

PE2177/A: Support and fund mobility services

Scottish Government written submission, 18 August 2025

Does the Scottish Government consider the specific ask of the petition to be practical or achievable?

The Scottish Government has provided councils with a record £15.1 billion this year, a real terms increase of 5.5%.

In 2025-26, Aberdeen City Council will receive £505.1 million to support day to day services, which equates to an extra £37.5 million or an additional 8 per cent compared to 2024-25. Taken together with the decision to increase Council Tax by 9.85 per cent Aberdeen City Council will have an additional £50.1 million to support front line services in 2025-26.

However, local authorities are independent corporate bodies with their own powers and responsibilities and are entirely separate from the Scottish Government. Local and national government have committed to respecting each other's democratic mandates as part of the Verity House Agreement. It is up to individual local authorities to manage their day to day decision-making and allocate the total financial resources available to them based on local needs and priorities.

Decisions on local government budget allocations for future years are subject to the outcome of negotiations with COSLA, the results of which will be confirmed in future Scottish Budgets.

What, if any, action the Scottish Government is currently taking to address the issues raised by this petition, and is any further action being considered that will achieve the ask of this petition?

Scotland should be a country where all disabled people can live the lives they choose, with the support they need to thrive. Everyone should be able to participate fully in society, access their rights, and feel included in their communities.

To help achieve this, the Scottish Government is investing £2.5 million in 2025/26 to deliver the Disability Equality Plan—our blueprint for a fairer, more inclusive Scotland for disabled people.

Developed with Disabled People's Organisations and rooted in the social model of disability, the Plan focuses on removing societal barriers and improving access to services. It sets out targeted actions across key areas including mental health, independent living, financial support, digital inclusion, and energy.

Despite ongoing budget pressures, the Scottish Government remain committed to tackling discrimination and embedding disability competence across government—ensuring policies are designed with disabled people, not just for them.

A new £1 million fund will also draw on the expertise of DPOs and others to strengthen the support and services disabled people rely on.

Strong governance and transparency will underpin delivery, including the creation of a Disability Equality Delivery Group and an annual Cabinet takeover by disabled people. This Plan lays the foundation for long-term, systemic change—and marks an important step forward on our journey to a more equal Scotland.

Is there any further information the Scottish Government wish to bring to the Committee's attention, which would assist it in considering this petition?

We're continuing to embed equality and human rights across the Scottish Government and wider public sector. A new mainstreaming framework—including an action plan and practical toolkit—will set out clear steps to support this ambition. This will be complemented by work to enhance the effectiveness of the Public Sector Equality Duty as it operates in Scotland.

While Scotland has made good progress in advancing human rights, we want to go further. A new Human Rights Bill is planned for the next Parliamentary session, subject to the outcome of 2026 election. Proposals for the Bill include the incorporation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) into Scots law, within the limits of devolved competence. To support development of the Bill, we have published a Discussion Paper to consolidate previous work and deepen engagement with stakeholders, building on our 2023 consultation and extensive dialogue with rights-holders and civil society.

Directorate for Equality, Inclusion and Human Rights