



MINUTES OF MEETING of the CLACKMANNANSHIRE COUNCIL held in the Council Chamber, Kilncraigs, Alloa, on Thursday 28 November 2024 at 9.30 am.

PRESENT

Councillor Phil Fairlie, Convener (Chair)
Councillor Donald Balsillie
Councillor Denis Coyne
Councillor Kenneth Earle
Councillor Ellen Forson
Councillor Wendy Hamilton
Councillor Scott Harrison
Councillor Craig Holden
Councillor William Keogh
Councillor Fiona Law
Councillor Darren Lee
Councillor Graham Lindsay
Councillor Kathleen Martin
Councillor Mark McLuckie
Councillor Jane McTaggart
Councillor Bryan Quinn
Councillor Janine Rennie (Via Teams and in Chambers)
Father Michael Carrie, Religious Representative (Item 7)

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)
Lee Robertson, Senior Manager, Legal and Governance (Partnership & Performance) (Clerk to the Council)
Alastair Hair, Team Leader/Senior Manager (Partnership & Performance)
Cherie Jarvie, Senior Manager, Partnership & Transformation (Partnership & Performance) (Via Teams)
Andrew Buchanan, Housing Operations Manager (Place) (Via Teams and in Chambers)
Robbie Stewart, Senior Manager, Sport and Leisure (People) (Via Teams and in Chambers)
Scott McDonald, Senior Manager, Justice Services (People)
Adrienne Aitken, Improving Outcomes Team Leader (People)
Michael Boyle, Improving Outcomes Business Manager (People) (Via Teams)
Katie Roddie, Team Leader, Housing Business Management (Place)
Monika Bicev, Policy Officer, Housing (Place)
Nicola Mack, Chief Accountant (Partnership & Performance)
Carla MacFarlane, Communications Officer (Partnership & Performance) (Via Teams)
Lesley Robertson, Business Support, Wellbeing Hub (People) (via Teams)
Wendy Robertson, Senior Manager Transformation (via Teams)
Murray Sharp, Senior Manager, Housing (Place) (Via Teams and in Chambers)
Claire Baillie, Assistant to Chief Executive
Melanie Moore, Committee Services (Partnership & Performance)
Gillian White, Committee Services (Partnership & Performance) (Minute)

Prior to the first item of business, the Council Leader, Councillor Ellen Forson, highlighted the work that had been undertaken around the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence campaign. She advised that this year's launch event had taken place at Alloa Town Hall where Councillors had signed the White Ribbon pledge and invited those who had been unable to attend to sign the pledge.

CC(24)071 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor Martha Benny.

CC(24)072 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

CC(24)073 MINUTES OF CLACKMANNANSHIRE COUNCIL – 3 OCTOBER 2024

The minutes of the meeting of the Clackmannanshire Council held on 3 October 2024 were submitted for approval.

CC(24)059 Antisocial Behaviour Strategy 2024-2027 – Councillor McTaggart suggested that she had moved the recommendations set out in the report not Councillor Forson. Councillor Law also suggested that she had seconded the recommendations set out in the report not Councillor Lindsay.

CC(24)067 Wellbeing Hub and Lochies School Project Update – Councillor Coyne raised that there were question marks beside Councillor Lindsay's seconding of the recommendations set out in the report. He confirmed that the minute was accurate in the Councilor Graham Lindsay did second the recommendations set out in the report.

Decision

Subject to checks on CC(24)059 and removal of the question marks beside Councillor Lindsay's seconding of the recommendations within CC(24)067, the minutes of the meeting of Clackmannanshire Council held on 3 October 2024 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Convener.

Note: Subsequent to the meeting, the recording of the Council Meeting held on 3 October was checked and the mover and seconder set out in minute under *CC(24)059 Antisocial Behaviour Strategy 2024-2027* were correct – Councillor Ellen Forson had moved the recommendations set out in report, seconded by Councillor Graham Lindsay.

Action

Clerk to the Council

CC(24)074 BE THE FUTURE UPDATE – COMMUNICATION AND ENGAGEMENT

The report, submitted by the Chief Executive, provided the latest update in respect of the Council's Be the Future Target Operating Model (BtF TOM) and associated Transformation Programme. The paper provided an update on the priority three themes, the Communication and Engagement Plan high level brief and the Benefits Realisation Framework.

Motion

To agree the recommendations as set out in the report.

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

Decision

The Council approved:

1. The Benefits Realisation Framework (Appendix A) (para 4.7); and
2. The Communication and Engagement Strategy high level brief (Appendix B), and the approach set out for delivery. (para 4.8)

The Council noted:

3. Progress in delivering the three priority themes approved by Council (para 4.5)
4. The update in respect of the Strategic Lead for Collaborative Community Partnerships.(para 4.9)

Action

Chief Executive

CC(24)075 STATUTORY REPORT: BEST VALUE IN CLACKMANNANSHIRE COUNCIL - ACTION PLAN

The report, submitted by the Chief Executive, proposed an Action Plan to progress the recommendations contained in the Statutory Report: Best Value in Clackmannanshire Council which was published, along with the Accounts Commission's Findings on the 26 September 2024.

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 Accounts Commission Findings and Audit Scotland's recommendations (Appendix A and paragraph 3.3); and
2. Agreed the Action Plan which was attached as Appendix B to the report.

Action

Chief Executive

At 10.08 am, having experienced difficulties participating in the meeting via MS Teams, Councillor Janine Rennie joined the meeting within the Council Chambers.

CC(24)076 BUDGET STRATEGY UPDATE

The report, submitted by the Chief Finance Officer, maintained Council's regular update on the approved Budget Strategy. The report provided a high level financial overview and progress update on the Budget process for 2025/26 including upcoming key milestones.

Motion

To agree the recommendations set out in the report.

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

Amendment

To amend recommendation 2.1.3 to state that Council agrees that the Leader of the Council writes to the UK Government in respect of the financial impact of the changes to National Insurance contributions.

Moved by Councillor Craig Holden. Seconded by Councillor Darren Lee.

The amendment was unanimously agreed.

Decision

The Council:

1. Noted the forecasted outturn for 2024/25 and the continued extremely challenging financial position faced by the council and current in year financial risks (section 3);
2. Noted that the indicative funding gap remains at £13.012m in 2025/26, rising to £29.662m by 2028/29 (paragraph 4.1);
3. Agreed that the that the Leader of the Council writes to the UK Government in respect of the financial impact of the changes to National Insurance contributions (paragraphs 4.3 and 4.4);
4. Noted that a medium term financial strategy is being developed and this will be presented to a future Council meeting (paragraph 4.5);
5. Noted the progress on the 2025/26 budget approach including the focus of the Budget Working Group, the progress of the Budget Challenge sessions and engagement with Scottish Government and COSLA on the Councils funding position (paragraphs 5.3 and 5.5);
6. Noted the timeline of completed tasks and upcoming key milestones in preparing the budget and briefings (paragraph 5.4 and Appendix A);
7. Noted the work of the Capital Operations Group and progress to update the approved 20 year capital plan (section 6.0);
8. Noted the activities underway to prepare the HRA Revenue and Capital Budget for 2025/26 (section 7.0), and
9. Approve the amendments to the HRA Revenue and Capital Budget (section 8 and appendix B).

Action

Chief Finance Officer

CC(24)077 OUTCOME OF ST MUNGO'S CONSULTATION

The report, submitted by the Strategic Director, People, sought a decision by Council on the proposal to permanently relocate St Mungo's Roman Catholic Primary School, Alloa to its current site within Alloa Academy, Alloa.

Following conclusion of questions to the report, in line with Standing Order 10.23, the Convener adjourned the meeting at 11.53 am for a short comfort break. When the meeting resumed at 12.06 pm, 17 members and Father Michael Carrie, Religious Representative remained present with Councillor Rennie leaving the Chamber and re-joining the meeting via MS Teams.

Motion

To agree the recommendations set out in the report.

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

Amendment 1

That:

1. Council agrees to defer the decision to permanently relocate St Mungo's RC Primary School to Alloa Academy, Alloa to allow for the production of a comprehensive, fully costed Action Plan for capital works (in line with the Accounting standards relating to the capitalisation of costs) setting out the concerns raised in the Report following the Consultation and contained in Appendix 1 Section 4.0 Review of Proposal and Mitigations (page 85) of the Report. No works will be instructed in terms of any Action Plan until (1) the Council's approval of the Action Plan; and (2) the Council is in receipt of the net proceeds of sale in terms of paragraph 3.
2. The Action Plan will also include steps and associated timeline to address outstanding operational issues and minor works (which cannot be capitalised in terms of paragraph 1) again contained in Appendix 1 Section 4.0 Review of Proposal and Mitigations (page 85) of the Report and subject to (1) such costs being met within existing budgets; and (2) the Council's approval of the Action Plan.
3. Council further agrees that following any decision by the Council to declare the property at Forth Crescent, Alloa to be surplus to the requirements and placed on the open market for sale and subject to approval of the Action Plan referred in paragraph 1, any net proceeds of such sale will be utilised to implement the Action Plan.

A Report will be brought back to March's Council meeting on 20 March 2025 to consider the provisions contained in paragraphs 1, 2 and 3.

Moved by Councillor Craig Holden. Seconded by Councillor Mark McLuckie.

Amendment 2 (to amend Amendment 1)

To amend Amendment 1 by removing paragraphs 1 and 2.

Moved by Councillor Denis Coyne. There was no seconder at this point.

The Convener adjourned the meeting at this point in the proceedings (12.33 pm) to consider Amendment 2. When the meeting resumed at 1.34pm, 17 members and Father Michael Carrie, Religious Representative remained present.

Councillor Coyne, having had the opportunity to re-consider how matters are considered within the learning estate, advised that he saw no reason to continue with his further amendment and therefore withdrew Amendment 2.

Voting on Amendment 1

Following debate on Amendment 1, in terms of Standing Order 14.7, Councillor Holden asked for a roll call vote. The Council agreed that a vote be taken by calling the roll and at this stage there were 18 members present (including one religious representative) who were eligible to vote. On the roll being called, the members present voted as follows:

For the Motion (8)

Councillor Mark McLuckie
Councillor William Keogh
Councillor Janine Rennie
Councillor Kenneth Earle
Councillor Craig Holden
Councillor Bryan Quinn
Councillor Kathleen Martin
Father Michael Carrie

Against the Motion (10)

Councillor Phil Fairlie
Councillor Donald Balsillie
Councillor Darren Lee
Councillor Graham Lindsay
Councillor Fiona Law
Councillor Wendy Hamilton
Councillor Jane McTaggart
Councillor Ellen Forson
Councillor Scott Harrison
Councillor Denis Coyne

On a division of 10 votes to 8 with 0 abstentions, the Motion was defeated.

Voting on the Motion

Following debate on the Motion, in terms of Standing Order 14.7, Councillor Holden asked for a roll call vote. The Council agreed that a vote be taken by calling the roll and at this stage there were 18 members present (including one religious representative) who were eligible to vote. On the roll being called, the members present voted as follows:

For the Motion (10)

Councillor Phil Fairlie
Councillor Donald Balsillie
Councillor Darren Lee
Councillor Graham Lindsay
Councillor Fiona Law
Councillor Wendy Hamilton
Councillor Jane McTaggart
Councillor Ellen Forson
Councillor Scott Harrison
Councillor Denis Coyne

Against the Motion (8)

Councillor Mark McLuckie
Councillor William Keogh
Councillor Janine Rennie
Councillor Kenneth Earle
Councillor Craig Holden
Councillor Bryan Quinn
Councillor Kathleen Martin
Father Michael Carrie

On a division of 10 votes to 8 with 0 abstentions, the Motion was carried.

Decision

On a division on 10 votes to 8 with 0 abstentions, the Council agreed:

1. the proposal to permanently relocate St Mungo's Roman Catholic Primary School ("St Mungo's RCPS") to the site of Alloa Academy;
2. to declare the property at Forth Crescent, Alloa surplus to requirements of the School Estate.

Action

Strategic Director (People)

In line with Standing Order 10.25, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 1.45 pm for a meal break. Councillor Darren Lee and Father Michael Carrie withdrew from the meeting during the break, therefore, when the meeting resumed at 2.15 pm, 16 members remained present.

CC(24)078 WELLBEING HUB AND 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 and Lochies School project.

Motion

To agree the recommendations set out in the report.

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

Decision

The Council agreed to note the key programme updates as set out in paragraphs 3.1 to 3.4 in the report.

CC(24)079 HOUSING SERVICE ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR POLICY

The report, submitted by the Strategic Director, Place, sought Council approval of the Housing Service Antisocial Behaviour Policy (ASB Policy).

The Policy aims to address antisocial behaviour where it occurs in association with Council tenancies. The Policy supports Clackmannanshire Council's wider Antisocial Behaviour Strategy and adheres to the statutory guidelines and recommendations under the Antisocial Behaviour (Scotland) Act 2004, Data Protection Act 2018, Equality Act 2010, Homelessness etc. (Scotland) Act 2003 as well as Housing (Scotland) Acts 2001 and 2014.

Motion

To agree the recommendations set out in the report.

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

Decision

The Council agreed to:

1. Approve the Housing Service Antisocial Behaviour Policy.
2. Note that the Policy is limited to addressing Anti Social Behaviour (ASB) only where it occurs in association with Council tenancies.

Action

Strategic Director (Place)

Ends: 2.34 pm