



**MINUTES OF MEETING of the AUDIT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE held in VIA MS TEAMS  
on THURSDAY 30 OCTOBER 2025 at 9.30 AM.**

**PRESENT**

Councillor Janine Rennie (Chair)  
Councillor Denis Coyne (Vice Chair)  
Councillor Kenneth Earle  
Councillor Ellen Forson  
Councillor Scott Harrison (S)

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Chris Alliston, Strategic Director (Partnership & Performance)  
Helena Arthur, Solicitor, Legal and Governance (Partnership & Performance) (Depute Clerk to the Committee)  
Colin Bruce, Chief Education Officer (People)  
Michael Boyle, Improving Outcomes Business Manager (People)  
Andrew Buchanan, Housing Operations Manager (Place)  
Derek Barr, Procurement Manager (Partnership & Performance)  
Des Donnelly, Group Commander, Alloa Fire Station, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service  
Sarah Goldberg, Team Leader, Legal and Governance (Partnership & Performance)  
Alastair Hair, Senior Manager HR (Partnership & Performance)  
Chief Superintendent Roddy Irvine (Police Scotland)  
Cherie Jarvie, Senior Manager, Partnership and Transformation (Partnership & Performance)  
Nicola Mack, Chief Accountant (Partnership & Performance)  
Phil Mason, External Auditor, Deloitte  
Joanna McDonald, Interim Chief Officer (Clackmannanshire and Stirling Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP))  
Scott McDonald, Senior Manager, Justice Services (People)  
Sarah McPhee, Senior Internal Auditor, Falkirk Council  
Melanie Moore, Committee Services, Legal and Governance (Partnership & Performance)  
Terry O'Gorman, Locality Manager Stirling (HSCP)  
Sharon Robertson, Chief Social Work Officer (People)  
Wendy Robertson, Senior Manager (Transformation & Capital)  
Gillian Scott, Senior Manager, Early Intervention (People)  
Seonaid Scott, Health and Safety Manager (Partnership & Performance)  
Lindsay Sim, Chief Finance Officer (Partnership & Performance)  
David Small, Station Commander, Alloa Fire Station (Scottish Fire and Rescue Service)  
Chief Inspector Garry Smith (Police Scotland)  
Kevin Wells, Strategic Director (Place)  
Gillian White, Committee Services, Legal and Governance (Partnership & Performance) (Minute)  
Louise Wright-Babcock, Account Assistant (Partnership & Performance)  
Jim Young, Child Protection Lead Officer (People)

**AS(25)51 APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Martha Benny, Councillor Phil Fairlie, Councillor William Keogh and Councillor Bryan Quinn. Councillor Scott Harrison attended as substitute for Councillor Fairlie.

**AS(25)52 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

**AS(25)53      MINUTE OF AUDIT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON  
28 AUGUST 2025**

The minutes of the meeting of the Audit and Scrutiny Committee held on Thursday 28 August 2025 were submitted for approval.

**Decision**

The minutes of the meeting of the Audit and Scrutiny Committee held on Thursday 28 August 2025 were agreed as a correct record by the Committee and signed off by the Chair.

**AS(25)54      POLICE PERFORMANCE REPORT FOR CLACKMANNANSHIRE APRIL  
2024 TO MARCH 2025**

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 2024 to 31st March 2025.

Chief Inspector Garry Smith advised that he is the new Local Area Commander and acknowledged the work of Chief Inspector Kat Thomson following her move to a role in Stirling.

The Chief Inspector advised that there was a typographical error on page 32 of the agenda (page 16 of the report) relating to priority routes. He clarified that the reference to Devon Road is not Clackmannanshire, it should be the B913 at Dollar. It was classed as the wrong area, and he confirmed that it does remain a priority for Police Scotland.

The report is 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) contained the current information on performance against selected performance indicators. The 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 was sourced from Police Databases that are subject to changes as enquiries progress. They can be best regarded as Point in Time figures. 5-year average figures are 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 Ellen Forson.

**Decision**

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

**AS(25)55      FIRE PERFORMANCE REPORT – 6 MONTH (Q1 AND Q2 2025/26)**

The report, submitted by the Local Senior Officer, Clackmannanshire, Fife and Stirling, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, provided Committee with an overview of performance of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) in Clackmannanshire covering the period 1st April 2025 to 30th September 2025. The report (Appendix One) 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.

The Group Commander advised that there was a typographical error on page 55 of the agenda. Where it states, “Clackmannanshire recorded 69 Deliberate Fires”, the period is noted as being “within the last 12-month period”. This should read “within the last 6-month period”.

**Motion**

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

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

**Decision**

Having scrutinised the report, the Committee agreed to note the report.

**AS(25)56      ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF SOCIAL WORK OFFICER 2024-25**

The report, submitted by the Chief Social Work Officer, presented the Chief Social Work Officer (CSWO) Annual Report reflecting the reporting period 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025 As set out in Appendix 1 of the report.

*At the conclusion of questions on the report, during a response from the Chief Education Officer, the Strategic Director (Partnership & Performance) advised that Councillor Coyne had appeared to leave the meeting. As a consequence, the meeting was no longer quorate as the quorum requires 50% of the attendees to be from opposition groups. The Chair agreed to adjourn the meeting at 11.25 am to allow Councillor Coyne the opportunity to re-join the meeting.*

*The meeting resumed at 11.38 am with 5 members remaining present, including Councillor Coyne and the Chief Education Officer concluded his response to questions.*

**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 noted the content of the Chief Social Work Officer Annual Report 2024-25 which will subsequently be submitted to the Office of the Chief Social Work Advisor to the Scottish Government.

**AS(25)57      HEALTH AND SAFETY ANNUAL REPORT 2024/25**

This report, submitted by the Health and Safety Manager, provided the 2024/25 annual report on Health & Safety performance across the Council.

**Motion**

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

Moved by Councillor Janine Rennie. Seconded by Councillor Scott Harrison.

**Decision**

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

**AS(25)58      REGULATION OF INVESTIGATORY POWERS (SCOTLAND) ACT 2000**

The report, submitted by the Senior Manager, Legal and Governance, provide an update to Committee on the Council's use of The Regulation of Investigatory Powers (Scotland) Act 2000 (RIPSA) during the period March 2024 to April 2025.

**Motion**

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

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

**Decision**

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

**AS(25)59      PROCURMENT 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 & Performance), updated the Committee on key procurement activity and statistical performance during the financial year 2024-25 and provided an overview of the resources that are available to deliver effective procurement.

**Motion**

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

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

**Decision**

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

## **AS(25)60      AUDIT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT**

The report, submitted by the Strategic Director (Partnership & Performance), presented the 2024/2025 Audit and Scrutiny Committee Annual Report.

### **Motion**

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

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

### **Decision**

Having noted, challenged and comment on the report, the Committee agreed:

1. To submit its Annual Report 2024/2025 as set out in Appendix A to the next available Council meeting for comment, challenge and approval.

### **Action**

Strategic Director (Partnership & Performance)

## **AS(25)61      COUNCIL FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE 2025/26 AS AT JUNE 2025**

This report, submitted by the Chief Finance Officer, provided an update on the financial performance for the Council, as at 30 June 2025, in respect of: the General Fund (GF) revenue and capital spend and the achievement of savings for the financial year 2025/26, 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 Kenneth Earle.

### **Decision**

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

1. The General Fund revenue forecast underspend of £(0.422)m for the year to 31 March 2026;
2. The Clackmannanshire element of the Health and Social Care Partnership (H&SCP) forecast overspend of £6.928m, for the year to 31 March 2026;
3. The balances of earmarked reserves held and used to date and remaining balances at 30 June 2025;
4. The General Fund Capital Programme forecast underspend of £(5.191)m; and
5. The forecast delivery of £3.116m of the £3.814m approved savings programme, representing a forecasted achievement of 81.7%, as at 30 June 2025.

## **AS(25)62      HRA FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE 2025/26 AS AT JUNE 2025**

The report, submitted by the Chief Finance Officer, provided an update on the financial performance, as at 30 June 2025, in respect of the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) revenue and capital spend for the financial year 2025/26.

### **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 challenged and commented on the report, the Committee:

1. Noted the HRA revenue forecasted surplus of £(5,045)m which is £(0.389)m greater than budgeted for the year to 31 March 2026;
2. Noted the HRA Capital programme forecast underspend of £(1.275)m;
3. Noted and recommended for Council approval, the request to vire £0.450m from the safe electrical testing programme to the window replacement programme (paragraph 5.2 of the report); and
4. Noted the findings of the review of the Capital 2023/24 overspend position and improvement actions which have been put in place (paragraph 5.3-5.6).

### **Action**

Strategic Director (Partnership & Performance)

## **AS(25)63      INTERNAL AUDIT PROGRESS REPORT**

This report, submitted by the Internal Audit Manager, provided an update on progress with completion of the 2024/25 and 2025/26 Internal Audit Plans. The report also set out the work required to demonstrate compliance with the Global Internal Audit Standards.

### **Motion**

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

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

### **Decision**

The Committee:

1. Noted the completion of the 2024/25 Internal Audit Plan and progress with completion of the 2025/26 Internal Audit Plan; and
2. The update relating to the work on compliance with the Global Internal Audit Standards.

Ends 12:56 hrs