



**MINUTES OF MEETING of the AUDIT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE held in Council
Chambers, Kilncraigs, Alloa on THURSDAY 6 FEBRUARY 2025 at 9.30 AM.**

PRESENT

Councillor Janine Rennie (Chair)
Councillor Denis Coyne
Councillor Kenneth Earle
Councillor Ellen Forson

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)
Cherie Jarvie, Senior Manager, Partnership and Transformation (Partnership & Performance)
Lindsay Sim, Chief Finance Officer (Partnership & Performance)
Colin Bruce, Chief Education Officer (People)
Veronica Cully, Senior Manager, Inclusion and Partnership (People)
Adrienne Aitken, Senior Manager, ELC and Early Years (People)
Wendy Forrest, Head of Strategic Planning & Health Improvement
Nicola Mack, Chief Accountant (Partnership & Performance)
Murray Sharp, Senior Manager, Housing (Place)
Robbie Stewart, Senior Manager, Sport and Leisure (People)
Michael Boyle, Improving Outcomes Business Manager (People)
Ali Hair, Senior Manager HR (Partnership & Performance)
Johan Roddie, Senior Manager, Permanence (People)
Gillian Scott, Senior Manager, Early Intervention (People)
Joanna McDonald, Interim Chief Officer for Clackmannanshire and Stirling Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP)
Euan Murray, Chief Finance Officer, Clackmannanshire & Stirling Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP)
Lawrence Hunter, Energy and Sustainability Strategy Officer (Place)
Dawn Brisbane, Team Leader, Environmental Health (Place)
Sarah Goldberg, Team Leader, Legal and Governance (Partnership & Performance)
Lesley Taylor, Principal Psychologist (People)
Fiona Grinly, Strategy and Performance Adviser (Partnership & Performance)
Melanie Moore, Committee Services, Legal and Governance (Partnership & Performance) (Minute)
Gillian White, Committee Services, Legal and Governance (Partnership & Performance)

ON TEAMS

Sharon Robertson, Chief Social Work Officer (People)
Margaret Lewis, Senior Manager, Care and Protection (People)
Scott McDonald, Senior Manager, Justice Services (People)
Alison Morrison, Senior Manager, Property (Place)
Iain McDonald, Senior Manager, Environment (Place)
Isabel Wright, Internal Audit Manager, Falkirk Council
Judi Richardson, Performance and Information Adviser (Partnership & Performance)
Rebecca McConnachie, External Auditor, Deloitte

The Chair welcomed Joanna MacDonald, the new Interim Chief Officer for HSCP to her first meeting of the Audit and Scrutiny Committee.

AS(25)01 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Benny, Councillor Phil Fairlie, Councillor William Keogh and Councillor Quinn.

AS(25)02 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

**AS(25)03 MINUTE OF AUDIT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON
12 DECEMBER 2024**

The minutes of the meeting of the Audit and Scrutiny Committee held on Thursday 12 December 2024 were submitted for approval.

Decision

The minutes of the meeting of the Audit and Scrutiny Committee held on Thursday 12 December 2024 were agreed as a correct record by the Committee.

AS(25)04 CORPORATE RISK REGISTER

The report, submitted by the Senior Manager, Partnership and Transformation, provided Committee with the 2024/25 quarter 3 update on Clackmannanshire Council's Corporate Risk Register (Appendix A).

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 report.

AS(25)05 INTERNAL AUDIT PROGRESS REPORT

The report, submitted by the Internal Audit Manager, provided Committee with an update on progress with completion of the 2024/25 Internal Audit Plan.

Motion

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

Moved by Councillor Janine Rennie. Seconded by Councillor Ellen Forson.

Decision

The Committee agreed to note:

1. The progress being made with completion of the 2024/25 Internal Audit Plan;

2. The additional audit work undertaken in Audit Social Care which may impact on completion of the 2024/25 Internal Audit Plan, and
3. The action taken to kickstart the National Fraud Initiative 2024/25 Exercise, with future updates being provided to this Committee.

AS(25)06 INTERNAL AUDIT ACTIONS – PROGRESS REPORT

The report, submitted by the Strategic Director, Partnership and Performance, provided the Committee with a progress update on actions arising from previous Internal Audit reports.

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(25)07 CLACKMANNANSHIRE AND STIRLING INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT 2023-2024

The Integration Joint Board has a statutory responsibility to ensure effective performance monitoring and reporting of all services delegated in the Health and Social Care Partnership. The Health and Social Care Partnership is the delivery vehicle for the community health and social care work/care services delegated by NHS Forth Valley, Clackmannanshire Council and Stirling Council.

Under the Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014 Section 42 the Integration Authority must produce an Annual Performance Report (APR) for the reporting period, in this case 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024. The report must be published by 31 July.

This report, submitted by the Head of Strategic Planning and Health Improvement, offered assurance that the Integration Joint Board continues to fulfil its ongoing responsibility to ensure effective monitoring and reporting on the delivery of services and relevant targets and measures included in the delegated functions, and as set out in the current Strategic Commissioning Plan.

Motion

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

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

Decision

The Committee agreed to note the Annual Performance Report 2023-24 and to note that this has been published on the Partnership website as required.

AS(25)08 EXTERNAL AUDIT RECOMMENDATIONS: PROGRESS REPORT

The report, submitted by the Strategy and Performance Adviser, provided the Committee with a six-monthly update on progress of new and ongoing improvement actions against recommendations made by external auditors from their review of Council's Financial Statements up to and including 2022/23 and from a Best Value themed audit 2022/23.

Motion

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

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

Decision

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

AS(25)09 PARTNERSHIP AND PERFORMANCE : 2024/2025 HALF YEAR BUSINESS PLAN UPDATE

The report, submitted by the Strategic Director, Partnership and Performance, updated the Committee on the half year progress of the 2024/2025 Partnership and Performance Business Plan.

Motion

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

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

Decision

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

AS(25)10 INTERIM REPORT – PEOPLE COMMUNITY WELLBEING PLAN 2024-25

Lorraine Sanda, Strategic Director, People advised a typographical error on first page of the report. It should recommend that Committee comment and challenge the report rather than approve to Council.

The report, submitted by the Strategic Director, People, updated the Committee on progress with the People Community Wellbeing Plan for 2024-25, which was approved by Clackmannanshire Council on 29 August 2024. This approach is designed to streamline reporting by presenting a single, unified report that reflects the integrated nature of these services and the collaborative work of the respective partnerships. It was agreed and recommended by Council to write to Scottish Government to propose that this approach is adopted. Since then the relevant Directors at Scottish Government have given their approval and agree that this approach could contribute to Public Sector Reform by identifying cross directorate solutions, pooling of resources and improved allocation of funding, alongside better data and evidence gathering.

Motion

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

Moved by Councillor Ellen Forson. Seconded by Councillor Janine Rennie.

Decision

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

In line with Standing Order 10.23, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 11.52 am for a short comfort break. When the meeting resumed at 12.04 pm, 4 members were present.

AS(25)11 PLACE: 2023/24 YEAR END BUSINESS PLAN UPDATE

The report, submitted by the Strategic Director, Place, updated Committee on the year-end status of the 2023/24 Place Business Plan.

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(25)12 REDEPLOYMENT UPDATE

The report, submitted by the Strategic Director, Place, informed Committee of the outcome of an internal audit process recently carried out on the Council's Public Body Climate Change Duties Annual Report 2023/24 and to set out actions that are being taken to address issues raised by the audit process.

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 contents of the internal audit report on Clackmannanshire Council's progress in delivering its climate change duties (Appendix 1 – Internal Audit report), as delivered to the Scottish Government, and
2. Support the recommendations to improve performance and reporting, including those from Internal Audit as set out in paragraph 4.6 in report.

AS(25)13 ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH OFFICAL FOOD CONTROL PROGRESS REPORT

This report, submitted by the Strategic Director, Place, presented an overview of the progress the Council's Official Food Control Service Plan, April 2024 to March 2025 (appendix 1), submitted to Food Standards for review in August 2024.

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 the Council's food law regulation service.

Ends 12:56hrs

