

Revenue Items Referred to the Budget Process

The following items have been referred to the budget process which the Council is asked to provide a decision on whether they wish to take these projects further:

Council – 2 July 2025

Aberdeen Local Development Plan – Evidence Report – CR&E/25/165

“The Council agreed to:

- (a) instruct the Chief Officer - Strategic Place Planning to submit the Evidence Report (Appendix 1), and appropriate supporting documentation, to Scottish Ministers, subject to any necessary minor drafting changes to satisfy the requirements of the Gate Check process;
- (b) note the outcome of the engagement undertaken on the Evidence Report Topic Papers and, in particular, the areas of agreement and the remaining disputes, as summarised in paragraphs 3.10 to 3.12 of the report and Sections 5 and 7 of Appendix 1;
- (c) instruct the Chief Officer - Strategic Place Planning to publish the Evidence Report (Appendix 1) and other technical background documents (subject to any necessary minor drafting changes) (Appendices 2 to 4) which would support the development of the Proposed Local Development Plan on the Council’s website as soon as practicable;
- (d) noting the content of Appendix 4 - Play Sufficiency Assessment, and recognising that play is not only important to children, but to well-being throughout life, instruct the Chief Executive to **refresh the existing Aberdeen Play Strategy 2018 to better emphasise the importance of play from birth to old age, and refer the draft objectives of the refreshed strategy to the 2026/27 budget setting process, alongside any other relevant information on open space provision;**
- (e) authorise the Chief Officer - Strategic Place Planning to respond to any requests for further information or clarification issued by the Planning and Environmental Appeals Division of the Scottish Government during the course of the Gate Check; and
- (f) authorise the Chief Officer - Strategic Place Planning to make any technical amendments to the Evidence Report and supporting documents as a result of the Gate Check process.

The Play Strategy information was completed in early 2026 and included within the information packs circulated to elected members as part of the budget preparation process.

Anti-Poverty and Inequality – 26 November 2025

Aberdeen City Council Response to the Scottish Women's Budget Group Study on Gender Inequality and Poverty

"The Committee agreed to:

- (a) note the Council's planned actions to be taken in response to the Scottish Women's Budget Group Study on Gender Inequality and Poverty in Aberdeen;
- (b) thank members of the Scottish Women's Budget Group Steering Group, Aberdeen Youth Movement and all other stakeholders who participated in the improvement action planning process; and
- (c) instruct the Executive Director of Corporate Services to provide an update on the 52 improvement actions presented in the report by December 2026."

Within the Financial implications section of this report stated:

"The financial implications arising from this report will be funded from existing service budgets. Where this is not possible, they will be **referred to the 2026/27 General Fund Budget Process in March 2026.**"

Therefore listed below are the recommendations which couldn't be funded from existing budgets:

No. 24, 28 Child Care

£32,000 per annum to cover the cost of the Low Income Family Tracker from March 2026 onwards.

No. 4 Welfare Benefits

There is a flexible support fund available through the Department for Work and Pensions for upfront childcare costs as well as ongoing and ability to utilise free hours. Locally, the Anti-Poverty and Inequality Committee allocated non-recurring funding for upfront childcare costs for families to support parents into work. £150,000 would support 150 parents.

No. 28 Child Care

The Financial Inclusion Team, in collaboration with Education, will carry out a data match using the Low Income Family Tracker Dashboard to identify families entitled to Free School Meals, School Clothing Grants, or Education Maintenance Allowance who are not currently claiming these benefits. Following this, we will auto award eligible households where possible and proactively contact families to request any required information, such as bank details, to ensure they receive their full entitlement. Potential pressure on areas such as School Clothing Grants.