

Deputation request from Alasdair Ross, AVA & ACVO Policy & Consultations Officer, in relation to agenda item 8.2:-

I'm writing to request the opportunity to address the Finance and Resources Committee on 5th November 2024 in relation to item 8.2 "Medium Term Financial Strategy for the Council's General Fund, 2024 - CORS/24/283 - Council of 11 October 2024".

ACVO would like Members to consider the Third Sector's response to Phase 1 of the Council's budget consultation which can be read at this link: [Third Sector Response to Aberdeen City Council's 2025/26 Budget Consultation: Phase 1 - ACVO TSI](#) and to acknowledge our recommendations within the Committee's decision on the report before them. Namely:

- 1) Uncomfortable and serious whole-system discussions between the Council, other public agencies and the third sector are required to prevent catastrophic loss of services. A long-term strategy for funding and supporting the third sector is needed, recognising its vital role in addressing social challenges.
- 2) The sector is asking that our work is valued, both in terms of respect for the work we do, but valued financially for the impact it has. Charity is not free.
- 3) Involve the third sector in the decision-making process, not just in the consultation process, to ensure that their needs are built into the outcomes. Organisations who may be affected by proposals should be offered a direct line into the process so that a very clear picture of impact can be understood by the Council in detail.
- 4) Acknowledgment that communities cannot replace public services or mitigate their loss without the financial resources to do so.
- 5) Cuts and service reductions that impact vulnerable communities should not be considered. It is a false economy and will drive even more demand to our stretched and underfunded third sector services.