

Old Aberdeen

Neighbourhood Community Action Plan 2008/09

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Introduction

This Neighbourhood Community Action Plan explains the background to community planning and how this relates to the Old Aberdeen neighbourhood.

The Scottish Parliament emphasises that community planning is very important because of its potential to reduce inequalities and improve everyone's quality of life. The way in which community planning is to be carried out is set out in the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003.

This Act makes Aberdeen City Council responsible for carrying out community planning within Aberdeen. Other organisations such as NHS Grampian (the health service), Grampian Police, Grampian Fire and Rescue Service and Scottish Enterprise Grampian, must work closely with the City Council on community planning. This grouping is known as The Aberdeen City Alliance (TACA). In working together, TACA must fully involve local communities in planning and providing public services. That's what community planning is all about.

TACA has produced the City's community plan which was first published in November 2001 and has been revised since then to incorporate the Single Outcome Agreement. The Single Outcome Agreement between TACA and The Scottish Government sets out how TACA will deliver on a number of national outcomes that the public sector in Scotland will be expected to achieve.

In Aberdeen, we continue to base community planning on a simple idea:
If all the organisations in Aberdeen that can make a difference

- listen to what local people want for their City
and
- agree on the priorities (to address the City's needs)
and
- agree to tackle them together
then
- real and lasting improvements will be achieved for the City and for the people who live here.

This Neighbourhood Community Action Plan (NCAP) details how this is achieved in the Old Aberdeen and what actions are taking place, locally, to improve the quality of life for Old Aberdeen residents.

The Contents of this NCAP are:

Old Aberdeen Today

A description of the Old Aberdeen neighbourhood

The 2006 Neighbourhood Community Action Plan

The improvement in the Old Aberdeen brought about by neighbourhood planning

Local Priorities

The current priority issues in the Old Aberdeen

Community Engagement in Planning Our Services

How community and services work together.

Reporting Arrangements

How progress is reported.

Key Contacts in the Old Aberdeen neighbourhood

The key contacts for neighbourhood planning in Old Aberdeen.

The Old Aberdeen Today

The Old Aberdeen neighbourhood is located to the north east of the central part of the city. It is bounded on the north by the River Don; to the east by King Street. To the west it is bounded by Tillydrone Avenue and Bedford Road and to the south, by Hermitage Avenue – College Bounds and University Road

According to 2006 population estimates, the Old Aberdeen Neighbourhood has a population of some 2907 distributed as follows:

	All Ages	0-4	5-15	16-24	25-44	45-64	65-74	75+	
C2 Old Aberdeen	2907	95	148	1485	543	388	153	95	
%		3	5	51	19	13	5	3	100
Aberdeen City	206879	9956	22699	28481	62117	51343	16936	15348	
%		5	11	14	30	25	8	7	100

Because of the large student population in Old Aberdeen, the age structure is significantly different to the City and Central Area age structures. For population and Census purposes, students are counted at their term-time address rather than their home (i.e. parents' address). All the students in student accommodation (including halls of residence) in the Old Aberdeen neighbourhood will be included in the neighbourhood's population estimate. This accounts for the high proportion of 16-24 year olds relative to the Aberdeen average.

The majority of households in Old Aberdeen Neighbourhood owned their own homes (43%). This is less than the 61% proportion for Aberdeen. The percentage of Council Rented housing in Old Aberdeen (7%) was also much lower than the City average (23%). There was, however, a much higher proportion of private rented homes in Old Aberdeen (36%) compared to Aberdeen (9%). This was the highest proportion of households living in this type of accommodation in all 37 Neighbourhoods in Aberdeen.

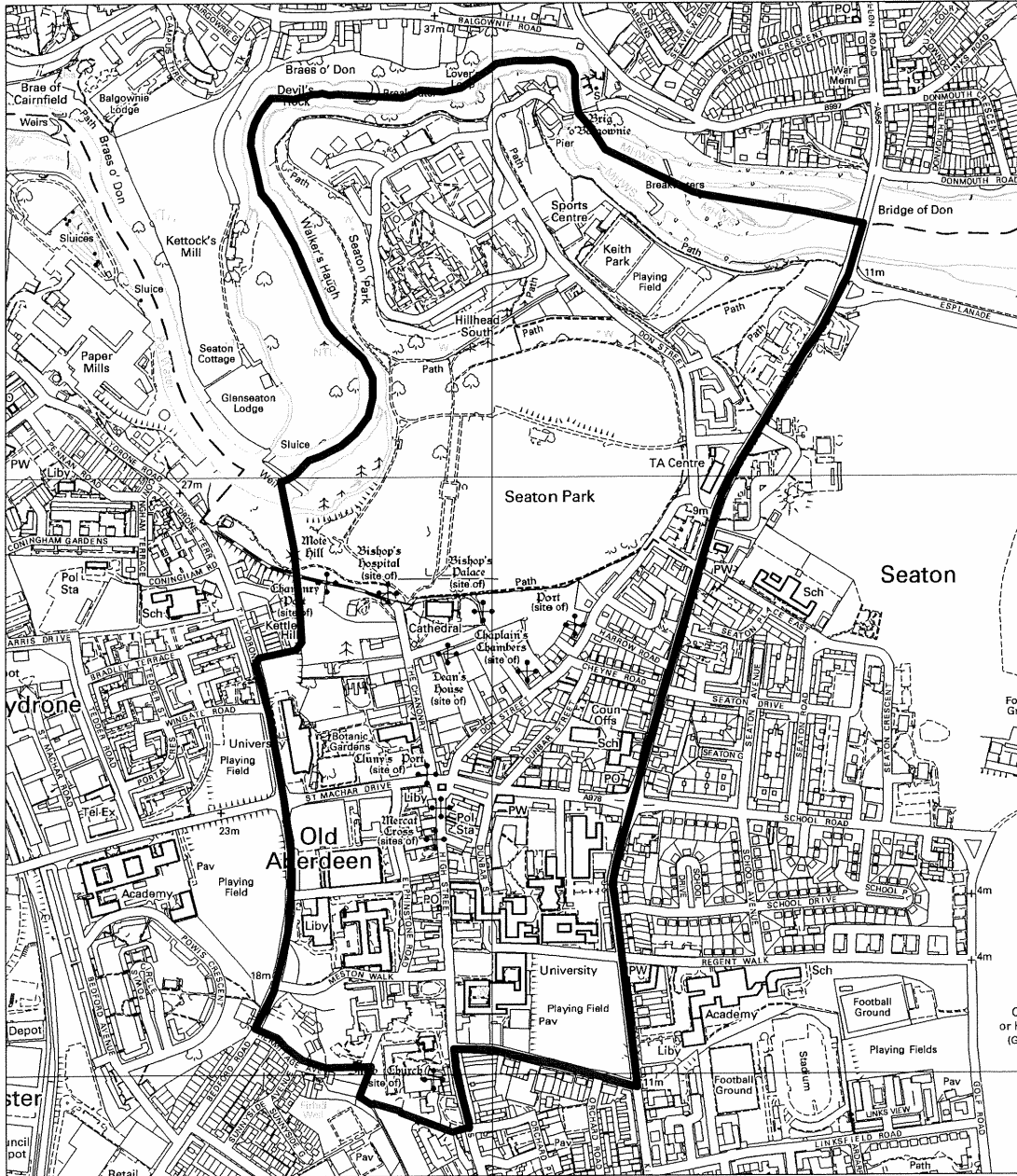
Most of this information is taken from the Old Aberdeen Neighbourhood Profile 2006 and 2006 population estimates, published by Aberdeen City Council's Strategic Research and Information service. This profile contains various statistical information and is available from the key contacts detailed later in this NCAP and online at www.communityplanningaberdeen.org



ABERDEEN
CITY COUNCIL

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

Geographical Information System



Title: NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES CENTRAL
OLD ABERDEEN NEIGHBOURHOOD

Scale: 1:9000

Date: 01 December 2005

Map Ref: NJ9408

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The 2006 Neighbourhood Community Action Plan

A Old Aberdeen Neighbourhood Community Action Plan was published in April 2006. The plan identified the main issues raised by local people following a series of consultation exercises, and set down some of the actions which were to take place to address these issues over the period 2006 - 2009. Some of the main issues raised and actions taken include the following:-

- Recognise the cultural heritage of Old Aberdeen;
- Establish a café/restaurant in Old Aberdeen;
- Develop tourism potential;

A new café is to be opened in High Street in 2009..

- Improve street lighting;
- Improve community safety;

Work has been undertaken to improve lighting in Don Street, Chanonry, and High Street. Lighting column replacements were also undertaken the area and are all complete. No further work is planned to be done in the area next financial year as most of the planned work has now been undertaken.

- Examine the pedestrianisation of the High Street
- Improve traffic management in Old Aberdeen

A number of initiatives have been undertaken by the police to target motorists using the area inappropriately.

Aberdeen City Council Central Area Committee has agreed to a project to progress with a solution to the High Street traffic problem to install retractable bollards or other solution which would be funded from slippage in the capital budget process. The project is currently on a reserve list. However with reduced budgets it may prove difficult to identify slippage to progress the work in the near future.

- Improve safety in Seaton Park
- Retain the presence of St. Peter's School within the neighbourhood
- Ensure there is car parking space for residents living in Old Aberdeen
- Address problems relating to University car parking

A controlled parking zone (cpz) is to be introduced in the neighbourhood. Following completion of the consultation stages, detailed design work will now be undertaken to finalise the cpz proposals. This will be followed in early April 2009 by the public advert stage and notification to the OA Community Council and similar groups in Seaton and Frogahall/ Powis / Sunnybank. This will allow for any further written objections to be made following which a report will be prepared for Committee. The date for implementation of the scheme will be around 1 October 2009 at the earliest

- Improve communication within the neighbourhood

The Old Aberdeen Community Council has a web site and community magazine

The web address is: <http://www.oldaberdeen.org.uk/>

Copies of the community magazine are also published on the web site.

Since the publication of the first Neighbourhood Community Action Plan services have been working together to try and address the high priority issues that are affecting residents in the neighbourhood.

To ensure that this happens every neighbourhood, including the Old Aberdeen, has had a Neighbourhood Network established.

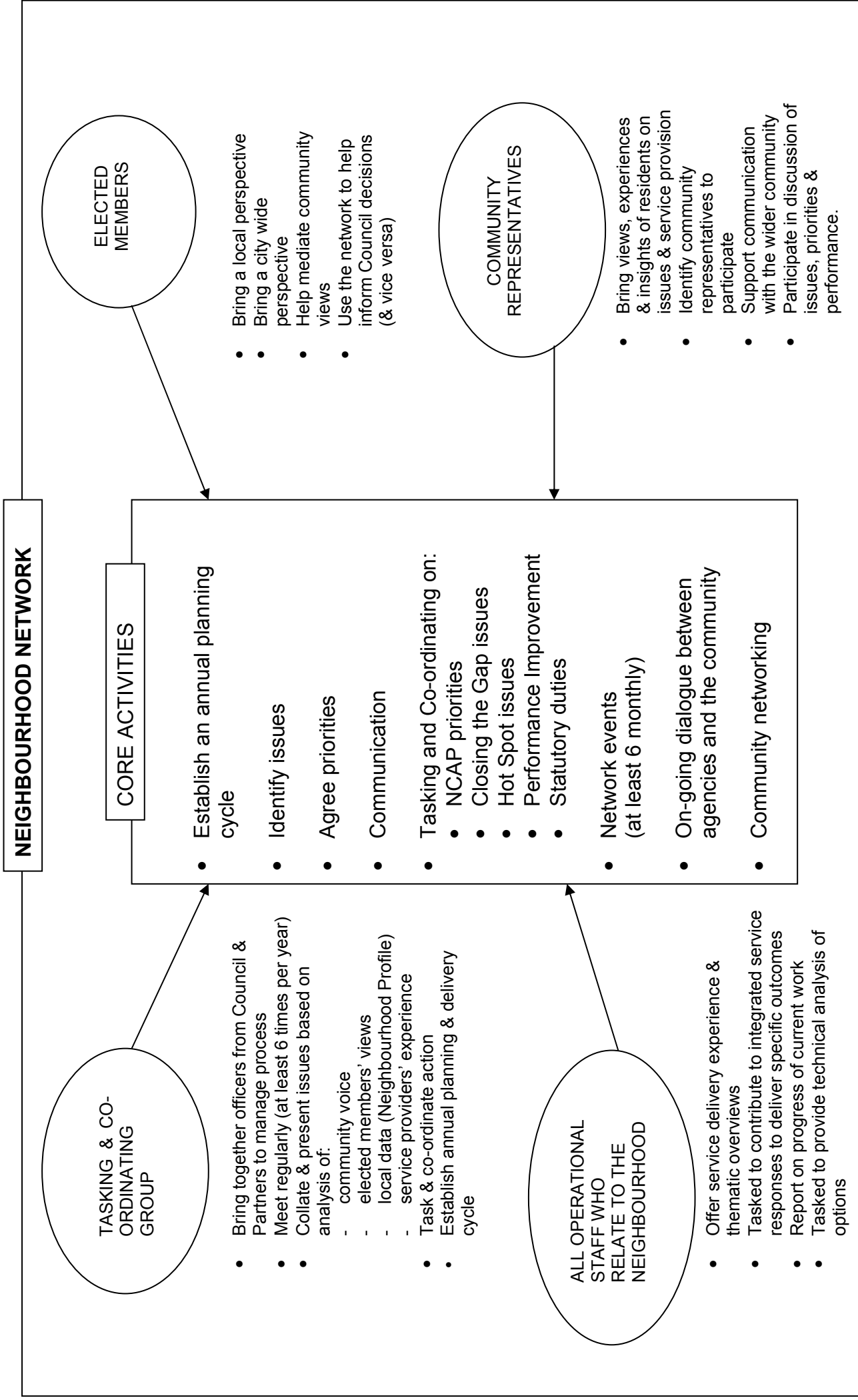
The Neighbourhood Network is not a formal group but an informal network of the key stakeholders in the neighbourhood. The key stakeholders are:

1. The Tasking and Co-ordinating Group which consists of the resource holders and decision-makers of local services;
2. Front Line Staff which consists of the staff working for local services in the neighbourhood;
3. Elected Members which consists of the Aberdeen City Councillors who have responsibility for some, or all, of the neighbourhood;
4. Community Representatives which consists of residents and community members who have an interest in some, or all, of the neighbourhood. In Old Aberdeen, community interests have been represented by the Old Aberdeen Community Council.

The purpose of the Neighbourhood Network is to:

1. Improve the quality of life for local residents by improving service delivery at a neighbourhood level;
2. Ensure neighbourhood working is mainstreamed and that neighbourhood planning becomes a fundamental aspect/element of service standards;
3. Ensure services are integrated and that stakeholders collaborate on responses to local neighbourhood priorities and that network processes are co-ordinated appropriately;
4. Ensure early participation of citizens and community groups in service planning, service delivery and the service decision making process; provide an interface with / inform and be informed by strategic planning level of agencies / service providers;
5. Integrate the Total Communities, neighbourhood planning and general service planning processes;
6. Agree the content and publication of the local Neighbourhood Community Action Plan.

The following diagram represents the Neighbourhood Network and how it's four stakeholders relate to the Network. Guidelines are available for the Neighbourhood Network and each stakeholder and can be obtained from the local Neighbourhood Community Planning Officer.



Everyone shown here is part of the Neighbourhood Network. Operational staff includes all teachers, police, housing staff, health visitors, social workers, grounds staff etc, whose work impacts on the neighbourhood.

Aberdeen City Priorities

Aberdeen's Community Plan lists the Cities top priorities as:-

- Getting it Right for Every Child;
- Violence and Disorder - Reducing antisocial behaviour, violence, domestic abuse, racist incidents and drug/alcohol related;
- Affordable Housing - Increasing the levels of affordable housing in new housing developments;
- Children – Healthy minds and bodies;
- Regeneration - Improving the quality of life in our most deprived areas;
- Transport and Connections - improve sustainable travel options;
- Making improvements to pupil attainment and adult literacy and numeracy through family learning and promoting lifelong learning;
- The continued development of Neighbourhood Planning to deliver quality of life improvements at the local level;
- Climate Change - Reducing Green House Gases;
- City Centre Re-development.

A summary of the main issues affecting the Old Aberdeen neighbourhood have been identified as follows:-

Old Aberdeen Priority Issues

1. Developing and Sustaining Community Facilities

Old Aberdeen urgently requires the development of community facilities that will foster community identity and participation.

- Refurbishment and upgrading of Dunbar Street Hall to provide a social centre and space for various activities;
- St Peter's RC Primary School is pivotal to the community and its diversity. Its retention and any "21st century fit for purpose" refurbishment is of prime importance;
- Attractive day-time and evening café/bistro/restaurant facilities providing focal points for the community to meet;
- Promotion of community access to University cultural, sports, leisure and library facilities.

2. Traffic Management / Road Safety

A dramatic rise in the volume of traffic on King Street and an increase in student numbers give rise to issues relating to car parking; traffic flow and safety, traffic congestion and air pollution.

- Establishment of a Controlled Parking Zone that has the backing of the local community;
- Implementation of a bollard, or similar form of traffic, at the junction of College Bounds/University Road -
 - to prevent traffic illegally entering High Street and remove King St to St Machar Drive short cut
 - to improve the safety of pedestrians and cyclists;

- Continued community opposition to the Third Don Crossing that will exacerbate existing traffic congestion in King Street and St Machar Drive and seriously erode quality of life
- Monitor air pollution at the King St/ St Machar Drive roundabout

3. Public Transport/Sustainable Travel

The expansion of the University to the point where thousands of students and staff are commuting into and out of Old Aberdeen on a daily basis brings challenges that need to be addressed.

- Challenge to First Bus on its provision of public transport to the area:
 - To reduce the high cost of fares;
 - To press for the introduction of **new** buses on the no 20 route;
 - To address scheduling and excessive bus speeds;
 - To explore the potential integration of the route with the bus/train station.
- Establish with relevant bodies a review of cycle lanes and cycling provision;
- Keep the Cross Rail Link high on the agenda.

4. Community Safety

Much has been already been achieved on this issue but more requires to be done to improve the safety of the neighbourhood

- Improve lighting in the Chanonry & Don St up to Hillhead;
- Ensure appropriate levels of policing and CCTV coverage;
- Improve safety in Seaton Park – divert students to Don St;
- Liaise with JADAT (Joint Action on Drugs and Alcohol) on promotion of responsible alcohol use.

5. Conservation, Heritage, Built and Natural Environment

The city's prime historical conservation area is to be found in Old Aberdeen and this, together with the area's natural beauty, has to be both safeguarded and promoted for the community's well-being and prosperity.

- Promote the historical and cultural heritage & the care and safeguarding of the built environment (the deterioration of empty properties in the High Street of particular concern);
- Be active in the management of Seaton Park;
- Promote a high standard of cleanliness;
- Promote recreational walking and cycling;
- Establish appropriate signage and "branding" for Old Aberdeen;

6. Communication and Engagement within the community

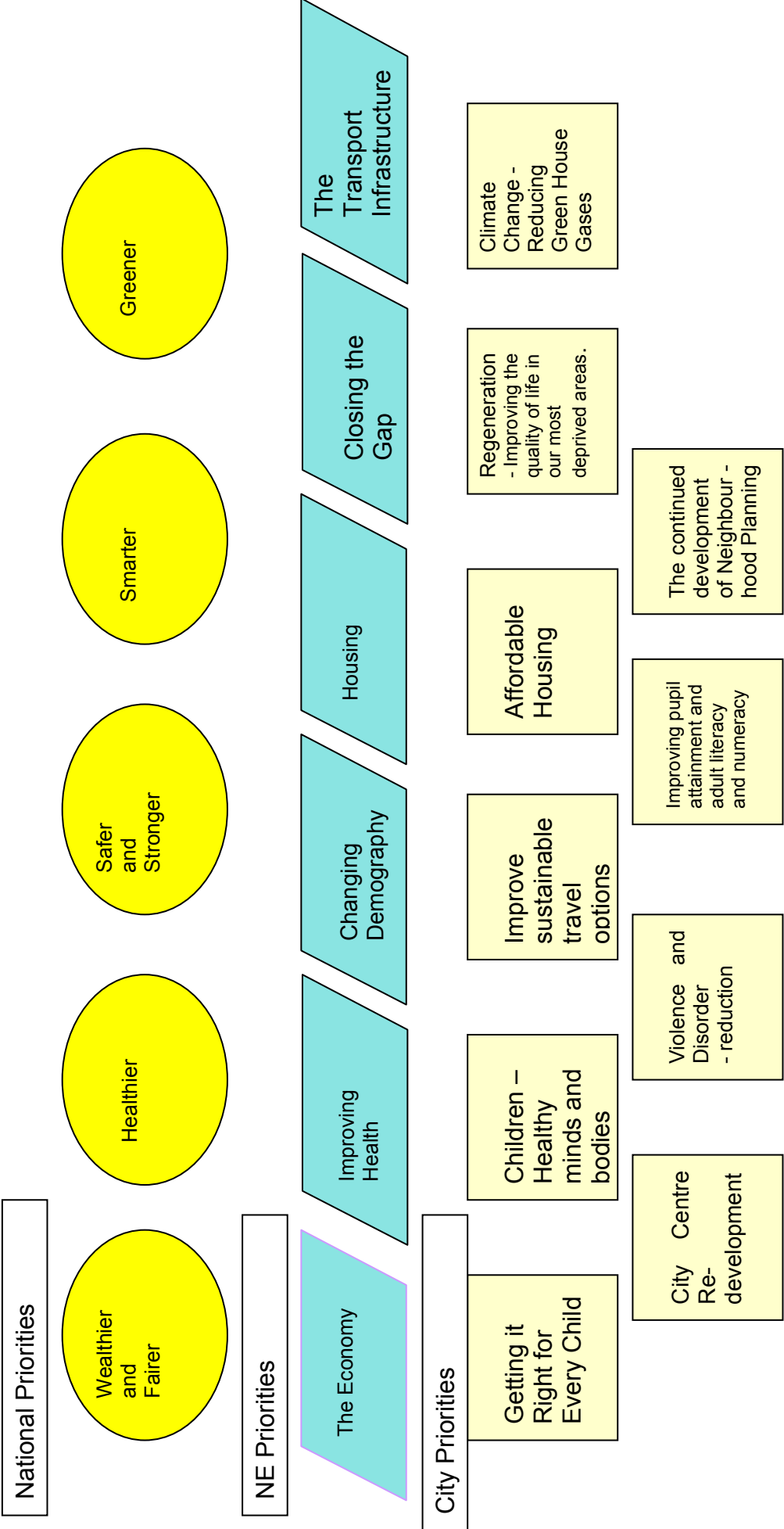
There is a need to Continue to improve communication and engagement within the community through the Old Aberdeen neighbourhood

- Continue to improve communication and engagement within the community through the Old Aberdeen web-site and newsletters, and other forms of participation.

- Actively engage with major stakeholders within the community to promote diversity and community cohesion and a better understanding of issues and solutions.

The community planning partnership has developed a Single Outcome Agreement with the Scottish Government which details our City's priorities and how we intend to address them. It is therefore important that we ensure that our neighbourhood's priority issues are compatible with this Single Outcome Agreement.

The neighbourhood priority table that follows lists the neighbourhood's high priority issues, how these link to the City's priorities, which services share this priority, the evidence of need locally, and what the next steps are in addressing the issue.



Neighbourhood Priority Table

Priority Issue in Old Aberdeen	City's Strategic Priority	Evidence of Need	Next Steps
Developing and Sustaining Community Facilities	The continued development of Neighbourhood Planning to deliver quality of life improvements at the local level	Community consultation	Improvements are underway to Dunbar Street Hall.
Traffic Management / Road Safety	Transport and Connections - improve sustainable travel options.	Community consultation	A controlled parking zone is planned for Old Aberdeen with introduction likely in Autumn 2009
Public Transport/Sustainable Travel	Transport and Connections - improve sustainable travel options.	Community consultation	The community and services have to come together and agree on what action is required.
Community Safety needs to be improved in Old Aberdeen	Violence and Disorder - Reducing antisocial behaviour, violence, domestic abuse, racist incidents and drug/alcohol related.	Community Consultation	The community and services have to come together and agree on what action is required.

<p>Conservation, Heritage, Built and Natural Environment</p>	<p>The continued development of Neighbourhood Planning to deliver quality of life improvements at the local level</p>	<p>Community Consultation</p>	<p>A café is to open in 2009 in High Street The community and services have to come together and agree on what further action is required.</p>
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<p>Communication and Engagement within the community</p>	<p>The continued development of Neighbourhood Planning to deliver quality of life improvements at the local level</p>	<p>Community Consultation</p>	<p>Old Aberdeen Community Council operate a web site and community magazine</p> <p>The community and services have to come together and agree on what further action is required.</p>
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Details of agreed actions that affect the neighbourhood are shown in the delivery programme which accompanies this document. This delivery programme is regularly updated and circulated to the main stakeholders in the neighbourhood network. Actions are added as they are agreed and resourced and removed as they are completed. If you would like a copy of the most recent delivery programme then please contact the local Neighbourhood Community Planning Officer.

Community Engagement in Planning Our Services

The local community is key to the successful planning of our services and is one of the main stakeholders in the Neighbourhood Network. It is recognised that every community is different and a community engagement plan has been prepared, for every neighbourhood, which outlines what needs to take place to ensure that individuals, and groups, can become fully involved in service planning through Neighbourhood Networks. A copy of the community engagement plan can be obtained from the local community learning worker.

The community engagement plan details:

1. What the local aims for community engagement are;
2. What the key milestones will be and when they will be achieved;
3. Who the main participants are locally;
4. How the community will be encouraged to get involved;
5. The roles of key staff in community engagement.

The key community contacts within the Old Aberdeen are shown along with other key contacts at the end of this document. The local community learning worker is:

Lorna McAndrew
Community Learning Team Leader (Central Area)
Hilton Centre
Hilton Avenue
Aberdeen

- Tel: 01224 489467
- Email: lmcandrew@aberdeencity.gov.uk

There is one community council that covers the Old Aberdeen neighbourhood. The contact details for Old Aberdeen Community Council are shown along with other key contacts at the end of this document.

Reporting Arrangements

A Neighbourhood Network **update** is produced every two months by the Neighbourhood Community Planning Officer. This update provides information on:

- The most up to date position of all the work detailed in the neighbourhood's **delivery programme**;
- Any **new work** added to the neighbourhood's delivery programme;
- All **work that has been completed and removed** from the neighbourhood's delivery programme;
- **Progress** being made to address local issues where there is not yet any committed work;
- Details of **important activities** taking place (such as local galas, funding applications, etc.)

The Neighbourhood Network update will be of interest to **staff working for local services**, and members of the local community. The updates are produced at the beginning of January, March, May, July, September and November.

Members of staff should contact their service manager, or the local Neighbourhood Community Planning Officer, for a copy of the update. Members of the community should contact their local community learning worker for a copy of the update.

Elected Members receive the Neighbourhood Network updates as a report to the Area Committee (Central) on each neighbourhood twice a year. This is in the context of one cluster of three to four neighbourhoods being reported in detail to each Committee. Elected Members will also receive the Neighbourhood Network updates, relevant to neighbourhoods within their wards, on a two monthly basis.

To implement the cycle of work which supports the operational framework for Neighbourhood Networks, a **priorities event is held annually** to give the opportunity for all members of the Network to come together to prioritise the spend of the public services for the coming year. This event takes place in the **Autumn**.

A **monitoring event** is held annually to provide the opportunity for all stakeholders of the **Neighbourhood Network** to come together to review how the community priorities raised at the priorities event and through the neighbourhood planning process are being addressed by services. This event takes place in the Spring.

Key Contacts in the Old Aberdeen neighbourhood

Tasking and Co-ordinating Group Chairperson

Allan Whyte
Head of Service, Shelter and Environment
Neighbourhood Services (Central Area)
Aberdeen City Council
1st Floor, St Nicholas House
Broad Street
Aberdeen
AB10 1BX

Neighbourhood Community Planning Officer

Keith Paterson
Neighbourhood Community Planning Officer
Neighbourhood Services (Central Area)
Aberdeen City Council
1st Floor, St Nicholas House
Broad Street
Aberdeen
AB10 1BX

- Tel: 01224 523127
- Email: kepaterson@aberdeencity.gov.uk

Old Aberdeen Community Council

Ms Christine Burgess
Chair
Old Aberdeen Community Council
6 St Machar Place
Aberdeen
AB24 3SF

Elected Members

Elected Members

Ward 6 Tillydrone/Seaton/Old Aberdeen
(includes the Old Aberdeen neighbourhood)

Councillor Norman Collie
Aberdeen City Council
Town House
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- Tel: 01224 522682
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Councillor Jim Noble
Aberdeen City Council
Town House
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Councillor Richard Robertson
Aberdeen City Council
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AB10 1FY

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