
News release on behalf of the Accounts Commission

Embargoed until 00:01 hours, 25 March 2026

Well-run Aberdeenshire Council faces significant budget gap

Continued collaboration is needed at Aberdeenshire Council to address an £81 million budget gap over the coming years.

The council has clear priorities, but it must address current and future financial challenges, including undelivered savings.

Aberdeenshire Council is well-run, with the performance of many services improving. The challenges created by its geography and ageing population are embedded into the council's plans.

Now the council should build on its strong community engagement to deliver the significant changes needed to ensure services are sustainable into the future. This will require strong collaborative leadership between councillors and senior officers.

Alongside many of its local partners, the council is working to address significant financial and service pressures across local health and social care services. But with a growing older population, the council and its partners now need to drive forward significant change to ensure it can continue to deliver local services in an affordable way.

Jo Armstrong, Chair of the Accounts Commission said:

'Whilst this is a well-run council, there is a clear need to set out how it will plan and deliver savings through transformation. The council's projected budget gap is amongst the largest in Scotland.'

'The importance of the council meeting its own June deadline to deliver its plans for savings and transformation is critical.'

For further information contact Joanna Mansell Tel: 07970331858
jmansell@audit.scot or media@audit.scot

Notes to Editor:

1. The [latest Annual Audit Report for Aberdeenshire Council](#) is available on our website.

2. All reports by the Accounts Commission and Auditor General published since 2000 are available at www.audit.scot

- The Accounts Commission is the public spending watchdog for local government. It holds councils and various joint boards and committees in Scotland to account and help them improve. It operates impartially and independently of councils and of the Scottish Government, and meets and reports in public.
- Audit Scotland is a statutory body set up in April 2000, under the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000. It provides services to the Auditor General for Scotland and the Accounts Commission for Scotland.

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