

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Finance and Resources
DATE	7 May 2025
EXEMPT	No
CONFIDENTIAL	No
REPORT TITLE	Our Union Street
REPORT NUMBER	CR&E/25/099
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	Gale Beattie
CHIEF OFFICER	Julie Wood
REPORT AUTHOR	Laura Paterson
TERMS OF REFERENCE	1.1.8

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report provides an update on funding for Our Union Street and approval to allocate grant funding.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Committee:-

- 2.1 Note an additional allocation of £400,000 from Scottish Government to Aberdeen City Council specifically to support Our Union Street with delivery of City Centre Regeneration Activity;
- 2.2 Approve payment of up to £400,000 to Union Street Partnership Ltd, trading under Our Union Street, upon submission and approval of a delivery plan which supports the Union Street Action Plan; and
- 2.3 Delegate authority to the Chief Officer – City Development and Regeneration to review and approve the delivery plan in recommendation 2.2 and approve the provision of a grant to Union Street Partnership Ltd and the entering into a grant agreement following consultation with the Chief Officer – Finance, Chief Officer – Commercial & Procurement Services and the Convener and Vice Convener of Finance & Resources Committee.

3. CURRENT SITUATION

- 3.1 The Union Street Partnership Ltd was established in 2022 and is recognised under the trading name of Our Union Street. The organisation is funded through private and public sector partnerships. Aberdeen City Council committed £100,000 over a three year period to the organisation at Council Budget on 1 March 2023.
- 3.2 Scottish Government have confirmed a funding contribution of £400,000 to Aberdeen City Council to support city centre regeneration activity currently being undertaken by Our Union Street.

- 3.3 It is recommended that expenditure be approved to Our Union Street upon submission of a delivery plan which reflects the current priorities of city centre regeneration and aligns with approved Council policies, including the Union Street Action Plan. This delivery plan would be subject to review and approval by the Chief Officer – City Development and Regeneration, following consultation with the Chief Officer – Finance, Chief Officer – Commercial and Procurement Services and the Convener and Vice Convener of Finance & Resources Committee.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Aberdeen City Council are in receipt of £400,000 from Scottish Government to support the work of Our Union Street in delivering city centre regeneration activity.
- 4.2 Following the Public Pound Policy is adhered to and relevant checks undertaken to ensure the organisation is compliant.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 All payments to Our Union Street will be subject to a signed grant agreement which complies with internal legal and governance requirements, including Subsidy Control Assessment.

6. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

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

7. RISK

Category	Risks	Primary Controls/Control Actions to achieve Target Risk Level	*Target Risk Level (L, M or H) <small>*taking into account controls/control actions</small>	*Does Target Risk Level Match Appetite Set?
Strategic Risk	Negative impact on delivery of Council Priorities	Funding approved upon submission of delivery plan which aligns to Council Priorities	L	Yes
Compliance	Non-compliance with funding conditions	Grant agreement and quarterly meetings established to review delivery	L	Yes

Operational	Failure to deliver agreed objectives	Continued appointment of board observer, supported by officers	L	Yes
Financial	Funding not spent in accordance with grant agreement	Quarterly reporting and monitoring established	L	Yes
Reputational	Failure to deliver on challenges within city centre	Continued cross-sector partnership working to address any issues arising	L	Yes
Environment / Climate	None			

8. OUTCOMES

<u>Council Delivery Plan 2024</u>	
	Impact of Report
Aberdeen City Council Policy Statement <u>Working in Partnership for Aberdeen</u>	<p>As detailed in the Council Delivery Plan 2024, this report supports the following commissioning intention of City Development & Regeneration:</p> <p>“In collaboration with Strategic Place Planning, implement the Union Street Empty Shops Plan and support the work of Our Union Street including Marks and Spencer”</p>
<u>Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2016-2026</u>	
Economy Stretch Outcomes	There is potential for this funding to be utilised to support start up activity in the city centre, which aligns to Stretch Outcome 2.
Place Stretch Outcomes	The proposals within this report support Stretch Outcome 15, as it enables a public/private partnership to lead on delivery of improvements within the city centre which includes the support of local community groups.
Community Empowerment Stretch Outcomes	The recommendations within this report enable people and communities to work together to support the regeneration of the city centre, subsequently supporting Stretch Outcome 16

Regional and City Strategies	<p>The proposals within this report support the City Centre and Beach Masterplan by enabling regeneration activity within the city centre.</p> <p>The subsequent impact of this funding is anticipated to support the wider Regional Economic Strategy through driving key tourism and retail initiatives.</p>
-------------------------------------	--

9. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Assessment	Outcome
Integrated Impact Assessment	New Integrated Impact Assessment has been completed
Data Protection Impact Assessment	Not required.
Other	n/a

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

10.1 COM/23/222, Union Street Partnership Ltd, Finance and Resources Committee, 5 July 2023

11. APPENDICES

11.1 N/A

12. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

Name	Laura Paterson
Title	Team Leader – External Funding
Email Address	lapaterson@aberdeencity.gov.uk
Tel	01224 067082