



MINUTES OF MEETING of the CLACKMANNANSHIRE COUNCIL held in the Council Chamber, Kilncraigs, Alloa, on Thursday 23 March 2023 at 9.30 am.

PRESENT

Councillor Phil Fairlie, Convener (Chair)
Councillor Donald Balsillie
Councillor Martha Benny
Councillor Denis Coyne
Councillor Kenneth Earle
Councillor Ellen Forson
Councillor Wendy Hamilton
Councillor William Keogh
Councillor Fiona Law
Councillor Darren Lee
Councillor Graham Lindsay
Councillor Kathleen Martin
Councillor Mark McLuckie
Councillor Jane McTaggart
Councillor Janine Rennie
Councillor Bryan Quinn
Rev Sang Y Cha, Religious Representative (Item 10)

IN ATTENDANCE

Nikki Bridle, Chief Executive
Stuart Crickmar, Strategic Director (Partnership and Performance)
Lorraine Sanda, Strategic Director (People)
Pete Leonard, Strategic Director (Place)
Annemargaret Black, Chief Officer, Health and Social Care Partnership
Lindsay Sim, Chief Finance Officer (Partnership & Performance)
Colin Bruce, Chief Education Officer (People)
Chris Alliston, Senior Manager, HR and Workforce Development (Partnership & Performance)
Cherie Jarvie, Senior Manager, Partnership & Transformation (Partnership & Performance)
Lee Robertson, Senior Manager, Legal and Governance (Partnership & Performance) (Clerk to the Council)
Elizabeth Hutcheon, Management Accountancy Team Leader (Partnership & Performance)
Tony Cain, Senior Manager – Housing (Place)
Kate Fleming, Senior Housing Strategy Officer
Emma Fyvie, Senior Manager – Development (Place)
Murray Sharp, Senior Manager – Housing (Place)
Robbie Stewart, Senior Manager, Sport and Leisure (People)
Paul Morris, Economic Development Strategy Officer (Place)
Veronica Cully, Partnership and Inclusion Manager (People)
Carolyn Wyllie, Health and Social Care Partnership
Gregory Oduor, Deloitte (External Audit)
Martin Devenny, Audit Scotland (External Audit)
Mark Ferris, Audit Scotland (External Audit)
Gillian White, Committee Services (Partnership & Performance)

The Convener announced that former Provost, Robert Elder, had recently passed away and expressed his sympathies for family and friends of Mr Elder. The Council stood for a minutes silence as a mark of respect for Mr Elder.

CC(23)24 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor Scott Harrison, Councillor Craig Holden and Mr George Marcinkiewicz, Religious Representative.

CC(23)25 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

CC(23)26 MINUTES OF CLACKMANNANSHIRE COUNCIL – 2 FEBRUARY 2023

The minutes of the meeting of the Clackmannanshire Council held on 2 February 2023 were submitted for approval.

Decision

The minutes of the meeting of the Clackmannanshire Council held on 2 February 2023 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Convener.

CC(23)27 MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING OF CLACKMANNANSHIRE COUNCIL – 16 FEBRUARY 2023

The minutes of the special meeting of the Clackmannanshire Council held on 16 February 2023 were submitted for approval.

Decision

The minutes of the special meeting of the Clackmannanshire Council held on 16 February 2023 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Convener.

CC(23)28 MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING OF CLACKMANNANSHIRE COUNCIL – 7 MARCH 2023

The minutes of the special meeting of the Clackmannanshire Council held on 7 March 2023 were submitted for approval.

Decision

The minutes of the special meeting of the Clackmannanshire Council held on 7 March 2023 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Convener.

CC(23)29 MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING OF CLACKMANNANSHIRE COUNCIL – 9 MARCH 2023

The minutes of the special meeting of the Clackmannanshire Council held on 9 March 2023 were submitted for approval.

Decision

The minutes of the special meeting of the Clackmannanshire Council held on 9 March 2023 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Convener.

CC(23)30 APPOINTMENTS FOR (A) VICE CONVENER OF THE REGULATORY COMMITTEE; AND (B) COSLA CONVENTION

The report, submitted by the Chief Executive, asked Council to consider the appointments detailed in the Recommendations at paragraph 2 following the decision of elected members stepping down from these roles.

Motion

To agree the recommendations set out in the report.

Moved by Councillor Ellen Forson. Seconded by Councillor Graham Lindsay.

Councillor Kathleen Martin nominated Councillor Kenneth Earle as the Vice Convener of the Regulatory Committee. There being no other nominations, Councillor Earle was duly appointed.

Councillor Kenneth Earle advised that the Labour Group would appoint a Labour Group Member as the Council's Representative on the CoSLA Convention following a meeting of the Labour Group AGM to be held on 3rd April 2023. In the interim, Councillor Kenneth Earle will attend the meeting of the CoSLA Convention scheduled for 27th March 2023. The new appointment will be advised to Council.

Decision

The Council agreed to:

1. Appoint Councillor Kenneth Earle from the current membership of the Regulatory Committee to undertake the role of Vice Convenor;
2. Note that the Labour Group will appoint a Labour Group Member as the Council's Representative on the CoSLA Convention following a meeting of the Labour Group AGM to be held on 3rd April 2023. In the interim, Councillor Kenneth Earle will attend the meeting of the CoSLA Convention scheduled for 27th March 2023. The new appointment will be advised to Council; and
3. Note the amended political balance of the Council as a result of the recent resignation of an elected member from the SNP Group as detailed in paragraph 3.4;

Action

Chief Executive

CC(23)31 AUDITED ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2021/22

The report, submitted by the Chief Finance Officer, provided the council with the Audited Annual Accounts for the Council for the financial year 2021/22 to 31 March 2022. The report highlighted the material changes that have been made to the draft annual accounts during the audit period.

Motion

To agree the recommendations set out in the report.

Moved by Councillor Ellen Forson. Seconded by Councillor Graham Lindsay.

Decision

The Council agreed to:

1. Approve the 2021/22 Audited Annual Accounts;
2. Approve the submission of the Annual Accounts to the Controller of Audit, and
3. Note the contents of the report.

Action

Chief Finance Officer

CC(23)32 ANNUAL REPORT TO THOSE CHARGED WITH GOVERNANCE AND THE FINANCIAL CONTROLLER OF AUDIT FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2021/22

The report, submitted by the Chief Finance Officer, set out the findings arising from the work carried out by the External Auditors on the Audit of the 2021/22 Financial Statements.

Mark Ferris, Audit Scotland (External Audit) was in attendance to present the Auditor's report.

Motion

To agree the recommendations set out in the report.

Moved by Councillor Ellen Forson. Seconded by Councillor Graham Lindsay.

Decision

The Council agreed to:

1. Note the content of the Independent Auditor's Report (Appendix 1);
2. Approve the content of the Letter of Representation (ISA 580), (Appendix 1) and
3. Note the content of the Annual Audit Report, the recommendations for improvement and the follow up on prior year recommendations (Appendix 2).

Action

Chief Finance Officer

CC(23)33 NON-DOMESTIC RATES - EMPTY PROPERTY RELIEF

The existing reliefs that apply to empty non-domestic properties will cease to apply from 1st April 2023. Clackmannanshire Council, as all other local authorities in Scotland, are required to develop a policy on the reliefs available to empty properties within the Non-Domestic Rating system.

The report, submitted by the Chief Finance Officer, sets out the Councils policy for Non-Domestic Rates (NDR) Empty Property Relief effective from 1 April 2023.

Motion

To agree the recommendations set out in the report.

Moved by Councillor Ellen Forson. Seconded by Councillor Graham Lindsay.

Decision

The Council:

1. Noted the need to have a policy for Empty Property Relief effective from 1 April 2023;
2. Agreed the proposed policy effective from 1 April 2023 as set out in Appendix A, and
3. Noted that this policy will be reviewed during 2023/24.

Action

Chief Finance Officer

CC(23)34 CLACKMANNANSHIRE INVESTMENT STRATEGY

The report, submitted by the Strategic Director (Transformation) and the Strategic Director (Place), provided Council with information on the proposed investment strategy for Clackmannanshire focused on six strategic investment opportunities. The report provided the forward plan for developing the investment proposals, resourcing the plan and undertaking the consultation with partners and communities.

Motion

To agree the recommendations set out in the report.

Moved by Councillor Ellen Forson. Seconded by Councillor Graham Lindsay.

Decision

The Council agreed to approve:

1. The overall approach to the investment strategy which will seek to develop proposals for the six strategic investment opportunities as outlined at section 7.0 and shown in the Map in Appendix 1;
2. The use of the £125k Levelling Up Fund capacity building funding to bring in expertise to develop the business cases and masterplans for the strategic investment opportunities as proposed in paragraph 11.1;
3. The proposal to bring forward detailed plans for a Clackmannanshire Consultation as outlined in paragraph 11.1
4. The development of a prospectus of opportunities as proposed in paragraph 11.1.
5. The proposed approach to Levelling Up Fund proposals in anticipation of a Round 3 opening as outlined in paragraphs 9.1-9.7;
6. The proposed political sponsorship, senior officer sponsorship and operational delivery model as outlined in paragraph 10.2.

The Council agreed to note:

7. The investment strategy is not the Council's investment strategy but is an investment strategy for Clackmannanshire. Delivery and success will require significant partnership working, agreements and commitments as outlined in paragraph 6.1 and 8.2
8. The principles that underpin the investment strategy that the Council and partners would uphold as we develop the plans and approaches to realising the strategy as outlined in section 6;
9. The investment strategy is a 10 year strategy that will seek investment from an investment mix as detailed in Appendix 3;
10. The shift of our focus from reactive submissions of grant applications to a more strategic and considered approach to grant capture which will help move us away from maintaining the status quo as outlined in section 4;
11. The role of our communities in developing the thinking on the strategic investment opportunities and also having a stake hold in the investment as outlined in the principles in section 6;
12. The strong alignment between this investment strategy and the other investment and strategies already in place such as our Capital programme and City Region Deal; and

13. The alignment of the strategy to national policy such as Wellbeing, National Strategy for Economic Transformation, Community Wealth building and spatial plan for Scotland as presented in the National Planning Framework 4.

Action

Strategic Directors (Transformation) and (Place)

CC(23)35 ALLOA INNOVATION HUB

The report, submitted by the Strategic Director (Place), provided Council with an update on progress of the joint work that has been taking place with the University of Stirling and others on two projects within the Innovation work stream of the Stirling and Clackmannanshire City Region Deal: Scotland's International Environment Centre (SIEC), and the Intergenerational Living Innovation Hub (ILIH). The outcomes from this work have resulted in a proposal for the creation of an Alloa Innovation Hub, encompassing SIEC Phase 2 and ILIH as presented in the report.

Motion

To agree the recommendations set out in the report.

Moved by Councillor Ellen Forson. Seconded by Councillor Fiona Law

Decision

The Council agreed to:

1. Note the progress set out in the report and endorse the creation of an Alloa Innovation Hub, encompassing SIEC phase 2 and ILIH.
2. Note the next steps set out in sections 3.23 to 3.26, and specifically, the site options appraisal and feasibility actions and Deal governance milestones for securing Scottish and UK Government approvals;
3. Note the links to the Council's Be The Future transformation programme and specifically the Transformation Zone place based approach; and
4. Note the link to the Clackmannanshire Investment Strategy, which was the subject of a further paper to Council on 23 March 2023.

Action

Strategic Director (Place)

**CC(23)36 CONSULTATION REPORT - PROPOSAL ON THE PERMANENT
RELOCATION OF LOCHIES PRIMARY SCHOOL**

On 6 October 2022, Council agreed that the new site for the permanent relocation of Lochies School, Gartmorn Road, Sauchie, FK10 3PB should be at The Pavilions, Alloa West. This decision was subject to the outcome of the formal consultation. The report, submitted by the Senior Manager (Inclusions and Partnerships), provided information on the outcome of the formal consultation on the permanent relocation of Lochies Primary School.

Motion

To agree the recommendations set out in the report.

Moved by Councillor Graham Lindsay. Seconded by Councillor Wendy Hamilton.

Decision

The Council agreed to:

1. Note the outcome of the formal consultation on the permanent relocation of Lochies School. This is a proposed new build, with an indicative opening date of August 2026.

Action

Senior Manager (Inclusions and Partnerships)

Rev. Sang Y Cha withdrew from the meeting at the conclusion of the previous item of business.

CC(23)37 WELLBEING HUB DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

The report, submitted by the Strategic Director (People), provided Council with an update on the progress of the Wellbeing Hub development.

Motion

To agree the recommendations set out in the report.

Moved by Councillor Graham Lindsay. Seconded by Councillor Jane McTaggart.

Decision

The Council agreed to note:

1. The report commissioned by Hub East Central Scotland Ltd (Hubco) to provide updated capital cost projections for the joint project (Wellbeing Hub and Lochies School) and define the Energy and Environmental Performance (EEP) options as part of the design brief as outlined in paragraphs 3.1 to 3.10;
2. The capital cost projections are based on the Optimal facilities mix as agreed at Council in August 2022;
3. The approval of the capital cost projections are secured through the Capital Programme and are based on the assumption of adopting the Passivhaus EEP option for the Wellbeing Hub and Lochies School. See paragraphs 3.11-3.13; and
4. Progress against the Wellbeing Hub development 6-month priorities as detailed in the February Council paper outlined in paragraphs 3.1 to 3.21.

CC(23)38 STRATEGIC HOUSING INVESTMENT PLAN 2023- 2028

The report, submitted by the Strategic Director (Place), sought Council approval of the Strategic Housing Investment Plan 2023 – 2028 (SHIP). The SHIP sets out the operational framework for affordable housing development in Clackmannanshire over the next 5 years, establishing the investment priorities.

Motion

To agree the recommendations set out in the report.

Moved by Councillor Jane McTaggart. Seconded by Councillor Fiona Law.

Decision

The Council agreed to:

1. Approve the Strategic Housing Investment Plan for 2023-2028, including the summary 5 year programme of housing sites, detailed in Appendices 1 and 2.

Action

Strategic Director (Place)

CC(23)39 COMMUNITY WEALTH BUILDING PROGRESS REPORT

The report, submitted by the Strategic Director (Place), provided Council with an update on progress to embed the principles of Community Wealth Building in Clackmannanshire, including next steps, since the publication of the Clackmannanshire Action Plan in December 2020.

Motion

To agree the recommendations set out in the report.

Moved by Councillor Ellen Forson. Seconded by Councillor Wendy Hamilton.

Decision

The Council agreed to note:

1. The progress on delivery of the 21 actions, as detailed in the Community Wealth Building Action Plan, approved at the Council meeting in December 2020.
2. The proposed activity to be undertaken in 2023 to further embed Community Wealth Building in Clackmannanshire in the year ahead.

Councillor Earle asked for an adjournment to consider the content of his amendment to the following item of business. The amendment had been circulated to elected members prior to the meeting. The Convener agreed and adjourned the meeting at 11.20 am. When the meeting resumed at 11.30 am, 16 members remained present in the meeting

CC(23)40 COUNCIL CHAMPIONS

The report, submitted by the Strategic Director (Partnership and Performance), sought Council approval of the role and remit of Champions for various issues; and the approach for nominations.

Motion

To agree the recommendations set out in the report.

Moved by Councillor Donald Balsillie. Seconded by Councillor Fiona Law.

Original Amendment

“While recognising the importance of having Community Champions in place the Labour Group consider that it is equally important that these Champions have lived experiences and to that end I would recommend amending Item 14, Paragraph 3.3 to read as follows:-

Champion for Climate Change	Councillor Quinn
Champion for Equality's	Councillor Rennie
Champion for the Promise	Councillor Martin.”

Councillor Earle advised he wished to make a change to the amendment. The Clerk advised Councillor Earle that he should withdraw his original amendment and resubmit a new amendment.

Councillor Earle withdrew the original amendment and submitted a new amendment:

Revised Amendment

“While recognising the importance of having Community Champions in place the Labour Group consider that it is equally important that these Champions have lived experiences and to that end I would recommend amending Item 14, Paragraph 3.3 to read as follows:-

To appoint the undernoted members to act as a substitute Champions:

Champion for Climate Change (Substitute)	Councillor Quinn
Champion for Equality's (Substitute)	Councillor Rennie
Champion for the Promise (Substitute)	Councillor Martin.”

Moved by Councillor Kenneth Earle. Seconded by Councillor Bryan Quinn.

Voting on the Revised Amendment

In terms of Standing Order 14.7, Councillor Earle asked for a roll call vote. The Council agreed that a vote be taken by calling the roll and at this stage there were 16 members present who were eligible to vote. On the roll being called, the elected members present voted as follows:

For the Amendment (6)

Councillor Mark McLuckie
Councillor William Keogh
Councillor Janine Rennie
Councillor Kenneth Earle
Councillor Bryan Quinn
Councillor Kathleen Martin

Against the Amendment (9)

Councillor Phil Fairlie
Councillor Graham Lindsay
Councillor Donald Balsillie
Councillor Martha Benny
Councillor Fiona Law
Councillor Wendy Hamilton
Councillor Jane McTaggart
Councillor Ellen Forson
Councillor Denis Coyne

Abstain from Voting (1)

Councillor Darren Lee

The revised amendment was defeated by 9 votes to 6 with 1 abstention.

Decision

The Council agreed:

1. That the approach taken to deciding champions for various issues is to nominate the most relevant political post holder;
2. To nominate the specific champions set out in the table at paragraph 3.3, namely:

Champions	
Champion for Carers	Spokesperson for Health and Social Care
Champion for Veterans	Provost
Champion for Armed Forces	Provost
Champion for Older People	Spokesperson for Housing & Property
Champion for Equalities	Council Leader
Champion for Climate Change	Spokesperson for Environment and Net Zero

Champion for Children & Young People	Spokesperson for Education
Champion for The Promise	Council Leader

3. The role and remit for each “Champion” set out in Paragraphs 3.4 – 3.10 of the report.

Action

Strategic Director (Partnership and Performance)

Ends: 12:15pm