

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Do I have to be a member of the Chamber?

A: Your company/organisation must be fully paid up members of AGCC.

Q: What is the time commitment?

A: The Chamber Policy Council meets formally three times a year, usually in January, April and October, from 11.30am to 1pm. These meetings help the Chamber in forming its policy agenda by collating, representing and promoting business interests, views and opinions on key issues. They are held on the same day as the Board and a joint networking lunch follows. Additionally, the AGM is usually held in June each year.

Policy Council members may also be asked to participate in appropriate sector network groups and be invited to attend exclusive roundtables with Government ministers, officials and a range of other meetings with politicians, visiting dignitaries, Premier Partners or key opinion-formers and decision-makers. In addition, they'll be expected to take part in policy surveys, support the activities of the Chamber and promote Chamber membership to their contact network.

Q: How long am I committing to?

A: Policy Council members serve a three-year term of office and must retire by rotation after this period. Members may subsequently seek re-election, with no limit applied to the number of occasions they may stand for re-election.

Q: Do I get paid to be a Policy Council Member? Are my expenses reimbursed?

A: As a privately funded, not-for-profit organisation these roles are, of course, unpaid but offer the opportunity to make a real difference, enhance personal development and provide great networking opportunities. Policy Council members give their time freely to the Chamber. Any member asked to represent the Chamber outside of the region will have any expenses fully reimbursed.

Q: How many people sit on the Policy Council?

A: The Policy Council has 27 elected members in addition to the twelve Chamber non-executive directors. The Chamber President chairs both the Board and the Policy Council.

Chamber Aims & Objectives

“To help businesses to be better today while creating the economic conditions for future success”

Our Values:

- We are **proactive** in seeking the views of key stakeholders and acting as a strong collective voice for business
- We are **visible** and high profile in the business community
- We are regarded as thought leaders but with a reputation for **doing** rather than just talking
- We are fully engaged in **shaping and influencing** the key regional economic development and diversification agendas
- We seek to **stimulate business**, solve problems and open doors through collaboration with partners in mutually beneficial activities
- We aim to introduce **pace** by cutting through red tape and inertia
- We act as a **critical friend**
- We have our **members** at the heart of everything we do; creating a powerful and cohesive force, enabling us to achieve together what we could not individually

Our Culture:

- We aim to be an organisation that the **best people** aspire to work for, operating in an **inclusive, open** and transparent way with a culture of **continuous improvement**.
- We aim to provide the **working environment** and equipment that enables staff to enjoy and excel in their roles
- We are committed to the **personal development** of our people
- We operate a '**one team**' ethos; working cross functionally to deliver our goals
- We are **focused** on the things that matter
- We operate as an **extension to our members' teams**
- We promote **innovative** and **creative** behaviours while remaining fanatical about the **detail**
- We work **hard**, have **fun** and **celebrate success**
- We think and act like **winners**

Chamber 10 point plan:

- Retention and acquisition of members through the provision of **value-adding** services
- Creating business **opportunity** through networking and best practice exchange
- Further enhancing our **communications** channels and processes
- Providing the **market intelligence** that helps our members to make better business decisions
- Assisting businesses to understand, access and trade in **international markets**
- **Celebration** of this city region being a great place to live, work, study, visit, invest and do business
- While lobbying and campaigning for the **positive change** that will make it even better. “The voice of Business”
- Playing a leading part in the main **economic development** and diversification initiatives
- Taking the delivery role in **partnership** projects consistent with our strategic aims and offering new income stream opportunities
- Playing a key role at the heart of the **skills** agenda

How we'll know if we are succeeding:

- Being the 'go to' organisation for members and key stakeholders, when **positive action** is needed
- Establishing an even higher **profile** for AGCC with government, business and media
- **Setting the business news agenda**, not just commentating on it. When we speak, people listen... and act
- Bringing **perceptions of AGCC in line with reality**; stakeholders having a clearer understanding of what we do and the direct value we add to business and the regional economy
- Chamber seen as the **catalyst** for deals being done and good things happening
- Achieving greater breadth and depth of **engagement** with staff in member companies
- AGCC recognised as being representative of the whole **North-east of Scotland** and the key sectors driving its diverse economy
- **Delivering growth** in target membership categories and income from key services through our refreshed strategy and resultant activities; remaining among the most successful and **influential** Chambers in the UK and the largest in Scotland
- Increased productivity and **competitive advantage** through ensuring the current and future workforce has the necessary skills and motivation
- Maintaining the position where an annual operating surplus is delivered to add to reserves, ensuring the **long-term viability** of the Chamber and enabling further re-investment in member services

