



# GOVERNANCE BRIEF



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## Best Value 2 Audit underway

A team from Audit Scotland is visiting Aberdeenshire Council from November 12-16 as part of the second Best Value audit, known as BV2.

The audit is based on the areas of uncertainty identified in the most recent shared risk assessment undertaken by the 'Local Area Network' of the main audit and inspection bodies for local government including Education Scotland, Care Inspectorate, Scottish Housing Regulator, Audit Scotland and our external auditors, Deloitte. The areas of uncertainty identified in the [Assurance and Improvement Plan](#) are:

- Performance management;
- Leadership and culture;
- Challenge and improvement; and
- Use of resources (competitiveness and managing people).

One easy way of helping embed performance and improvement into our council is for all teams to regularly consider the questions below in their team meetings. If we ask these of ourselves, and our teams, two or three times a year, we are building up our ability to self assess and evaluate our performance and our capability to improve.

- How are we doing?
- How do we know? - How would we demonstrate this to others?
- What could we do to make things even better?

For further information about BV2 or to discuss performance and improvement more generally, please contact Amanda Roe, Performance Manager.

## Pool car scheme drives change

More cars are to be added to [Aberdeenshire Council's Pool Car scheme](#). The decision to roll out more pool vehicles follows successful trials in Viewmount in Stonehaven and Woodhill House in Aberdeen.

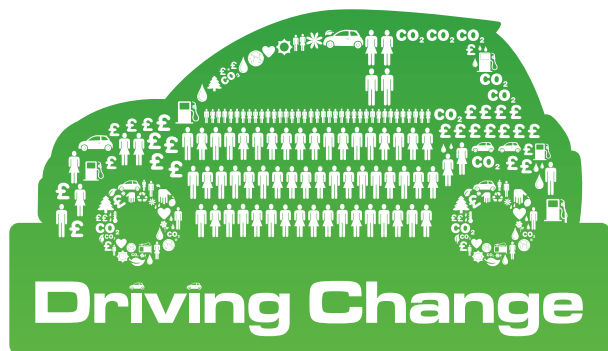
One more car will be added to the Viewmount and Woodhill House sites and more pool car sites will be added to the scheme in the new year.

Pool cars can be used by any Aberdeenshire Council employee or councillor, with a full

driving licence, to undertake business-related journeys. For more information on pool cars and/or specific travel booking enquiries out with the council area please contact [travel@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:travel@aberdeenshire.gov.uk)

For information on the Local Transport Strategy please contact [Andrew.Stewart@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:Andrew.Stewart@aberdeenshire.gov.uk) or visit [www.facebook.com/choosechangeaberdeenshire](http://www.facebook.com/choosechangeaberdeenshire)

# CHOOSE CHANGE



## Planning for the future

Most of you will be aware of the concerted and co-ordinated effort that took place over a number of years to develop the Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan, which outlines how Aberdeenshire is expected to develop over the coming years.

Huge growth is promoted to encourage diversification of the economic base of the area. This anticipated growth is something that we all need to plan for so that we can handle the demands that will be placed on all services as the population and its needs grow.

Services need to work together, using collective expertise to make sure that our infrastructure matches the needs of our residents, communities and businesses as they live, work and travel in Aberdeenshire.

**Aberdeenshire**  
COUNCIL





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It is about taking not just the short term view, but making sure that services reflect the needs of communities today, tomorrow and into the next decade. What could this mean for schools, roads and community facilities, for instance?

Forward planning is a continuous process. The Strategic Development Plan has been agreed by the Aberdeen City and Shire SDP Authority and will shortly be put to Full Council. This plan has reviewed the growth objectives for the area and proposes to continue with this strategy. A new local development plan will be required to support the SDP.

## Options4Admin update

The Options4Admin Survey closed on 2 November. Thank you to the 1489 employees who completed the survey. The team is now analysing the results.

Congratulations to Susan Richardson, Clerical Assistant in Business Services, H&SW, winner of the Marks & Spencer's voucher and Andrew Mitchell, Relief Duty Officer at Inverurie Swimming Pool who has won the Nick Nairn Cookery voucher.

The Options4Admin Project now has its own webpage sitting under the My Job tab on Arcadia. You can find out who is part of the project team, what the project has achieved so far and what the next steps are. There is also a list of FAQs.

We would like to thank all those who attended the engagement events in September and to employees who indicated an interest in the follow up event held in October. Another Stakeholder event will take place on 29 November, with more in February.

Over the next two weeks the Options4Admin Team will be visiting a number of establishments who have invited us to visit.

- To access the Options4Admin page press 'Cntrl' and click on the link [Options4Admin Information](#).
- To add the page to your favourites click on the Favourites tab (top left of the Arcadia screen) click 'Add to favourites'
- You can access [here](#) the latest Options4 Admin Briefing Note for further information on the project.

