



MINUTES OF MEETING of the CLACKMANNANSHIRE COUNCIL held in the Council Chamber, Kilncraigs, Alloa, on Thursday 29 August 2024 at 9.30 am.

PRESENT

Councillor Phil Fairlie, Convener (Chair)
Councillor Donald Balsillie
Councillor Martha Benny
Councillor Denis Coyne
Councillor Kenneth Earle (via Teams)
Councillor Ellen Forson
Councillor Wendy Hamilton
Councillor Scott Harrison
Councillor Fiona Law
Councillor Darren Lee (via Teams)
Councillor Graham Lindsay
Councillor Kathleen Martin
Councillor Mark McLuckie
Councillor Jane McTaggart
Councillor Bryan Quinn
Councillor Janine Rennie (Via Teams)

IN ATTENDANCE

Nikki Bridle, Chief Executive
Lorraine Sanda, Strategic Director (People)
Kevin Wells, Strategic Director (Place)
Chris Alliston, Strategic Director (Partnership & Performance)
Lindsay Sim, Chief Finance Officer (Partnership & Performance)
Colin Bruce, Chief Education Officer (People)
Sharon Robertson, Chief Social Work Officer (People) (Via Teams)
Lee Robertson, Senior Manager, Legal and Governance (Partnership & Performance) (Clerk to the Council)
Cherie Jarvie, Senior Manager, Partnership & Transformation (Partnership & Performance) (via Teams)
Andrew Buchanan, Housing Operations Manager (Place)
Robbie Stewart, Senior Manager, Sport and Leisure (People)
Veronica Cully, Senior Manager, Partnership and Inclusion (People)
Catriona Scott, Senior Manager – Secondary Education (People)
Johan Roddie, Senior Manager, Permanence (People)
Gillian Scott, Senior Manager, Early Intervention (People)
Adrienne Aitken, Improving Outcomes Team Leader (People)
Michael Boyle, Improving Outcomes Business Manager (People)
Carla MacFarlane, Communications Officer (Partnership & Performance)
Lesley Robertson, Business Support, Wellbeing Hub (People) (via Teams)
Ross McGuire, Team Leader, Wellbeing Hub (People) (via Teams)
Wendy Robertson, Senior Manager Transformation (Via Teams)
Helen Coleman, Accountancy Team Leader (Partnership & Performance)
Katie Roddie, Senior Housing Officer (Place) (via Teams)
Alison Morrison, Senior Manager, Property (Place) (via Teams)
Murray Sharp, Senior Manager – Housing (Place)
Ewan Murray, Chief Finance Officer, Clackmannanshire and Stirling Health and Social Care Partnership (Via Teams)
Emma Fyvie, Senior Manager – Development (Place) (via Teams)
Dale Bell, Solicitor (Partnership & Performance) (via Teams)
Nicola Wiseman, Business Support (People) (Via Teams)
Sandy Denholm, External Audit, Deloitte
Graeme McEwan, Director, the Vardy Foundation (Item 15)
Robin Fallas, MFMac (Item 15) (Via Teams)

Gillian White, Committee Services (Partnership & Performance) (Minute)
Melanie Moore, Committee Services (Partnership & Performance)

The Provost, Councillor Donald Balsillie, congratulated local swimmer, Duncan Scott on his recent success at the Paris 2024 Olympics, and wished him well for the future.

CC(24)041 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor William Keogh and Councillor Craig Holden.

CC(24)042 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

CC(24)043 MINUTES OF CLACKMANNANSHIRE COUNCIL – 27 JUNE 2024

The minutes of the meeting of the Clackmannanshire Council held on 27 June 2024 were submitted for approval.

Decision

The minutes of the meeting of Clackmannanshire Council held on 27 June 2024 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Convener.

Action

Clerk to the Council

CC(24)044 PARTNERSHIP AND PERFORMANCE DIRECTORATE BUSINESS PLAN 2024/2025

The report, submitted by the Strategic Director, Partnership and Performance, presented the Partnership & Performance Directorate Business Plan, 2024/25, for the consideration and approval of Council.

Motion

To agree the recommendations set out in the report.

Moved by Councillor Ellen Forson. Seconded by Councillor Graham Lindsay.

Decision

Having commented on the Plan, the Council agreed to note and approve the Partnership and Performance Directorate Business Plan 2024/25 as set out in Appendix 1 to the report.

Action

Strategic Director, Partnership and Performance

CC(24)045 PEOPLE COMMUNITY WELLBEING PLAN

The report, submitted by the Strategic Director, People, sought Council approval for the overarching People Community Wellbeing Plan for 2024-25.

Motion

To agree the recommendations set out in the report.

Moved by Councillor Graham Lindsay. Seconded by Councillor Wendy Hamilton.

Decision

The Council:

1. Approved the People Community Wellbeing Plan;
2. Noted the approach to combining all the People Directorate Plans and Community Partnership Plans into one overarching Community Wellbeing Plan; and
3. Agreed that the Chief Executive and Council Leader write to the Scottish Government on behalf of Council, recommending that this approach is considered more widely as a model to reduce bureaucracy and burden of reporting on local authorities.

Action

Strategic Director, People

CC(24)046 POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES REVIEW – FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS

The report, submitted by the Chief Executive, presented the recommendations resulting from the review of the Polling Districts and Polling Places for the Clackmannanshire Council area.

Motion

To agree the recommendations set out in the report.

Moved by Councillor Donald Balsillie. Seconded by Councillor Fiona Law.

Decision

The Council:

1. Agreed the recommendations contained in Appendix 2 to the report; and
2. Noted the Council's previous decision to delegate authority to the Chief Executive (following consultation with all Councillors in the affected Ward) to approve any changes to the scheme which become necessary before the next formal review. The next formal review will take place during the period October 2028 and January 2030.

Action

Chief Executive

CC(24)047 BE THE FUTURE UPDATE – REPLACEMENT SOCIAL WORK MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM

The report, submitted by the Strategic Director, People, provided a progress report on the procurement of a replacement Social Work IT system and sought approval for the necessary next steps.

Motion

To agree the recommendations set out in the report.

Moved by Councillor Wendy Hamilton. Seconded by Councillor Ellen Forson.

Decision

The Council:

1. Approved an additional £324,246 from the Transformation Fund (para 3.11) for the purpose of enabling the Council to move forward and progress to the invitation to tender (ITT) stage which will thereafter inform procurement of a replacement Social Work IT system;
2. Noted the detailed preparatory analysis work undertaken by officers over previous years set out in paragraphs 3.6 and 3.7 of the report; and
3. Noted that a business case will be brought back to Council setting out additional financial implications for the procurement, implementation and maintenance of the replacement system. Funding would require to be approved by Council prior to the procurement proceeding as set out in paragraph 3.10 of the report.

Action

Strategic Director, People

CC(24)048 WELLBEING HUB & LOCHIES SCHOOL PROJECT UPDATE

The report, submitted by the Senior Manager, Sport and Leisure, provided Council with an update on the progress of the Wellbeing Hub & Lochies School project.

Motion

To agree the recommendation set out in the report.

Moved by Councillor Scott Harrison. Seconded by Councillor Graham Lindsay.

Decision

The Council:

1. Noted the key programme updates including progress of the project to RIBA Stage 4 – Technical Design as set out in paragraphs 3.1 to 3.3 of the report; and
2. Noted the Community Benefits Plan as set out in paragraphs 3.4 to 3.9 of the report.

Action

Senior Manager, Sport and Leisure (People)

CC(24)049 PLACE BASED INVESTMENT PROGRAMME 2024/25

The report, submitted by the Strategic Director, Place, provided an update on activity around the Council's Place Based Investment Programme; an update on the Scottish Government's current position on the fund; and to put forward proposals for a 2024/25 bid for funding.

Motion

To agree the recommendations set out in the report.

Moved by Councillor Ellen Forson. Seconded by Councillor Fiona Law.

Decision

The Council:

1. Noted the approach that Scottish Government is taking for the Place Based Investment Programme for 2024/25;
2. Approved that a bid is submitted to the Scottish Government's Place Based Investment Fund 2024/25 for two key projects; repairs to Sauchie Hall, Sauchie (£43,000) and the Forthbank Renewable Energy and Food Growing Project (£112,000); and
3. Approved the authorisation of a flexible approach to delivering the projects in set out in the report so that underspends in one project can be allocated to overspend or added value elements in other projects.

Action

Strategic Director, Place

CC(24)050 LEARNING ESTATE PRIMARY SCHOOL REVIEW AND PLANNED INVESTMENT

The report, submitted by the Senior Manager, Property, provided an update on the current condition of the primary school learning estate, with a particular focus on a small subset of those establishments. The report also suggested the prioritisation of initial investment to ensure that the primary schools within the estate are in good condition.

Motion

To agree the recommendations set out in the report.

Moved by Councillor Graham Lindsay. Seconded by Councillor Jane McTaggart.

Decision

The Council:

1. Noted the position of Clackmannanshire Council's current Learning Estate condition survey and assessments;
2. Agreed to the prioritised works and planned capital expenditure as detailed within Appendix 1, on five primary schools, namely Alva, Banchory, Muckhart, St Serfs, and Deerpark, as part of the previously approved capital budget; and
3. Noted that a further report will be presented to Council early in 2025, in conjunction with the Council's budget setting arrangements, to give an update on the wider learning estate investment requirements as part of the 2025/2026 capital budget process.

Action

Senior Manager, Property

In line with Standing Order 10.23, the Convener adjourned the meeting at 11.30 am for a short comfort break. When the meeting resumed at 11.40 am, 16 members remained present.

CC(24)051 TENANT PARTICIPATION AND ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY 2024-28

The report, submitted by the Strategic Director, Place, presented the Tenant Participation and Engagement Strategy for the period 2024 to 2028.

Motion

To agree the recommendations set out in the report.

Moved by Councillor Jane McTaggart. Seconded by Councillor Fiona Law.

Decision

The Council:

1. Approved the Tenant Participation and Engagement Strategy 2024-2028;
2. Noted the action plan and the Service intention to review this annually;
3. Noted the survey results as detailed in Appendix 2 to the report.

Action

Strategic Director, Place

CC(24)052 ABANDONED PROPERTY POLICY

The report, submitted by the Strategic Director, Place, provided information on the work undertaken to develop the Abandoned Property policy. Council were informed last year that the Service would work on a priority list of policies to bring these up to date, and this policy had been written ensuring that they comply with legislative requirements. Policies must adhere to statutory guidelines and recommendations, including statutory homelessness duties aimed at preventing homelessness, providing relevant support and ensuring the management of the Council's limited housing stock.

Motion

To agree the recommendations set out in the report.

Moved by Councillor Jane McTaggart. Seconded by Councillor Fiona Law.

Decision

The Council approved the revised and updated Abandoned Property Policy as set out in Appendix 1 to the report.

Action

Strategic Director, Place

CC(24)053 AUDITED ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2022-23

The report, submitted by the Chief Finance Officer, provided the Audited Annual Accounts for the Council for the financial year 2022/23 to 31 March 2023. The report highlighted the material changes that have been made to the draft annual accounts during the audit period.

Motion

To agree the recommendations set out in the report.

Moved by Councillor Ellen Forson. Seconded by Councillor Graham Lindsay.

Decision

The Council:

1. Approved the 2022/23 Audited Annual Accounts;
2. Approved the submission of the Annual Accounts to the Controller of Audit; and
3. Noted the contents of the report.

Action

Chief Finance Officer

CC(24)054 ANNUAL REPORT TO THOSE CHARGED WITH GOVERNANCE AND THE CONTROLLER OF AUDIT FOR FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 2022/23

The report, submitted by the Chief Finance Officer, set out the findings arising from the work carried out by the External Auditors on the Audit of the 2022/23 Financial Statements.

Mr Sandy Denholm from the Council's External Auditors, Deloitte, was in attendance to present the report.

Motion

To agree the recommendations set out in the report.

Moved by Councillor Ellen Forson. Seconded by Councillor Graham Lindsay.

Decision

The Council:

1. Noted the content of the Independent Auditor's Report (Audit Opinion) As set out in Appendix 1 to the report;
2. Approved the content of the Letter of Representation (ISA 580), as set out in Appendix 2 to the report;
3. Noted the content of the Annual Audit Report, the recommendations for improvement and the follow up on prior year recommendations (ISA260) as set out in Appendix 3 to the report, and
4. Noted the content of the report by the external auditors - Best Value thematic work 2022/23 as set out in Appendix 4 to the report.

Action

Chief Finance Officer

