



**MINUTES OF MEETING of the AUDIT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE held in Council  
Chambers, Kilncraigs, Alloa on THURSDAY 17 APRIL 2025 at 9.30 AM.**

**PRESENT**

Councillor Janine Rennie (Chair)  
Councillor Denis Coyne (Vice Chair)  
Councillor Martha Benny  
Councillor Kenneth Earle (Teams)  
Councillor Phil Fairlie  
Councillor William Keogh  
Councillor Jane McTaggart (S)

**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)  
Sharon Robertson, Chief Social Work 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  
Michael Boyle, Improving Outcomes Business Manager (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)  
Sarah Goldberg, Team Leader, Legal and Governance (Partnership & Performance)  
Lee Robertson, Senior Manager, Legal and Governance (Partnership & Performance)  
Lesley Taylor, Principal Psychologist (People)  
Sarah Langsford, Senior Manager, HR and Workforce Development (Acting) (P&P)  
Andrew Buchanan, Housing Operations Manager (Place)  
Chief Superintendent Roddy Irvine, Police Scotland  
Chief Inspector Kat Thompson, Police Scotland  
Rachel Rogers, Station Commander, Alloa Fire Station, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service  
David Scott, Station Manager, Alloa Fire Station, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service  
Melanie Moore, Committee Services, Legal and Governance (Partnership & Performance) (Minute)  
Gillian White, Committee Services, Legal and Governance (Partnership & Performance)

**ON TEAMS**

Elizabeth Hutcheon, Management Accountancy Team Leader (Partnership & Performance)  
Donna Tierney, Accountant (Partnership & Performance)  
Scott McDonald, Senior Manager, Justice Services (People)  
Rebecca McConnachie, External Auditor, Deloitte

**AS(25)14      APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Forson, Councillor McTaggart attended today as substitute for Councillor Forson.

**AS(25)15        DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

**AS(25)16        MINUTE OF AUDIT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON  
6 FEBRUARY 2025**

The minutes of the meeting of the Audit and Scrutiny Committee held on Thursday 6 February 2025 were submitted for approval.

**Decision**

The minutes of the meeting of the Audit and Scrutiny Committee held on Thursday 6 February 2025 were agreed as a correct record by the Committee and signed off by the Chair.

**AS(25)17        POLICE PERFORMANCE REPORT FOR CLACKMANNANSHIRE APRIL  
2024 TO SEPTEMBER 2024**

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 April 2024 to September 2024.

The report aligned with the headings of the priorities Clackmannanshire - Police Scotland (i.e. Responsive to the concerns of our communities, Enhancing our collective resilience to emerging threats, protecting people most at risk from harm and Promoting confidence through our actions Road Safety and Road Crime).

The Clackmannanshire Police Performance Report (Appendix 1) contains the current information on performance against selected performance indicators. This report provided complementary information to that in the table to present a summary of performance of policing in Clackmannanshire Council area and also identified emerging trends, threats and issues.

Data for the report is sourced from Police Databases that are subject to changes as enquiries progress. They can be best regarded as Point in Time figures. 3 year average figures were not available for all measures. The information in the table should be regarded as provisional.

**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, scrutinised and commented on the report, the Committee agreed to note the report.

**AS(25)18        FIRE PERFORMANCE REPORT – ANNUAL (1ST APRIL – 31ST MARCH)  
2024/25**

The report, submitted by the Local Senior Officer, Clackmannanshire, Fife and Stirling, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, provided committee with an overview of the year performance of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) in Clackmannanshire covering the period 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025. The report (Appendix One) is based on performance against objectives and targets set out in the Local Fire and Rescue Plan for Clackmannanshire. Performance indicators are detailed in the summary report.

The SFRS are pleased to introduce a new report template which provides the committee with additional information relating to the local area. The report is an interim 12 month report which will be updated and brought back to the committee later in 2025 once the data is ratified (Q4 data).

### **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 scrutinised the report, the Committee agreed to note the report.

## **AS(25)19 HSCP JOINT INSPECTION IMPROVEMENT PLAN**

This report, submitted by the Interim Chief Officer, presented to Committee the Improvement Plan following the joint inspection examining the provision of services for and lived experience of adults living with mental health illness and their unpaid carers, which took place between April 2024 and September 2024. Stirling Council is responsible for the operational management of all social work and social care services and is directed to do so by Clackmannanshire and Stirling Integration Joint Board ("IJB") who approved the Improvement Plan on 29 January 2025.

The Improvement Plan is being presented for noting and assurance.

### **Motion**

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

Moved by Councillor Janine Rennie. Seconded by Councillor Jane McTaggart.

### **Decision**

The Committee agreed to:

1. Note the contents of the Improvement Plan.
2. Note and be assured that the inspection process has been completed, and an Improvement Plan has been developed and submitted to the Care Inspectorate, at their request.
3. Note that actions are being progressed as per Improvement Plan through the Inspection Steering Group, which is attended from senior managers within the Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) as well as Chief Social Work officers from both Councils.

## **AS(25)20 2023/24 CORPORATE PERFORMANCE**

This report, submitted by the Senior Manager, Partnership & Transformation, presented a summary of key local demographics and Council performance data up to 2023.24 financial year, aligned to the Statement of Corporate Priorities. Appendix A form part of the Council's statutory duties for Public Performance Reporting (PPR) and, for each priority area, summaries relevant statistics and performance levels, including data tables, analysis and management commentary. Statutory PPR duties are changing from 2025/26 and amendments to reporting processes are currently being planned to ensure adherence and ongoing improvement.

### **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 the report, the Committee agreed to note the report.

## **AS(25)21      STAFF SURVEY 2024**

This report, submitted by the Acting Senior Manager, HR & Workforce Development, provided Committee with details of the 2024 Council-wide Staff Survey, and gives information as to how results will be communicated, and used to inform future work.

### **Motion**

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

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

### **Decision**

The Committee agreed to:

1. Note the results of the survey attached at Annex A;
2. Agree the move to bi-annual survey process.

### **Action**

Senior Manager, HR & Workforce Development

*The Chair adjourned the meeting at 12.07 am for a lunch break. When the meeting resumed at 12.45 am, 6 members remained present. Councillor Earle had left the meeting during the lunch break.*

## **AS(25)22      COUNCIL FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE 2024/25 AS AT DECEMBER 2024**

This report, submitted by the Chief Financial Officer, provided an update on the financial performance for the Council as at December 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 and Clackmannanshire Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) 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 underspend of £(2.431)m for the year to 31 March 2025, including £(0.945)m to be earmarked and carried forward to 2025/26;
2. The Clackmannanshire element of the Health and Social Care Partnership (H&SCP) forecasted overspend of 5.686m 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 £(10.020)m, with proposed carry forward of £8.906m; and
5. The progress to date in delivering the £5.383m approved savings programme, currently forecast to achieve £4.896m, 90.0%, as at 31 March 2025.

#### **AS(25)23      HRA FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE 2024/25 AS AT DECEMBER 2024**

This report, submitted by the Chief Finance Officer, provided an update on the financial performance, as at December 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 Jane McTaggart.

##### **Decision**

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

1. The HRA revenue forecasted surplus of £(4.195)m which is £(1.258)m greater than budgeted for the year to 31 March 2025; and
2. The HRA Capital programme forecasted underspend of £(5.741)m,

#### **AS(25)24      TREASURY MANAGEMENT QUARTERLY UPDATE TO 31 DECEMBER 2024**

This report, submitted by the Chief Finance Officer, presented to Committee an update of Treasury Management activity for the first 3 quarters of the 2024/25 financial year 1<sup>st</sup> April to 31<sup>st</sup> December 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 on the review of the Council's Treasury Management activities.

#### **AS(25)25      ANNUAL FRAUD RISK ASSESSMENT AND ASSURANCE REPORT**

Clackmannanshire Council recognises that its responsibility to ensure the public finances it administers are used efficiently, effectively and for the purposes they were intended. The

Council recognises that it is vulnerable to fraud and corruption and, in the current economic climate, acknowledges the increased risk posed by such illegal activities against valuable public fund.

**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)26      CORPORATE RISK REGISTER**

The report, submitted by the Senior Manager, Partnership and Transformation, provided Committee with the 2024/25 year end 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 Phil Fairlie.

**Decision**

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

**AS(25)27      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 purpose of the report, submitted by the Strategic Director, Partnership and Performance, was to provide detail on any 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 Janine Rennie. Seconded by Councillor Martha Benny.

**Decision**

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

Ends 14:18hrs