

## ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

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<b>COMMITTEE</b>	Finance and Resources
<b>DATE</b>	7 May 2025
<b>EXEMPT</b>	No
<b>CONFIDENTIAL</b>	No
<b>REPORT TITLE</b>	Denis Law Commemorative Plaque
<b>REPORT NUMBER</b>	CR&E/25/110
<b>EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR</b>	Gale Beattie
<b>CHIEF OFFICER</b>	Julie Wood
<b>REPORT AUTHOR</b>	Helen Fothergill
<b>TERMS OF REFERENCE</b>	2.1 & 3.2

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### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To consider an application from the Denis Law Legacy Trust to erect a plaque commemorating Denis Law.

### 2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

That the Committee:-

- 2.1 Considers the application from the Denis Law Legacy Trust (Appendix 1) to erect a commemorative plaque at the birthplace of Denis Law; and
- 2.2 Decides whether to approve or refuse the application for a plaque commemorating Denis Law.

### 3. CURRENT SITUATION

- 3.1 The Denis Law Legacy Trust has applied to erect a commemorative plaque at 6B Printfield Terrace, Aberdeen, the birthplace of Denis Law.
- 3.2 Denis Law CBE was as an iconic footballer and significant son of Aberdeen. He was a freeman of the City of Aberdeen and holder of honorary degrees awarded by Aberdeen University and Robert Gordon University. He was instrumental in establishing the Denis Law Legacy Trust, a leading charity focussing on under-privileged children. His life and contributions are currently recognised in Aberdeen in a museum display in Provost Skenes House, a city centre statue, a statue located at Aberdeen Sports Village, large-scale murals depicting Law on buildings in Printfield. In May 2025, the Denis Law Legacy Trail, will be launched in Printfield.
- 3.3 The ACC Commemorative Plaques Policy (Appendix 2) states that the person being commemorated “should have died at least 20 years ago AND have been born more than 100 years ago. This is to ensure that the decision whether to

erect a plaque is made with a sufficient degree of hindsight.” (part of criteria 5.1). Accepting this application may result in appeals.

- 3.4 This criteria is followed by other plaque awarding bodies. For example, Historic Environment Scotland and English Heritage apply the same criteria to plaque nominees [Commemorative Plaque Scheme | Historic Environment Scotland | HES](#) and [About Blue Plaques | English Heritage](#)
- 3.5 Denis Law was born in 1940 and died in 2025. Therefore, this application to erect a plaque commemorating Denis Law would not meet part of the criteria set out in section 5.1 of Aberdeen City Council’s Plaques Policy because Denis Law died less than 20 years ago and he was born less than 100 years ago.
- 3.6 Section 5.1 of Aberdeen City Council’s Plaques Policy also states that the person being commemorated should have “*contributed to the rich social, political and cultural heritage of Aberdeen or have been an Aberdonian who impacted the world through their achievements, words or deeds*” and “*made a major contribution to their field within a Scottish context as a minimum*”. The application from the Denis Law Legacy Trust details how these other aspects of the criteria at section 5.1. of the Plaques Policy are met and why the Denis Law Legacy Trust believes that Denis Law deserves a commemorative plaque.
- 3.7 Wording of the plaque agreed between officers administering the Commemorative Plaques scheme and the Denis Law Legacy Trust is as follows:

Denis Law CBE  
1940 – 2025  
Legendary Manchester United  
and Scotland footballer,  
a proud Aberdonian,  
was born here.

- 3.8 In light of Denis Law’s international renown and the scale of his achievements, Chief Officer – City Development & Regeneration considered it appropriate to refer this application to this Committee for a decision.

#### **4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendations in this report. The Denis Law Trust will be covering all costs.
- 4.2 Cost for manufacture and delivery of a plaque is £810.50+VAT. Corporate Landlord charge £275+VAT for plaque installation. Both costs are paid by the applicant, in this case the Denis Law Legacy Trust.

## 5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Aberdeen City Council – Corporate Landlord is the owner of 6 Printfield Terrace. Section 3.5 of the Plaques Policy states the applicant must present written evidence of consent from the owner for the application to progress.
- 5.2 As the owner of the building, Aberdeen City Council – Corporate Landlord will be required to inform tenants (if applicable) that there will be works to erect a plaque at the property should the Committee approve the application.

## 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	N/A			
Compliance	N/A			
Operational	More applications for plaques commemorating individuals that do not meet criteria 5.1, and appeals from rejected applications resulting in additional and unplanned workload	Introduce charging for officer time	H	No We are departing from the Council's stated risk appetite in relation to generating unplanned demand
Reputational	Previous decisions to decline plaque applications may be challenged, should this application be approved, leading potential appeals	Refer any re-submissions to Finance & Resources committee	L	Yes

	against Council decisions			
<b>Reputational</b>	Failure to recognise the significance and contributions of Denis Law to the City of Aberdeen may result in reputational damage	Decision is referred to Finance & Resources committee	L	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Environment / Climate</b>	N/A			

## 8. OUTCOMES

<b>Council Delivery Plan 2024</b>	
	<b>Impact of Report</b>
<b>Aberdeen City Council Policy Statement</b>  <a href="#"><u>Working in Partnership for Aberdeen</u></a>	<p>The proposals within this report support the delivery of the following aspect of the Working in Partnership for Aberdeen document:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Help to deliver the Denis Law Legacy Trail.</li> </ul>
<b><a href="#"><u>Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2016-2026</u></a></b>	
Prosperous Economy Stretch Outcomes	Not Applicable
Prosperous People Stretch Outcomes	Not Applicable
Prosperous Place Stretch Outcomes	Not Applicable
Community Empowerment Stretch Outcomes	Not applicable
<b>Regional and City Strategies</b>	<p>A plaque to Denis Law will support the Regional Economic Strategy by strengthening work programme: "A strong community and cultural identity: There is a vibrant culture and creative sector that is championed to enhance our distinctiveness with a successful arts and cultural sector that capitalises on new investments such as P&amp;J Live or Aberdeen Art Gallery and forthcoming Levelling Up investments to create a new museum in Peterhead and expansion of Macduff Marine Aquarium" (page 25)</p>

## 9. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Assessment	Outcome
<b>Integrated Impact Assessment</b>	Not required. <i>Previous generic Integrated Impact Assessment relating to the Plaques Policy has been reviewed and no changes required.</i> <i>I confirm this has been discussed and agreed with Julie Wood, Chief Officer City Development &amp; Regeneration, 15/04/2025</i>
<b>Data Protection Impact Assessment</b>	Not required. <i>I confirm this has been discussed and agreed with Data Protection Officer, 25/04/2025</i>
<b>Other</b>	No

## 10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

10.1 Aberdeen City Council Plaques Policy

## 11. APPENDICES

11.1 Appendix 1 Plaque application

11.2 Appendix 2 Aberdeen City Council Commemorative Plaques Policy

## 12. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

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