

## Appendix 1 – City Centre Recovery Workplan – Progress Update

### SHORT TERM (YEAR ONE) BLUEPRINT FOR RECOVERY (Table 1)

CCMP Review Objective	Tasks	Lead Chief Officer	Timescale	Governance Oversight <i>(to be confirmed following Council decision on Committee Structures)</i>	Progress Update – August 2022
1. To facilitate the short-term economic recovery through the re-opening of existing CCMP projects, acceleration of completion of existing projects under construction and the continued exploration of how regulatory powers can be used differently to facilitate business innovation.	Re-opening campaign to support the re-opening of CCMP projects	City Growth	Short		Complete
	Complete the construction of Provost Skene's House, Union Terrace Gardens	Capital	Short	Capital Committee	Provost Skene's House was re-opened in October 2021. Union Terrace Gardens works are ongoing and are expected to be complete later this year.
	Launch opening campaigns for Provost Skene House and Union Terrace Gardens	City Growth	Short	City Growth & Resources Committee	PSH Complete
	Develop the case for a more permanent change to the requirements of the regulatory system to	Strategic Place Planning	Short	Planning Development Management Committee	The Planning Authority will continue to work with Scottish Government on, for example, the

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	meet the needs of the City				ongoing consultation on changes to Permitted Development Rights, many of which propose changes which will impact on City Centre projects. Innovative ways to “streamline” the process of applying for consents and receiving pre-application advice will continued to be developed in the context of statutory requirements.
	Renew the Business Gateway contract to ensure it is focused on supporting recovery from Covid for city centre businesses	City Growth	Short	CG&R	The renewed Business Gateway contract placed an emphasis on place based support including the city centre. For example, a series of workshops were delivered to support independent retailers. In addition, officers are exploring the opportunity to establish a Business Gateway

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	Develop a full business case for Council delivery of redevelopment of the former Aberdeen Market and BHS site linked to design works for public realm improvements to Union Street (central) and Green area	Corporate Landlord, Capital, Strategic Place Planning	Short	City Growth & Resources, Capital, Strategic Place Planning Committees	presence in the city centre to provide easy access to business support.  The City Centre and Beach Masterplan includes a progress update on the new Market development and explains how this project acts as a key development in the wider context of City Centre Recovery. Planning permission for the new Market building was granted in May 2022 (Application Reference 211517/DPP). The new building will include a mixture of uses including retail, food and drink and leisure. The first phases of streetscape delivery to support the new Market accompanies this report to Full Council (Appendix 4) and focuses on achieving improved accessibility and wayfinding between the new

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					<p>Market and Public Transport hubs/Union Square. Progress on development of the Market and associated streetscape will be included in the annual review of the City Centre and Beach Masterplan.</p>
	Design works for current City Centre interventions on Union Street, West End, George Street and Schoolhill	Capital	Short	City Growth & Resources, Capital Committees	<p>The City Centre and Beach Masterplan discusses how these projects fit together in the wider context of City Centre recovery. Strategic visions for streetscape projects on Union Street Central, Union Street West, the West End, Union Street East and Castlegate have been reported to Committees during 2021 and business cases for each of these areas will be reported back to Full Council by the end of 2022. A separate Mini Masterplan for the George Street area is also currently underway, with a draft</p>

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					to be reported to Full Council by end of 2022. George Street will ultimately be incorporated into the City Centre and Beach Masterplan once preparation of the Mini Masterplan for this area is completed.
	Scope and procure necessary demolition contract(s) for Queen Street to include Police Headquarters and Shoe Lane, pending acquisition	Capital	Short	Capital Committee	Surveys are currently underway at the former Queen Street Police Headquarters to inform consideration of options for inclusion in a Strategic Business Case for the Queen Street area.
	Procure a development partner to develop options for the redevelopment of Queen Street	Resources	Short	City Growth & Resources	Strategic Business Case for Queen Street scheduled to be presented to Council later this year.
	Design works for Castlegate area (linked	Capital	Short	City Growth & Resources,	The City Centre and Beach Masterplan highlights the importance of the Castlegate

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	to Beach Connectivity Study below)			Capital Committees	and the Justice Street roundabout as key connectivity points between the City Centre and the Beach which are in need of improvement. Strategic visions for streetscape improvements for the Castlegate have been reported to Committee in 2021, and a business case for this area will be reported back to Full Council by the end of 2022. This will include proposals for enhanced connectivity to the beach.
2. To capitalise on the city's new and developing tourism and cultural attractions, supporting exhibition and event programmes for	Exhibition and Events Programme	City Growth	Short	City Growth & Resources Committee	As the city emerged from covid 19 a number of the planned events have been delivered including Spectra and NuArt. The Grand Depart for the Tour of Britain is at the beginning of September followed by the new Wonderland festival, True North

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2021/22 – eg the British Art Show, Zandra Rhodes Exhibition, Tour of Britain					and the Comedy Festival. Visiting exhibitions to Aberdeen Art Gallery included the British Art Show, Zandra Rhodes 50 Years of Fabulous, Galloway Hoard and the Book of Deer.
	Undertake a Connectivity Study, identifying options to connect the Beach to City Centre	Strategic Place Planning	Short	City Growth & Resources Committee	As noted above, the City Centre and Beach Masterplan highlights the importance of the Castlegate and the Justice Street roundabout as key connectivity points between the City Centre and the Beach which are in need of improvement. Officers are currently developing an Outline Business Case based on the redevelopment of the Justice Street roundabout 'at grade'. In order to do this, work has started to develop the necessary technical studies which, combined with analysis of economic, social and

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					<p>environmental benefits, will be presented to Council in Q1 of 2023. It is recognised that the development of the existing roundabout is inextricably linked to the emerging proposals for the Beach Boulevard and hence these projects will be developed as a coordinated piece of work. The opportunity exists for a ‘connectivity vision’ leading to transportation, environmental and urban realm improvements which will positively impact on the current junction and surrounding buildings e.g. Hanover Street School and the Health Village.</p>
	Develop a Masterplan for the redevelopment of the Beach, identify a sports development partner for the Council and proceed	Director of Resources	Short	City Growth & Resources, Capital, Planning Development	The City Centre and Beach Masterplan provides a strategic focus for both the City Centre and Beach masterplanning areas, bringing these areas

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	through the stages of business plan, budget and procurement approval.			Management Committees	together. Under this strategic document sits a Draft Beachfront Development Framework which was approved at Full Council in June 2022 for a period of public consultation. The Beachfront Development Framework identifies a vision, opportunities, areas for potential changes and future design principles and parameters for the future development of this area.
3. To develop an approach for engaging with the public and businesses on the short, medium and long term changes required within the city centre and the beach	Develop a communications programme and appropriate questionnaire	Strategic Place Planning	Short	Corporate Management Team	The City Centre and Beach Masterplan sets out the vision and objectives for key projects, alongside our future commitments for public and stakeholder engagement. To date this engagement has included targeted sessions on areas with key stakeholders, as well as (in July 2021) a wide-reaching public engagement

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					exercise entitled “The Future of Aberdeen City Centre and the Beach”. Engagement plans for individual projects are also being prepared and will be treated as live documents.
4. To consider the implications on city centre footfall as a result of the seismic changes which are happening within the retail sector, the increased levels of sustained hybrid working which are anticipated postpandemic and develop solutions to mitigate this anticipated reduction	North East of Scotland Performs economic database, Economic Policy Panel	City Growth	Short	City Growth & Resources Committee	North East Performs is the Economic Performance Monitoring Framework for the North East of Scotland. It includes key economic indicators against which progress can be assessed covering economic, productivity and inclusive and sustainable growth. It also includes specific analysis of the city centre around footfall, spend, vacancy rates, labour market statistics etc.

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5. To consider how the regulatory system across planning, and licensing can facilitate the re-purposing of buildings to enable increased city centre living	Explore how the planning system could be used further to support development – review of developer obligations, develop Planning Advice specific spatial guidance for City Centre and explore potential “levers” that are within the control of the Council to set or outline.	Strategic Place Planning	Short	Planning Development Management Committee	The City Centre and Beach Masterplan recognises that living in the city centre is a positive way to ensure it has vibrancy, vitality and viability and to support an economy based around day-to-day living. A City Centre Living Enabling Plan has been prepared on this basis, with the primary objective to add 3,000 new residents to the city centre by 2040. A recommendation to extend the current Affordable Housing Waiver until 31 December 2025 is included within the recommendations of this report to Council. The Waiver will also inform relevant new local planning advice / guidance to sit alongside the emerging Local Development Plan.

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6. To integrate our environmental thinking (from a place and economy perspective) into the prioritisation and planning of the next wave of CCMP projects over the short, medium term and long term	Review the Spaces for People Interventions and consult with the public about which interventions to retain	Strategic Place Planning	Short	City Growth & Resources Committee	The public engagement exercise entitled “The Future of Aberdeen City Centre and the Beach” undertaken in July 2021 began this discussion, and a recommendation on further consultation on Spaces For People measures at the Beach is included in this report to Council.
	Explore the benefits which can be gained through the LEZ, including parking strategy/ planning policy guidance	Strategic Place Planning	Short	City Growth & Resources Committee	On 19 May 2022, Scottish Ministers confirmed their approval of a preferred Low Emission Zone (LEZ) for Aberdeen, allowing Aberdeen City Council to formally declare its LEZ on 30 May 2022. Work has since commenced on implementation of the LEZ in advance of the expiration of the 2-year grace period, encompassing establishment of the enforcement camera system and appropriate boundary and

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					strategic road signage. The designation of the LEZ will be a key element in considering any relevant new local planning guidance/ advice to sit alongside the emerging Local Development Plan.
	Implement the electric vehicle infrastructure as per City Growth & Resources Committee instruction	Strategic Place Planning	Short	City Growth & Resources Committee	Aberdeen's EV Framework - covering 5 and 10 year periods - was adopted in February 2021. This has seen both rapid and fast chargers installed at a number of sites across the city, including Virginia Street car park and Summer Street car park in the city centre. All new chargers are capable of recharging 2 vehicles at once and will be fully operational by the end of the year. A number of existing chargers are also scheduled for replacement.

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					<p>Further installations beyond this will be informed by a funded business case, currently being undertaken by consultants Urban Foresight and funded by Transport Scotland and the Scottish Futures trust. This will look at how the Council can work with other organisations, including private firms, to roll out further EV charging infrastructure, up to 2045 and what levels of funding – public, Council and from Transport Scotland - may be required to facilitate this. This will consider opportunities for charging hubs, off-street charging and on-street charging. The work looks at Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire and Highland Councils together. The business case is due to be</p>

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					completed by late summer 2022.

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**MEDIUM AND LONG TERM BLUEPRINT FOR RECOVERY (Table 2)**

<b>CCMP Review Objective</b>	<b>Tasks</b>	<b>Lead Chief Officer</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Governance Oversight</b>	<b>Progress Update – August 2022</b>
7. To consider the implications on city centre footfall as a result of the seismic changes which are happening within the retail sector and the increased levels of sustained hybrid working which are anticipated post the pandemic and consider solutions to mitigating this anticipated reduction		City Growth	Medium	City Growth & Resources Committee	UPDATE TO FOLLOW – currently being factored into streetscape and urban realm projects
8. To integrate our environmental thinking (from a place and economy perspective) into the prioritisation and planning of		Strategic Place Planning	Medium	City Growth & Resources Committee	UPDATE TO FOLLOW - currently being factored into streetscape and urban realm projects

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the next wave of CCMP projects over the short, medium term and long term					
9. To integrate our smart city thinking more deliberately within the prioritisation and planning of future waves of CCMP projects over the medium and long term	To work with Microsoft, on their clean cities initiative	Digital	Medium		ACC is currently refreshing the Smart City strategy and action plan, liaising with partners to focus on key themes for the city. This will align with emerging opportunities to be delivered through the CCMP
10. To determine our long-term objectives (year 5+) arising from the review and ensure the aims and objectives of the CCMP reflect these			Long		The City Centre and Beach Masterplan sets the strategic vision and objectives for the longer term.