



**Clackmannanshire
Council**

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Comhairle Siorrachd
Chlach Mhanann

Kilncraigs, Greenside Street, Alloa, FK10 1EB (Tel.01259-450000)

Special Meeting of Clackmannanshire Council

Tuesday 7 March 2023 at 9.30 am

Venue: Council Chamber, Kilncraigs, Alloa, FK10 1EB



Clackmannanshire Council

There are 32 Unitary Councils in Scotland. Clackmannanshire Council is the smallest mainland Council. Eighteen Councillors are elected to represent the views of the residents and businesses in Clackmannanshire. The Council has approved Standing Orders that detail the way the Council operates. Decisions are approved at meetings of the full Council and at Committee Meetings.

The Council is responsible for approving a staffing structure for the proper discharge of its functions, approving new policies or changes in policy, community planning and corporate governance including standards of conduct.

The Council has further responsibility for the approval of budgets for capital and revenue expenditure, it also has power to make, alter or cancel any scheme made under statute and to make, alter or cancel any orders, rules, regulations or bye-laws and to make compulsory purchase orders. The Council also determines the level of Council Tax and approves recommendations relating to strategic economic development.

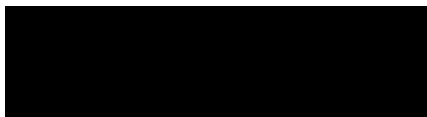
Members of the public are welcome to attend our Council and Committee meetings to see how decisions are made.

Details of all of our Council and Committee dates and agenda items are published on our website at www.clacks.gov.uk

If you require further information about Council or Committee meetings, please contact Committee Services by e-mail at committees@clacks.gov.uk or by telephone on 01259 452006 or 452004.

27 February 2023

A SPECIAL MEETING of the CLACKMANNANSHIRE COUNCIL will be held in the COUNCIL CHAMBER, KILNCRAIGS, ALLOA), on TUESDAY 7 MARCH 2023 at 9.30 AM



**Nikki Bridle
Chief Executive**

B U S I N E S S

	Page No.
1. Apologies	--
2. Declaration of Interests Elected Members are reminded of their obligation to declare any financial or non-financial interest which they may have in any item on this agenda in accordance with the Councillors' Code of Conduct. A Declaration of Interest form should be completed and passed to the Committee Services Officer.	--
3. Order of Proceedings (Copy herewith)	05
4. Public Petition – report by Monitoring Officer (Copy herewith)	07

• **Banchory Parent Council**

Petition Title:

“Hands off our Nursery! Keep Enrolment at Banchory ELC

Principal Petitioner:

Kathryn Beaton

Clackmannanshire Council – Councillors and Wards

Councillors

Wards

Councillor	Phil Fairlie	1	Clackmannanshire West	SNP
Councillor	Darren Lee	1	Clackmannanshire West	CONSERVATIVE
Councillor	Graham Lindsay	1	Clackmannanshire West	SNP
Councillor	Mark McLuckie	1	Clackmannanshire West	LABOUR
Councillor	Donald Balsillie	2	Clackmannanshire North	SNP
Councillor	Martha Benny	2	Clackmannanshire North	CONSERVATIVE
Councillor	William Keogh	2	Clackmannanshire North	LABOUR
Councillor	Fiona Law	2	Clackmannanshire North	SNP
Councillor	Wendy Hamilton	3	Clackmannanshire Central	SNP
Councillor	Janine Rennie	3	Clackmannanshire Central	LABOUR
Councillor	Jane McTaggart	3	Clackmannanshire Central	SNP
Councillor	Kenneth Earle	4	Clackmannanshire South	LABOUR
Councillor	Ellen Forson	4	Clackmannanshire South	SNP
Councillor	Craig Holden	4	Clackmannanshire South	IND
Councillor	Bryan Quinn	4	Clackmannanshire South	SCOTTISH GREEN
Councillor	Scott Harrison	5	Clackmannanshire East	SNP
Councillor	Kathleen Martin	5	Clackmannanshire East	LABOUR
Councillor	Denis Coyne	5	Clackmannanshire East	CONSERVATIVE



ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS:

SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL

7 March 2023 AT 9.30 am

The format of the Special Meeting of Council to hear the petition is as follows:

1. The Convenor will ask if there any apologies from Elected Members.
2. The Convenor will check if any Elected Member wishes to declare an interest in the item being discussed.
3. The Convenor will outline the procedure that will be followed.
4. The Monitoring Officer will present her report to the Council.
5. The Principal Petitioner will then be introduced by the Convenor and will present the petition to Council (the presentation of the petition should be no longer than 5 minutes although this timing is at the discretion of the Convenor).
6. Elected Members will be entitled to ask questions of the Principal Petitioner (as well as the agreed number of petition supporters). Council officers will be present and Elected Members can also ask these officers questions.
7. Elected Members will then enter into debate and agree which recommendation in terms of the Monitoring Officer Report to accept.
8. Following on the decision in Clause 7 the Convenor will bring the meeting to a close.
9. The Council's formal decision on this Petition will be notified in writing to the Principal Petitioner within 7 working days of the date of this Special Meeting.
10. In the event of any conflict between the Order of Proceedings contained herein and the Council's Standing Orders then the Council's Standing Orders will take precedence.

Report to Special Meeting of Council

Date of Meeting: 7 March 2023

Subject: Public Petition

Report by: Monitoring Officer

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1. The report summarises the petition which has been received following the 2023/24 budget engagement process. The full petition does not accompany this report but is available for inspection by all Councillors.

2.0 Recommendations

It is recommended that Council:

- 2.1. hear the Principal Petitioner, seeking information from them as appropriate; and then, having done so, dispose of the petition by agreeing either that:
- the issue does not merit further action ; or
 - that the information contained within the petition requires consideration by Council within the context of deliberations associated with the upcoming General Revenue Fund budget for 2023/24.

3.0 Considerations

Review of Early Learning and Childcare Provision

The petition is in electronic form and has been verified with 461 signatures of people living in the Clackmannanshire Council area. It includes a change.org petition. During the verification process, a number of signatures were discounted as they were from people living outwith the Council area.

The name of the principal petitioner is Kathryn Beaton, who has submitted the petition on behalf of Banchory Parent Council. She meets the principal petitioner criteria. Kathryn Beaton has been invited to attend the Special Council meeting to speak to the petition.

The title of the petition is "*Hands off our nursery! Keep enrolment at Banchory ELC*". The information contained in the petition statement is as follows:

“Banchory Parent Council (BPC) ask Clackmannanshire Council to remove the budget proposal “Banchory ELC would not accept any new admissions for the session 2023/24 and that instead, families would be offered child places in surrounding nurseries”. Whilst currently stated for the 23/24 intake, BPC unanimously agree that this move is both surprising and damaging to our community, with a potential route for Clackmannanshire Council to close our nursery permanently thereafter. The initial one-off saving of £483,333 will simply be lost to increasing costs in other areas of education and social care provision. Currently, 67% of out catchment children attend from SIMD Deciles 1 and 2, extreme markers for poverty, disadvantage and those targeted by attainment gap policy. Furthermore, approximately 50% of our Banchory community are currently under staged intervention. Despite these challenges, the contextual analysis of our school and early years performance shows consistent growth and transformational change on all fronts under the current resource and staffing model. The recent Grade 5 Care Inspectorate reports praise Banchory ELC on its transition experience from ‘home to the setting and on to school’ in particular ‘Children being settled and secure’ by positively affecting children’s trust and confidence through personal development and strong relationships. Finally, Clackmannanshire Council itself states, “Banchory’s catchment area has been designated an area of educational priority which entitles additional resources which ensures good staff/pupil ratio” and “The addition of the ELC has been an asset to the school both in the preparation for primary education and in many aspects of early intervention.” Enrolment removal and future potential closure only seeks to undermine this and we seek to maintain current operations. Our robust defence against this proposal is to ensure the opportunities and good work are not lost to our future generations. Thusly the community have rallied around the undisputable facts and want to protect the future of our School and ELC in this petition as dictated below. We look forward to your consideration of our petition.”

4.0 Sustainability Implications

- 4.1. This report has no direct sustainability implications. It is possible once the petition has been heard, that there may be financial or sustainability considerations arising from any outcomes.

5.0 Resource Implications

5.1. Financial Details

- 5.2. The full financial implications of the recommendations are set out in the report. This includes a reference to full life cycle costs where appropriate. Yes

- 5.3. Finance have been consulted and have agreed the financial implications as set out in the report. Yes

5.4. Staffing

6.0 Exempt Reports

6.1. Is this report exempt? Yes (please detail the reasons for exemption below) No

7.0 Declarations

The recommendations contained within this report support or implement our Corporate Priorities and Council Policies.

(1) **Our Priorities** (Please double click on the check box)

Clackmannanshire will be attractive to businesses & people and ensure fair opportunities for all
Our families; children and young people will have the best possible start in life
Women and girls will be confident and aspirational, and achieve their full potential
Our communities will be resilient and empowered so that they can thrive and flourish

(2) **Council Policies** (Please detail)

Petitions policy

8.0 Equalities Impact

8.1 Have you undertaken the required equalities impact assessment to ensure that no groups are adversely affected by the recommendations?
Yes No

An Equality and Fairer Scotland Impact Assessments have been carried out in context of the 2023/24 budget engagement.

9.0 Legality

9.1 It has been confirmed that in adopting the recommendations contained in this report, the Council is acting within its legal powers. Yes

10.0 Appendices

10.1 Please list any appendices attached to this report. If there are no appendices, please state "none".

None

11.0 Background Papers

11.1 Have you used other documents to compile your report? (All documents must be kept available by the author for public inspection for four years from the date of meeting at which the report is considered)

Yes (please list the documents below) No

Petition: “Hands off our nursery! Keep enrolment at Banchory ELC”.

Author(s)

NAME	DESIGNATION	TEL NO / EXTENSION
Stuart Crickmar	Strategic Director	2127

Approved by

NAME	DESIGNATION	SIGNATURE
Lee Robertson	Monitoring Officer	
Stuart Crickmar	Strategic Director, Partnership and Performance	