

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

Town House,
ABERDEEN, 20 August 2025

MINUTE OF MEETING OF ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

Sederunt:

Lord Provost David Cameron, Chairperson; and

COUNCILLORS

GILLIAN AL-SAMARAI
NURUL HOQUE ALI
CHRISTIAN ALLARD
ALISON ALPHONSE
KATE BLAKE
JENNIFER BONSELL
MARIE BOULTON
RICHARD BROOKS
DESMOND BUCHANAN
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
RYAN HOUGHTON
MICHAEL HUTCHISON
MICHAEL KUSZNIR
GRAEME LAWRENCE
SANDRA MACDONALD
NEIL MacGREGOR
ALEXANDER McLELLAN
KEN McLEOD
CIARAN McRAE
M. TAUQEER MALIK
DUNCAN MASSEY
JESSICA MENNIE
ALEX NICOLL
MIRANDA RADLEY
KAIRIN VAN SWEEDEN
LYNN THOMSON
DEENA TISSERA
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.

Council Meeting, Wednesday, 20 August 2025

ANNOUNCEMENT

1. The Lord Provost expressed his congratulations to Aberdeen City Council officers for their efforts in the great success of the Tall Ships festival last month, with almost 50 tall ships and in excess of 400,000 people in the city over the five days of the festival. The Lord Provost expressed his thanks to the Port of Aberdeen, Aberdeen Inspired and all of the sponsors for helping to make such a memorable event.

The Lord Provost also wished to thank the citizens of Aberdeen and the North East of Scotland for embracing the occasion. The Lord Provost added that at the Captain's Dinner, many of the race participants had specifically commented on how friendly the welcome had been from the people of Aberdeen and they were fulsome in their praise of the city and how they had been received.

Councillor Grant added his own thanks and praised the Lord and Lady Provost for how visible they had been throughout the festival, meeting partners and attending a number of different events.

NOTIFICATION OF URGENT BUSINESS

2. The Lord Provost advised that he had accepted the urgent notice of motion by Councillor Houghton onto the agenda as a matter of urgency in terms of Section 50B(4)(b) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, as this was the first Council meeting since the passing of John Alexander Cruickshank VC and it was important it was recognised.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND TRANSPARENCY STATEMENTS

3. Councillor Macdonald advised that she had a connection in relation to item 10.1 (Notice of Motion by Councillor Nicoll on Energy from Waste) as the Chair of Aberdeen Heat and Power Ltd, however having applied the objective test she did not consider that she had an interest and would not be withdrawing from the meeting.

Councillor Henrickson advised that he had a connection in relation to item 10.1 as a Council appointed member of the Board of Aberdeen Heat and Power Ltd, however having applied the objective test he did not consider that he had an interest and would not be withdrawing from the meeting.

MINUTE OF MEETING OF ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL OF 2 JULY 2025

4. The Council had before it the minute of meeting of Aberdeen City Council of 2 July 2025.

The Council resolved:-
to approve the minute.

MINUTE OF MEETING OF URGENT BUSINESS COMMITTEE OF 26 JUNE 2025

5. The Council had before it the minute of meeting of the Urgent Business Committee of 26 June 2025.

The Council resolved:-
to approve the minute.

COUNCIL BUSINESS PLANNER

6. The Council had before it the business planner as prepared by the Chief Officer - Governance.

Councillor Malik moved as a procedural motion, seconded by Councillor Tissera:-

That the Council do not remove item 15 (Revised Council Climate Change Plan) from the Council business planner and that the report be submitted to Council.

On a division, there voted:-

For the procedural motion (20) - Councillors Ali, Blake, Bonsell, Boulton, Brooks, Crockett, Cross, Farquhar, Graham, Grant, Houghton, Kuszniir, Lawrence, Macdonald, McLeod, Malik, Massey, Nicoll, Thomson and Tissera.

Against the procedural motion (22) - Lord Provost; and Councillors Al-Samarai, Allard, Alphonse, Buchanan, Hazel Cameron, Clark, Cooke, Copland, Cormie, Davidson, Fairfull, Greig, Henrickson, Hutchison, MacGregor, McLellan, McRae, Mennie, Radley, van Sweeden and Yuill.

The Council resolved:-
to reject the procedural motion.

The Council further resolved:-

- (i) to remove item 15 (Revised Council Climate Change Plan) as it was on the Net Zero, Environment and Transport Committee business planner;
- (ii) to request officers to provide more regular briefings on progress with the City Centre Masterplan; and
- (iii) to otherwise note the business planner.

PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK REFRESH 2025/26 - CORS/25/189

7. The Council had before it a report by the Chief Officer - Data Insights which presented a refreshed Performance Management Framework which reflected proposals for the capture, scrutiny and reporting of Council performance, aligning with the Council's commissioning intentions, Service Standards, and approach to evidencing and evaluating improvement as outlined within the Council Delivery Plan 2025-26.

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The report recommended:-

that the Council approve the revised Performance Management Framework for 2025-26 as detailed in Appendix A.

During the course of questions, Councillor Yuill advised that he had a connection in relation to the item as the Council's appointed member of the Board of NHS Grampian, however having applied the objective test he did not consider that he had an interest and would not be withdrawing from the meeting.

The Council resolved:-

- (i) to approve the recommendation; and
- (ii) to request the Chief Officer - Digital and Technology to provide a service update on the Council's approach to Artificial Intelligence to provide assurance with regard to the use of data and ethics.

COUNCIL DIARY 2026 - CORS/25/190

8. The Council had before it a report by the Chief Officer - Governance which sought approval of the Council diary for 2026.

The report recommended:-

that the Council approve the Council diary for 2026 appended to the report, making any changes as appropriate.

Councillor Radley moved, seconded by Councillor Buchanan:-

That the Council -

1. approve the Council diary for 2026 appended to the report; and
2. schedule an additional Council meeting for 3 December 2025 at 10.30am, for the primary purpose of considering the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Budget, as per the budget protocol.

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

That the Council approve the Council diary for 2026 appended to the report, subject to the following changes to reflect better governance following the Standing Order changes:-

- January - move Communities, Housing and Public Protection from 13 January to 14 January
- February - move Education and Children's Services from 17 February to 18 February
- March - move Communities, Housing and Public Protection from 10 March to 11 March
- March - move Anti-Poverty and Inequality from 11 March to 10 March
- April - move Education and Children's Services from 28 April to 29 April
- May - move Communities, Housing and Public Protection from 26 May to 27 May
- June - move Education and Children's Services from 23 June to 24 June
- September - move Net Zero, Environment and Transport from 8 September to 9 September

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- September - move Community Planning Aberdeen Board from 9 September to 8 September
- September - move Education and Children's Services from 15 September to 16 September
- November - move Communities, Housing and Public Protection from 10 November to 11 November
- November - move Education and Children's Services from 17 November to 18 November
- November - move Community Planning Aberdeen Board from 18 November to 17 November
- November - move Net Zero, Environment and Transport from 24 November to 25 November
- November - move Anti-Poverty and Inequality from 25 November to 24 November

On a division, there voted:-

For the motion (22) - Lord Provost; and Councillors Al-Samarai, Allard, Alphonse, Buchanan, Hazel Cameron, Clark, Cooke, Copland, Cormie, Davidson, Fairfull, Greig, Henrickson, Hutchison, MacGregor, McLellan, McRae, Mennie, Radley, van Sweeden and Yuill.

For the amendment (20) - Councillors Ali, Blake, Bonsell, Boulton, Brooks, Crockett, Cross, Farquhar, Graham, Grant, Houghton, Kuszniir, Lawrence, Macdonald, McLeod, Malik, Massey, Nicoll, Thomson and Tissera.

The Council resolved:-
to adopt the motion.

NOTICE OF MOTION BY COUNCILLOR NICOLL

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

"That Council:

1. Notes with concern the Energy from Waste facility (NESS) operated on behalf of Aberdeen City Council in partnership with Aberdeenshire Council and Moray Council has recently had to shut down out with the planned maintenance programme.
2. Notes that this shut down, while an operational matter, was not reported to elected members and that the situation came into the public domain via social media.
3. Notes that the Aberdeen City Council, 2024/25 Annual Audit Report prepared by Audit Scotland and passed by an Urgent Business Committee on 26 June 2025 with less than 2.5 hours notice, of the circa 266 pages in the business papers, made a clear recommendation in the section Best Value at Recommendation 4,
"It would be more transparent if criteria were developed to provide a framework for officers in considering the circumstances when consultation

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- and/or a report to elected members would be appropriate in respect of delegated matters deemed to be politically sensitive.”*
4. Considers that issues affecting the operation and maintenance of the Energy from Waste facility are matters of considerable public interest and to the elected members of Aberdeen City Council and agrees all material or major issues affecting the operation and maintenance of the plant should be shared with elected members timeously, subject to the Council's contractual confidentiality obligations.
 5. Instructs the Chief Officer - Operations to bring a report, to be shared with all elected members, to the 18 November 2025 meeting of the Net Zero, Environment and Transport Committee detailing all occasions when the unscheduled shut downs of the facility have taken place and the amount of Aberdeen City Council's waste which has been diverted to alternative disposal facilities. Further to provide an estimate of the carbon footprint such shut downs incur with details of the additional road miles incurred to dispose of all such waste in landfill or alternative disposal facilities.
 6. Instruct the Chief Officer - Operations to also advise of the risk to Aberdeen City Council should this facility become non operational for any reason, together with any lessons learned to mitigate any future disruption and report the outcome to the 27 November 2025 meeting of the Audit, Risk and Scrutiny Committee.
 7. Instruct the Chief Officer - Operations to report to the 18 November 2025 meeting of the Net Zero, Environment and Transport Committee, the details of the loss of any revenue attributable to the shut down as well as any additional costs incurred by Aberdeen City Council in providing replacement energy normally supplied by the plant.”

During the course of questions, Councillor Cooke advised that he had a connection in relation to the item as his wife worked for Energy Voice which had been mentioned, however having applied the objective test he did not consider that he had an interest and would not be withdrawing from the meeting.

Councillor Nicoll moved, seconded by Councillor Malik:-

That the Council -

1. approve the notice of motion;
2. note the Members Briefing dated 14 August 2025 on the Ness Energy from Waste Facility;
3. agree the communication on this matter has been disappointing given Elected Members found out about the closure through the media;
4. instruct the Chief Officer - Operations to produce a report on lessons learned for the Council meeting in December 2025; and
5. instruct the Chief Officer - Operations to calculate and publish the full cost of the losses incurred by the Council in respect of the closure, which should include amongst other things additional cost for landfill, employees' overtime and all other ancillary costs associated with the closure.

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Councillor McLellan moved as an amendment, seconded by Councillor Greig:-
That Council -

Notes deliveries of waste to the North East Scotland Shared (NESS) Energy from Waste Project (EfW) recommenced on 19 August 2025 with all costs to be recovered through the contractual arrangements with the operator; and

Notes the Finance and Resources (special) Committee on 31 July 2025 resolved to:-

1. note the North East Scotland Shared (NESS) Energy from Waste Project (EfW) is a shared service between Aberdeen City Council, Aberdeenshire Council and Moray Council to treat the residual waste from the three Councils;
2. note that EFW Ness Ltd (Acciona) is the contractor responsible for delivering that service for the three authorities and it has sub-contracted the operation of the facility to Indaver, and that EFW Ness Ltd recently notified Indaver of their intention to terminate the operating sub-contract;
3. note the ongoing contractual negotiations between Council officers and Acciona to ensure the Energy from Waste facility is fully operational as soon as possible;
4. note that any changes in the delivery of waste management will be reported to the Net Zero, Environment and Transport Committee, through the performance report; and
5. instruct the Chief Officer - Operations to provide an update to the Net Zero, Environment and Transport Committee when the Energy from Waste facility is operational, outlining any potential environmental impact and any contractual implications for the Council.

On a division, there voted:-

For the motion (20) - Councillors Ali, Blake, Bonsell, Boulton, Brooks, Crockett, Cross, Farquhar, Graham, Grant, Houghton, Kusznir, Lawrence, Macdonald, McLeod, Malik, Massey, Nicoll, Thomson and Tissera.

For the amendment (22) - Lord Provost; and Councillors Al-Samarai, Allard, Alphonse, Buchanan, Hazel Cameron, Clark, Cooke, Copland, Cormie, Davidson, Fairfull, Greig, Henrickson, Hutchison, MacGregor, McLellan, McRae, Mennie, Radley, van Sweeden and Yuill.

The Council resolved:-

- (i) to adopt the amendment; and
- (ii) to note the Chief Officer - Operations would provide an update to all members to confirm (1) when the EfW facility would be able to utilise the waste, which was now being accepted, to provide energy to the relevant homes; (2) how many times the EfW facility had not been operational since 13 June 2025 and for how long, which would include scheduled maintenance periods as well as down time for any other reason; and (3) the position regarding odour control, the involvement of SEPA and any updates as necessary.

NOTICE OF MOTION BY COUNCILLOR KUSZNIR

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

“That the Council:

1. Notes the continued persistent pavement weed growth across Torry/Ferryhill, as per Appendix A below, despite the biannual weed spraying carried out by Council contractors.
2. Believes that this persistent weed growth is unsightly and does not represent best value for Aberdeen taxpayers.
3. Acknowledges that the Council’s contractor currently sprays a solution of acetic acid (i.e. vinegar) and alcohol in May and September each year, which is wilting the weeds and some die but sees perennial and persistent weeds regrowing.
4. Believes that the current contract does not reflect best value, as the existing treatment appears ineffective - evidenced by the presence of knee-height weeds and persistent weed growth throughout Torry/Ferryhill.
5. Instructs the Chief Officer - Operations to work with the current contractor to explore options within the scope of the contract for more effective weed control that will significantly reduce weed growth.
6. Further instructs that, should it not prove possible to implement a more effective treatment under this contract, the contract be allowed to expire at its natural end date and the Chief Officer - Operations procure a new contract which can deliver a solution that is more effective and provide best value for the good people of Aberdeen.
7. Agrees that any additional costs associated with a revised weed control approach be met from the Common Good.”

The Council resolved:-

to refer the notice of motion to the Net Zero, Environment and Transport Committee.

NOTICE OF MOTION BY COUNCILLOR NICOLL

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

“That Council:

1. Notes that Burnbutts Crescent, Cove, Aberdeen, is a cul-de-sac providing access to over 36 dwellings and around a dozen lock up style garages. The road is adopted and maintained by Aberdeen City Council.
2. Notes that in 2024, severe flooding in the street resulted in damage to the road surface that necessitated an area being completely resurfaced. The cause of the flooding was reported as contributed to by a blocked culvert under the main Aberdeen to Dundee railway line.
3. Understands the culvert is the responsibility of Network Rail and that water draining from the roadway from Burnbutts Crescent empties into the culvert.
4. Notes during May, June and July 2025, weather has again caused Burnbutts Crescent to experience severe flooding impacting householders’ property including cars and the aforementioned lock up garages.

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5. Notes that the north end of Burnbutts Crescent is a private lane with bollards to restrict vehicular access.
6. Instructs the Chief Officer - Operations to work with Network Rail to establish the likely timeline for any remedial works to be undertaken to resolve this issue; and in the meantime instructs that Chief Officer to consider what options or measures can be put in place to allow residents to mitigate the effects of the flooding on their property and to report the results to the Net Zero, Environment and Transport Committee in early course."

The Council resolved:-

to approve the notice of motion.

NOTICE OF MOTION BY COUNCILLOR TISSERA

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

"Council -

Notes the growing support for grassroots and professional Women's football right across the United Kingdom.

Congratulates England on successfully defending and winning UEFA Women's EURO 2025 and congratulates Wales for their efforts in the group stages.

Agree these successes are a catalyst for woman empowerment noting Women in Aberdeen, football fans or otherwise, can look at the Lionesses' success as breaking barriers in what was once seen as a Men's game only.

Instruct the Chief Executive, following consultation with Aberdeen Football Club and/or Cove Rangers Football Club and provided they are in agreement, to write to the President of the Scottish Football Association asking them to consider holding a Women's International Football Match in Aberdeen to allow aspiring girls and ladies to watch our national team in the granite city rather than having to travel to Dundee, Edinburgh or Glasgow.

The Council resolved:-

to approve the notice of motion.

URGENT NOTICE OF MOTION BY COUNCILLOR HOUGHTON

13. With reference to Article 2 of the minute, the Council had before it an urgent notice of motion by Councillor Houghton in the following terms:-

"That the Council:

1. Notes with deepest regret the passing of John Alexander Cruickshank VC, the last surviving Second World War Victoria Cross recipient from the UK;

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2. Acknowledges his extraordinary gallantry during a raid on a German U-boat in July 1944, when, despite sustaining severe wounds, he refused medical attention until his mission was complete and safely returned his crew to base, as detailed in his VC citation:

“Though bleeding profusely and suffering intense pain, he refused medical aid until he had completed his task. In spite of his wounds he insisted on remaining at his post to direct the withdrawal of his aircraft. By his extreme devotion to duty, fortitude and disregard for his personal safety, Flying Officer Cruickshank was able to bring back his aircraft to its base and save the lives of his crew.”

The Council resolved:-

to approve the notice of motion.

- DAVID CAMERON, Lord Provost.