

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

Town House,
ABERDEEN, 11 October 2024

MINUTE OF MEETING OF ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

Sederunt:

Lord Provost David Cameron, Chairperson;
Depute Provost Steve Delaney; and

COUNCILLORS

GILLIAN AL-SAMARAI
NURUL HOQUE ALI
CHRISTIAN ALLARD
ALISON ALPHONSE
KATE BLAKE
JENNIFER BONSELL
MARIE BOULTON
DESMOND BOUSE
RICHARD BROOKS
HAZEL CAMERON
DONNA CLARK
JOHN COOKE
NEIL COPLAND
WILLIAM CORMIE
BARNEY CROCKETT
SARAH CROSS
DEREK DAVIDSON
LEE FAIRFULL
EMMA FARQUHAR
GORDON GRAHAM
ROSS GRANT

MARTIN GREIG
DELL HENRICKSON
MICHAEL HUTCHISON
MICHAEL KUSZNIR
GRAEME LAWRENCE
SANDRA MACDONALD
NEIL MacGREGOR
ALEXANDER McLELLAN
CIARAN McRAE
M. TAUQEER MALIK
DUNCAN MASSEY
JESSICA MENNIE
ALEX NICOLL
MIRANDA RADLEY
KAIRIN VAN SWEEDEN
LYNN THOMSON
DEENA TISSERA
SIMON WATSON
and
IAN YUILL

Lord Provost David Cameron, in the Chair.

The agenda and reports associated with this minute can be found [here](#).

Please note that if any changes are made to this minute at the point of approval, these will be outlined in the subsequent minute and this document will not be retrospectively altered.

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ORDER AND LEGAL ADVICE

1. The Lord Provost advised that he was reordering the agenda and would take item 9.2 (Medium Term Financial Strategy) after item 9.5 (Proposal for the Torry Battery).

The Lord Provost referred to the Council meeting on 2 October 2024 (Article 7 of the minute refers) where it had been agreed that the legal advice relating to the City Centre Transport Measures report would be circulated via hard copy, however the hard copies would have to be returned to officers. The Lord Provost explained that hard copies would be made available to Group Leaders, independent Councillors and it would also be shared on screen for those members who were in attendance online, however in order to do so, the meeting would require to go into private session.

At this juncture, the press and public were excluded from the meeting in terms of Section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, so as to avoid disclosure of exempt information of the class described in paragraph 12 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

The press and public were then readmitted to the meeting.

DIVERSITY IN RECRUITMENT UPDATE - CORS/24/202

2. With reference to Article 10 of the minute of its meeting of 7 February 2024, the Council had before it a report by the Chief Officer - People and Citizen Services which responded to the instruction to report back providing further detail on the activity which had been undertaken to improve diversity in recruitment, including leadership and management roles.

The report recommended:-

that the Council -

- (a) note the actions contained in the report being taken to increase diversity in leadership;
- (b) note the self-assessment and areas for further consideration contained within Appendix A; and
- (c) note that in the first appropriate committee cycle in 2025/26 the equality, diversity and inclusion action plan, first agreed in 2021, would be updated and reported to the Staff Governance Committee for approval, as a result of the ongoing work, self-assessment exercise and new equality outcomes due to be presented for approval in April 2025.

Councillor Copland moved, seconded by Councillor Al-Samarai:-

That the Council approve the recommendations contained within the report.

Councillor Malik moved as an amendment, seconded by Councillor Tissera:-

That the Council -

- (1) notes the report;
- (2) notes this report was deferred in both July and August, the only recent report to be deferred twice. Notes the report deals with diversity and notes

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- our disappointment with the Lord Provost for not taking this report in either July or August which may lead the public to conclude that, whilst there is no direct evidence of discrimination on the part of the Council, the actions of the Council in delaying the report twice shows unconscious bias on the part of the Council versus other reports which were taken;
- (3) agrees the report does not adequately address the issue agreed by Council on 13th October 2022 which said “given the low proportion of Ethnic Minority employees in the Council compared to the UK, to agree that everything possible should be done by officers to ensure that employees who are suitably qualified and who identify as Ethnic Minority should be encouraged to apply for these senior posts”, meaning the Chief Officer posts;
 - (4) notes that none of the posts went to any person from a Minority Ethnic background; and
 - (5) agrees that the final report in 2025 should show how the Council intends its workforce to mirror the cosmopolitan mix of Aberdeen.

On a division, there voted:-

For the motion (24) - Lord Provost; Depute Provost; and Councillors Al-Samarai, Allard, Alphonse, Boulton, Bouse, Hazel Cameron, Clark, Cooke, Copland, Cormie, Davidson, Fairfull, Greig, Henrickson, Hutchison, McLellan, McRae, Mennie, Nicoll, Radley, van Sweeden and Yuill.

For the amendment (15) - Councillors Ali, Blake, Bonsell, Brooks, Crockett, Graham, Grant, Kuznir, Lawrence, Macdonald, Malik, Massey, Tissera, Thomson and Watson.

Absent from the division (3) - Councillors Cross, Farquhar and MacGregor.

The Council resolved:-

- (i) to adopt the motion;
- (ii) to note that the Chief Officer - People and Citizen Services would check on training that had been offered to elected members, with a view to offering training to all elected members regarding unconscious bias, which was currently part of training offered to recruiting managers; and
- (iii) to note that the Chief Officer - People and Citizen Services would provide information regarding (1) the number of complaints that had been received by ethnic minority employees alleging racial discrimination; and (2) uptake of the various training referred to in paragraph 3.5.7 of the report.

2025 - 2055 HRA BUSINESS PLAN - CORS/24/286

3. With reference to Article 2 of the minute of its meeting of 14 December 2023, the Council had before it a report by the Chief Officer - Finance which presented an updated 30-year Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Business Plan.

The report recommended:-

that the Council -

- (a) approve the HRA Business Plan at Appendix A to the report;

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- (b) agree the HRA Business Plan would be updated on an annual basis and reported to Council;
- (c) note the requirement for the Council to maintain HRA reserves for financial resilience and sustainability purposes and that the Plan builds in an annual surplus to support the value of HRA Reserves as time passes;
- (d) approve the terms of proposed consultation with tenants as detailed in paragraph 3.4 and instruct the Chief Officer - Housing to consult with the tenants, and note that the Chief Officer - Finance would include the results as part of the HRA Budget 2025/26 presented to the Council on 11 December 2024; and
- (e) note that the Council would receive reports on the Local Housing Strategy and the Housing Asset Management Plan in 2025 and these would inform future updates to the HRA Business Plan.

Councillor Radley moved, seconded by Councillor Henrickson:-

That the Council approve the recommendations contained within the report.

Councillor Malik moved as an amendment, seconded by Councillor Graham:-

That the Council -

- (1) note the HRA Business Plan at Appendix A to this report;
- (2) agree the HRA Business Plan as presented highlights the failures of this SNP administration and the Scottish Government who continue to cut the budget for housing projects;
- (3) agree the previous administration brought forward plans to deliver 2,000 council homes, the first thing the SNP did in power was to delay much needed Council homes at Craighill and Kincorth;
- (4) agree that improvements to the management of void properties may reduce the need to consider increasing rent by 10%;
- (5) approve the terms of proposed consultation with tenants as detailed in paragraph 3.4 of the report and instruct the Chief Officer - Housing to consult with the tenants, and note that the Chief Officer - Finance will include the results as part of the HRA Budget 2025/26 presented to the Council on 5 March 2025;
- (6) instruct the Chief Officer - Housing to consult with communities and individuals with lived experience of the housing emergency, and internal and external partners, on the HRA Business Plan;
- (7) note that the Council will receive reports on the Local Housing Strategy and the Housing Asset Management Plan in 2025 and these will inform future updates to the HRA Business Plan; and
- (8) instruct the Chief Officers - Housing and Corporate Landlord, in consultation with the Chief Officer - Finance, to incorporate into the next 30 Year HRA Business Plan, which will be reported to Council during 2025/26, the indicative costs and financial implications on tenants' rents of building a further 1,000 Council homes, and agreeing that Labour will participate in a cross party working group on this matter as appropriate.

On a division, there voted:-

For the motion (27) - Lord Provost; Depute Provost; and Councillors Al-Samarai, Allard, Alphonse, Bouse, Brooks, Hazel Cameron, Clark, Cooke, Copland, Cormie,

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Cross, Davidson, Fairfull, Greig, Henrickson, Hutchison, Kuszniir, MacGregor, McLellan, McRae, Massey, Nicoll, Radley, van Sweeden and Yuill.

For the amendment (12) - Councillors Ali, Blake, Bonsell, Crockett, Graham, Grant, Lawrence, Macdonald, Malik, Tissera, Thomson and Watson.

Absent from the division (3) - Councillors Boulton, Farquhar and Mennie.

The Council resolved:-

- (i) to adopt the motion; and
- (ii) to note that the Chief Officer - Corporate Landlord would circulate information with regard to the breakdown of void properties re-let to different categories of people.

In accordance with Article 2 of the minute of the Council meeting of 2 October 2024, Councillor Grant left the meeting for the following item having previously declared an interest.

CITY CENTRE TRANSPORT MEASURES - CR&E/24/287

4. With reference to Article 2 of the minute of its meeting of 16 July 2024, the Council had before it a report by the Chief Officer - Strategic Place Planning which provided an update on the feasibility and impact of amending elements within the Aberdeen City Council (City Centre, Aberdeen) (Traffic Management) (Experimental) Order (ETRO) 2023, and requested approval to make the ETRO a permanent order.

The report recommended:-

that the Council -

- (a) note that the Aberdeen City Council (City Centre, Aberdeen) (Traffic Management) (Experimental) Order 2023 was implemented to achieve the safe and efficient movement of active travel and public transport users through the city centre, and that the measures originated from the City Centre Masterplan 2015 Movement Strategy;
- (b) note that at the Council's City Growth and Resources Committee in February 2021, Committee instructed officers to submit a bid to the Scottish Government's Bus Partnership Fund, and included specific instructions to:-
 - (i) instruct the Chief Officer - Strategic Place Planning, that in the context of the corridor options within the bid terminating in the City Centre, and in light of the recommendations from the Economic Policy Panel and ongoing transport projects, to seek to accelerate the City Centre elements of the bid. This should include any necessary enabling works for approved schemes, for example South College Street and Berryden, to help drive recovery, improve the transport system and ensure integration of current transport projects; and
 - (ii) instruct the Chief Officer - Strategic Place Planning, to explore options to improve access and integration of the Aberdeen bus station as part of the bid, to help improve the customer experience.

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- (c) note that at the Council meeting in June 2022, all members of Council present either explicitly voted for the inclusion of bus priority measures contained within the Aberdeen City Council (City Centre, Aberdeen) (Traffic Management) (Experimental) Order 2023, or proposed an amendment that would have also resulted in the measures being included;
- (d) note that, as instructed by Council in July 2024, additional work has been undertaken by officers to investigate the feasibility and impact of reopening Bridge Street to all vehicles in one or both directions; and the feasibility and impact of removing the ban on right turns from Union Terrace onto Rosemount Viaduct (Appendix 1);
- (e) note that the output of the additional work referenced in recommendation (d) (above) does not provide officers with sufficient certainty that amending bus priority measures on Bridge Street and Union Terrace would not prejudice the further delivery of key projects within the City Centre & Beach Masterplan 2022;
- (f) note that the output of the additional work referenced in recommendation (d) (above) does not provide officers with sufficient certainty that amending bus priority measures on Bridge Street and Union Terrace would guarantee there would not be a need in the near future for the measures to be reintroduced as traffic levels begin to rise once more;
- (g) agree that any amendments to the Aberdeen City Council (City Centre, Aberdeen) (Traffic Management) (Experimental) Order 2023 would detrimentally impact on bus journey times and reliability to and through the city centre and would roll back on the improvements to service delivery reported by both bus companies as having been evidenced since the bus priority measures were introduced in August 2023, thus impacting negatively on bus users;
- (h) note that, according to Scotland's 2022 Census Data, 30.7% of households in Aberdeen do not have a car or van in their household;
- (i) agree that any amendments to the Aberdeen City Council (City Centre, Aberdeen) (Traffic Management) (Experimental) Order 2023 would make the city centre a less desirable place for pedestrians and cyclists - the most vulnerable of street users - due to increased levels of traffic in the city centre, resulting in a higher risk of serious or fatal injury, and amplified levels of noise and air pollution;
- (j) note that, in February 2023, Aberdeen City Council added its voice to the growing number of local authorities around the world to have responded to the global climate change and nature loss crises by declaring a climate and nature emergency;
- (k) agree that, in accepting grant funding from Transport Scotland for the South College Street project, there was an expectation from Scottish Ministers that bus priority measures would be installed within the city centre and, should this not be the case, the conditions of the grant award letter explicitly provide for Transport Scotland to recover funding from the Council (Appendix 2);
- (l) note that, should the various bus prioritisation measures implemented following the South College Street improvements change, there is risk that Transport Scotland will seek to recover funding they have provided for the project. The Chief Officer - Finance advises that a contingent liability will have to be recorded in the Council financial performance reports until clarity from Transport Scotland is received, with an expectation that if this is not resolved by 31 March 2025 a provision will have to be included in the Council's 2024/25 draft Annual Accounts for the repayment of grant funding;

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- (m) agree that the level of financial risk associated with removal of the bus priority measures contained within the Aberdeen City Council (City Centre, Aberdeen) (Traffic Management) (Experimental) Order 2023 would not be consistent with the Council's risk appetite as set out in the updated Risk Appetite Statement, as approved by the Audit, Risk and Scrutiny Committee in February 2024;
- (n) therefore, agree to approve the making of The Aberdeen City Council (City Centre, Aberdeen) (Traffic Management) Experimental Order 2023 as a permanent Order, with continued monitoring in terms of the ongoing City Centre Masterplan;
- (o) instruct the Chief Officer - Operations to commence the procedure for the Order to be made permanent;
- (p) in recognising that the ability sits with Council to use Bus Lane Enforcement surplus to assist city centre businesses so long as doing so also supports the delivery of the Local Transport Strategy, agree to instruct the Chief Officer - Strategic Place Planning, following consultation with the Conveners of the Net Zero, Environment & Transport and Finance & Resources Committees, to use Enforcement surplus monies (capped at £200,000) to reinstate a Night Bus service from the city centre to key destinations across the city and into Aberdeenshire;
- (q) instruct the Chief Officer - Strategic Place Planning to work with Aberdeen Inspired to determine what, if any, additional city centre focused projects the Bus Lane Enforcement surplus could be used for, and report a list of competent projects to a future Net Zero, Environment and Transport Committee within the next six months; and
- (r) instruct the Chief Officer - Strategic Place Planning to work with the Chief Officer - Operations to explore opportunities to enhance the accessibility of wayfinding in the city centre for people with disabilities.

The Lord Provost noted that there were some questions on the legal advice which had been shared at the outset of the meeting and therefore the Council would require to go into private session.

At this juncture, the press and public were excluded from the meeting in terms of Section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, so as to avoid disclosure of exempt information of the class described in paragraph 12 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

The Lord Provost sought confirmation that all of the hard copies of the legal advice had been returned to officers. Councillor Malik advised that he had not returned his copy and that he would be keeping it. The Lord Provost referred to the agreement at the Council meeting on 2 October 2024, that hard copies would be returned, and stated that this would be recorded in the minute.

Following the conclusion of questions relating to the legal advice, the press and public were readmitted to the meeting.

Councillor Yuill moved as a procedural motion, seconded by Councillor Allard:-

That the Council suspend Standing Order 40.2 to enable the meeting to continue beyond 6 hours until the conclusion of this item.

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On a division, there voted:-

For the procedural motion (38) - Lord Provost; Depute Provost; and Councillors Al-Samarai, Ali, Allard, Alphonse, Blake, Bonsell, Boulton, Brooks, Hazel Cameron, Clark, Cooke, Copland, Cormie, Crockett, Cross, Davidson, Fairfull, Farquhar, Graham, Greig, Henrickson, Hutchison, Kuszniir, Lawrence, Macdonald, MacGregor, McLellan, McRae, Malik, Massey, Radley, van Sweeden, Tissera, Thomson, Watson and Yuill.

Against the procedural motion (1) - Councillor Nicoll.

Absent from the division (3) - Councillors Bouse, Grant and Mennie.

The Council resolved:-
to adopt the procedural motion.

Councillor Yuill moved, seconded by Councillor Henrickson:-

That the Council -

- (i) note that the Aberdeen City Council (City Centre, Aberdeen) (Traffic Management) (Experimental) Order 2023 was implemented to achieve the safe and efficient movement of active travel and public transport users through the city centre, and that the measures originated from the City Centre Masterplan 2015 Movement Strategy;
- (ii) note that at the Council's City Growth and Resources Committee in February 2021, Committee instructed officers to submit a bid to the Scottish Government's Bus Partnership Fund, and included specific instructions to:-
 - (a) instruct the Chief Officer - Strategic Place Planning, that in the context of the corridor options within the bid terminating in the City Centre, and in light of the recommendations from the Economic Policy Panel and ongoing transport projects, to seek to accelerate the City Centre elements of the bid. This should include any necessary enabling works for approved schemes, for example South College Street and Berryden, to help drive recovery, improve the transport system and ensure integration of current transport projects; and
 - (b) instruct the Chief Officer - Strategic Place Planning, to explore options to improve access and integration of the Aberdeen bus station as part of the bid, to help improve the customer experience;
- (iii) note that at the Council meeting in June 2022, all members of Council present either explicitly voted for the inclusion of bus priority measures contained within the Aberdeen City Council (City Centre, Aberdeen) (Traffic Management) (Experimental) Order 2023, or proposed an amendment that would have also resulted in the measures being included;
- (iv) note that, as instructed by Council in July 2024, additional work has been undertaken by officers to investigate the feasibility and impact of reopening Bridge Street to all vehicles in one or both directions; and the feasibility and impact of removing the ban on right turns from Union Terrace onto Rosemount Viaduct (Appendix 1);
- (v) note that the output of the additional work referenced in recommendation (d) (above) does not provide officers with sufficient certainty that amending bus priority measures on Bridge Street and Union Terrace would not

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- prejudice the further delivery of key projects within the City Centre & Beach Masterplan 2022;
- (vi) note that the output of the additional work referenced in recommendation (d) (above) does not provide officers with sufficient certainty that amending bus priority measures on Bridge Street and Union Terrace would guarantee there would not be a need in the near future for the measures to be reintroduced as traffic levels begin to rise once more;
 - (vii) note that, according to Scotland's 2022 Census Data, 30.7% of households in Aberdeen do not have a car or van in their household;
 - (viii) note that, in February 2023, Aberdeen City Council added its voice to the growing number of local authorities around the world to have responded to the global climate change and nature loss crises by declaring a climate and nature emergency;
 - (ix) agree that, in accepting grant funding from Transport Scotland for the South College Street project, there was an expectation from Scottish Ministers that bus priority measures would be installed within the city centre and, should this not be the case, the conditions of the grant award letter explicitly provide for Transport Scotland to recover funding from the Council (Appendix 2);
 - (x) note that, should the various bus prioritisation measures implemented following the South College Street improvements change, there is risk that Transport Scotland will seek to recover funding they have provided for the project. The Chief Officer - Finance advises that a contingent liability will have to be recorded in the Council financial performance reports until clarity from Transport Scotland is received, with an expectation that if this is not resolved by 31 March 2025 a provision will have to be included in the Council's 2024/25 draft Annual Accounts for the repayment of grant funding;
 - (xi) note that the level of financial risk associated with removal of the bus priority measures contained within the Aberdeen City Council (City Centre, Aberdeen) (Traffic Management) (Experimental) Order 2023 would not be consistent with the Council's risk appetite as set out in the updated Risk Appetite Statement, as approved by the Audit, Risk and Scrutiny Committee in February 2024;
 - (xii) therefore, agree, subject to the removal of the ban on right turns from Union Terrace onto Rosemount Viaduct, to approve the making of The Aberdeen City Council (City Centre, Aberdeen) (Traffic Management) Experimental Order 2023 as a permanent Order, with continued monitoring in terms of the ongoing City Centre Masterplan. The cost of undertaking these works is estimated to be approximately £3,000 and is to be funded from the General Fund Capital Programme contingency budget in 2024/25. Noting the Chief Officer - Finance's advice above there is a risk of up to £8m of Bus Partnership Fund grant being reclaimed by Transport Scotland and agreeing if this has to be repaid (in part or whole) the capital grant will have to be replaced by borrowing at a cost to the General Fund Revenue Budget of up to approximately £480,000 per annum for the next 30 years, which will increase the budget gap in the Medium Term Financial Strategy from financial year 2025/26;
 - (xiii) instruct the Chief Officer - Operations to commence the procedure for the Order to be made permanent;

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- (xiv) in recognising that the ability sits with Council to use Bus Lane Enforcement surplus to assist city centre businesses so long as doing so also supports the delivery of the Local Transport Strategy, agree to instruct the Chief Officer - Strategic Place Planning, following consultation with the Conveners of the Net Zero, Environment & Transport and Finance & Resources Committees, to use Enforcement surplus monies (capped at £200,000) to reinstate a Night Bus service from the city centre to key destinations across the city and into Aberdeenshire;
- (xv) instruct the Chief Officer - Strategic Place Planning to work with Aberdeen Inspired to determine what, if any, additional city centre focused projects the Bus Lane Enforcement surplus could be used for, and report a list of competent projects to a future Net Zero, Environment and Transport Committee within the next six months; and
- (xvi) instruct the Chief Officer - Strategic Place Planning to work with the Chief Officer - Operations to explore opportunities to enhance the accessibility of wayfinding in the city centre for people with disabilities.

Councillor Malik moved as an amendment, seconded by Councillor Watson:-

That the Council -

- (1) notes the contents of the report;
- (2) agrees officer recommendations 2.16 to 2.18 ((p) and (r) as above);
- (3) agrees to support the many businesses who have been calling for common sense proposals from the Council and therefore instructs the Chief Officer - Operations to withdraw the elements of the Experimental Traffic Order which businesses and residents have been calling for the withdrawal of under the Common-Sense Compromise proposals (namely the removal of bus gates at the Adelphi and Market Street, removal of the bus gates on Bridge Street and removal of the right turn ban on Union Terrace) because of the current and future damage to Aberdeen's City Centre. The cost of undertaking these works is estimated to be up to £250,000, and is to be funded from the General Fund Capital Programme contingency budget in 2024/25;
- (4) notes that the Labour Group opinion is that politically there is zero chance of what officers are suggesting coming to fruition with regard to risk of grant funding being reclaimed. However, in the highly unlikely event of Transport Scotland reclaiming the funding from the Bus Partnership Fund, in whole or part, note the advice of the Chief Officer - Finance is that the capital grant will have to be replaced by borrowing at a cost to the General Fund Revenue Budget of up to approximately £480,000 per annum for the next 30 years, which will increase the budget gap in the Medium Term Financial Strategy from financial year 2025/26; and
- (5) concludes that 2.8 and 2.9 of the officer recommendations ((h) and (i) as above) lend support to the view that pedestrianisation is the best way forward for Union Street Central.

On a division, there voted:-

For the motion (21) - Lord Provost; Depute Provost; and Councillors Al-Samarai, Allard, Bouse, Hazel Cameron, Clark, Cooke, Copland, Cormie, Davidson, Fairfull,

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Greig, Henrickson, Hutchison, MacGregor, McLellan, McRae, Radley, van Sweeden and Yuill.

For the amendment (15) - Councillors Ali, Blake, Bonsell, Brooks, Crockett, Cross, Farquhar, Graham, Kuszniir, Lawrence, Macdonald, Massey, Tissera, Thomson and Watson.

Declined to vote (2) - Councillors Alphonse and Nicoll.

Absent from the division (4) - Councillors Boulton, Grant, Malik and Mennie.

The Council resolved:-
to adopt the motion.

PROPOSAL FOR THE TORRY BATTERY - F&C/24/284

5. The Council had before it a report by the Chief Officer - Corporate Landlord which advised of the proposal received from Greyhope Bay Ltd for the expansion of their existing facility at the Torry Battery, and request that a 20-year lease be granted to allow them to secure funding to undertake required remedial works to the existing monument and the proposed development works.

The report recommended:-

that the Council acting in its capacity as trustee of the Lands of Torry (charity number SC021299):-

- (i) approve the granting of a 20-year lease of the Torry Battery to Greyhope Bay Ltd at a proposed peppercorn rent of £1.00 per annum, subject to planning and Listed Building consent for the proposed works being granted; and
- (ii) instruct the Chief Officer - Governance following consultation with the Chief Officer - Corporate Landlord to conclude the appropriate legal agreements incorporating various qualifications as necessary to protect the Council's and Trust's interests.

The Council resolved:-

to approve the recommendations.

MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY FOR THE COUNCIL'S GENERAL FUND, 2024 - CORS/24/283

6. The Council had before it a report by the Chief Officer - Finance which presented the Medium Term Financial Strategy for approval.

The Council resolved:-

to refer the report to the Finance and Resources Committee.

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COUNCIL DELIVERY PLAN, ANNUAL REVIEW REPORT 2023-24 - CORS/24/281

7. The Council had before it a report by the Chief Officer - Data Insights which presented an annual review report which highlighted progress with respect to the 2023-24 Council Delivery Plan approved by the Council on 1 March 2023.

The Council resolved:-

to defer consideration of the report to the Council meeting in December.

NORTH EAST POPULATION HEALTH ALLIANCE: END OF YEAR ONE PROGRESS REPORT - CORS/24/280

8. The Council had before it a report by the Chief Officer - Data Insights which presented a progress report after the first year of operation of the North East Population Health Alliance (NEPHA).

The Council resolved:-

to defer consideration of the report to the Council meeting in December.

ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORTS - 2023/2024 FOR ALL TIER 1 ALEOS: ABERDEEN PERFORMING ARTS; ABERDEEN SPORTS VILLAGE; BON ACCORD CARE; SPORT ABERDEEN - CORS/24/285

9. The Council had before it a report by the Chief Officer - Commercial and Procurement which presented the annual performance reporting of the Council's four tier one Arm's Length External Organisations (ALEOs) covering financial year 2023/2024.

The Council resolved:-

to refer the report to the Finance and Resources Committee.

NOTICE OF MOTION BY COUNCILLOR WATSON

10. The Council had before it a notice of motion by Councillor Watson in the following terms:-

"Notes that Council passed a notice of motion on 13 December 2023 recognising the importance of holding out a hand to those outwith our direct area. It called for an immediate ceasefire in Palestine/Israel, and for urgent humanitarian relief for the citizens of Gaza.

Since then, nine months have passed and tens of thousands more civilians have died. In March 2024 the United Nations Special Rapporteur found that "*There are reasonable grounds to believe that the threshold indicating the commission of the crime of genocide...has been met.*" In July 2024, the prestigious medical journal The Lancet stated that "*it is not implausible to estimate that up to 186,000 [7.9% of the total population in the Gaza strip] or even more deaths could be*

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attributable to the current conflict in Gaza". Later in July, the International Court of Justice, the United Nations' highest court, ruled that "*Israel's continued presence in the Occupied Palestinian Territory is unlawful*" and that Israel "*is under an obligation to bring to an end its unlawful presence in the Occupied Palestinian Territory as rapidly as possible*" and "*is under an obligation to cease immediately all new settlement activities, and to evacuate all settlers from the Occupied Palestinian Territory*".

This Council reaffirms its place as part of the common family of humanity, and:

1. Reiterates our call for a permanent ceasefire;
2. Calls on the Lord Provost to fly the Palestinian Flag on 29 November 2024, International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People;
3. Follows Barcelona and other cities and instructs the Chief Officer - Governance to report to Council by the end of 2024 on any direct or indirect links that Aberdeen City Council have with the State of Israel, with a view to stopping these;
4. Asks the North East Scotland Pension Fund to commission a study to identify any investments in companies that supply arms to Israel, as these investments may be at high risk due to the political instability;
5. Recognises the UK Labour Government's suspension of 30 licences for arms sales to Israel;
6. Endorses the Scottish Government's 2024 call for an arms embargo on Israel, and calls for the Scottish Government to act in all its available capacities to help prevent the production and transfer of weapons components for Israel from arms companies in Scotland; and
7. Instructs the Chief Executive to write to other Scottish Local Authorities informing them of this motion, and encouraging them to take similar actions."

The Council resolved:-

to refer the notice of motion to the Communities, Housing and Public Protection Committee.

- DAVID CAMERON, Lord Provost.