



MINUTES OF MEETING of the AUDIT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE held in Council Chambers, Kilncraigs, Alloa on THURSDAY 12 DECEMBER 2024 at 9.30 AM.

PRESENT

Councillor Janine Rennie (Chair)
Councillor Donald Balsillie (S) (Teams from 10.41am)
Councillor Martha Benny
Councillor Denis Coyne
Councillor Kenneth Earle
Councillor Scott Harrison (S)
Councillor Bryan Quinn

IN ATTENDANCE

Chris Alliston, Strategic Director (Partnership & Performance)
Helena Arthur, Solicitor, Legal and Governance (Partnership & Performance) (Depute Clerk to the Committee)
Kevin Wells, Strategic Director (Place)
Lorraine Sanda, Strategic Director (People)
Sharon Robertson, Chief Social Work Officer (People)
Cherie Jarvie, Senior Manager, Partnership and Transformation (Partnership & Performance)
Lindsay Sim, Chief Finance Officer (Partnership & Performance)
Wendy Forrest, Head of Strategic Planning & Health Improvement
Nicola Mack, Chief Accountant (Partnership & Performance)
Lesley Baillie, Strategy & Performance Adviser (Partnership & Performance)
Alison Davidson, Economic Development Team Leader (Place)
Ali Hair, Senior Manager HR (Partnership & Performance)
Sarah Langsford, Senior Manager HR (Partnership and Performance)
Andrew Buchanan, Housing Operations Manager (Place) (Teams)
Melanie Moore, Committee Services, Legal and Governance (Partnership & Performance) (Minute)
Gillian White, Committee Services, Legal and Governance (Partnership & Performance)

ON TEAMS

Colin Bruce, Chief Education Officer (People)
Adrienne Aitken, Senior Manager, ELC and Early Years (People)
Margaret Lewis, Senior Manager, Care and Protection (People)
Michael Boyle, Improving Outcomes Business Manager (People)
Scott McDonald, Senior Manager, Justice Services (People) (Teams)
Johan Roddie, Senior Manager, Permanence (People)
Dale Bell, Solicitor, Legal & Governance (Partnership & Performance)
Gillian Scott, Senior Manager, Early Intervention (People)
Isabel Wright, Internal Audit Manager, Falkirk Council
Sarah McPhee, Senior Internal Auditor, Falkirk Council
Euan Murray, Chief Finance Officer, Clackmannanshire & Stirling Health and Social Care Partnership

AS(24)77 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Phil Fairlie, Councillor Ellen Forson and Councillor William Keogh. Councillor Scott Harrison was substituting for Councillor Ellen Forson and Councillor Donald Balsillie was substituting for Councillor Phil Fairlie.

AS(24)78 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

**AS(24)79 MINUTE OF AUDIT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON
24 OCTOBER 2024**

The minutes of the meeting of the Audit and Scrutiny Committee held on Thursday 24 October 2024 were submitted for approval.

Decision

Councillor Coyne noted on page 10 at the bottom of the page mentioned that “15 members remained present” this should read “5 members remained present”. With the amendment to the minutes, the minutes of the meeting of the Audit and Scrutiny Committee held on Thursday 24 October 2024 were agreed as a correct record by the Committee.

**AS(24)80 COUNCIL FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE 2024/25 AS AT SEPTEMBER
2024**

The report, submitted by the Chief Finance Officer, provided an update on the financial performance for the Council, as at September 2024, in respect of: the General Fund (GF) revenue and capital spend and the achievement of savings for the current financial year 2024/25 and the Clackmannanshire element of the Stirling & Clackmannanshire Health and Social Care Partnership (H&SCP) revenue spend.

Motion

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

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

Decision

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

1. The General Fund revenue forecasted overspend of £0.054m for the year to 31 March 2025;
2. The Clackmannanshire element of the Health and Social Care Partnership (H&SCP) forecasted overspend of £6.093m, for the year to 31 March 2025;
3. The balances of earmarked reserves held and used to date and remaining balances;
4. The General Fund Capital Programme forecasted to underspend by £(5.512)m, with proposed carry forward of £4.971m; and
5. The progress to date in delivering the £5.383m approved savings programme, currently forecast to achieve £4.841m, 90%, as at 31 March 2025.

Councillor Scott Harrison arrived during the above item (10.06 am)

AS(24)81 HRA FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE 2024/25 AS AT SEPTEMBER 2024

The report, submitted by the Chief Finance Officer, provided an update on the financial performance, as at September 2024, in respect of the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) revenue and capital spend, for the financial year, 2024/25.

Motion

That the Committee agrees the recommendations 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:

1. The HRA revenue forecasted surplus of £(4.288)m which is £(1.347)m greater than budgeted for the year to 31 March 2025;
2. The HRA Capital programme forecasted underspend of £(3.689)m, and
3. Note the adjustments to the HRA Revenue and Capital budgets approved by Council at the meeting on 28 November (para 5.3).

AS(24)82 ANNUAL REPORT TO THE CHIEF SOCIAL WORK OFFICER 2023-2024

The report, submitted by the Chief Social Work Officer, presented the Chief Social Work Officer (CSWO) Annual Report reflecting the reporting period 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024 (attached as Appendix 1).

Motion

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

Moved by Councillor Janine Rennie. Seconded by Councillor Kenneth Earle.

Decision

Having scrutinised the report the Committee agreed to:

1. Note and endorse the content of the Chief Social Work Officer Annual Report 2023-24;
2. Approve its submission to the Office of the Chief Social Work Officer Advisor to the Scottish Government.

AS(24)83 HSCP – CLACKMANNANSHIRE LOCALITY PERFORMANCE REPORT 2024/25 Q1 & Q2 (APRIL TO SEPTEMBER)

The report, submitted by the Head of Strategic Planning and Health Improvement, highlighted the work and performance of the Clackmannanshire and Stirling Health and Social Care Partnership in relation to performance for the locality of Clackmannanshire.

Motion

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

Moved by Councillor Janine Rennie. Seconded by Councillor Kenneth Earle.

Decision

The Committee agreed to:

1. Note the paper and the continuing work being undertaken across Clackmannanshire;
2. Note the performance of Clackmannanshire Locality with the Clackmannanshire & Stirling HSCP.

AS(24)84 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

The report, submitted by the Strategic Director, Place, updated Committee on the range of work being undertaken within the Economic Development Team and to highlight the collaborative and partnership working across both internal and external services, demonstrating how these activities align with Council priorities and contribute to strategic outcomes. (Team structure, Case studies, employability data (including feedback on Clackmannanshire Works service), UK Shared Prosperity Fund information and an Employability System map are provided in Appendices 1-5).

Motion

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

Moved by Councillor Janine Rennie. Seconded by Councillor Bryan Quinn.

Decision

Having commented on the report and provided feedback on activity, outcome and work being undertaken, the Committee agreed to note the contents of the report.

In line with Standing Order 10.23, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 11.27 am for a short comfort break. When the meeting resumed at 11.42 am, 6 members were present. Councillor Earle left during the break and Councillor Balsillie joined the meeting on MS Teams.

AS(24)85 COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT ACT ANNUAL REPORT (PARTICIPATION REQUESTS AND ASSET TRANSFER) AND PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING PERFORMANCE REPORT

The Council is required under the terms of the Community Empowerment Act (Scotland) 2015 to produce an annual report on Community Asset Transfer Requests and Participation Requests. The report, submitted by the Strategic Director, Place, outlined the Council's performance against its Participatory Budgeting ambition. The report details the activities for the Council for the reporting year 1 April 2023 – 31 March 2024.

Motion

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

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

Decision

The Committee agreed to note the report and accompanying appendices.

AS(24)86 ANNUAL COMPLAINTS REPORT 2024/24

The report, submitted by the Senior Manager, Legal and Governance, presented an overview of performance in relation to complaints handling during the year 2023/24.

Motion

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

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

Decision

Having challenged and commented on the report, the Committee agreed to note the performance of Council services in handling complaints.

AS(24)87 INTERIM WORKFORCE STRATEGY UPDATE

The report, submitted by the Senior Manager, HR and Workforce Development (Acting), provided Committee with a progress update on the actions contained within the agreed Interim Workforce Strategy 2023-25.

Motion

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

Moved by Councillor Janine Rennie. Seconded by Councillor Coyne.

Decision

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

AS(24)88 REDEPLOYMENT UPDATE

The report, submitted by the Senior Manager, HR and Workforce Development (Acting), provided the Committee with an update on progress regarding the revised Redeployment process which was agreed by Council in November 2023.

Motion

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

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

Decision

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

AS(24)89 AUDIT & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT FOLLOW UP

This report, submitted by the Strategic Director, Partnership and Performance, presented to Committee the 2023/2024 Audit and Scrutiny Annual Report.

The Strategic Director, Partnership and Performance advised that there were a couple of errors within the report. At 3.5 on page 186 was put in error and on 8.1 in the appendix on page 195 should read quarterly.

Motion

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

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

Decision

Having challenged and commented on the report, the Committee agreed to note the report, also agreed to submit its Annual Report 2023/2024 (Appendix A) to the next available Council meeting for comment, challenge and approval.

Ends 12:36hrs