain a positive destination on leaving school – proposals in this report will assist in improving education provision in Northfield.
Regional and City Strategies	The recommendations in the report support the delivery of the Council's Property and Estates Strategy.

9. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Assessment	Outcome
Integrated Impact Assessment	New Integrated Impact Assessment has been completed
Data Protection Impact Assessment	Not required
Other	No other assessments required

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

10.1 Education and Children's Services Committee, 17 September 2024: Agenda Item 12: School Estate Plan Annual Update

10.2 Education and Children's Services Committee, 16 September 2025: Agenda Item 10.2: Northfield Area Asset Review – Strategic Outline Business Case

11. APPENDICES

11.1 Appendix A: Northfield Area Asset Review Strategic Outline Case

12. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

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Corporate Project Management Toolkit

Strategic Outline Case

Project Name	Northfield Area Asset Review		
Sponsoring Cluster	Corporate Landlord		
Senior Responsible Officer	Stephen Booth		
Gateway Review by Sponsoring Cluster The Sponsoring Cluster must confirm their support for the project and, crucially, have the resources necessary to deliver the project to conclusion.	Strategic Outline Case agreed	Yes ☒	No ☐
	Project scope modified – further options?	Yes ☐	No ☒
	Pilot exercise to test assumptions	Yes ☐	No ☒
	Postpone or abandon	Yes ☐	No ☒

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1. Project Overview

A detailed review of Council owned non-domestic assets within the Northfield area was undertaken between March and June 2025, to identify opportunities for consolidation of assets, to help reduce costs, and improve Council services to the area. This Strategic Outline Case presents the findings of that review and sets out options for bringing about improvements.

The asset review builds on a separate feasibility study undertaken in 2023, which focused on the primary schools within Northfield and the potential for reducing excess pupil capacity within these. The feasibility study did not lead to any conclusive recommendations, and officers were instructed by the Education and Children's Services ECS Committee in February 2024 to carry out further work to identify potential future options for primary school provision in Northfield, alongside a review of the long term future for Northfield Academy.

The 2025 asset review focused on all Council operational assets within the Middlefield, Mastrick, Cummings Park, Northfield, and Heathryfold localities (collectively referred to herein as 'the Northfield area') including education, sports, leisure, and community facilities, with the objective of identifying potential asset consolidation and enhancing Council services across the area. The review covered:

- Current asset utilisation and future service requirements
- Building running costs and annual maintenance costs
- Building condition and suitability (including backlog maintenance and ability to meet net zero ambitions)
- Opportunities for asset rationalisation, to better meet future service requirements and reduce overall costs
- Opportunities to deliver services in a more integrated way, for example by delivering a range of services from the same building
- Viability of progressing options in relation to required capital spend against revenue savings.

A map of the area to be reviewed along with a list of the assets reviewed is shown at **Appendix 1**.

This document sets out a number of high level options for improving and consolidating assets in the Northfield area, which have been informed by the findings of the asset review, and recommends that officers are instructed to develop these options further in an outline business case, which would identify a preferred option to be taken forwards.

2. Business Aims, Needs, Objectives and Constraints

The Sponsoring Organisation for this project is Corporate Landlord.

By identifying the options for improving buildings and services and potentially consolidating assets within the Northfield area, the project will support the delivery of Stretch Outcomes detailed in the LOIP:

- No 3 in the LOIP – addressing that 95% of all children will reach their expected developmental milestones. By supporting young peoples physical, mental and emotional health & wellbeing through improving access to services.
- No 5 in the LOIP – Our care experienced children and young people will have the same levels of attainment in education and positive destinations as their peers. By improving the quality of the buildings and combining multiple services this will increase access to the services available in the community.
- No13 in the LOIP – Addressing climate change by reducing Aberdeen's carbon emissions by at least 61% by 2026 and adapting to the impacts of our changing climate. Reducing the

number of operational buildings within the area and particularly removing older buildings which are less efficient to run, will help to reduce the overall carbon emissions from the estate.

The project supports the overall delivery of the School Estate Plan, approved by Committee in September 2022. In turn the School Estate Plan acts as a strategic implementation plan for the Council's Property and Estates Strategy.

Implementing the actions from the School Estate Plan as instructed by Committee will help to ensure that the school estate is effectively managed and can continue to support and contribute to the delivery of high quality services for children and young people, and for wider school communities.



To address the Strategic Priorities above, the review has explored various options, from a minimal approach with limited benefits, to a full community campus solution with potentially substantial advantages for the community and partners. More detailed information can be found in Section 5.

School Capacity in Northfield

Certain primary schools within the Northfield Associated Schools Group (ASG) are located in close proximity to each other, including Bramble Brae and Manor Park Schools, which are less than one mile apart. Pupil numbers at Bramble Brae School are expected to fall to 42% of its capacity by 2032 and the roll at Muirfield School is predicted to fall to as low as 32% of its available capacity within that timescale. Pupil numbers at Northfield Academy are expected to remain at or around 80% of the school's capacity for the foreseeable future.

In light of the forecast decline in primary pupil numbers, there is a requirement to consider the options for reducing the excess primary school capacity in the Northfield ASG, to help ensure that pupil rolls at the schools in this area can be maintained at sustainable levels in the medium to long term.

Northfield Academy

At Northfield Academy, Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) has been found to be present within the roof structure in various locations around the school site. Although there were no immediate safety concerns reported by the specialist engineers who inspected and tested the roof panels in the school, this will require to be reviewed on a regular basis and could require more intrusive work in the future leading to unplanned closure.

Asset Review

In light of the above, officers were instructed by the ECS Committee in February 2024 to carry out further work to identify potential future options for improving and consolidating primary school provision in Northfield, alongside a review of the long term future of Northfield Academy to provide solutions for removing any risks associated with the RAAC in the building.

In September 2024, the ECS Committee further instructed officers to widen the scope of the review to include all Council owned assets in the area, alongside the schools. This was to allow for a wider range of options to be considered, in terms of consolidating buildings and offering services in different ways, which will help to maximise the potential savings and improvements which could be achieved. The Committee instruction emphasised the need for the review to encompass the principles of the Council's Community Campus and Family Support models.

The options described in Section 5 below therefore focus on the potential for consolidating existing primary school provision, to reduce excess capacity, and for providing solutions for removing RAAC at Northfield Academy. The options also give consideration to the possibility of improving the delivery of other Council services in Northfield, which could lead to the consolidation of other, non-education assets in the area.

Community Campus Model

A key focus of the Council's Community Campus model is to encourage the shared use of facilities by communities, to improve collaboration and integrated service delivery, and encourage more effective and efficient use of resources to meet a broader range of community needs at a single location. This approach supports delivery of multi-agency spaces, drives efficiency through the co-location of services, supporting the needs of a particular community, and has the potential to maximise opportunities for early intervention, in keeping with the Local Outcome Improvement Plan.

By proposing solutions for Northfield which follow the principles of the Community Campus model, this project provides an opportunity to deliver significant and valuable improvements for the Northfield community, not only in terms of providing quality education facilities, but also in improving access to a wide range of local services to support the community as a whole.

Family Support Model

The Family Support Model, which has been developed over the past year by the Fairer Futures Partnership and with the Northfield community as an initial test site, aims to shift the focus from reactive and risk-based services to upstream and preventative approaches. The model was based in part on the findings of the Scottish Government's Independent Care Review (2020) which highlighted the importance of partnership working, shared culture and leadership, holistic and person-centred practice, and locality-based service delivery.

The intention is for the Family Support Model to help tackle poverty and deprivation by improving wellbeing, increasing income and employability and reducing the cost of living for individuals and families, especially in priority areas such as Northfield. It focuses on building stronger communities and emphasises early intervention and prevention rather than just a crisis response. This new approach recognises the importance of establishing a community space that is accessible without 'referral' and which provides an environment that is welcoming and trauma informed.

The options for improving assets within Northfield which are set out below provide an opportunity to support the further development and rollout of the Family Support model, by providing spaces within buildings which are designed to be used flexibly to deliver a variety of key services in different ways to support the above principles, which also link well with the principles of the Community Campus model.

For example there is scope to include a community library function within any new build development, and expand access to community sports facilities. In addition and depending on service requirements there could be the opportunity to provide office accommodation or customer contact space for Health and Social Care. The project provides an opportunity to work collaboratively with the Fairer Futures Partnership to provide facilities which can effectively deliver the Family Support Model in Northfield.

The asset review was limited to non-residential, operational properties only within the review area – as defined within the map and assets list at **Appendix 1** of this document.

Given the linkages with the separate and ongoing work around the Family Support Model described above, at this stage of the project it has not been possible to define in detail the types of community services which would be provided within a new Community Campus, and therefore which of the existing non-education assets in Northfield could potentially be consolidated. It will be necessary to wait for the Fairer Futures Partnership to conclude its work, and consideration could then be given to how a Community Campus in Northfield could support any recommendations from the Partnership on the future use of assets for service delivery in Northfield. At this stage the high level options presented in Section 5 below include an allocation of space to be used for the delivery of community services. More detail on this, including the identification of any existing assets which could be consolidated as a result, will be provided in the proposed Outline Business Case.

The Local Development Plan highlights new housing at Greenferns and potential brownfield development at Granitehill. This was taken into account as part of the asset review, and the proposed options outlined below have been developed to ensure sufficient school capacity will be available to meet demand from future new housing in the area.

There is currently no budget allocation within the Council's capital programme to support the construction of any new assets in Northfield. The identified options which involve new construction projects are therefore subject to the identification of appropriate funding sources to deliver them.

In terms of location for a suitable development, a number of sites in ACC ownership have been explored for a potential community campus solution, to include the existing Northfield Academy site and surrounding Cummings Park area, together with the development land at Greenferns Farm. Each of the sites is likely to have planning restrictions and will require a strategy to mitigate the loss of green space and / or future housing allocation.

3. Stakeholder Issues

There are several stakeholder groups who will have an interest in the outcomes of the wider assets review, including people who live in Northfield, parents of all pupils attending the schools, local elected members, MPs and MSPs, community councils, Health & Social Care and also the staff and pupils within the ACC owned and operated assets.

A questionnaire for building managers was developed to ascertain the core data required to determine the suitability, accessibility, conditionality, energy performance and utilisation rating of the assets in scope. In addition, one to one interviews were conducted with the Health & Social Care team, the Fairer Futures Team with input from the Communities Team and partners such as Police Scotland and NHS Grampian. The output of this information is included in **Appendix 2,** and rated to highlight the buildings which are likely to require intervention in the near future. This exercise has highlighted that 16 properties may require capital intervention in the near future to maintain the property and deliver the service.

The consultation was conducted with responses from 28 service lines and followed up with one to one interviews, where further information was required:

1. Children & Families Team
2. Communities Team
3. Libraries Team
4. NHS Grampian (Partnership Team)
5. Fairer Futures Team
6. Sport Aberdeen

Initial consultation has been progressed with the Health & Social Care Partnership and also Police Scotland to determine if there is a requirement for accommodation, and this will be dependent on their own reviews of services in this location.

In addition to the above the Community Planning Team are updating the Local Outcome Improvement Plan and have completed consultation through the Your Place; Your Plans; Your Futures initiative, which will provide additional input into the community aspirations for the North area of the city.

Sport Aberdeen are currently undertaking a review of all of their operational assets in the city, which may have future implications for the sports facilities in Northfield; any relevant findings or recommendations from that review will be accounted for within the proposed Outline Business Case.

With regard to the education estate, The School Estate Plan sets out a commitment to engage with all stakeholder groups from an early stage, so that views and feedback about the available options can be gathered and considered prior to any decisions being taken.

Any recommendations to close schools or change the arrangements for primary school provision will also require formal statutory public consultation, before any final decisions on making changes can be taken.

4. Management and Implementation

The project will be led by Corporate Landlord with support from Hub North Scotland.

Strategic and technical support for developing the feasibility studies will be provided by the Design Team within the Capital cluster. Consultancy Support is likely to be required, particularly to provide specialist engineering and ground investigation to inform the development of the outline business case.

5. Consideration of Options

In order to meet the Strategic Priorities listed above, a series of options have been explored below with the benefits and disbenefits detailed.

Option 1: Do Nothing

Description:

Continue with current maintenance / inspections of roof structure at Northfield Academy. No consolidation of assets in Northfield.

Benefits:

1. Limited capital required
2. Limited disruption (until any unplanned closure)

Disbenefits:

1. Ongoing revenue implications
2. Potential unplanned closure of school
3. No benefit for community or new campus facility
4. Does not mitigate backlog maintenance
5. Does not positively impact energy usage
6. Does not address RAAC removal from estate

7. Does not allow for any consolidation of the primary estate or non-education assets, and cost savings that are associated with this.

Option 2: Do Minimum / Health & Safety Works at Northfield Academy

Description:

Carry out minimum works necessary at Northfield Academy to make existing building structurally sound (i.e. address RAAC). No consolidation of assets in Northfield.

Benefits:

1. Limited capital required
2. Limited disruption
3. Removes RAAC from estate

Disbenefits:

1. Limited lifespan of the Northfield Academy building - will require replacement in future.
2. No benefit for community facility
3. Does not mitigate backlog maintenance
4. Does not positively impact energy usage
8. Does not allow for any consolidation of the primary estate or non-education assets, and cost savings that are associated with this.

Option 3: Consolidation of primary school capacity and enhancement of Northfield Campus

Description:

Upgrade Northfield Academy (with extension) to provide 1,000 secondary places, new build two or three-stream primary school and community space on Northfield site, to consolidate existing assets. Community provision to align with the Family Support model – further detail to be added at OBC stage.

Benefits:

1. Develops a part education campus on a shared site with access to shared leisure facilities
2. Allows consolidation of primary estate and non-education buildings, and reuse or disposal of surplus sites.
3. Removes RAAC from estate
4. Improves Condition / Suitability of existing Northfield Academy
5. Potentially reduces energy use of existing Northfield Academy and improves thermal performance

Disbenefits:

1. Limits benefits of joint / combined spaces and the efficiencies that go with developing a joint campus and shared communal spaces.
2. Limited lifespan of the existing Northfield Academy building - will require replacement at some point in the future.
3. No cost saving by developing in one phase. By developing in stages any benefit (shared prelims / groundworks / mobilisation) will be lost.
4. Will require full or phased decant of pupils and disruption during construction
5. Will require temporary decant facilities therefore further cost implications.

Option 4: Consolidation of existing assets and new Community Campus on a single site

Description:

Replacement Northfield Academy, consolidated primary school provision and consolidated and improved delivery of and access to community services, in a single campus location. Community provision to align with the Family Support model – further detail to be added at OBC stage.

Benefits:

1. Develops a shared community campus on a single site
2. Allows consolidation of primary estate and non-education buildings. and reuse or disposal of surplus sites. Reduces revenue costs for multiple dated buildings.
3. Removes RAAC from estate
4. Potential reduction in overall floorspace / shared communal facilities. Potentially reduces overall development costs.
5. Improves thermal efficiency of existing assets
6. Depending on preferred site, could limit disruption / decant for pupils.
7. Provide the opportunity for other ACC service lines to co-locate and potentially reuse part of the existing Northfield Estate. Potential for NHSG / H&SC to reuse space.
8. Ensures condition / suitability of education assets is A rated
9. Removes backlog maintenance liability

Disbenefits:

1. Significant capital cost
2. Could be a number of years before the benefits are realised
3. Loss of greenspace

Option 5: Consolidation of existing assets with new secondary and primary school provision on separate sites

Description:

New two or three stream primary school and replacement Northfield Academy on separates sites. Improved delivery of and access to community services to align with the Family Support model – further detail to be added at OBC stage.

Benefits:

1. Improves education / community facilities in multiple locations within Northfield area
2. Allows consolidation of existing assets and reuse of buildings or disposal of surplus sites. Reduces revenue costs for multiple dated buildings.
3. Provides opportunities to form a community campus with existing primary schools adjacent to the secondary school site
4. Removes RAAC from estate
5. Improves thermal efficiency of existing assets
6. Would limit disruption / decant for pupils.
7. Provide the opportunity for other ACC service lines to co-locate and potentially reuse part of the existing Northfield Estate. Potential for NHSG / H&SC to reuse space.
8. Ensures condition / suitability of the education estate is A rated
9. Removes backlog maintenance liability

Disbenefits:

1. Likely to be highest requirement for capital as limited benefit for shared site works
2. Could be a number of years before the benefits are realised
3. Potentially additional travel time for access to leisure facilities

Recommendation

It is recommended that officers are instructed to develop an Outline Business Case (OBC) to explore the above options further, and for the completed Outline Business Case to be included within the budget setting process for 2026/27.

Programme

An indicative programme has been drafted, which details the governance process and committee schedules below:

- SOC to be presented to ECS Committee September 2025 and F&R Committee November 2025, setting out high level options for improving assets in Northfield, based on findings of the asset review
- Seek approval from Committee and instruction to develop an Outline Business Case (commencing September 2025) to add more detail to the options, carry out site investigations and to identify a preferred option
- OBC to be presented by March 2026 (budget setting)
- OBC to identify preferred option, to seek approval of funding in capital programme, and an instruction to proceed with design development

6. Costs, Benefits and Risks

Due to the scope of this project at this strategic stage, the projects will require more detailed information to provide project budgets. Due to the nature of the buildings and their condition, a detailed building survey will be required for each of the primary and secondary schools included in the project scope.

Financial savings will be expected from any consolidation of primary schools into a single location / campus and the saving on ongoing / planned and future maintenance requirements, which will be defined through the building condition surveys.

In terms of budget for new build facilities and utilising information available through similar projects a budget estimate has been provided for the following:

New build development options utilising campus approach or a split site - £120m to £180m

The above makes limited allowances for site conditions / abnormals, inflation and programme, which will be provided through the business case process.

The OBC may identify opportunities for consolidating buildings, which will ultimately help to reduce any inefficiencies associated with the current condition and utilisation of assets and reduce the overall cost of running the estate. It also has the potential to bring about improvements to service delivery, through achieving efficiencies in the deployment of staff and resources across a smaller number of buildings.

Depending on the options there will likely be opportunities to explore indirect benefits with partners such as NHS / Health & Social Care to either repurpose existing structures or utilise space within a new build development.

Removing older, inefficient buildings will also help to contribute to the Council's net-zero carbon ambitions.

The project is unfunded and any options are likely to have capital cost implications. Appropriate funding will need to be identified to allow any preferred option to be taken forwards.

Desktop studies undertaken during the asset review have confirmed that the existing Northfield Academy site and adjacent playing fields were formed on a former quarry site. There is therefore a risk of poor ground conditions, which could add significantly to the cost of any development, and also to delivery timescales. As part of the development process to be explored through the OBC, it is anticipated to carry out detailed site investigation work to minimise risks associated with the sites.

7. Operational Carbon Impact

The Northfield asset review considers the rationalisation of a number of primary and secondary school assets in the area together with community facilities. Northfield Academy is central to the asset review with proposal being assessed for a decommission and rebuild or a refurbishment and expansion of the existing footprint.

As part of this Strategic Outline Case the current operational carbon impact has been considered to present an overview of the current and expected future emissions of Northfield Academy under its current operation.

Energy use intensity factors have been calculated to rationalise the current building's operational efficiency against other similar assets. These benchmarks have been calculated using CIBSE industry recognised benchmarks and incorporate annual building energy consumption. The next step of analysis will seek to use available data to assess how different energy efficiency measures might impact the building's operation and carbon footprint. Further analysis is needed of the proposed scenarios to support an operational carbon comparison.

It should be noted that benchmarking has been carried out on the other public assets in the Northfield area however, focus has been given to Northfield Academy due to its prevalence in the asset review and that it is the single largest gas consumer in the area and has the largest carbon footprint of any of the Council's assets in the area. Other school assets have been shown to follow a similar trend so considerations for energy and refurbishment options are considered to be common to both.

Further detail on the likely carbon impact of this project will be provided in the Outline Business Case.

8. Funding and Affordability

Development of OBC will need input from the consultancy team and would likely be in the region of £150,000

In addition there will be costs associated with Site Investigation, which are likely to be in the region of £150,000

These costs will be met from existing budgets for the delivery of the School Estate Plan.

9. Assumptions

Budget estimates provided in this document include high level assumptions on:

- School Roll Projections

- Design Development Risk
- Post Contract Risk
- Main Contractors Margin
- Design Team Fees
- Survey Costs
- Inflation in Construction Costs throughout project period to Q1 xxxxxx
- Allowance for preliminaries
- Ground condition risk

These will be further explored during development of the Outline Business Case.

10. Support Services Consulted

Service	Consultee	Comments	Date
City Regeneration and Environment	Chief Officer, Capital AlanMcKay@aberdeencity.gov.uk		
City Regeneration and Environment	Chief Officer, City Development and Regeneration jrichardswood@aberdeencity.gov.uk	Comments provided	04/08/25
Communications	David Ewen, Communication and Marketing Manager DaEwen@aberdeencity.gov.uk		
Corporate Services	Chief Officer, Finance jbelford@aberdeencity.gov.uk		
Corporate Services	Jade Leyden, Locality Planning & Community Development Manager jleyden@aberdeencity.gov.uk		
Design – Public Buildings	Ian Flett, Senior Architect IaFlett@aberdeencity.gov.uk	No comments at this stage	05/08/25
Emergency Planning Officer	Fiona Mann FioMann@aberdeencity.gov.uk		
Families and Communities	Chief Officer, Corporate Landlord stbooth@aberdeencity.gov.uk		
Families and Communities	Chief Officer, Education & Lifelong Learning shmilne@aberdeencity.gov.uk		
Families and Communities	Guch Dillon, Fairer Futures Partnership Lead gdhillon@aberdeencity.gov.uk		
Families and Communities (Asset Management)	Andrew Jones, Service Manager ajones@aberdeencity.gov.uk		

Service	Consultee	Comments	Date
Finance	Scott Paterson, Finance Partner spaterson@aberdeencity.gov.uk		
Fleet (if your project has fleet implications)	John Weir, Fleet Manager jweir@aberdeencity.gov.uk		
Governance	Chief Officer, Governance jelawson@aberdeencity.gov.uk		
Grounds Maintenance	Steven Shaw, Environmental Manager stevens@aberdeencity.gov.uk	No comments.	05/08/25
ICT – Digital and Technology	Steve Robertson, Service Manager, Engineering and Operations sterobertson@aberdeencity.gov.uk		
Legal (Commercial and Procurement)	Michele Pittendreigh, Team Leader MPittendreigh@aberdeencity.gov.uk		
Legal (Property/ Planning and Environment)	Ross Campbell roscampbell@aberdeencity.gov.uk		
Operations	Chief Officer, Operations mareilly@aberdeencity.gov.uk		
Operations (Facilities)	Andy Campbell, Facilities Manager AnCampbell@aberdeencity.gov.uk		
People and Citizen Service	Linsey Blackhurst, Organisation, Change & Design Lead (Interim) lblackhurst@aberdeencity.gov.uk		
Procurement	Gillian Ross giross@aberdeencity.gov.uk		
Programme Management Office (PMO)	PMO Programme Manager RMacTaggart@aberdeencity.gov.uk	No comment at this stage	5/08/2025
Roads Management	Stuart Allan, Team Leader Technical StuAllan@aberdeencity.gov.uk Vycki Ritson, Team Leader Engineering vritson@aberdeencity.gov.uk		
Roads Projects	Stuart Andrew, Senior Engineer standrew@aberdeencity.gov.uk		
Strategic Place Planning	Chief Officer, Strategic Place Planning DDunne@aberdeencity.gov.uk		

Service	Consultee	Comments	Date
Climate and Environment Policy	EPConsultations@aberdeencity.gov.uk		
Equalities Team	equality_and_diversity@aberdeencity.gov.uk		
Estates	Property Estates Manager		

Service	Consultee	Comments	Date
	Estates@aberdeencity.gov.uk		
Planning	Local Development Plan Team LDP@aberdeencity.gov.uk Development Management PI@aberdeencity.gov.uk	Comments provided	06/08/25
Transportation Strategy and Programmes	transportstrategy@aberdeencity.gov.uk	No comments	08/08/25

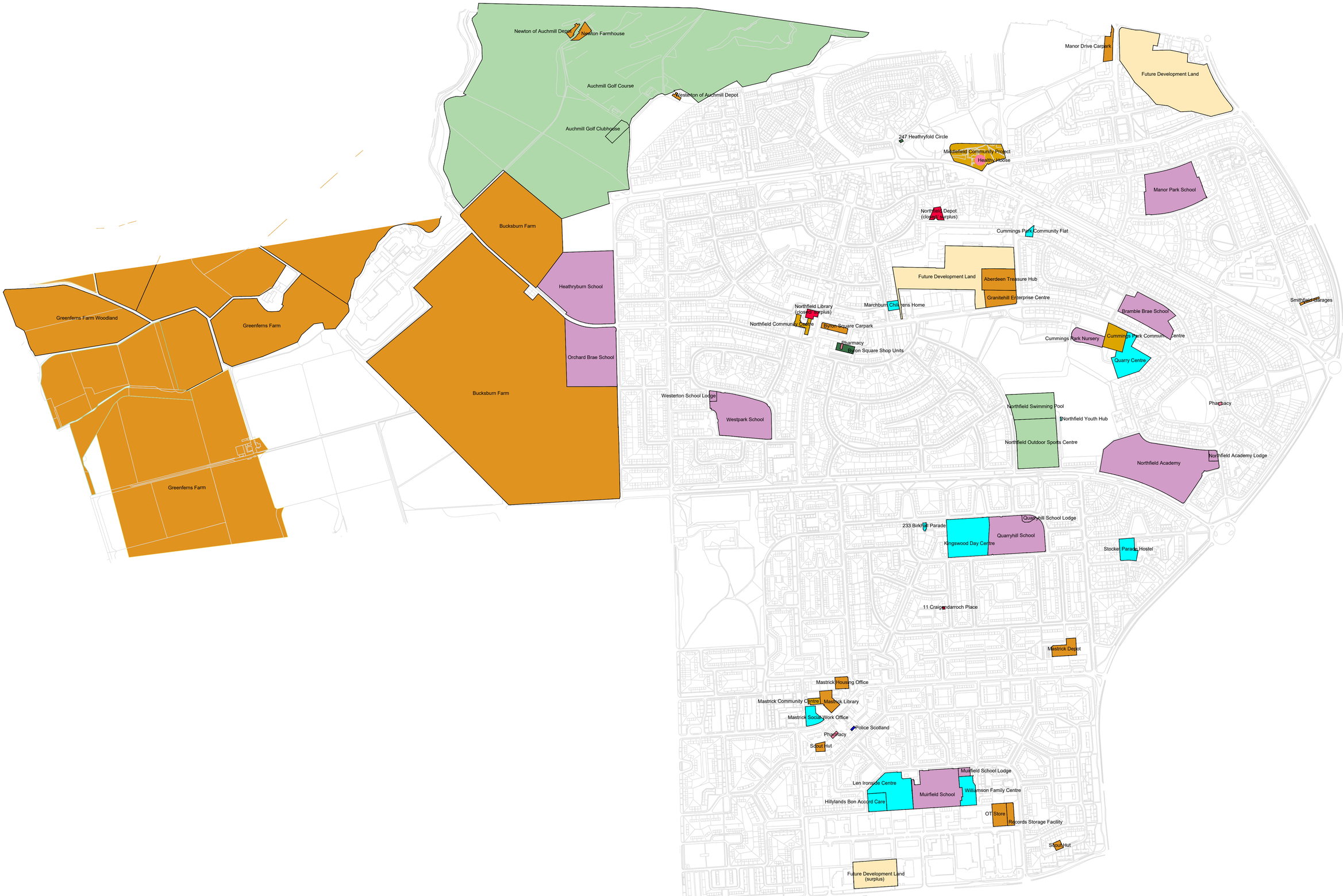
11. Decision by Capital Board	Date
***Approved/Not Approved** to prepare an Outline Business Case.	

*indicate whether approved, as well as any additional stipulations.

12. Document Revision History			
Version	**Reason**	**By**	**Date**
1.0	First Draft SOC for Consultation	MW/AJ	04/08/25
1.1	Updated draft submitted with Director Draft committee report	AJ	12/08/25
1.2	Final Draft submitted for Committee	AJ	03/09/25

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Middlefield, Mastrick, Cummings Park, Northfield & Heathryfold Asset Plan



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Property / Address	Condition Rating	Suitability Rating	Access	EPC*	Utilisation Rating	Notes
Northfield Academy Granitehill Place Northfield Aberdeen AB16 7AU	B	C		E	50-75%	
Mastrick Community Centre Greenfern Road Mastrick Aberdeen AB16 6TR	B	A	C	?	50-75%	Citizens advice, aa, alcohol and drugs action and social security Scotland, for help with all Scottish benefits. Councillor surgeries. Leased community asset - 10 years - likely 2032 expiry. New Take away Coffee pod / possible lottery funded.
Northfield Community Centre Byron Square Northfield Aberdeen AB16 7LL	B	B	B	E+	50-75%	Community volunteers. childrens club, bingo, lunch group, foodbank, Andys man club, byron boxing, salsa dancing, browies & rainbows, a.a.&da, aa, pathways, befriend a child,private lets on an adhock times. birthday parties, kids discos, youth pool, darts foozeball session. c.a.b. art club. Leased community asset - 10 years - likely 2032 expiry. interest from community (all life changes) for community asset transfer.
Cummings Park Learning Centre Cummings Park Crescent Northfield Aberdeen AB16 7AR	B	B	B	G	50-75%	AHSCP, Schools, Sport Aberdeen, Ranger Services, Unpaid Work Team
Cummings Park Community Flat 122 Cummings Park Drive Northfield Aberdeen AB16 7BB	B	A	D	n/a	50-75%	Groups, classes and one to one session. Agencies include SAFE, Pathways, Adult Learning, SCS, councillors, Intergeneration group (Heatheryburn School), boys brigade, craft for kids, well being for adults and a church service on a Sunday is provided by our partner agency. 14 volunteers support the flat.
The Quarry Centre 35 Cummings Park Crescent Aberdeen AB16 7AS	B	B	B	E+	75-99%	Property performing well on paper. Number of condition and suitability issues raised which are impacting on service delivery. Opportunity for partial co-location
Williamson Family Centre Mastrick Close Mastrick Aberdeen AB16 6XZ	A	A	B	F	100%	Williamson is a critical Social Work Hub for Children's Social Work across the city. 155 - 165 people per month (visitors) 30 Staff based here. 20 workstations
Mastrick Area Social Work Office Greenfern Road Mastrick Aberdeen AB16 6SH	B	A	B	?	75-99%	Multi agency work being undertaken and conference room utilised for this. Would consider co-location however, would need careful planning / set up due to sensitivities. Location critical. Access to service can be fraught with challenges. Secure safe facility required to protect staff from difficult situations. Used as a hub for staff to return too during the day. Frequent support required from Police. Very location specific and provides locality support for the families in area. Difficult to co-locate with other services, however, community / library space could be used if ever available. 40 FTE staff. 50 workstations.
Mastrick Housing Office Spey Road Mastrick Aberdeen AB16 6SF	B	B	B	D+	75-99%	Housing & Support Locality Services. Following the closure of the Northfield Works Depot, the team also work from this base. The building is open to the public from 9am-1pm each working day. 30 staff work from this office. Co location already in place with Northfield Works depot staff. Regular public access required.
Mastrick Library Greenfern Road Mastrick Aberdeen AB16 6TR	B	B	B	G	50-75%	Feedback from Libraries Team - Future Library Model - under development. Consider co-location / community hub model. Require mix of spaces / open / private / 1 to 1 / club space / internet / point of access for services. A shared space or building will need access managed to save any antisocial behaviour in shared public access spaces. Consider a co located service for Northfield. people access Library often to access services in times of crisis. Signposting.
Community Equipment OT Store Unit C/D Whitemyres Avenue Mastrick Aberdeen AB16 6HQ	B	B	B	n/a	100%	Property has previously been flagged by service with number of condition and suitability issues, opportunities for co-location. The Joint Equipment Service provides equipment to support residents of Aberdeen City on behalf of ACC, ACHSCP and NHSG. The community alarm and telecare service is also part of this service providing community alarm and telecare to 2500 people across Aberdeen City. 43 Staff and 25 workstations
Hillylands - Community Special Needs 2 Croft Road Mastrick Aberdeen AB16 6RB	B	A	B	n/a	75-95%	Staff Welfare facilities - only 3 toilets available for a building capacity of 50+ during courses. Upgrade of heating system and air conditioning Installation of electrical sockets in proximity to desks Refurbish existing toilets to increase capacity Upgrade WiFi to fit for purpose system. Limited collaborative opportunity.
Westpark School (formerly Westerton) Cruden Crescent Northfield Aberdeen AB16 7JD	B	B		E+	55%	To be reviewed as part of Education Estate - poor utilisation and EPC
Muirfield School Mastrick Drive Mastrick Aberdeen AB16 6UE	B	B		D+	50%	To be reviewed as part of Education Estate - poor utilisation and EPC
Quarryhill Primary School Birkhall Parade Mastrick Aberdeen AB16 5QT	B	C		D+	71%	To be reviewed as part of Education Estate - poor utilisation and EPC
Bramble Brae Primary School Cummings Park Drive Aberdeen AB16 7BL	B	B		F+	58%	To be reviewed as part of Education Estate - poor utilisation and EPC
Depot Cairnwell Drive Mastrick Aberdeen AB16 5ND	B	B	n/a	n/a	75-99%	Remove from scope of this project, property to be considered as wider Depot Review. Requires increase in EV charging points. Otherwise suitable. Do office staff need to be based here?
Northfield Outdoor Sports Centre Provost Fraser Drive Northfield Aberdeen AB16 5TL	B	B	B	n/a	n/a	Pavillion (Closed) in poor condition - depending on option for Northfield Academy site option to provide improved changing facilities
(Quarryhill School Lodge) 55 Birkhall Parade Mastrick AB16 5QT						This may have to be reviewed depending on outcome of school site
Muirfield School Lodge, Mastrick Drive, AB16 6UE						This may have to be reviewed depending on outcome of school site
Northfield Academy Lodge, Granitehill Place, Northfield, AB16 7NW						This may have to be reviewed depending on outcome of school site
Westerton School Lodge, Cruden Crescent, Aberdeen, AB16 7JD						This may have to be reviewed depending on outcome of school site
Len Ironside Centre Mastrick Drive Aberdeen AB16 6UE	A	A	Modern Standards - assumed accessible	n/a	100%	Performing well in all categories. Co location with NHS / Community Learning Disability Team. Building well utilised. Some investment in changing facilities / EV and car parking.
Day Care Centre Kingswood Court Invercauld Road Aberdeen AB16 5RX	A	A	A	n/a	75-90%	Performing well in all categories. This part of the Kingswood Court complex is used as a day care centre for vulnerable adults. 5 staff 4 Workstations. Offices, Hairdressing Salon. large open plan area for activities, kitchen. open Mon - Friday. Well utilised facility during week. Could community use during weekend?
Marchburn Childrens Home 8 Marchburn Road Aberdeen AB16 7NN	A	B	n/a	n/a	75-99%	Performing well in all categories. To provide a statutory residential care service to children in need of care and protection. City wide service. Service requirement may reduce over time. Up to 20 FTE. Residential care - no collaborative opportunities.

Northfield Swimming Pool & Fitness Centre Kettlehills Crescent Northfield Aberdeen AB16 5PL	A	A	Modern Standards - assumed accessible	B	50-75%	Recently refurbished, performing well. Some challenges to running the service. Physical and building related. There is scope to increase collaboration with the Health Partnership given they are in the building regularly.
Stocket Parade Hostel 16 Stocket Parade Aberdeen AB16 5QN	B	A	n/a	n/a	100%	Performing well in all categories. Housing Support services for 18 Adults with a Learning disability. They all have ACC occupancy agreements for their homes. Stocket Parade is regulated by the Care Inspectorate and some buildings have HMO licences. 23 staff are employed by ACHSCP to provide 24 hour support for the adults. Residential care - no collaborative opportunities.
House 11 Craigendarroch Place Aberdeen AB16 5SE	B	A	n/a	n/a	100%	Performing well in all categories. This is a 3 bedroomed house, it provides accommodation for 1 client with a Learning disability. Registered for 3 clients. Single care housing facility. No collaborative opportunities.
House 233 Birkhall Parade 233 Birkhall Parade Mastrick Aberdeen AB16 5QT	B	B	n/a	n/a	100%	Performing well in all categories
Aberdeen Treasure Hub Granitehill Road Aberdeen AB16 7AX	A	A	A	n/a	25-50% (office)	Performing well in all categories, utilisation relates to office only therefore scope to look at co-location. Purpose built secure facility. Occupancy is low. Consider increase with ACC Staff or community use in controlled areas. Will require investment.
Records Storage Facility Unit A Whitemyres Avenue Mastrick Industrial Estate Aberdeen City AB16 6HQ	B	A	n/a	n/a	25%	Performing well in all categories, utilisation relates to office only. Leased until 2034. Very suitable for function. No staff based there and no public access. Any possibility to incorporate into Archive Storage?
Social Care & Wellbeing Records Store Unit B Whitemyres Avenue Mastrick Industrial Estate Aberdeen AB16 6HQ	B	A	n/a	n/a	100%	Performing well in all categories. Leased until 2034. Warehouse used for Accession & Storage of Social Work Client paper files in line with Corporate Retention Schedules. Office area 3 FTE for management of Unit 2 (Social Care & Wellbeing Records Store, Whitemyres) & Unit 1 (Corporate Records Store, Whitemyers)Office area also used by 2 FTE (IT Support Analysts Networks) & 2 FTE (IT Support Analysts Education) as Base for Hybrid working on networks and Education Establishments.
Orchard Brae School Howes Road Aberdeen AB16 7RW	A	A	Modern Standards - assumed accessible		?	Performing well in all categories
Cummings Park Nursery Cumming Park Crescent Aberdeen AB16 7AS	A	A	Modern Standards - assumed accessible		?	Performing well in all categories
Heathryburn Primary School Davidson Drive Aberdeen AB16 7FQ	A	A		B	104%	To be reviewed as part of Education Estate - although performing well in all categories
Manor Park School Danestone Circle Northfield Aberdeen AB16 7YB	A	A	Modern Standards - assumed accessible	B	81%	To be reviewed as part of Education Estate - although performing well in all categories
Middlefield Community Project Lord Provost Henry E Rae Community Centre Manor Avenue Aberdeen AB16 7UR	B	A	A	B	100%	To be reviewed as part of Education Estate - although performing well in all categories

*Key to EPC (Energy Performance Certificate) Ratings:

A: Outstanding energy efficiency, requiring minimal energy to operate.
B: Very efficient; minor upgrades could push it to an A.
C: Above average; often seen in modern, well-designed buildings.
D: Average efficiency; improvements may be necessary to enhance performance.
E: Below average; upgrades will likely be needed to reduce operating costs.
F: Poor efficiency, indicating high energy consumption and expenses.
G: Very inefficient; urgent improvements are required to comply with regulations and reduce

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Finance and Resources
DATE	05 November 2025
EXEMPT	This report is not exempt, but Appendices 2 and 5-11 are (paragraph 8)
CONFIDENTIAL	No
REPORT TITLE	Work Plan & Business Cases
REPORT NUMBER	CORS/25/234
DIRECTOR	Andy MacDonald
CHIEF OFFICER	Craig Innes
REPORT AUTHOR	Mel Mackenzie
TERMS OF REFERENCE	1.1.5 & 1.1.6

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 The purpose of this report is to present procurement work plans where expenditure is included for the Corporate Services, Families and Communities and City Regeneration & Environment Functions to Committee for review and to seek approval of the total estimated expenditure for the proposed contracts as contained in the work plans and Procurement Business Cases appended to the report.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Committee: -

2.1 reviews the Corporate Services, Families and Communities, City Regeneration & Environment and Cross Function work plans as detailed in the appendices;

2.2 approves the procurement business cases (Appendix 5 – 11), including the total estimated expenditure for each of the proposed contracts; and

2.3 notes the content of Appendix 3 – 3.10 Memo Approvals and Appendix 4 – 4.1.3 Technical Exemption Approvals.

3. CURRENT SITUATION

3.1 The ACC Procurement Regulations 2024 require that authority to incur expenditure must be sought prior to any invitation to tender or contract entered into. Contracts above £50,000 (supplies/services) or £250,000 (works) to be listed on a workplan with an associated Procurement Business Case and submitted by the relevant Chief Officer to the Finance and Resources Committee, committee approval is required prior to the procurement being undertaken.

3.2 Committee is asked to review the work plans presented for each Function and to approve the expenditure detailed in the Procurement Business Cases appended to the report.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The indicative value of the proposed contract is shown within the workplan and in the Appendices. The ability to have an overview of contract expenditure is aligned to Core Outcomes of the LOIP and the whole systems commissioning cycle approach. The robust approach to governance ensures that all contracts are aligned to the approved budget provision for each financial year with controls in place for flexibility if required.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The contracts shall be procured in accordance with procurement legislation and the Commercial Legal Team within C&PS shall provide legal advice, legal commentary has been sought and is included within each Business Case.

6. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Consideration is included within each Business Case as to how the proposed contract will support the Council's climate commitments. If these are not to be included, officers are asked to confirm why this is the case. Standard wording is included in procurement templates to ensure this is captured at tender stage through to awarded contract.

7. 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?
Strategic Risk	Contract expectations not being monitored or managed.	Contract Management consideration in business cases, guidance and training available for officers.	M	Yes
Compliance	Failure to comply with internal procurement regulations and procurement legislation	Robust process for review of individual business cases and proposed approach to procurement.	L	Yes

Operational	Unable to control demand	Robust process and focus on demand reduction strategies, contract terms developed to be more flexible.	L	Yes
Financial	Escalation of costs Differing market conditions depending on commodity or service	A strong focus on value for money in all commissioning activities and market engagement or use of Business Intelligence to engage with market / ascertain changes/trends.	M	Yes
Reputational	Insufficient information provided by officers, lack of transparency.	Robust process for review of individual business cases and proposed approach to procurement.	L	Yes
Environment/ Climate	Failure to consider sustainable options.	Environmental consideration within business cases and environmental clauses within tender documents.	L	Yes

8. OUTCOMES

COUNCIL DELIVERY PLAN	
	Impact of Report
Aberdeen City Council Policy Statement	The ability to have an overview of contract expenditure is aligned to Core Outcomes of the LOIP and the whole systems commissioning cycle approach.

Aberdeen City Local Outcome Improvement Plan	
Stretch Outcomes (Prosperous Economy/People/Place)	Community Benefits, Fair Work and Climate requirements are incorporated into all ACC Procurement Activity, consideration is given to the Stretch Outcomes within the LOIP at the development phase.
Regional and City Strategies	Details of anticipated outcomes and how they support key strategies are contained within the business case attached.
UK and Scottish Legislative and Policy Programmes	Details of the legislative and policy programmes to be complied with is contained within the business case attached.

9. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Assessment	Outcome
Integrated Impact Assessment	N/A - IIA screening and assessment will be conducted where required for individual business cases.
Data Protection Impact Assessment	Not required
Other	Not required

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

11. APPENDICES

Public
Appendix 1- Final Revenue Work Plans- PUBLIC_FR_051125
Appendix 3_3.10 Memo's (Exemption Urgency) _PUBLIC_F&R_051125
Appendix 4_4.1.3 Forms (Technical Exemption) _PUBLIC_F&R_051125

Private
Appendix 2_Final Revenue _Work Plans_PRIVATE_F&R_051125
Appendix 5_Business Case_Production Partner for Events_PRIVATE_051125
Appendix 6_Business Case_Festive Lighting_PRIVATE_051125
Appendix 7_Business Case_Vehicle Telematics & CCTV_PRIVATE_051125
Appendix 8_Business Case_Free Period Products_PRIVATE_051125
Appendix 9_Business Case_Bottled Gas_PRIVATE_051125
Appendix 10_Business Case_Furniture Storage_PRIVATE_051125
Appendix 11_Business Case_Security Services_PRIVATE_051125

12. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

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Appendix 1: Revenue Work Plans Public	City Regeneration & Environment Work Plan	Committee: Finance & Resources	Date of Committee: 05 November 2025

Reference	Function	Cluster	Description of Requirement	Type of Budget	Estimated Start date of Contract or Extension	Estimated End date of Contract (Excluding extension)	Maximum Extension Period (months)	Estimated End date of Contract (Including extension)	Summary
CRN00041654	City Regeneration & Environment	City Development & Regeneration	Production Partner - (Public Address, Staging, Lighting, Power, Power Distribution, Equipment and AV etc)	Revenue	01/04/2026	31/03/2030	0	31/03/2030	The framework will encompass the supply of all event production requirements for Aberdeen City Council's annual events programme. The requirements include, but are not limited to, the supply of stages, power, power distribution, lighting, public address systems, AV equipment, as well as the management, sign off, storage and transportation of Aberdeen City Council owned event equipment.
CRN000041657	City Regeneration & Environment	City Development & Regeneration	Management of Catenary Wires and Festive Lighting	Revenue	22/06/2026	21/06/2029	24	21/06/2031	The contract will encompass the storage, testing, maintenance and installation of Aberdeen City Council's festive lights, as well as accompanying works, such as structural testing and maintenance of city centre catenary wires.
CRN00038834	City Regeneration & Environment	Operations	Vehicle Telematics and CCTV including Hardware/Software	Revenue Capital	12/01/2026	11/01/2031	24	11/01/2033	This Contract will help improve the efficiency of the Council's fleet operations and optimise fleet, driver and risk management. Telematics refers to information technology and telecommunications being used to track the movement of vehicles and extract data to inform decision making. Telematics devices such as tracking devices, CCTV cameras, dash-cams, and plug and play devices can be linked into the vehicle Can-bus or installed into the On-Board Diagnostics (OBD) port to collect vehicle data. The data is then transmitted to a secure data hub which can be

Appendix 1: Revenue Work Plans Public	Corporate Services Work Plan	Committee: Finance & Resources	Date of Committee: 05 November 2025

Reference	Function	Cluster	Description of Requirement	Type of Budget	Estimated Start date of Contract or Extension	Estimated End date of Contract (Excluding extension)	Maximum Extension Period (months)	Estimated End date of Contract (Including extension)	Summary
CRN00041809	Corporate Services	People and Citizen Services	Management and Distribution of Free Period Products	Revenue	01/04/2026	31/03/2029	24	31/03/2031	Contract for the provision of free period products to schools, other council facilities, the wider community, and businesses which will ensure the Council can meet its statutory duty under the Period Products (Free Provision) (Scotland) Act 2021 to make period products available free of charge for anyone who needs them.
CRN00040464	Corporate Services	Commercial & Procurement	Framework for the Supply and Delivery of Bottled Gas, Industrial Gas and Associated Products	Revenue	01/04/2026	31/03/2030	0	31/03/2030	The establishment of a Framework Agreement for the provision of the supply and delivery of bottled gas and industrial gas will provide services across the Council with a compliant mechanism to purchase their requirements.

Appendix 1: Revenue Work Plans Public	Families & Communities Work Plan	Committee: Finance & Resources	Date of Committee: 05 November 2025

Reference	Function	Cluster	Description of Requirement	Type of Budget	Estimated Start date of Contract or Extension	Estimated End date of Contract (Excluding extension)	Maximum Extension Period (months)	Estimated End date of Contract (Including extension)	Summary
CRN00040220	Families and Communities	Housing	Collection, Storage and Redelivery of Household Belongings.	Revenue	01/04/2026	31/03/2029	24	31/03/2031	Collection, storage and redelivery of household belongings. for homeless households and removal of household belongings for discretionary housing moves.

Appendix 1: Revenue Work Plans Public	Cross Function Work Plan	Committee: Finance & Resources	Date of Committee: 05 November 2025

Reference	Function	Cluster	Description of Requirement	Type of Budget	Estimated Start date of Contract or Extension	Estimated End date of Contract (Excluding extension)	Maximum Extension Period (months)	Estimated End date of Contract (Including extension)	Summary
Various as per Business Case	Corporate Services Families & Communities	Corporate Landlord People & Citizen Services Housing Governance	Provision of Security Services	Revenue	01/03/2026	28/02/2028	6	31/08/2028	The procurement exercise is a collaborative exercise between four services and will result in the award of four separate contracts: -Building Services Security Provisions -Customer Services Security Provisions -Housing Security Provisions -Taxi Marshalling

Appendix 3 - 3.10 Memo's (Exemption Urgency)

Function	Cluster	Description of Contract	Estimated Start date of Contract	Estimated End date of Contract	Total Estimated Contract Value £	Summary of explanation of why the contract was urgently required and justification for suspension of procurement regulations, in whole or in part:
City Regeneration & Environment	City Development & Regeneration	Cabaret Mechanical Theatre Contract - Special Exhibition that spans the May to October period, which is family friendly, of public interest and generates income to offset or exceed the contract value. Exhibition proposals are gathered together through direct proposals to the gallery, discussions with potential UK-wide partners and the Touring Exhibition Group marketplace. Science, art and educational legacy were discussed amongst our review panel, and we recommended Cabaret Mechanical Theatre to Service Manager for final decision based on all Service/Cluster priorities and commissioning intentions, that align with Event 365 strategy, Council Delivery Plan and Partnership Priorities. Cabaret Mechanical Theatre is the only UK provider to offer this touring exhibition option that addresses STEM activities available on the market today.	30/06/2025	30/11/2026	£60,000.00	Discussions with Cabaret Mechanical Theatre Limited (CMTL) regarding the development of the exhibition, Make it Move (working title), its content and curatorial approach, took longer than planned. This was due to a lack of resources within Aberdeen Archives, Gallery & Museums (AAGM). The Exhibitions Manager and his team were fully focused on the delivery of this summer's exhibitions and associated programme to support the Tall Ships Races and Festival of the Sea being held in July 2025. The exhibition contract requires to be signed to allow the first payment to be made to CMTL in July 2025, and work on the project to commence. Project development timescales are now tight to allow for opening the exhibition in May 2026. Further delays risk the service and city not having a family-focused, large-scale exhibition in its summer programme for both its local and visiting audiences. If AAGM does not go ahead with the exhibition this will result in all current activity ceasing, in order to focus staff resources on delivering an in-house generated exhibition, at significant cost and in short timescales.
Corporate Services	Digital & Technology	Paolo Alto firewall appliances Contract - Increase the capacity of the Paolo Alto firewalls to cope with increased traffic. The current licensing and support is in place until May 2026, this agreement will augment the capacity of each firewall.	01/07/2025	01/05/2026	£225,000.00	In April 2025 slow access was experienced across the Aberdeen City Council network. Technical changes were made to network infrastructure, and the immediate problems were resolved. In May the problems re-occurred, and further configuration changes have failed to properly resolve key issues. The IT helpdesk has over 200 open incidents relating to slow performance and non-availability of printing. In June the council engaged the services on a network and firewall expert and identified additional changes that could be made. The advice was that if the changes were not successful it might be necessary to upgrade capacity on the firewalls. In July Aberdeen Schools broke up for the summer and the network issues improved significantly. This led the technical teams to conclude that the existing firewalls are struggling with capacity. Aberdeen Schools will resume and at that point there is a credible risk that performance issues will recur. It should be stressed that the firewalls were scheduled to be uprated in 2026 as part of the ongoing network improvements. It is also clear that the improvements made across the IT estate have meant that the capacity predictions completed as part of 2025 planning have been exceeded. These issues are not caused by school traffic. It is important that the capacity is increased before 20 August due to the considerations outlined above.

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Appendix 4 - 4.1.3 Forms (Technical Exemption)

Function	Cluster	Description of Contract	Estimated Start date of Contract	Estimated End date of Contract	Total Estimated Contract Value £	Reason for seeking approval under 4.1.3 Technical Exemption:
City Regeneration and Environment	Strategic Place Planning	I Bike Schools - I Bike Schools is a project run in both primary and secondary schools by Sustrans Scotland. The aim of the I Bike Schools project is to encourage children and young people to travel actively during their commute to school and in their free time. The I Bike Schools Officer is employed by Sustrans Scotland and works as an embedded officer within Aberdeen City Council (ACC).	01.07.2025	30.06.2026	£116,000.00	Sustrans Scotland are the only supplier that offers the I Bike Schools project. Market testing revealed that although there are other projects which offer cycle training, they either do not offer as wide an active travel grounding, work as intensively with a school cluster or teach cycle skills and work with children, in the same way that I Bike Schools does. I Bike Schools offers participating pupils a wide variety of different sessions including scooter skills, Bikeability Levels 1, 2 & 3, bike maintenance training, led walks, road safety sessions, active travel breakfasts, smoothie bike, participation in national active travel weeks and many more. Other sustainable travel projects, that work with children, are far more focused around gamification rather than teaching skills. An internet search was carried out, no other organisation that works with schools in this way and offers the aforementioned activities (see section above) is currently available. Sustrans Scotland are the only supplier that offers the I Bike Schools project and delivers a programme of this kind. No other potential provider offers an embedded Officer that works with Local Authorities to deliver the vast range of active travel activities that the I Bike Schools project can offer.

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