

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

Town House,  
ABERDEEN, 28 April 2025

MINUTE OF SPECIAL MEETING OF ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

Sederunt:

Lord Provost David Cameron, Chairperson;  
Depute Provost Steve Delaney; and

COUNCILLORS

GILLIAN AL-SAMARAI  
NURUL HOQUE ALI  
CHRISTIAN ALLARD  
ALISON ALPHONSE  
KATE BLAKE  
JENNIFER BONSELL  
MARIE BOULTON  
HAZEL CAMERON  
DONNA CLARK  
JOHN COOKE  
NEIL COPLAND  
WILLIAM CORMIE  
BARNEY CROCKETT  
DEREK DAVIDSON  
LEE FAIRFULL  
EMMA FARQUHAR  
GORDON GRAHAM  
ROSS GRANT  
MARTIN GREIG  
DELL HENRICKSON

RYAN HOUGHTON  
MICHAEL HUTCHISON  
MICHAEL KUSZNIR  
GRAEME LAWRENCE  
SANDRA MACDONALD  
NEIL MacGREGOR  
ALEXANDER McLELLAN  
CIARAN McRAE  
M. TAUQEER MALIK  
DUNCAN MASSEY  
JESSICA MENNIE  
ALEX NICOLL  
MIRANDA RADLEY  
MRS JENNIFER STEWART  
KAIRIN VAN SWEEDEN  
LYNN THOMSON  
DEENA TISSERA  
SIMON WATSON  
and  
IAN YUILL

Lord Provost David Cameron, in the Chair.

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.

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## **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND TRANSPARENCY STATEMENTS**

1. Councillor Grant advised that he had a connection in relation to the item by virtue of his employment by Aberdeen Inspired due to their involvement with Nuart, which was referred to in the amendment, however having applied the objective test he did not consider that he had an interest and would not be withdrawing from the meeting.

Councillors Bonsell and Macdonald advised that they had a connection in relation to the item by virtue of being on the Aberdeen Mela steering group, which was also referred to in the amendment, however having applied the objective test they did not consider that they had an interest and would not be withdrawing from the meeting.

## **WRITTEN REQUEST FOR SPECIAL MEETING**

2. The Council had before it the wording of the written request for this special Council meeting which had been signed by 12 members in accordance with Standing Order 8.2.2:-

“The business to be transacted relates to funding from UK Prosperity Fund and is only being called because the Finance Convener refused to accept an amendment at the last Finance and Resources Committee due to our amendment being with officers 36 minutes after the deadline due to Councillor Malik being on an IJB committee meeting.”

Councillor Malik moved, seconded by Councillor Grant:-

That Council:-

- (1) Note Parliament introduced Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 as amended to protect Elected Members and the public from Conveners and others who fail to act with integrity and abuse the spirit of Councils' own Standing Orders for their own political ends;
- (2) Agree the action by the Convener of Finance and Resources Committee denying Amendments at Committee have consequences for the Administration, one of those actions is to face a special Council meeting whereby 25% of the Members call for a meeting on a matter that should have been dealt with at Committee, thus costing the Council unnecessary time and expense;
- (3) Agree the UK Shared Prosperity Fund demonstrates devolution in action whereby the UK government provides money directly to Scottish Councils;
- (4) Agree there are many worthy applications for consideration including Aberdeen Arts Centre which applied for one hundred thousand pounds of Culture Investment Funding from the Common Good Fund but were unsuccessful at the Council Budget meeting on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2025;
- (5) Agree in recent correspondence with elected members, Castlegate Arts have recognised areas of weaknesses within this application and have explained the mitigatory circumstances around them;
- (6) Note recent correspondence from Sharon Robertson, Chair of Castlegate Arts, which made clear that, 'A lack of funding award places the Arts Centre at a very real and significant risk of closure.';

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- (7) Welcome the Castlegate Arts plans towards 'Building a Sustainable Future' for the Arts Centre and agree that the closure of the Arts Centre would have a significant adverse impact upon Aberdeen's creative and cultural community;
- (8) Agree to allocate one hundred thousand pounds from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund 25/26 to Castlegate Arts to meet the imminent needs of the Arts Centre and instruct the Chief Officer - City Development and Regeneration to work with Castlegate Arts to help towards compliance with UKSPF requirements; and
- (9) Further agree that applications from within the Finance and Resources Committee Convener's own Electoral Ward, namely Tillydrone Community Development Trust and Tillydrone Community Campus - Art for all in Tillydrone, should be supported from the Fund and agree to allocate £160,600 and £42,140 respectively.

Councillor McLellan moved as an amendment, seconded by Councillor Greig:-

- (1) Notes Aberdeen City Council Awarded £1,429,228 through the Cultural Investment Framework as part of the 2025/26 budget (as detailed below);

**Catalyst**

|                       | Organisation                  | Award for 2025/26 | In Principle Award for 2026/27 | In Principle Award for 2027/28 |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1                     | Crowhouse Projects            | £15,000           |                                |                                |
| 2                     | Friends of Elphinstone        | £12,000           |                                |                                |
| 3                     | Aberdeen Mela                 | £15,000           | £15,000                        |                                |
| 4                     | Four Pillars (Grampian Pride) | £15,000           |                                |                                |
| 6                     | Pushing Out the Boat          | £5,000            |                                |                                |
| 7                     | Touch of Love Outreach        | £11,228           |                                |                                |
| <b>Total Catalyst</b> |                               | <b>£73,228</b>    | <b>£15,000</b>                 | <b>£0</b>                      |

**Cultivate & Cornerstone**

|                                          | Organisation                | Award for 2025/26 | In Principle Award for 2026/27 | In Principle Award for 2027/28 |
|------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 10                                       | Citymoves Dance Agency SCIO | £100,000          | £98,000                        | £95,000                        |
| 11                                       | Grampian Hospital Art Trust | £20,000           | £20,000                        | £20,000                        |
| 12                                       | Sound Festival              | £20,000           | £18,000                        | £18,000                        |
| 13                                       | Open Road                   | £16,000           | £16,000                        | £16,000                        |
| 14                                       | Belmont Community Cinema    | £40,000           | £40,000                        | £40,000                        |
| 15                                       | Jazz Scotland               | £16,000           | £16,000                        | £16,000                        |
| 16                                       | Aberdeen Inspired (Nuart)   | £88,000           |                                |                                |
| 18                                       | Peacock Visual Arts         | £50,000           | £50,000                        | £50,000                        |
| 20                                       | Aberdeen Performing Arts    | £961,000          | £913,000                       | £865,000                       |
| <b>Total Cultivate &amp; Cornerstone</b> |                             | <b>£1,311,000</b> | <b>£1,171,000</b>              | <b>£1,120,000</b>              |

**Acorn Programme**

|              |                                                                    | Award for 2025/26 | In Principle Award for 2026/27 | In Principle Award for 2027/28 |
|--------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
|              | Pilot project to support community groups and individual creatives | £45,000           |                                |                                |
| <b>Total</b> |                                                                    | <b>£1,429,228</b> | <b>£1,186,000</b>              | <b>£1,120,000</b>              |

- (2) Notes the Castlegate Arts unsuccessful application for Culture Investment Framework funding was considered through a fair and transparent process, with the officers recommending not to award funding due to the organisation not meeting investment priorities and the "Following the Public

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- Pound” guidance, with the final decision being made at the Budget meeting on 5 March 2025;
- (3) Notes the Finance and Resources Committee unanimously agreed on 26 March 2025 to allocate £508,000 for Local Business Support and £521,380 for People and Skills from the 2025/26 UK Shared Prosperity Fund;
  - (4) Notes the competitive application process for allocation of the 2025/26 UK Shared Prosperity Fund, with approximately £4 million worth of applications received for the Community and Place element, and only £1.2 million of funding remaining to allocate within the programme, and that the Finance and Resources Committee will make the final decision on the applications at its scheduled meeting on 7 May 2025;
  - (5) Agrees that any proposal to allocate funds directly from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund which bypasses this process sets a concerning precedent and is disrespectful to those organisations who have already applied for funding;
  - (6) Notes that directing funds to specific projects without a clear process undermines objectiveness and fairness and could lead to similar claims from other organisations who were not approved for funding and may risk non-compliance with “Following the Public Pound” guidance and may also create a risk of the Council having to repay some of the money back to the UK Government on the grounds of having awarded money to projects which may not meet UK Shared Prosperity Fund eligibility and criteria;
  - (7) Acknowledges the funding provided to date by Aberdeen City Council's SNP and Liberal Democrat Partnership in 2024/25:

| <b>Communities and Place - 2024/25</b> |                                                                                                                        |                    |
|----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Organisation</b>                    | <b>Project</b>                                                                                                         | <b>UKSPF Award</b> |
| ACVO                                   | Aberdeen Third Sector Hub feasibility Study                                                                            | £60,000            |
| Aberdeen City Council                  | Tall Ships Races Aberdeen 2025 Culture Programme 24/25                                                                 | £99,200            |
| Growing2gether                         | Strengthening Communities by Building Local Skills, Wellbeing and Resilience project                                   | £26,447            |
| Look Again                             | Aberdeen Independents project                                                                                          | £63,000            |
| Soundfestival                          | Soundcommunities                                                                                                       | £37,000            |
| St Georges Community Centre            | Saint Georges Community Centre                                                                                         | £45,228            |
| Port of Aberdeen Trust Port            | Tall Ships Community Promotion, which includes volunteer recruitment and engaging young people with sail traineeships; | £108,000           |
| Avenue                                 | Mental Health and Relationship Support for Families and Individuals in Aberdeen                                        | £116,777           |

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|                                         |                                                                                                         |                    |
|-----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Aberdeen Performing Arts                | Repointing and Exterior Restorations at His Majesty's Theatre                                           | £91,078.58         |
| Aberdeen City Council                   | Phase 2 of the Denis Law Trail                                                                          | £85,000            |
| Belmont Community Cinema                | Belmont Community Cinema                                                                                | £75,000            |
| Cairncry Community Centre               | Community Café Refurbishment project                                                                    | £14,391.60         |
| Granite City Taekwondo                  | Tillydrone Community Centre Upgrades                                                                    | £100,000           |
| SHMU                                    | Redevelopment to Station House                                                                          | £99,954            |
| <b>Local Business Support - 2024/25</b> |                                                                                                         |                    |
| <b>Organisation</b>                     | <b>Project</b>                                                                                          | <b>UKSPF Award</b> |
| Aberdeen City Council                   | Business Start-up grants                                                                                | £562,680           |
| Aberdeen City Council                   | Aberdeen Renewable Energy Groups (AREG)'s Enhancing Offshore Wind Renewables through Digital Innovation | £45,000            |
| Aberdeen City Council                   | Culture Aberdeen Network Coordination Service                                                           | £40,000            |
| Aberdeen City Council                   | Energy Pilot Project                                                                                    | £137,592           |
| Aberdeen City Council                   | Learning Journey Support for SMEs                                                                       | £40,000            |
| Aberdeen City Council                   | AI Upskilling for SMEs                                                                                  | £48,740            |
| Aberdeen City Council                   | Tall Ships Creative Makers Programme                                                                    | £55,000            |
| Aberdeen City Council                   | Vibrant & Sustainable City Centre Pilot                                                                 | £100,000           |
| Aberdeen City Council                   | Freebie Fortnight                                                                                       | £115,000           |
| Aberdeen City Council                   | Love Local Card                                                                                         | £10,000            |
| Aberdeen City Council                   | The Travel Trade Tours –Countryside Ranger Service                                                      | £10,700            |

- (8) Given the above outlined process for the allocation of UK Shared Prosperity Funding for 2025/26, take no further action.

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On a division, there voted:-

For the motion:- (19) - Councillors Ali, Blake, Bonsell, Boulton, Crockett, Farquhar, Graham, Grant, Houghton, Kuszniir, Lawrence, Macdonald, Malik, Massey, Nicoll, Mrs Stewart, Thomson, Tissera and Watson.

For the amendment:- (22) - Lord Provost; Depute Provost; and Councillors Al-Samarai, Allard, Alphonse, Hazel Cameron, Clark, Cooke, Copland, Cormie, Davidson, Fairfull, Greig, Henrickson, Hutchison, MacGregor, McLellan, McRae, Mennie, Radley, van Sweeden and Yuill.

**The Council resolved:-**

to adopt the amendment.

- **DAVID CAMERON, Lord Provost.**