

**Stronger  
Together**

**Prosperity for Aberdeen 2017-2022**

Aberdeen City Council Conservative and Unionist Party, Aberdeen  
Labour and Independent Alliance Group Programme for Aberdeen City  
Council 2017-2022

## **Our Vision**

As a returning coalition, we intend to build on what we have already put in place between 2012 and 2017. The Council's strategic business plan refresh, approved unanimously at the Council's Budget meeting in February 2017, agreed the alignment of the Strategic Business Plan to Aberdeen City Community Planning Partnership's Local Outcome Improvement Plan, as well as alignment to the coalition's policy document "Smarter Aberdeen". Our new policy document "Stronger Together" for 2017 to 2022 builds on the 2017-2018 strategic business plan, thereby ensuring the continuity of the priorities we set in our last administration whilst incorporating some new priorities which are a direct response to the changing economic and social conditions the City now faces. We recognise, of course, that our priorities must be delivered within the financial parameters agreed by the Council at the Budget meeting in February 2017.

Aberdeen has been the northern powerhouse of both the UK and Scottish economy in recent times, but the fall in the global oil price has seen Aberdeen's economic contribution reduce. We know the strength of the City's business community and we commit to working with the business community and all relevant public partners in order to ensure the conditions for future business success are in place within the City.

To unlock the economic potential of Aberdeen and reduce inequalities in our city, we see greater devolution of powers to the City from the Scottish government, and where applicable the UK government as a key requirement.

Our shared priority must be to unleash the economic potential of Aberdeen for the benefit of all our citizens. We remain committed to the Economic Policy Panel which will act as an independent commentator on the performance of Aberdeen's economy and will share this information with both governments in order to ensure our efforts are collectively focused on those areas identified by the Panel as making the biggest contribution to increasing productivity and growth of the Aberdeen economy.

We will look to build on the relationships established with both governments through our 2017 Aberdeen City Region Deal in order to establish both a way of working together and an agreed set of priorities, conditions and powers which are conducive to unlocking the further economic potential of the City, key to this, securing a second Aberdeen City Region Deal.

A key element of our strategy will be to continue to invest in infrastructure to enable us to attract and retain business and provide high quality public services, affordable housing and an attractive living environment and the best educational and employment opportunities for all citizens that caters for. Infrastructure is critical if Aberdeen is to remain an internationally competitive business environment and is to secure a long term economic future. Transport connectivity, information and communications technologies, business land and property and housing are all critical to the City's success. As the lowest funded Council in Scotland for the last 10 years, we will reach out to both governments to help support the infrastructure investment required, as well as continuing to innovate within the parameters set by both governments. Last year as the first Scottish council to secure a credit rating we were able to issue a bond on the London Stock Exchange which supports our £1b capital programme as well as minimising the cost of the capital to our revenue budget.

In order to continue to achieve economic success we will invest in education, empower our disadvantaged communities and draw expertise from and work in collaboration with the Strategic Development Planning Authority, the Regional Transport Partnership Nestrans, Scottish Enterprise, Skills Development Scotland, Aberdeen and Grampian Chamber of Commerce and the wider private sector.

As a key direct provider of public services and a partner with other public service providers from the NHS, education, the third and voluntary sector and business, Aberdeen City Council will model the standards expected from all public service providers for sustainable procurement, fair employment and engagement with staff and trade unions. We will use procurement responsibility in order to sustain high quality public services for our communities.

We will continue to work collaboratively with other local authorities who are within the north-east economy, as well as with those authorities where we share a sectoral interest. The collaboration among 7 local authorities in the North of Scotland: Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire, Highland, Moray, Orkney, Shetland and Western Isles known as the Northern Alliance will play a critical role in closing the attainment gap affecting our young people including addressing teacher retention and recruitment. Our ambition for the Alliance is that it can provide a way for parents to become initially more involved in their child's learning and then, in turn, for their own learning. So both children and adults are equipped to gain from a knowledge based economy.

We are committed to tackling the inequalities that exist within Aberdeen as a result of socio-economic disadvantage. We recognise People can also face barriers because of their race, gender, age, disability, sexual orientation or religion or belief. We will seek to tackle inequality in the city in whatever form it manifests itself, through clear and coordinated approaches

Despite the past economic success of the City, poverty and inequality continue to affect too many of our citizens. We will work to improve outcomes and the life chances of our citizens by addressing a range of poverty indicators including income maximisation, child poverty, fuel poverty, food poverty, housing and health inequalities. This will build on the developing approach to regeneration priorities, the work of the Health and Social Care Partnership and the inclusive economic objectives contained within the Regional Economic Strategy.

We will put citizens at the heart of the decisions and priorities in their communities which is why we are committed to the delivery of the Aberdeen City Local Outcome Improvement Plan. We will push our joint resource investment towards early intervention and prevention to secure the future of our economy our people and our place. Fundamental to our approach is working with people and communities. We recognise our communities are unique and their sense of place defines our work now and in the future. We will focus on improvement, we will continue to listen to communities, understand what is important to them, recognise and mobilise strengths and work with them to deliver what matters.

We will continue to invest in green energy transport projects in order to realise our aspiration to become a world leading city for low carbon technology. We will lobby the Scottish Government and Transport Scotland to work in partnership with us to allow Aberdeen City Council to introduce Low Emission Zones in Aberdeen. As business rates continue to affect businesses in Aberdeen disproportionately, from the rest of

Scotland, we will continue to lobby the Scottish Government for a change in approach to ensure the viability of small and medium businesses in order to protect businesses from potential closures. We live in an ever increasing globalised world. As such, Aberdeen must continue to innovate to retain our competitive edge while vying for both UK and international investment.

To be a successful city, we must embrace further change. We need to be mindful of technology and the huge part it now plays in the world that we live in. As an organisation we must play our part and look to utilise technology wherever we can to support service delivery and innovation.

As city leaders, we will strive to see the bigger picture beyond the boundaries of local government in order to identify those influencers who can deliver our political ambitions for the benefit of the citizens we serve. The role and contribution of all our citizens and the third sector are vital in terms of securing the prosperity of the economy, our people and our place and that is why our policy document highlights, throughout, the role our partners will play in realising our ambition for the City.

We recognise Aberdeen is stronger now and will be stronger in the future economically, politically and socially as part of the United Kingdom and as such we will oppose any attempt by the Scottish Government to hold a second independence referendum within the lifetime of this Administration. In respect of Brexit we will, where possible, assert our influence with both governments to ensure Aberdeen is placed to deal with the challenges and seize the opportunities of Brexit.

Our Stronger Together vision marks a new beginning on how we will work in partnership to achieve success within our communities. It signals our commitment our confidence and our ambition to achieve prosperity for all our citizens and our communities right throughout Aberdeen

**Councillor Douglas Lumsden**  
Scottish Conservative & Unionist

**Councillor Jenny Laing**  
Aberdeen Labour

**Councillor Marie Boulton**  
Independent Alliance Group

## PROSPEROUS ECONOMY

Driver	Commitment	Partners
Investment in Infrastructure	We will increase city centre footfall through delivery of the City Centre Masterplan, including the redesigned Union Terrace Gardens	UK Government Scottish Government AECC Operator (SMG)  Opportunity North East  Housing Associations
	We will deliver the new Aberdeen Exhibition and Conference Centre  We will build new council houses and work with partners to provide more affordable homes	
	We will support the new harbour development and work collaboratively to maximise tourism opportunities, including attracting high value cruises  We will commit to extra funding to resurface damaged roads and pavements throughout the city	
	We will build on the Aberdeen City Region Deal and open negotiations to secure funding for a second Aberdeen City Region Deal.	
Innovation	We will support the delivery of the 3 innovation centres envisaged by the Aberdeen City Region Deal	Opportunity North East  University of Aberdeen  Robert Gordon
	We will review the Council's industrial estate to ensure it supports the Aberdeen regional economic strategy	

	We will continue to assess the digital needs of the region, working with our partners to ensure the City has the required infrastructure	University UK Government Scottish Government
Internationalisation	We will review the regional economic strategy to ensure that it maximises Aberdeen's economical potential post Brexit	Opportunity North East
	We will commit to ensure the city's interests are fully represented in all consultations on the United Kingdom's interests to leave the European Union.	
Inclusive Growth	We will reduce fuel poverty across our most deprived communities through combined heat and power schemes including the Energy from Waste Plant	Other Local Authorities
	We will maximise community benefit from major developments in the City	
	We will support community led efforts to develop community owned energy solutions	
Tourism	We will complete the refurbished Art Gallery, Music Hall, Provost Skene's House and Thomas Blake Glover House	Aberdeen Performing Arts
	We will deliver "Aberdeen 365", an annual calendar of headline and feature	Visit Aberdeenshire

	events	Aberdeen Inspired Aberdeen Grampian Chamber
	We will work towards submitting a city bid to become UK City of Culture in 2025	Chamber of Commerce Hotels Association City & Region Cultural Partners

Energy	We will build up our existing strength in hydrogen technology	Scottish Government, Scottish Enterprise, SDI
	We will support efforts to develop the Energetica corridor	Opportunity North East

Support to Business	We will consolidate, easy to navigate support for businesses in one place and:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish a business development fund to support small business</li> <li>• Use Business Loans Scotland to help lift the finance barrier for small and medium enterprises</li> </ul>	AGCC FSB Business Gateway
	We will support the activities of, and access to, the “Elevator” social	Elevator

enterprise	
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**PROSPEROUS PEOPLE: Children are our Future**

<b>Driver</b>	<b>Commitment</b>	<b>Partners</b>
Children have the best start in life	We will work with the Scottish Government to provide flexible and affordable childcare for working families on the lowest incomes	Scottish Government
	We will expand the provision of school holiday meals to primary school children	
	We will continue to deliver the School Estate Strategy	
	We will open the Orchard Brae Centre of Excellence for children with serious and complex support needs.	
	We are committed to delivering three new primary schools in Tillydrone, Torry and in Miltimber	
	We will open Lochside Academy in Cove	
	We will open Stoneywood primary school	
Children are respected, included and achieving	We commit to funding new classroom assistants to support both teachers and pupils and lobby the Scottish government for support with teacher recruitment including teacher training	Northern Alliance Partners Scottish Government Aberdeen University

	We will support the implementation of “Developing the Young Workforce”, seek to gain the highest level of investors in young people accreditation and ensure there is a focus on supporting pupils excel in STEM subjects	
	We will continue to provide support for children’s mental health	NHS Grampian
	We will appoint a mental health champion	
	We will explore how the successes of the Sistema project can be shared and spread across the City	Sistema
	We will commit to closing the attainment gap in education while working with partners across the city.	University of Aberdeen Scottish Government NE Scotland College
	We will promote LGBT+ inclusive education	

Children are safe and responsible	We will support democratic oversight of local child and adult protection arrangements	
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**PROSPEROUS PEOPLE: People are Resilient, Included and Supported when in Need**

<b>Driver</b>	<b>Commitment</b>	<b>Partners</b>
People and Communities are protected from harm	We will review local adult protection arrangements and implement an improvement programme	Police Scotland, NHS Grampian, IJB
People are supported to live as independently as possible	We will ensure future housing developments address the needs of a changing population	
	Following the de-registration of a local care home, we will explore the role of Bon Accord Care as a stabiliser within this supply chain for care homes	Bon Accord Care, IJB

## PROSPEROUS PLACE: Empowered, Resilient and Sustainable Communities

Driver	Commitment	Partners
Safe and Resilient Communities – community and business resilience	We will explore a property level flood protection scheme for domestic properties	Local Resilience Partnership
	We will increase the business community’s resilience awareness	Chamber of Commerce Federation of Small Businesses Scottish Government
	In light of the tragic events at Grenfell Tower, we will act on any recommendations which arise from the public inquiry	Local Resilience Partnership
Safe and Resilient Communities – Aberdeen is a place where people are and feel safe	We will look to promote diversion activities for youths and adults in our city with enhanced focused on our 3 locality areas.	Locality Partnership Boards Police Scotland

People friendly city – a city where people to choose to invest, live and visit	We will secure UNICEF child friendly city status and will work to achieve dementia friendly city standards	Unicef NHS Grampian Community Planning Partners
	We will spread the development of locality plans across the City in conjunction with communities	Community Planning Partners Communities
	We will refresh the local transport strategy, ensuring it includes the results of a city centre parking review; promotes cycle and pedestrian routes; and considers support for public transport, including the viability of a council owned bus company.	Nestrans Scottish Government
	We will support an “Alive after 5” economy by ensuring supportive car parking availability and charges	BID, Chamber of Commerce
	We will develop an energy strategy for the City and, if possible, the region which will consider the viability of local energy company	
	We will refresh the Council’s housing strategy and keep rents affordable over the next 5 years	

## DEVOLUTION

<b>Driver</b>	<b>Commitment</b>	<b>Partners</b>
Our relationship with government	We will work with both governments in order to unleash the non-oil and gas economic potential of the City	UK Government Scottish Government Opportunity North East
Fiscal Powers	<p>We will campaign for the reform of local government finance, including business rates and the replacement of council tax. Further we will open dialogue with the Scottish Government to further devolution over tourism.</p> <p>We will continue to explore the viability of introducing new levies and the scope for the Council to have greater control over existing taxes in order to pursue the delivery of the regional economic strategy.</p>	Scottish Government Scottish Cities Alliance