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Date: 22nd October 2025

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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 international 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 undoubtedly 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 successfully organise and host high profile events. The FIA World Rally Championships would undoubtedly 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



**Aberdeen &
Grampian
Chamber of
Commerce**

Finance & Resources Committee
Aberdeen City Council

15th October 2025

—
The Hub
Exploration Drive
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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.



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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

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.

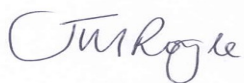
As a vocationally focused University, we recognise the potential that hosting an international event would have on developing the attractiveness of Aberdeen City for our student community.

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



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Graham Morrison".

Graham Morrison
Head of Sport and Events

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01224 438926

Your lifestyle. One village.

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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 bringing 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. VisitAberdeenshire

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rob Wicks', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Rob Wicks
Managing Director – P&J Live



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East Burn Road

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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