



MINUTES OF MEETING of the CLACKMANNANSHIRE COUNCIL held in the Council Chamber, Kilncraigs, Alloa, on Thursday 15 May 2025 at 9.30 am.

PRESENT

Provost Donald Balsillie (Provost) (Chair)
Councillor Martha Benny
Councillor Denis Coyne
Councillor Kenneth Earle
Councillor Ellen Forson
Councillor Wendy Hamilton
Councillor Scott Harrison
Councillor Craig Holden
Councillor Fiona Law
Councillor Darren Lee
Councillor Graham Lindsay
Councillor Kathleen Martin
Councillor Bryan Quinn
Councillor Janine Rennie

IN ATTENDANCE

Nikki Bridle, Chief Executive (Via Teams)
Chris Alliston, Strategic Director (Partnership & Performance)
Lorraine Sanda, Strategic Director (People) (Professional Adviser to the Chair)
Kevin Wells, Strategic Director (Place)
Lindsay Sim, Chief Finance Officer (Partnership & Performance)
Colin Bruce, Chief Education Officer (People) (Via Teams)
Adrienne Aitken, Improving Outcomes Team Leader (People) (Via Teams)
Lee Robertson, Senior Manager, Legal and Governance (Partnership & Performance) (Clerk to the Council)
Wendy Forrest, Head of Strategic Planning & Health Improvement (HSCP)
Claire Fullarton, Communications Officer (Partnership & Performance) (Via Teams)
Sarah Goldberg, Team Leader, Legal and Governance (Partnership & Performance) (Via Teams)
Alastair Hair, Team Leader/Senior Manager (Partnership & Performance)
Sarah Langsford, Team Leader/Senior Manager (Partnership & Performance) (Via Teams)
Cherie Jarvie, Senior Manager, Partnership & Transformation (Partnership & Performance)
Nicola Mack, Chief Accountant (Partnership & Performance) (Via Teams)
Carla MacFarlane, Communications Officer (Partnership & Performance) (Via Teams)
Joanna McDonald, Interim Chief Officer for Clackmannanshire and Stirling Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP)
Ewan Murray, Chief Finance Officer, Clackmannanshire and Stirling Health and Social Care Partnership
Wendy Robertson, Senior Manager Transformation (via Teams)
Murray Sharp, Senior Manager, Housing (Place) (Via Teams)
Robbie Stewart, Senior Manager, Sport and Leisure (People) (Via Teams)
Donna Tierney, Accountant (Partnership & Performance) (Via Teams)
Melanie Moore, Committee Services (Partnership & Performance)
Gillian White, Committee Services (Partnership & Performance) (Minute)

CC(25)031 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor Phil Fairlie (Convener), Councillor William Keogh, Councillor Jane McTaggart and Councillor Mark McLuckie. In the Convener's absence, the Provost, Councillor Donald Balsillie took the Chair.

CC(25)032 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

The Provost advised that an item of urgent business had been submitted to the Council for consideration:

E-mail from Sauchie Public Hall SCIO

A motion which asked Council to request an urgent verbal update from the Strategic Director for Place on the progress of the transfer of Sauchie Hall and a response to the issues raised in the group's correspondence was submitted by Councillor Ellen Forson as a matter of urgent business. The Provost agreed that the motion would be taken as a matter of urgent business to allow the Council the opportunity to hear the update. The Provost advised that this item would be taken as the final item of business.

CC(25)033 MINUTES OF CLACKMANNANSHIRE COUNCIL – 20 MARCH 2025

The minutes of the meeting of the Clackmannanshire Council held on 20 March 2025 were submitted for approval.

Decision

The minutes of the meeting of Clackmannanshire Council held on 20 March 2025 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Provost.

Action

Clerk to the Council

CC(25)034 MINUTES OF THE PETITIONS COMMITTEE – 3 APRIL 2025

The minutes of the meeting of the Petitions Committee held on 3 April 2025 were submitted for approval from those members of the Petitions Committee who were in attendance.

Decision

The minutes of the meeting of the Petitions Committee held on 3 April 2025 were agreed as a correct record by those members who attended the Petitions Committee and signed by the Chair of the Petitions Committee, Councillor Scott Harrison.

Action

Clerk to the Council

CC(25)035 COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS REFERRED TO COUNCIL

The report, submitted by the Chief Executive, sought Council approval of recommendations which had been made by the Petitions Committee on 3 April 2025 and the Audit & Scrutiny Committee on 17 April 2025.

Motion

To agree the recommendations as set out in the report.

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

Decision

1. From the **Petitions Committee**, in relation to the "*Public Petitions – Tillicoultry RAAC Homeowners*", where the Petitions Committee considered the petition, and the information presented to it; and made recommendations to Council for the disposal of the petition.

The Council agreed:

- 1.1. **In response to the request to provide pre-RAAC declaration valuations** – that a feasibility study, based on Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) requirements, is carried out by officers and surveyors to establish whether a mechanism for both pre and post RAAC valuations can be carried out as at the date of the Petitions Committee (3 April 2025).
- 1.2. **In response to the request to provide financial support for RAAC-related costs** – that the Council explores all avenues within existing frameworks to provide support in whatever form that takes including all sectors.
- 1.3. **In response to the request a public enquiry** – that the Council take no further action on this request at this time.
- 1.4. **In response to the request for Council to advocate for a National Financial Support Fund** – that the Council actively and more visibly lobby the Scottish Government and the UK Government for the establishment of a national financial support fund for RAAC-affected homeowners.
- 1.5. To note that the report relating to the Petitions Committee held on 3 April 2025 is available on the Council's website [Public Petition – Tillicoultry RAAC Homeowners](#)
2. From the Audit and Scrutiny Committee, in relation to the “Staff Survey 2024”, where the Audit and Scrutiny Committee noted the results of the survey; and made recommendations to Council.

The Council agreed:

- 2.1. The move to a bi-annual survey process.
- 2.2. To note that the report relating to the Audit and Scrutiny Committee held on 17 April 2025 is available on the Council's website [Staff Survey 2024](#).

Action

Chief Executive

CC(25)036 BE THE FUTURE UPDATE: CLACKMANNANSHIRE AND FALKIRK COLLABORATION WORK

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 report provided an update on the top three themes, and progress on the Collaboration Work with Falkirk Council.

Motion

To agree the recommendations in the report.

Moved by Councillor Ellen Forson. Seconded by Council Graeme Lindsay.

Decision

The Council noted:

1. Progress on the top three priority areas (paragraphs 3.1-3.6), and
2. Progress on the Collaboration Work with Falkirk Council (paragraphs 4.0-4.8).

CC(25)037 BUDGET STRATEGY UPDATE

The report, submitted by the Chief Finance Officer, maintained Council's regular update on the approved Budget Strategy. The report provided an update on the post-Budget context and set the timetable and key milestones to commence the 2026/27 Budget process.

Motion

To agree the recommendations in the report.

Moved by Councillor Ellen Forson. Seconded by Council Graeme Lindsay.

Decision

The Council:

1. Agreed the high-level Budget Timetable (Appendix A);
2. Noted the extremely challenging financial position and financial risks faced by the Council and the mitigations being put in place to manage these risks (paragraphs 3.1 to 3.6);
3. Noted that a Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) is being developed and will be presented to Council in June (paragraph 3.7);
4. Noted that the indicative funding gap is £7.340m in 2026/27 rising to £19.132m by 2029/30 (paragraph 3.5 and Exhibit 2);
5. Noted the arrangements for 2026/27 budget preparation, including the work of the Budget Working Group and the proposed scheduling of three tranches of Budget Challenge sessions (paragraphs 4.1 to 4.3 and Appendix A);
6. Noted the approach to the preparation of the HRA 2026/27 Revenue and Capital Budgets (paragraphs 4.4 to 4.6);
7. Noted the establishment of a cross-party working group to support the budget setting process (paragraph 4.7); and
8. Note the ongoing work with CoSLA and the Scottish Government to raise awareness of the systemic and contextual challenges facing Clackmannanshire (paragraph 4.9).

Action

Chief Finance Officer

CC(25)038 COMMISSIONING CHANGE TO THE MODEL OF LONG-TERM CARE FOR OLDER ADULTS AND THE IMPACT FOR CLACKMANNANSHIRE COUNCIL

The report, submitted by Joanna MacDonald, Interim Chief Officer, provided Clackmannanshire Council with an update on the Integration Joint Board's decision made in March 2025 regarding changes to the commissioning model for long-term care for older adults, and the resulting implications for the capital asset of Menstrie House.

Motion

To agree the recommendations in the report.

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

Decision

The Council:

1. Noted that, the Integration Joint Board made the decision in March 2025, to approve a change in the model of long-term care in Clackmannanshire resulting in a permanent service change. As a result, Menstrie House will become surplus to requirements for its current use by December 2025; and
2. Noted the return of Menstrie House asset to the Council's Property Service Portfolio and agreed to receive an options appraisal of potential future use of the asset as outlined in paragraph 3.7.

Action

Joanna MacDonald, Interim Chief Officer

CC(25)039 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF HOME TO SCHOOL TRANSPORT POLICY

The report, submitted by the Strategic Director (People), updated the Council on progress following its request for an Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) of the Councils School Transport Policies which was to be brought back to Council for consideration in May 2025.

Motion

To agree the recommendations in the report.

Moved by Councillor Graeme Lindsay. Seconded by Councillor Fiona Law.

Decision

The Council:

1. Noted the progress being made on the completion of the EQIA and agreed that a completed EQIA be brought back to the meeting of Council on 26 June 2025.

Action

Strategic Director, People

Councillor Darren Lee withdrew from the meeting at 11.46 am prior to the following item of business.

CC(25)040 DRUGS & ALCOHOL POLICY PILOT REVIEW

The report, submitted by the Strategic Director (Partnership and Performance), provided an update to Council on the implementation of the Drugs and Alcohol Policy in 2023, with a particular focus on the pilot of 'with cause' testing.

Motion

To agree the recommendations set out in the report.

Moved by Councillor Fiona Law. Seconded by Councillor Wendy Hamilton.

Voting on the Motion

Following debate on the Motion, in terms of Standing Order 14.7, Councillor Quinn asked for a roll call vote. The Council agreed that a vote be taken by calling the roll and at this stage there were 13 members present who were eligible to vote. On the roll being called, the members present voted as follows:

For the Motion (11)

Councillor Donald Balsillie
Councillor Graham Lindsay
Councillor Martha Benny
Councillor Fiona Law
Councillor Wendy Hamilton
Councillor Janine Rennie
Councillor Kenneth Earle
Councillor Ellen Forson
Councillor Scott Harrison
Councillor Kathleen Martin
Councillor Denis Coyne

Against the Motion (2)

Councillor Craig Holden
Councillor Bryan Quinn

Abstain from Voting (0)

The Motion was carried by 11 votes to 2 with 0 abstentions.

Decision

Having challenged and commented on the report, on a division on 11 votes to 2 with 0 abstentions, the Council:

1. Approved the Drugs & Alcohol Policy as outlined at Appendix 1 which was originally presented to Council in February 2023; and
2. Noted that by approving, this introduces the permanent implementation of 'with cause' testing.

Action

Strategic Director, Partnership and Performance

The Provost adjourned the meeting at 12.22 am for a comfort break. When the meeting resumed at 12.35 pm, 13 members remained present.

CC(25)041 MOTION TO COUNCIL – PARKING ENFORCEMENT

A notice of motion in terms of Standing Order 16.0 was submitted by Councillor Craig Holden.

Motion

"Council recognises that inconsiderate, obstructive and dangerous parking is a major risk to public safety. Council agrees, therefore, to write to Police Scotland requesting that they undertake a review of their current approach to parking enforcement within Clackmannanshire and outline what steps they are prepared to take to ensure that public confidence is maintained in this key part of Police Scotland's public safety remit.

Council further agrees for Officers to bring forward an outline plan with options to a future meeting of Council in relation to its decision on 24 October 2019 to pursue a Decriminalised Parking Enforcement Scheme in Clackmannanshire, no later than the end of this calendar year."

Moved by Councillor Craig Holden. Seconded by Councillor Kenneth Earle.

Decision

Having recognised that inconsiderate, obstructive and dangerous parking is a major risk to public safety, the Council agreed:

1. To write to Police Scotland requesting that they undertake a review of their current approach to parking enforcement within Clackmannanshire and outline what steps they are prepared to take to ensure that public confidence is maintained in this key part of Police Scotland's public safety remit; and
2. That Officers to bring forward an outline plan with options to a future meeting of Council in relation to its decision on 24 October 2019 to pursue a Decriminalised Parking Enforcement Scheme in Clackmannanshire, no later than the end of this calendar year.

Action

Strategic Director (Place)

CC(25)042 MOTION TO COUNCIL – CLACKMANNANSHIRE AND STIRLING HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE INTEGRATION SCHEME

A notice of motion in terms of Standing Order 16.0 was submitted by Councillor Ellen Forson.

Motion

"Council instructs the Chief Executive to initiate the dispute resolution process as set out in Section 14 of the Clackmannanshire and Stirling Health and Social Care Integration Scheme.

The dispute concerns two key issues:

- a) the process and governance arrangements for reviewing the Integration Scheme; and
- b) the need to formalise partner arrangements for reviewing the Integration Joint Board's Strategic Commissioning Plan.

The Chief Executive is further instructed to explore opportunities to align this process with the dispute initiated by Stirling Council, in order to maximise efficiency across all partners."

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

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 13 members present who were eligible to vote. On the roll being called, the members present voted as follows:

For the Motion (13)

Councillor Donald Balsillie
Councillor Graham Lindsay
Councillor Martha Benny
Councillor Fiona Law
Councillor Wendy Hamilton
Councillor Janine Rennie
Councillor Kenneth Earle
Councillor Ellen Forson
Councillor Scott Harrison
Councillor Kathleen Martin
Councillor Denis Coyne
Councillor Craig Holden
Councillor Bryan Quinn

Against the Motion (0)

Abstain from Voting (0)

The Motion was carried unanimously.

Decision

The Council agreed unanimously:

1. To instruct the Chief Executive to initiate the dispute resolution process as set out in Section 14 of the Clackmannanshire and Stirling Health and Social Care Integration Scheme. The dispute concerns two key issues:
 - 1.1. the process and governance arrangements for reviewing the Integration Scheme; and
 - 1.2. the need to formalise partner arrangements for reviewing the Integration Joint Board's Strategic Commissioning Plan.
2. That the Chief Executive is further instructed to explore opportunities to align this process with the dispute initiated by Stirling Council, in order to maximise efficiency across all partners."

Action

Chief Executive

CC(25)043 URGENT MOTION TO COUNCIL – SAUCHIE PUBLIC HALL SCIO

A notice of motion in terms of Standing Order 16.0 was submitted by Councillor Ellen Forson and accepted by the Provost as an item of urgent business.

Motion

"In light of the email received by all elected members on Tuesday from Sauchie Public Hall SCIO, Council requests an urgent verbal update from the Strategic Director for Place on the progress of the transfer of Sauchie Hall, and a response to the issues raised in the group's correspondence."

Moved by Councillor Ellen Forson. Seconded by Councillor Scott Harrison.

Decision

Having heard a verbal update from Kevin Wells, Strategic Director and having had the opportunity to ask questions of officers present, the Council agreed to note the verbal update.

Ends: 2.00 pm