
SERVICE UPDATE

<u>Name of Cluster:</u>	City Development and Regeneration
<u>Date:</u>	7 August 2025
<u>Title of Update:</u>	Remembering Together Covid Memorial
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UPDATE:

Remembering Together, Public Artwork and Covid Memorial

Scotland's Covid Community Memorial Programme, Remembering Together, was delivered by Greenspace Scotland on behalf of the Scottish Government, following an announcement by the First Minister in March 2021. The programme has now concluded, with all 32 local authorities receiving funding for their proposed commissions.

The initiative involved commissioned artists working collaboratively with partners, communities, faith groups, and those most affected by Covid-19 to co-create memorial projects across Scotland.

Each project was delivered in two phases. In Aberdeen, the project has been led by Culture Aberdeen, SHMU, and the North East Culture Collective (NECC), supported by a local steering group.

Phase one artist recommendations were presented to the Communities, Housing and Public Protection Committee on 5 September 2023. At that meeting, the committee approved Bon Accord Gardens as the site for the memorial and agreed the process and artist brief for the second phase.

For phase two, each local authority received £100,000 to realise their memorial. Aberdeen City Council contributed to the project through officer time in kind and by providing the site at Bon Accord Gardens.

Following interviews in February 2024, the commission was awarded to George King Architects. Planning permission was granted on 4 September 2024, with installation originally scheduled for May 2025.

However, the project has encountered a delay due to rising costs. These are attributed to a change in contractor, additional specialist advice required to strengthen the design, and increased material costs.

The total budget now required to complete the memorial is £144,000, leaving a shortfall of £44,000. The project group is actively seeking sponsorship through a range of approaches, including direct engagement with local businesses and crowdfunding. To date the group has managed to secure £5,000 through the Port of Aberdeen.

The revised target for installation is mid-September 2025 with fundraising ongoing.

