



Candidates for election to the Council of the Association Annual General Meeting – 20 May 2025

Note for paper-based members – the Candidates listed below are those known as of 1 May 2025. The Association's rules make clear that the list of candidates for election to Council need to be circulated seven days before the AGM. If there are no changes, this paper will be taken as the list. Any additions will be notified in a separate mailing.

New Candidates

Fred Mackintosh KC



Fred Mackintosh is an advocate. He was called to the Scottish Bar in July 2000 and took silk in September 2019. He is also practices in England. The primary focus of his practice is Criminal Appeals and Human Rights, Extradition, Public Law, Judicial Review, Environmental Law and Constitutional Law. He represented the Cockburn Association and the Coalition of Objectors at the public inquiry into the hotel proposals at the Old Royal High School in 2018.

He studied Geography then Law at the University of Edinburgh. Between 1999 and 2007, he was City of Edinburgh Councillor, representing the Newington Ward as a Scottish Liberal Democrat. During this time, he was the Convenor of the South Edinburgh Local Development Committee and for six years was the Liberal Democrat Transport Spokesperson on the Council. Fred was also Director of EDI Group Limited from 2001 to 2007, a standalone development company owned by the City Council.

Currently, he is Senior Counsel to the Scottish Hospitals Inquiry chaired by Lord Brodie in respect of the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital and Royal Hospital for Children, Glasgow.

Fred also has extensive experience outwith the Bar. He is a Senior Teaching Fellow, University of Edinburgh Centre for Professional Legal Studies; an External Examiner at the University of Glasgow; an Examiner for the Law Society of Scotland and is the Convenor, Meadows Festival.

Fred Mackintosh lives in the Mayfield area.

Alastair Cook



Alastair has twenty-five years' experience as a conservation architect and development professional in the United Kingdom.

He holds a Master's degree in Architectural Conservation from the Scottish Centre for Conservation Studies, University of Edinburgh and is a Full Member of the Institute of Historic Building Conservation. He has been involved in conservation for the whole of his career and has established a reputation for imaginative intervention and sensitivity coupled with a realistic approach to heritage and townscape.

Throughout his career, Alastair has focused on both development management and heritage consultancy alongside conservation architecture. Capable and experienced in managing a busy consultancy, he has delivered complex planning solutions for clients in the residential, hotel and conservation sectors. He currently runs his own heritage and townscape consultancy business.

Alastair has also developed skills in visual communication and project delivery that underpin a parallel development of his own artistic practice, successfully funding and delivering projects through Creative Scotland and the Heritage Lottery Fund. He was a founding director of arts commissioning organisation North Light Arts and has successfully funded a series of extensive visual arts programmes while working to support emergent and established artists in Scotland. Alastair sits on the council of the Out of the Blue Arts and Education Trust, based at the Drill Hall in Leith.

He has a strong legacy with the Cockburn Association. Alastair was a Council member up to 2023, when he resigned due to work pressures. Since 2005, he has been a member of various technical committees and panels and was Convenor of the Policy & Development Committee up to 2023.

Alastair lives in Leith.

Coopted Candidates standing for election

Harry Nimmo



Harry Nimmo is a retired investment manager. He graduated with an MBA from the University of Edinburgh after achieving a Diploma in Surveying (U of Glasgow), MA hons degree in Geography (U of Dundee).

Harry was the **Head of Smaller and Mid-sized Companies Equities** at Standard Life Investments and Aberdeen Standard Investments and abrdn. He spent the early years of his career as a Land Surveyor working both in the UK and Saudi Arabia mainly on infrastructure projects and oil in & gas construction. He has held various investment analyst positions and manager roles covering US Equity funds, UK Larger Company funds and was appointed Head of Smaller Companies in 1993.

In 2013, he was appointed **Honorary Consul of Finland** in Edinburgh, Glasgow and Aberdeen. Harry lives in the New Town.

Eric Dawson



Eric Dawson is a qualified architect (BArch Hons, Dip Arch) and qualified planner (MURP with Distinction) with over 30 years' experience in public and private practice in the UK and abroad.

He was appointed as a design adviser to City of Edinburgh planning authority where he worked on projects and policy development before moving to Architecture and Design Scotland where he managed the Design Review and Sustainable Placemaking programmes.

He was part of the team that developed the Place Standard and was seconded to Planning Aid Scotland (PAS) to assist their charrette / workshop activity with local communities. He joined the Scottish Government's Planning and Architecture Division to help take forward the planning reform agenda and was a core member of the team that produced the National Planning Framework (NPF4).

Eric lives in Comiston.

Candidates standing for re-election

Peter Williamson



Peter Williamson was born in Edinburgh. A graduate from the Universities of Edinburgh and Aberdeen he undertook an academic career between 1980-1991 working in the fields of politics, public policy, and health policy and management, latterly as Senior Lecturer in Healthcare Policy and Management in the Medical School at Aberdeen University. Since returning to the city in 2014, he has lived in the New Town.

In 1991 he was appointed Director of Strategy and Performance Management with Grampian Healthcare NHS Trust where he developed services with local authorities and third-sector organizations. He moved to NHS Tayside in 2000 as Director of Strategy where he led community planning and the provision of health and well-being services. He also chaired and organised the national NHS Directors of Planning group from 2012 to 2014 which had a liaison role between NHS Boards and the Scottish Government regarding national planning.

In 2011 he was seconded to the Scottish Government's Health and Social Care Directorates to act as lead for health innovation across the government in support of ministers, initiating the first Government strategy in this area.

Since retiring in 2017, he became involved in the local community, setting up and chairing the Picardy Place Residents' Association. In October 2019 he became a member of the New Town & Broughton Community Council and subsequently, Chair. In his spare time, Peter is an author.

As a local resident he is fully committed to working with others to protect, preserve and promote all that is valuable and unique in the landscape and heritage of the city and in particular to address the deterioration in the streetscape and fabric of public spaces in the City Centre and the hollowing out of communities.