



**MINUTES OF MEETING of the AUDIT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE held via MS TEAMS,  
On THURSDAY 14 DECEMBER 2023 at 9.30 AM.**

**PRESENT**

Councillor Janine Rennie (Chair)  
Councillor Denis Coyne (Vice Chair)  
Councillor Martha Benny  
Councillor Kenneth Earle  
Councillor William Keogh  
Councillor Phil Fairlie  
Councillor Fiona Law (S)

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Stuart Crickmar, Strategic Director (Partnership & Performance)  
Lorraine Sanda, Strategic Director (People)  
Chris Alliston, Senior Manager, HR & Workforce Development (Partnership & Performance)  
Lindsay Sim, Chief Finance Officer (Partnership & Performance)  
Elizabeth Hutcheon, Management Accountancy Team Leader (Partnership & Performance)  
Lee Robertson, Senior Manager, Legal and Governance (Partnership & Performance) (Clerk to the Committee)  
Melanie Moore, Committee Services, Legal and Governance (Partnership & Performance)  
Gillian White, Committee Services, Legal and Governance (Partnership & Performance)  
Pete Leonard, Strategic Director (Place)  
Derek Barr, Procurement Manager (Performance & Partnership)  
Judi Richardson, Performance & Information Adviser (Partnership & Performance)  
Sarah McPhee, Senior Internal Auditor, Falkirk Council  
David Williams, Interim Chief Officer, Clackmannanshire & Stirling Health and Social Care Partnership  
Ewan Murray, Chief Finance Officer, Clackmannanshire & Stirling Health and Social Care Partnership

**AS(23)55 APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Ellen Forson and Councillor Bryan Quinn. Councillor Fiona Law was in attendance as substitute for Councillor Forson.

**AS(23)56 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

**AS(23)57 MINUTE OF AUDIT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON 26  
OCTOBER 2023**

The minutes of the meeting of the Audit and Scrutiny Committee held on Thursday 26 October 2023 were submitted for approval.

**Decision**

The minutes of the meeting of the Audit and Scrutiny Committee held on Thursday 26 October 2023 were agreed as a correct record by the Committee and signed off by the Chair.

**AS(23)58 COUNCIL FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE 2023/24 AS AT SEPTEMBER 2023**

The report, submitted by the Chief Finance Officer, provided an update on the financial performance for the Council as at September 2023, in respect of the General Fund (GF) revenue and capital spend and the achievement of savings, for the current financial year 2023/24, the Clackmannanshire element of the Stirling & Clackmannanshire Health and Social Care Partnership (H&SCP) revenue spend and the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) revenue and capital spend, for the financial year, 2023/24. David Williams the new Interim Chief Officer, Clackmannanshire & Stirling Health and Social Care Partnership and Ewan Murray, Chief Finance Officer, Clackmannanshire & Stirling Health and Social Care were both in attendance to answer questions from members.

**Motion**

That Committee agrees the recommendations set out in the report.

Moved by Councillor Janine Rennie. Seconded by Councillor Denis Coyne.

**Decision**

Having commented on and challenged the report, the Committee agreed to note the report on:

1. The General Fund revenue forecasted overspend of £0.014m for the year to 31 March 2024;
2. The use of £1.8m COVID earmarked reserve in 2023/24 to support ongoing costs of COVID recovery;
3. The Clackmannanshire element of the Health and Social Care Partnership (H&SCP) forecasted overspend of £3.835m as at September 2023, for the year to 31 March 2024;
4. The HRA revenue forecasted deficit of £0.517m less than the budgeted surplus for the year to 31 March 2024;
5. The HRA Capital programme forecasted underspend of £(4.444)m, of which £4.104m is proposed to be carried forward;
6. The General Fund Capital Programme forecasted underspend of £(8.232)m, and proposed carry forward of £6.813m and
7. Progress to date in delivering the £3.814m approved savings programme, currently forecast to achieve £2.423m, 64%, as at 31 March 2024.

**AS(23)59 PROCUREMENT ANNUAL REPORT**

The Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act 2014 Section 18 states that the Council must prepare an annual procurement report on its regulated procurement activities as soon as reasonably practicable after the end of the financial year. The report, submitted by the Strategic Director, Partnership and Performance, also updated the committee on key procurement activity and statistical performance during the Financial Year 2022-23 and provided an overview of the resources that are available to deliver effective procurement.

**Motion**

That the Committee agrees the recommendation as set out in the report.

Moved by Councillor Janine Rennie. Seconded by Councillor Phil Fairlie.

**Decision**

Having challenged and commented on the report, the Committee agreed to note the report

**AS(23)60      AUDIT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT FOLLOW UP**

The report, submitted by the Strategic Director, Partnership and Performance, is to follow up on a number of actions that arose from the Committee's Annual Report which was considered on 26 October, and subsequently approved by Council on 30 November 2023.

**Motion**

That the Committee agrees the recommendation as set out in the report.

Moved by Councillor Janine Rennie. Seconded by Councillor Martha Benny.

**Decision**

Having challenged and commented on the report, the Committee agreed to note the report.

Ends 1101hrs

