



**MINUTES OF MEETING of the AUDIT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE held in Council
Chambers, Kilncraigs, Alloa On THURSDAY 18 APRIL 2024 at 9.30 AM.**

PRESENT

Councillor Denis Coyne (Vice Chair) – In the Chair
Councillor Janine Rennie (Chair) – via Teams
Councillor Martha Benny
Councillor Kenneth Earle – via Teams
Councillor Jane McTaggart

IN ATTENDANCE

Stuart Crickmar, Strategic Director (Partnership & Performance)
Chris Alliston, Senior Manager, HR & Workforce Development (Partnership & Performance)
Lee Robertson, Senior Manager, Legal and Governance (Partnership & Performance) (Clerk
to the Committee)
Pete Leonard, Strategic Director (Place)
Emma Fyvie, Senior Manager, Development (Place)
Iain McDonald, Senior Manager, Environment (Place)
Colin Bruce, Chief Education Officer (People)
Sharon Robertson, Chief Social Work Officer (People)
Veronica Cully, Senior Manager, Inclusion and Partnerships (People)
Adrienne Aitken, Senior Manager, ELC and Early Years (People)
Catriona Scott, Senior Manager, Secondary and Communities (People)
Robbie Stewart, Senior Manager, Sport and Leisure (People)
Gillian Scott, Senior Manager, Early Intervention (People) – via Teams
Derek Barr, Procurement Manager (Partnership & Performance)
Seonaid Scott, Health and Safety Manager (Partnership & Performance)
Alastair Hair, Team Leader, Workforce Development and Learning (Partnership &
Performance)
Sarah McPhee, Senior Internal Auditor, Falkirk Council
Wilson Lees, Homelessness and Supporting People Manager (Place)
Katie Roddie, Senior Housing Officer (Place)
Judi Richardson, Performance & Information Adviser (Partnership & Performance)
Chief Superintendent Barry Blair, Police Scotland
Chief Inspector Kat Thompson, Police Scotland
Lee Turnock, Local Senior Officer, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
James Traynor, Red Watch, Alloa Fire Station, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
Melanie Moore, Committee Services, Legal and Governance (Partnership & Performance)
Gillian White, Committee Services, Legal and Governance (Partnership & Performance)

AS(24)20 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Phil Fairlie, Councillor William Keogh
and Councillor Ellen Forson. Councillor Jane McTaggart acted as substitute for Councillor
Forson.

AS(24)21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

**AS(24)22 MINUTE OF AUDIT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON 8
FEBRUARY 2024**

The minutes of the meeting of the Audit and Scrutiny Committee held on Thursday 8 February 2024 were submitted for approval.

Councillor Coyne advised that there was an error at **AC(24)07** – the title of the report should be “Promise Plan (and Whole Family Wellbeing Fund) – Interim Update December 2023”

Decision

Subject to the above amendment, the minutes of the meeting of the Audit and Scrutiny Committee held on Thursday 8 February 2024 were agreed as a correct record by the Committee and signed off by the Vice Chair.

**AS(24)23 MINUTE OF AUDIT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON 7 MARCH
2024**

The minutes of the meeting of the Audit and Scrutiny Committee held on Thursday 7 March 2024 were submitted for approval.

Councillor Coyne advised that there was an error throughout the minute numbering, the Minute numbering having started at **AS(24)12**.

Decision

Subject to the above amendment, the minutes of the meeting of the Audit and Scrutiny Committee held on Thursday 7 March 2024 were agreed as a correct record by the Committee and signed off by the Vice Chair.

UPDATE: at the conclusion of the meeting, Committee Services advised that the numbering system for minute items, runs consecutively from 1 January to 31 December 2024 starting with AS(24)01.

**AS(24)24 POLICE PERFORMANCE REPORT FOR CLACKMANNANSHIRE APRIL
2023 TO SEPTEMBER 2023**

The report, submitted by the Local Police Commander, provided the Committee with information on the performance of Police Scotland in the Clackmannanshire local authority area for the period 1st April 2023 to 30th September 2023.

Motion

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

Moved by Councillor Denis Coyne. Seconded by Councillor Jane McTaggart.

Decision

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

AS(24)25 FIRE PERFORMANCE REPORT – QUARTER 1 & 2, 2023/24

The report, submitted by the Local Senior Officer, Clackmannanshire-Fife-Stirling LSO Area, provided committee with an overview of the half year performance of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) in Clackmannanshire covering the period 1st April 2023 to 30th September 2023. The report was based on performance against objectives and targets set out in the Local Fire and Rescue Plan for Clackmannanshire. Performance indicators were detailed in the summary report.

Motion

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

Moved by Councillor Denis Coyne. Seconded by Councillor Martha Benny.

Decision

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

AS(24)26 CLACKMANNANSHIRE LOCAL FIRE AND RESCUE PLAN REVIEW 2023

The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) is required under the Fire (Scotland) Act 2005, as amended by the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012, to prepare Local Fire and Rescue Plans for each local authority in Scotland.

The publication of the new Strategic Plan 2022-25 in October 2022 instigated a requirement to carry out a mandatory review of all Local Fire and Rescue Plans. This review provided information on performance against existing priorities, as well as highlighting areas for continued improvement and opportunities for change against the growing needs of communities. The review has now been undertaken and the report, submitted by Local Senior Officer, Clackmannanshire-Fife Stirling LSP Area, presented elected members with performance of SFRS against Local Priorities for the lifecycle of the current Fire and Rescue Local Plan.

Motion

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

Moved by Councillor Denis Coyne. Seconded by Councillor Martha Benny.

Decision

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

AS(24)27 PARTNERSHIP & PERFORMANCE: HALF YEAR 2023/24 BUSINESS PLAN UPDATE

Partnership & Performance delivers a diverse range of services, including a number of statutory and essential support functions. The report, submitted by the Strategic Director, Partnership and Performance, provided the Committee with an update on performance, risks and achievements, relating to the Business Plan 2023/24 agreed by Council in autumn 2023.

Motion

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

Moved by Councillor Denis Coyne. Seconded by Councillor Jane McTaggart.

Decision

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

AS(24)28 CORPORATE PERFORMANCE REPORT

The report, submitted by the Strategic Director, Partnership and Performance, presented a summary of key local demographics and Council performance data, up to and including the 2022/23 financial year, aligned to the current Statement of Corporate Priorities (2023/24). Appendix A formed part of the Council's statutory Public Performance Reporting (PPR) duties and, for each priority area, summarised relevant statistics and performance levels, including analysis, charts and detailed data tables.

Motion

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

Moved by Councillor Denis Coyne. Seconded by Councillor Martha Benny.

Decision

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

AS(24)29 HOMELESS PERFORMANCE UPDATE

The report, submitted by the Strategic Director, Place, provided an update to the Committee on Homelessness presentation rates and performance in managing such presentations. A further report on planned Homeless Prevention activity will be brought to Audit and Scrutiny Committee later in the year.

Motion

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

Moved by Councillor Denis Coyne. Seconded by Councillor Jane McTaggart.

Decision

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

1. The performance information contained within the report;
2. That to September 2023 the national statistics show an increase across Scotland in all key homeless indicators;
3. That homeless presentation rates in Clackmannanshire in 2023/24 have remained at a similar level to those in 2022-23;
4. That despite high presentation rates the proportion of households in temporary accommodation across Clackmannanshire is below the national average;
5. That the length of time which people have to spend in temporary accommodation within Clackmannanshire is below the national average; and
6. The increased pressures and demands on the service and the plan to provide members with an update on homeless prevention activity at the first Housing Performance Meeting to be held following recess.

AS(24)30 STAFF SURVEY 2023

The report, submitted by the Strategic Director, Partnership and Performance, provided the Audit & Scrutiny Committee with details of the 2023 Council-wide Staff Survey, and gave further information as to how results will be communicated, and used to inform future work.

Motion

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

Moved by Councillor Denis Coyne. Seconded by Councillor Martha Benny.

Decision

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

AS(24)31 HEALTH & SAFETY STRATEGY AND WELLBEING STRATEGY UPDATES

The report, submitted by the Health and Safety Manager, provided progress updates on the Health & Safety Strategy, agreed by Council on 6th October 2022, and the Wellbeing Strategy, agreed by Council on 1st December 2022.

Motion

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

Moved by Councillor Denis Coyne. Seconded by Councillor Jane McTaggart.

Decision

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

AS(24)32 EXTERNAL QUALITY ASSESSMENT OF INTERNAL AUDIT

The report, submitted by the Internal Audit Manager, provided the findings arising from a recent External Quality Assessment of the Internal Audit section's compliance with Public Sector Internal Audit Standards.

Motion

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

Moved by Councillor Denis Coyne. Seconded by Councillor Martha Benny.

Decision

The Committee agreed to:

1. Note the findings and action plan arising from the External Quality Assessment;
2. Takes reassurance from the overall conclusion that Clackmannanshire Council Internal Audit section fully conforms with Public Sector Internal Audit Standards; and
3. Record its thanks to the Chief Internal Auditor at Argyll and Bute Council for carrying out the assessment.

Action

Internal Audit Manager

AS(24)33 INTERNAL AUDIT PROGRESS REPORT

The report, submitted by the Internal Audit Manager, provided an update on progress with completion of the 2023/24 Internal Audit Plan.

Motion

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

Moved by Councillor Denis Coyne. Seconded by Councillor Jane McTaggart.

Decision

The Committee agreed to note the progress being made with completion of the 2023/24 Internal Audit Plan.

AS(24)34 EXCEPTIONS FROM THE APPLICATION OF CONTRACT STANDING ORDERS

It is a requirement of Contract Standing Orders that exceptions should be reported to the next available Audit & Scrutiny Committee. The report, submitted by the Strategic Director, Partnership and Performance, provided detail on Exceptions to Contract Standing Orders submitted in the previous quarter.

Motion

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

Moved by Councillor Denis Coyne. Seconded by Councillor Martha Benny.

Decision

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

Ends 1210hrs