



Community Planning
in Aberdeen

Old Aberdeen Neighbourhood Community Action Plan Summary 2009/10

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Section 1. Introduction

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

The Scottish Government emphasises that community planning is important because of its potential to reduce inequalities and improve everyone's quality of life. Community planning was made a statutory duty in the Local Government in Scotland Act, 2003.

Aberdeen City Council has the lead role in delivering community planning within Aberdeen, working in partnership with organisations that have a legal duty to participate. These are NHS Grampian, Grampian Police, Grampian Fire and Rescue Service and Scottish Enterprise Grampian. Collectively, this partnership is known as The Aberdeen City Alliance (TACA), which must fully involve local communities in planning and providing better public services.

For more information about TACA's members and their aims, access the TACA homepage:- <http://www.communityplanningaberdeen.org.uk>

TACA produced the City's community plan, which was first published in November 2001 and has since been revised to incorporate the Single Outcome Agreement. The Single Outcome Agreement (SOA) 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. For more information about the SOA, access the TACA website.

Community Planning is based on three principles. These are:-

- to listen to what local people want for their City;
- to agree on the priorities (to address the City's needs)
and,
- to agree to tackle them together.

Then, real and lasting improvements will be achieved for the City and for the people who live here.

To ensure that this happens, work has continued throughout 2008/09 to develop a Neighbourhood Network within every neighbourhood, including Old Aberdeen. The Neighbourhood Network is not a formal group; it is an informal network of the key stakeholders in the neighbourhood, namely:-

1. Community representatives, which include residents and community members who have an interest in part, or all, of the neighbourhood;
2. Elected Members who are Aberdeen City Councillors with responsibility for part, or all, of the neighbourhood;

3. The Service Managers (resource holders and decision-makers for local services from Aberdeen City Council and its community planning partners) that sit on the neighbourhood Tasking and Co-ordinating Groups, which have accountability for tackling neighbourhood issues and monitoring progress;
4. Front-line staff whose work relates to the neighbourhood and can inform and implement action on neighbourhood priorities;

The purpose of the Neighbourhood Network is to identify neighbourhood priorities and ways to tackle them and then to regularly report back to stakeholders on progress. The Neighbourhood Network seeks to:-

1. plan and deliver services and interventions which improve the quality of life for residents in the neighbourhood,
2. identify local issues and agree on the neighbourhood's priorities,
3. encourage services to work together and respond to local neighbourhood priorities in a co-ordinated manner,
4. create opportunities for on-going dialogue between agencies and with the communities they serve, and
5. support citizens and community groups to participate at the earliest opportunity in the planning and delivery of local services.

The annual planning cycle includes neighbourhood network events, which give the opportunity for all stakeholders to come together to agree on local priority issues and review how well the agreed priorities are being addressed by services. Regular updates are also provided to all stakeholders to ensure they are kept up to date on the progress of agreed priorities.

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

Section 2. Old Aberdeen Today

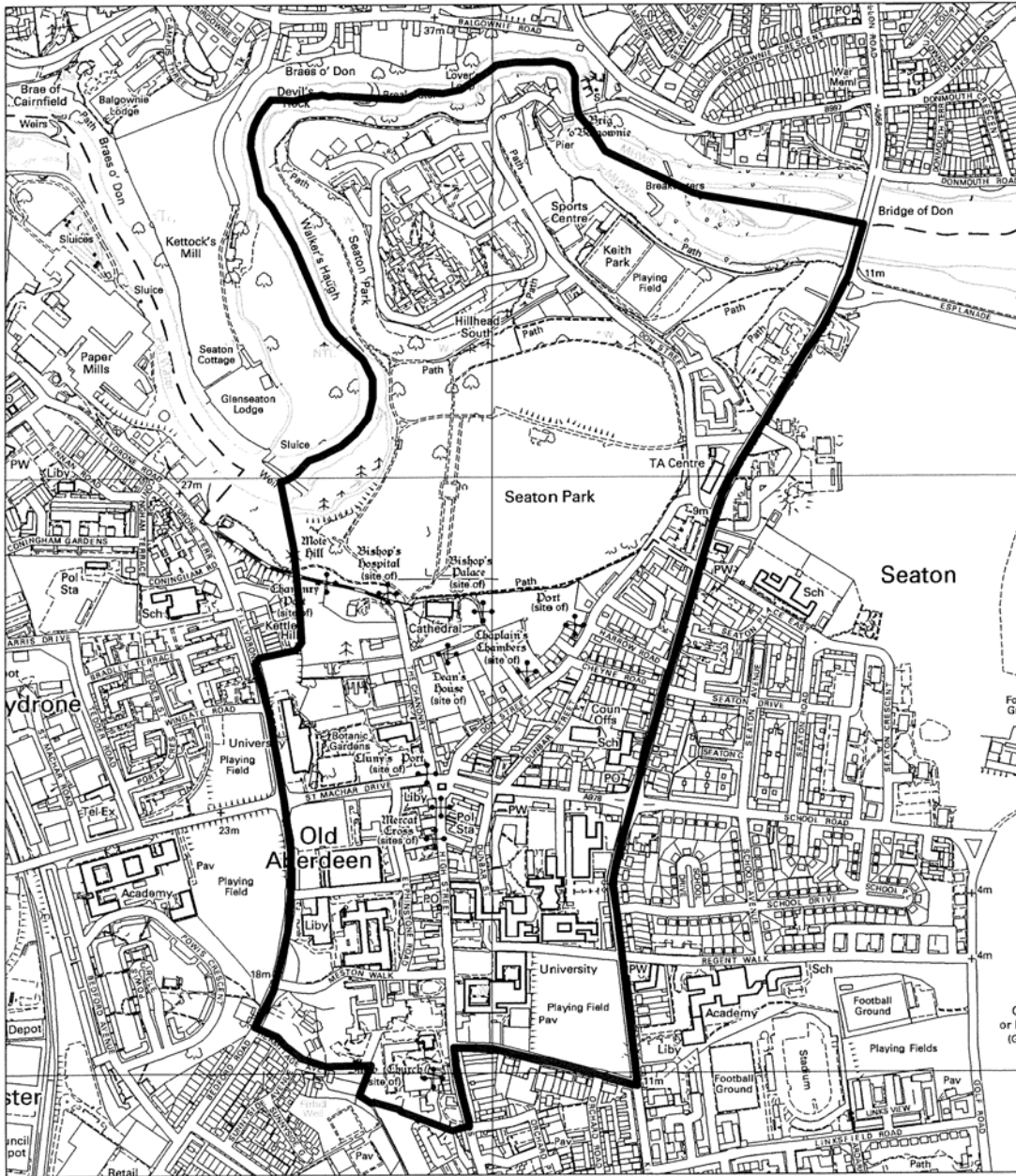
The Old Aberdeen neighbourhood is located to the north east of the central part of the city. It is bounded on the north by the River Don; to the east by King Street. To the west it is bounded by Tillydrone Avenue and Bedford Road and to the south, by Hermitage Avenue – College Bounds and University Road

According to 2006 population estimates, the Old Aberdeen Neighbourhood has a population of some 2907 people. There are more than three times the number of people in the 16-24 age group than the city average; 51% compared to 14%. This is because the neighbourhood includes a halls of residence and there is a large student population.

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 Woodside Neighbourhood Profile 2006, 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



Title: NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES CENTRAL
OLD ABERDEEN NEIGHBOURHOOD

Scale: 1:9000 **Date:** 01 December 2005 **Map Ref:** NJ9408

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Section 3. Neighbourhood Planning Progress to Date

A three year Old Aberdeen Neighbourhood Community Action Plan was published in 2006 for the period 2006-2009. Informed by local consultation, the Plan identified the priorities that local people, Councillors and services wanted to see tackled to improve the quality of life of residents and neighbourhoods as a whole. To keep abreast of new community concerns and emerging neighbourhood needs, consultation has since taken place on an annual basis to inform updated, annual summary plans.

Some of the key issues raised, and actions taken to address them, are presented in Table 1, below:-

Table 1 NCAP Progress to date.

Theme	Issue(s)	Progress To date
Community Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing and Sustaining Community Facilities. 	Funding of £10,000 was provided by Aberdeen City Council to be used for the refurbishment of Dunbar Hall.
Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conservation, Heritage, Built and Natural Environment 	During 2008, There has been the installation of hard wired smoke detectors and partial rewiring within certain homes in the neighborhood.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure there is car parking space for residents living in Old Aberdeen Address problems relating to University car parking 	Proposals to introduce a controlled parking zone are being progressed. The date for implementation of any scheme will be around October 2009 at the earliest.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve traffic management in Old Aberdeen 	A number of initiatives have been undertaken by the police to target motorists using the area inappropriately.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve street lighting Improve community safety 	Work has been undertaken to improve lighting in High Street.

Theme	Issue(s)	Progress To date
Local Democracy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Improve communication within the neighbourhood	The Old Aberdeen Community Council has established a web site and community magazine The web address is www.oldaberdeen.org.uk .

Section 4. Priority Issues for 2009/10

Over the past year, community planning partners in Aberdeen City Council, Grampian Police, NHS Grampian, Grampian Fire and Rescue and the voluntary sector have worked to improve the way they work with community representatives to identify neighbourhood priorities.

Neighbourhood priorities have been identified for the 2009/10 Old Aberdeen Neighbourhood Community Action Plan by reviewing information from the following broad ranging sources:-

- 4.1** Previous Neighbourhood Community Action Plan Issues: Assessing progress delivery over the past year and whether issues remain relevant for 2009/10,
- 4.2** Community feedback: ongoing dialogue between communities, Aberdeen City Councillors and services,
- 4.3** City/Service priorities: Consideration of community planning partners' service plans, reflecting available resources and national targets, and
- 4.4** Statistical information: new or updated neighbourhood statistics

Each of these four strands of information is summarised in Table 2.

4.1 Previous Neighbourhood Community Action Plan Issues

All the high priority issues from the 2008 Old Aberdeen Neighbourhood Community Action plan are still considered to be relevant following the neighbourhood Network Event that was held in October 2008. These issues are:-

- Community Facilities:
 - Developing and Sustaining Community Facilities
- Community Safety:
 - Community Safety
- Environment:
 - Conservation, Heritage, Built and Natural Environment
 - Public Transport/Sustainable Travel
 - Traffic Management / Road Safety
- Local Democracy:
 - Communication and Engagement within the community

4.2 Community Feedback

In May 2008, community groups, local Councillors and services participated in a monitoring event to gauge how well services were responding to locally identified priority issues.

Following this event staff from the Council's Community Learning and Development worked closely with the local community to ensure that any newly identified issues were recorded.

Local Councillors are also continually working with their constituents and through this identify any new issues that may be emerging within the neighbourhood.

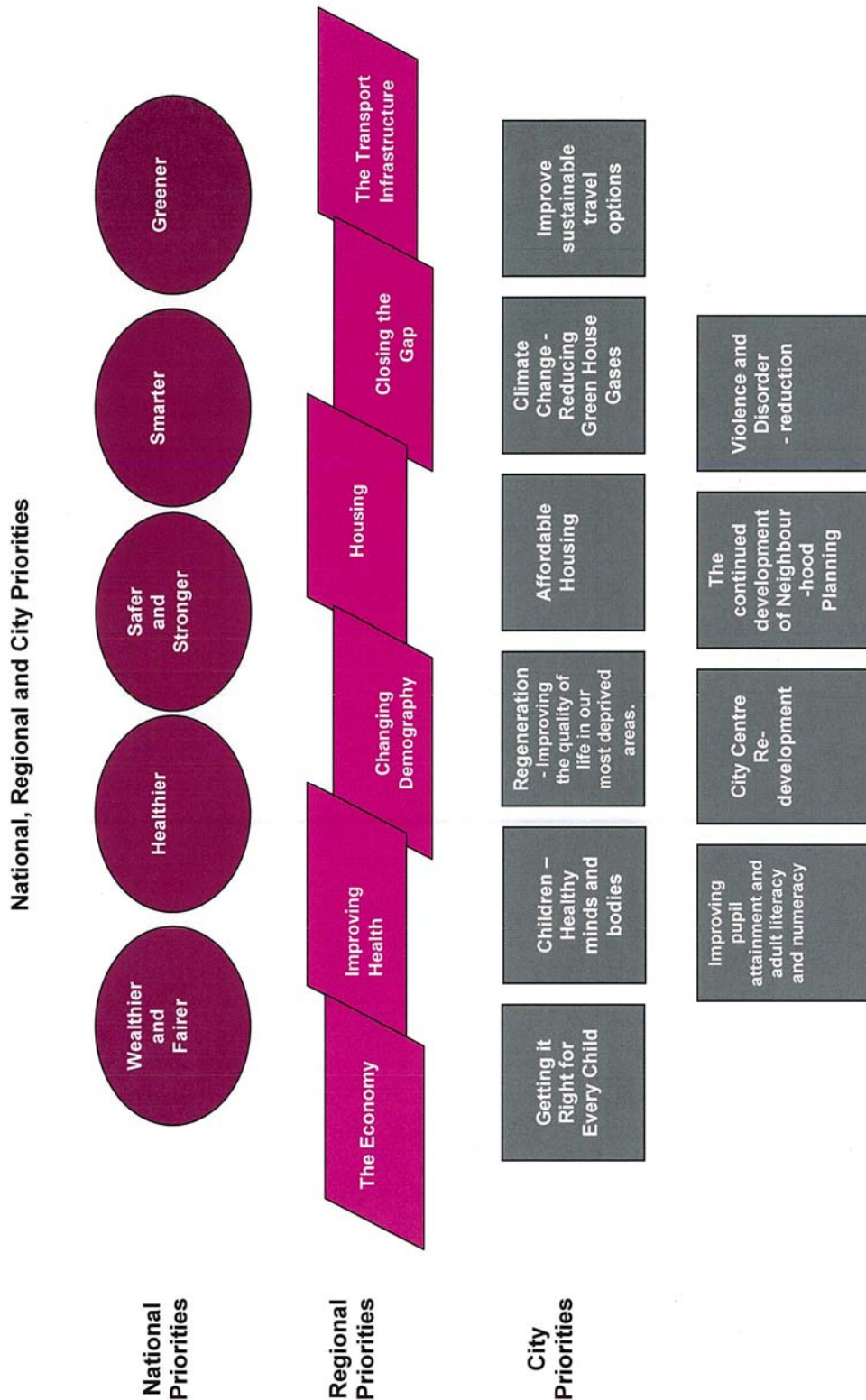
In October 2008, community groups, Councillors and services participated in a priority setting event where they agreed on the high priority issues for the Woodside neighbourhood.

In addition to the priority issues detailed above some of the other issues being raised were:-

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Community Facilities: | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Old Aberdeen urgently requires the development of community facilities that will foster community identity and participation. |
| Community Safety: | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Much has been already been achieved on with community safety issues but more requires to be done to improve the safety of the neighbourhood |
| Environment: | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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.• 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. |
| Lifelong Learning: | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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. |
| Local Democracy: | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• There is a need to continue to improve communication and engagement within the community through the Old Aberdeen neighbourhood |

4.3 Community Planning Partner Priorities

A number of key national, regional and city priorities have been developed to guide the work of community planning partners in the City. The Aberdeen City Alliance (TACA) has focussed on helping partners work together to tackle these priorities, which are summarised in the diagram below.



The Single Outcome Agreement (SOA) between Aberdeen's Community Planning partnership and the Scottish Government sets out how services will deliver on a number of national outcomes that the public sector in Scotland will be expected to achieve. The National outcomes are:-

National Outcomes

1. We live in a Scotland that is the most attractive place for doing business in Europe.
2. We realise our full economic potential with more and better employment opportunities for our people.
3. We are better educated, more skilled and more successful, renowned for our research and innovation.
4. Our young people are successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens.
5. Our children have the best start in life and are ready to succeed.
6. We live longer, healthier lives.
7. We have tackled the significant inequalities in Scottish society.
8. We have improved the life chances for children, young people and families at risk.
9. We live our lives safe from crime, disorder and danger.
10. We live in well-designed, sustainable places where we are able to access the amenities and services we need.
11. We have strong, resilient and supportive communities where people take responsibility for their own actions and how they affect others.
12. We value and enjoy our built and natural environment and protect it and enhance it for future generations.
13. We take pride in a strong, fair and inclusive national identity.
14. We reduce the local and global environmental impact of our consumption and production.
15. Our public services are high quality, continually improving, efficient and responsive to local people's needs.

4.4 Statistical Information

Old Aberdeen Profiling

Statistical Profiles were published for each of the City's 37 neighbourhood in 2004 and updated in 2006. The Neighbourhood Profiles provide information on population and age structure, housing and households, economic characteristics, education, deprivation, accidents, crime, fire and childcare.

In 2008, instead of producing full socio-economic profiles for each of the 37 neighbourhoods, tables of updated statistics will be placed on the Community Planning website. These updated tables and the full Profiles published in 2004 and 2006 can be accessed online at:- <http://www.communityplanningaberdeen.org.uk>

The profiles show that Old Aberdeen has a crime rate that is approximately 10% lower than the City average. In 2008 there were 67 reported crimes per 1,000 population compared to 74 reported crimes per 1,000 population for the City as a whole.

There are more than three times the number of people in the 16-24 age group than the city average; 51% compared to 14%. This is because the neighbourhood includes a halls of residence and there is a large student population.

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 is less than a third of the City average (23%). There was, however, four times the proportion of private rented homes in Old Aberdeen (36%) compared to the City average (9%).

Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD)

Initially published in 2004 and updated in 2006, the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) collates data from geographic areas (or data zones) with a population of between approximately 700 and 1,000 people). There are 267 data zones in Aberdeen and 6,505 in total across Scotland. The SIMD is the Scottish Government's official tool for identifying small geographical concentrations of multiple deprivation. Data is collected under seven "deprivation" domains and an overall "combined" domain: -

- Combined (all domains)
- Current Income
- Employment
- Crime
- Health
- Housing
- Education, Skills and Training
- Geographic Access to Services

Old Aberdeen contains three data zones, where 50% or more of the data zone falls within the Old Aberdeen neighbourhood, none of which, for combined domains, are ranked within the most (0 - 20%) deprived data zones for Scotland.

The lowest data zone, for combined domains, in Old Aberdeen is 98th lowest out of 267 zones in Aberdeen and 2,776th lowest out of 6,505 zones in Scotland.

While the neighbourhood has none of the most deprived data zones the information available from the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation is still of use when helping to evidence local priority issues.

Health Traffic Lights

Another key neighbourhood data source is the "Health Traffic Lights". Published in 2005 by NHS Grampian, a revised set of traffic light data is due to be issued during 2009. From the data available to date, the Old Aberdeen neighbourhood records that 21 of the 28 key health indicators are 5% or worse than the Scottish average. Only two indicators are better than the Scottish average.

Work will continue throughout 2009/10 to improve the way in which statistical information about the Old Aberdeen neighbourhood is captured and how it is then used to inform service delivery.

4.5 Next Steps

The key findings from the four information strands summarised above are presented in Table 2, "Neighbourhood Priorities for 2009/10".

Table 2 also highlights what the next steps are to tackle the identified priorities. These next steps have been developed into a set of neighbourhood actions for the 2009/10 NCAP Delivery Programme, which can be found at the end of this document. The Delivery Programme will develop over the coming year as further statistical information and community feedback is collated and analysed and resources are identified.

Table 2 Old Aberdeen Neighbourhood Priorities 2009/10

Theme	Issues	Community Feedback	Neighbourhood Statistics	City/Service Priorities	Next Steps
Community Facilities	Developing and Sustaining Community Facilities	Raised as an issue through ongoing community consultation.		The continued development of Neighbourhood Planning to deliver quality of life improvements at the local level.	Improvements that are underway to Dunbar Street Hall require to be completed.
	<i>Previous NCAP Issue</i>				
Community Safety	Community Safety	Raised as an issue through ongoing community consultation.	There is a lower crime rate than the city average per head of population however this is higher per household. The large student population may make the statistic unclear for this issue.	Violence and Disorder - Reducing antisocial behaviour, violence, domestic abuse, racist incidents and drug/alcohol related.	The community and services have to meet and agree on what action is required.
	<i>Previous NCAP Issue</i>				

Theme	Issues	Community Feedback	Neighbourhood Statistics	City/Service Priorities	Next Steps
Environment	Conservation, Heritage, Built and Natural Environment	Raised as an issue through ongoing community consultation.		The continued development of Neighbourhood Planning to deliver quality of life improvements at the local level.	The cafe that is due to open in the High Street in 2009 should progress. The community and services have to meet and agree on what further action is required.
	<i>Previous NCAP Issue</i>				
Environment	Public Transport/Sustainable Travel	Raised as an issue through ongoing community consultation.		Transport and Connections - improve sustainable travel options.	The community and services have to meet and agree on what action is required. .
	<i>Previous NCAP Issue</i>				
Environment	Traffic Management / Road Safety	Raised as an issue through ongoing community consultation.		Transport and Connections - improve sustainable travel options.	The proposed controlled parking zone planned for Old Aberdeen should be progressed.
	<i>Previous NCAP Issue</i>				

Theme	Issues	Community Feedback	Neighbourhood Statistics	City/Service Priorities	Next Steps
Environment	Ensure social housing meets the Scottish Housing Quality Standard.	Raised as a medium priority issue through ongoing community consultation.		Council has to bring all stock up to Scottish Housing Quality Standards by 2015.	Ensure the Capital programme for Housing improvements is implemented.
Local Democracy	Communication and Engagement within the community	Raised as an issue through ongoing community consultation.		The continued development of Neighbourhood Planning to deliver quality of life improvements at the local level.	Old Aberdeen Community Council to continue to operate a web site and community magazine.
	<i>Previous NCAP Issue</i>				The community and services have to meet and agree on what further action is required.

Section 5. Stakeholder and Community Engagement

Engaging communities in a dialogue about neighbourhood needs, priorities and responses is an essential element of Neighbourhood Planning.

To ensure communities can influence service delivery in their neighbourhood, they need to be involved in an ongoing dialogue with the other stakeholders and to have an input at critical stages of the annual neighbourhood planning cycle.

A key stage in the annual cycle is in spring, when communities need an opportunity to review the implementation and impact of the NCAP for the financial year ending 31 March. This informs and kick-starts the discussion on future priorities.

One of the most critical times in the annual cycle is in autumn, when discussions on future priorities should conclude. The autumn milestone means that neighbourhood priorities can be built into Services' budget setting processes at an early stage. This also means that the Neighbourhood Community Action Plan (NCAP) for the following financial year only contains actions that have secured the necessary resource commitment from the key service(s) involved.

The result is that communities can have an influence at each stage in the overlapping annual planning cycles.

The effectiveness of community engagement in neighbourhood planning is dependent upon:

- Stakeholders and partners providing relevant data and entering into dialogue with community representatives.
- A networking approach to encourage participation from all sections of each community.
- Adherence to the National Standards for Community Engagement.
- Engagement support for community groups, provided by Community Learning & Development.
- Engagement support for Service representatives, provided by Neighbourhood Community Planning Officers.

Section 6. Neighbourhood Contacts for Old Aberdeen

	Name	Tel	Email
Aberdeen City Council	Alan Mulvie, Neighbourhood Community Planning Officer	01224 523750	amulvie@aberdeencity.gov.uk
	Lorna McAndrew, Community Learning Team Leader	01224 489467	lmcandrew@aberdeencity.gov.uk
	Brian Morgan, Service Manager (Communities)	01224 523960	bmorgan@aberdeencity.gov.uk
Community Contacts	Councillor Norman Collie	01224 522682	ncollie@aberdeencity.gov.uk
	Councillor Jim Noble	01224 522051	jnoble@aberdeencity.gov.uk
	Councillor Richard Robertson	01224 523438	rrobertson@aberdeencity.gov.uk
	Ms Christine Burgess, Chairperson, Old Aberdeen Community Council		

Old Aberdeen Delivery Programme 2009/10

Ref	Project	Actions/Milestones	Timescales	Lead Contact	Single Outcome Agreement (SOA) Link
OAA 1	The development of a cafe in the high street	To be agreed	December 2009	Cilau Coffee Private Sector Company	SOA 2. We realise our full economic potential with more and better employment opportunities for our people.
OAA 2	Lighting columns and lanterns are to be replaced on the Chanonry.	Replacement work to begin.	July 2009	Stirling Gow Technical Officer (Lighting) Aberdeen City Council 01224 241563	SOA 9. We live our lives safe from crime, disorder and danger.
		Replacement work to end.	To be advised	Stirling Gow Technical Officer (Lighting) Aberdeen City Council 01224 241563	

Ref	Project	Actions/Milestones	Timescales	Lead Contact	Single Outcome Agreement (SOA) Link
OAA 3	The introduction of a Controlled Parking Zone in parts of Tillydrone, Old Aberdeen, Seaton and Froghall/Powis/Sun nybank neighbourhoods.	Secure resources.	May 2009	Doug Ritchie Engineer Aberdeen City Council 01224 523474	SOA 10. We live in well-designed, sustainable places where we are able to access the amenities and services we need.
		Carry out statutory consultation.	To be agreed	Doug Ritchie Engineer Aberdeen City Council 01224 523474	
		Implement controlled parking zone.	To be agreed	Doug Ritchie Engineer Aberdeen City Council 01224 523474	

Ref	Project	Actions/Milestones	Timescales	Lead Contact	Single Outcome Agreement (SOA) Link
OAA 4	Develop and impliment a solution to the High Street traffic problem.	Agree on the solution	To be agreed	Doug Ritchie Engineer ACC 523474	SOA 15. Our public services are high quality, continually improving, efficient and responsive to local people's needs.
		Ensure resources are available.	To be agreed	Doug Ritchie Engineer ACC 523474	
		Implement the solution.	To be agreed	Doug Ritchie Engineer ACC 523474	