



MINUTES OF MEETING of the CLACKMANNANSHIRE COUNCIL held in the Council Chamber, Kilncraigs, Alloa, on Thursday 20 March 2025 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 Scott Harrison
Councillor William Keogh
Councillor Fiona Law
Councillor Darren Lee
Councillor Graham Lindsay
Councillor Mark McLuckie
Councillor Jane McTaggart
Councillor Bryan Quinn
Councillor Janine Rennie

IN ATTENDANCE

Nikki Bridle, Chief Executive
Chris Alliston, Strategic Director (Partnership & Performance)
Lorraine Sanda, Strategic Director (People)
Kevin Wells, Strategic Director (Place)
Lindsay Sim, Chief Finance Officer (Partnership & Performance)
Colin Bruce, Chief Education Officer (People)
Sharon Robertson, Chief Social Work Officer (People) (Via Teams)
Lee Robertson, Senior Manager, Legal and Governance (Partnership & Performance) (Clerk to the Council)
Dale Bell, Solicitor, Legal and Governance (Partnership & Performance)
Andrew Buchanan, Housing Operations Manager (Place) (Via Teams and in Chambers)
Veronica Cully, Senior Manager, Inclusion and Partnership (People) (Via Teams)
Wendy Forrest, Head of Strategic Planning & Health Improvement (HSCP) (Via Teams)
Claire Fullarton, Communications Officer (Partnership & Performance) (Via Teams)
Sarah Goldberg, Team Leader, Legal and Governance (Partnership & Performance)
Alastair Hair, Team Leader/Senior Manager (Partnership & Performance)
Elizabeth Hutcheon, Management Accountancy Team Leader (Partnership & Performance)
Cherie Jarvie, Senior Manager, Partnership & Transformation (Partnership & Performance)
Joanna McDonald, Interim Chief Officer for Clackmannanshire and Stirling Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP)
Paul Morris, Economic Development Strategy Officer (Place)
Ewan Murray, Chief Finance Officer, Clackmannanshire and Stirling Health and Social Care Partnership
Wendy Robertson, Senior Manager Transformation (via Teams)
Johan Roddie, Senior Manager, Permanence (People) (via Teams)
Catriona Scott, Senior Manager, Secondary Education (People)
Murray Sharp, Senior Manager, Housing (Place) (Via Teams and in Chambers)
Robbie Stewart, Senior Manager, Sport and Leisure (People) (Via Teams)
Donna Tierney, Accountant (Partnership & Performance) (Via Teams)
Callum Wynd, Tenant Participation Officer (Place)
Norman Gill, Foundation Scotland
Melanie Moore, Committee Services (Partnership & Performance)
Gillian White, Committee Services (Partnership & Performance) (Minute)

CC(25)020 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor Craig Holden and Councillor Kathleen Martin.

CC(25)021 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

CC(25)022 MINUTES OF CLACKMANNANSHIRE COUNCIL – 30 JANUARY 2025

The minutes of the meeting of the Clackmannanshire Council held on 30 January 2025 were submitted for approval.

Decision

The minutes of the meeting of Clackmannanshire Council held on 30 January 2025 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Convener.

Action

Clerk to the Council

CC(25)023 MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING OF CLACKMANNANSHIRE COUNCIL – 30 JANUARY 2025

The minutes of the Special Meeting of the Clackmannanshire Council held on 27 February 2025 were submitted for approval.

Decision

The minutes of the Special Meeting of Clackmannanshire Council held on 27 February 2025 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Convener.

Action

Clerk to the Council

CC(25)024 WESTHAUGH TRAVELLING PERSONS SITE – COUNCIL UPDATE

The report, submitted by the Strategic Direct (Place), provided an update on the Westhaugh Travelling Persons Site upgrade project and sought Council approval over a number of key factors to get the project back on site.

Motion

To agree the recommendations as set out in the report.

Moved by Councillor Jane McTaggart. Seconded by Councillor Scott Harrison.

Decision

The Council:

1. Noted that the Chief Executive has asked the Scottish Futures Trust (SFT) for a full report examining the project management by HUBCo East Central Scotland (para 6.4 of the report);
2. Noted that the approved project budget was £5,500,000 agreed by Council in May 2023;
3. Noted that the revised project total from both the replacement Tier 1 contractor and Councils own internal project costs has been established at £6,242,000, which is increase of £742,000 from the previously agreed project budget (para 4.1 of the report);

4. Noted that officers and HUBCo staff have identified value engineering works which provide a saving of £271,000 in the required project budget, achieved by the various substitution and specification alterations as referenced in Section 5 of this report (para 5.2 of the report);
5. Noted the following mitigations and decisions (paras 2.7 to 2.9 of the report) equate to £471,000, which represents the difference between the budget previously approved by Council, and the current project budget requirement;
6. Approved the revision by the contractor relating to excess soil (para 4.4 of the report) on the site to reduce spend by £107,000, thus bringing the revised total project budget to £5,864,000;
7. Noted the Council has received additional Scottish Government Grant of £164,000 (para 4.5 of the report);
8. Approved the use of £200,000 of council earmarked homeless prevention activity reserves (para 7.4 of the report) to fund the project beyond current financial governance; and
9. Noted that failure of council to take forward and complete this project, could mean the that the Scottish Government could request repayment of circa £1m of grant funding, already drawn down and spent on the project (para 7.1 of the report).

Action

Strategic Director (Place)

CC(25)025 BE THE FUTURE: CLACKMANNANSHIRE TRANSFORMATION SPACE

The report, submitted by the Strategic Director (People), updated Council following the report on 21 March 2024 about the Council's Be the Future Transformation Plan. It set out specific proposals to significantly move the Council's ambitions for working with our communities by creating a framework to enable community voice led service prioritisation and transformation.

The paper also proposed the creation of a Transformation Fund, to be managed by an experienced Charity Fund Management organisation – a Fund Manager. This Fund Manager would underpin the new arrangements by working with communities and individuals to identify and prioritise spend on early intervention activities in line with the priorities agreed in the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan.

Motion

To agree the recommendations in the report.

Moved by Councillor Ellen Forson. Seconded by Council Graeme Lindsay.

Decision

The Council approved:

1. The creation of a Community Interest Company to support the 'Clackmannanshire Transformation Space' which will ensure that community voice is at the heart of prevention and early intervention proposals designed to achieve better outcomes for Clackmannanshire communities. This will require Council to put in place contracts and legal agreements to secure proper governance (Paras 3.16 and Appendix 1 of the report).

2. The creation of a Transformation Fund, to be managed by an experienced Fund Manager, to provide the supporting transformation funding arrangements. It is proposed to use Foundation Scotland for the first year of this new way of working. As well as acting as the Fund Manager, Foundation Scotland will manage the Community Voice work, analyse and sift the emerging proposals, award the grants to deliver the proposals, and manage the resulting reporting requirements. This will require Council to put in place contracts and legal agreements to secure proper governance (Paras 3.18 to 3.23 and Appendices 1 and 2 of the report).
3. The creation of an Oversight Board, involving Council, private sector, public sector and community representatives to oversee the Clackmannanshire Transformation Space and ensure the desired outcomes are being achieved from this new way of working. (Paras 3.17 and Appendix 4 of the report).

The Council noted:

4. The proposals in this paper present a radically different way of working, and Year 0, the first year of operation, allows the Council, its partners and communities to trial the approach, learn from it, and adapt it, as it moves towards Year 1. Involving communities in the design, development and delivery of services in this way, is sector-leading Christie focused reform and community empowerment.
5. The proposals in this report allow the Council to implement Year 0 of the Clackmannanshire Transformation Space, including setting up the Transformation Fund. Year 0 also includes the set up of governance arrangements for funds to be awarded to communities with oversight by the Council and its partners, including Independent Funders. As such, Officers will report back during the year, but also a full report on Year 0 will be prepared seeking appropriate authorisation before proceeding to future years.

Action

Strategic Director (People)

CC(25)026 ANNUAL TREASURY MANAGEMENT REPORT 2023/24

The Council is required by regulations issued under the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003 to produce an annual review of treasury management activities. The report, submitted by the Chief Finance Officer, detailed the treasury management activities for the Council for the year ended 31 March 2024 and how this compared to the 2023/24 Treasury Management Strategy Statement set in March 2023.

Motion

To agree the recommendations in the report.

Moved by Councillor Ellen Forson. Seconded by Council Graeme Lindsay.

Decision

Having considered the report, the council noted the Annual Report for 2023/24 on the Council's Treasury Management Activities.

CC(25)027 INTEGRATED JOINT BOARD BUDGET

The report, submitted by the Chief Executive, had been noted on the Agenda as "Copy to follow" and had been prepared following discussions on the 6th and 13th March with the Chief Officer of the Integrated Joint Board (IJB) in respect of the forecast 2024/25 financial outturn position and the proposed 2025/26 Budget for the IJB. Its development has been supported by the IJB Chief Officer, Chief Finance Officer, and Council officers.

The report set out a request from the Chief Officer for financial support following the completion of a series of recent workshops aimed at addressing the financial deficit in 2025/26. It also sought confirmation of any available financial assistance, to mitigate the forecasted adverse outturn for 2024/25.

As the report was being presented shortly after the Council approval of the 2025/26 Budget, consideration of the proposed options required Council's agreement to suspend Standing Order 17.1.

Motion

To agree the recommendations in the report.

Moved by Councillor Fiona Law. Seconded by Council Ellen Forson.

Decision

The Council agreed to:

1. Approve the suspension of Standing Order 17.1, which does not permit consideration of a matter within six months from the date of the original decision, in order that the requests can be fully considered by Council;
2. Adopt Option B (paragraph 4.10 and set out below) to support the forecasted 2024/25 overspend in the Integrated Budget (section 4 and paragraph 4.10), having taken account of the risks set out in paragraph 4.12.

Option B: To make an additional financial contribution of £1.327m in line with Option 3 of those presented by the Chief Officer and in line with the sum assumed within the recently approved 2025/26 Budget (General Service Pressures Reserve)

3. Adopt Option E (paragraph 4.20 and set out below) in support of the 2025/26 Budget, having noted that Option F may not be required should the Scottish Government give permission for a two-year Budget to be implemented (section 4 and paragraphs 4.14 to 4.25).

Option E: Make no additional financial contribution to the 2025/26 Integrated Budget above the previously agreed and budgeted sum of £30.047m in line with paragraph 8.5.4 of the current Integration Scheme (paragraph 4.6)

The Council agreed to note:

4. The background and financial context to the operation of the Health and Social Care Partnership (paragraphs 3.1 to 3.7);
5. That any offer of additional financial contribution from the Council would be made on the basis it would be repaid in 2026/27, though there are risks associated with this; and
6. The potential cumulative impact of, and risks associated with, agreeing to fund additional contributions in respect of both requests received, specifically on the Transformation and Employment Fund earmarked reserves, and/or Council's uncommitted reserves.

Action

Chief Executive

In line with Standing Order 10.23, the Convener adjourned the meeting at 11.30 am for a comfort break. When the meeting resumed at 11.45 am, 16 members remained present.

CC(25)028 COUNCIL CHAMPIONS AND OUTSIDE BODIES AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SCOTTISH LOCAL AUTHORITIES REMUNERATION COMMITTEE (SLARC) RECOMMENDATIONS

At the Meeting of Clackmannanshire Council held on 30 January 2025, as part of the Mid-term Review of the Council's Decision-making Framework, and Councillor Responsibilities, the Council agreed changes to political responsibilities including the roles of Spokespersons.

As Council Spokesperson roles are directly linked to some Champion roles, the report, submitted by the Strategic Director (Partnership and Performance) sought Council's approval of consequential changes to the nominations for specific Champions.

At the statutory meeting of Clackmannanshire Council held on 25 May 2022 the Council appointed elected members to represent the Council to certain outside bodies. As a result of the resignations of the elected members to some of the outside bodies the Council was asked to nominate elected members to these positions as appropriate. It sought Council's view on whether it wished to be represented on these bodies and, if so, asked Council to appoint members to relevant organisations.

The report also invited the Council to consider the number of Senior Councillors and approve revised remuneration, in accordance with regulations set by Scottish Government Ministers, effective from 1 April 2025.

Motion

To agree the recommendations in the report. To nominate the undernoted elected members to the roles of the outside bodies detailed in paragraph 3.6:

Outside Body	Nomination
Children's Hearing Scotland	Councillor Fiona Law
Clackmannanshire and Stirling Environmental Trust	Councillor Scott Harrison
CoSLA Policy Board - Health and Social Care Member	Councillor Fiona Law
CoSLA Policy Board - Community Wellbeing Member	Councillor Graham Lindsay
CoSLA Policy Board - Environment and Economy Member	Councillor Scott Harrison
Integrated Joint Board (Health and Social Care)	Councillor Fiona Law
NHS Forth Valley Board (remunerated position)	Councillor Fiona Law
SEStran (South East Scotland Transport Partnership) Board	Councillor Scott Harrison

To maintain the number of Senior Councillors as 8; and to allocate the total yearly amount payable to Clackmannanshire Council for remuneration of all its Senior councillors across all 8 Senior Councillors noting that the maximum amount payable, under the legislation, is capped at £37,458, noting that updated legislation will be laid before Parliament to correct this value to become £37,548.

Moved by Councillor Graeme Lindsay. Seconded by Councillor Donald Balsillie.

Decision

The Council:

1. Agreed to the consequential changes to the specific champions as set out in the table below:

Champion	Original	Consequential Change
Champion for Carers	Spokesperson for Health and Social Care	Depute Spokesperson for People
Champion for Older People	Spokesperson for Housing & Property	Depute Spokesperson for Place
Champion for Climate Change	Spokesperson for Environment and Net Zero	Spokesperson for Place
Champion for Children & Young People	Spokesperson for Education	Spokesperson for People

2. Noted that where there has been no change to the political responsibilities, the Champions will remain the same as set out in the table below:

Champion	
Champion for Veterans	Provost
Champion for Armed Forces	Provost
Champion for Equalities	Council Leader
Champion for The Promise	Council Leader

3. Note the resignation of the elected members to the roles of outside bodies as at 19 March 2025 as detailed below:

Outside Body	Resigned as at 19 March 2025
Children's Hearing Scotland	Councillor Wendy Hamilton
Clackmannanshire and Stirling Environmental Trust	Councillor Fiona Law
CoSLA Policy Board - Health and Social Care Member	Councillor Wendy Hamilton
CoSLA Policy Board - Community Wellbeing Member	Councillor Scott Harrison
CoSLA Policy Board - Environment and Economy Member	Councillor Fiona Law
Integrated Joint Board (Health and Social Care)	Councillor Wendy Hamilton
NHS Forth Valley Board (remunerated position)	Councillor Wendy Hamilton
SEStran (South East Scotland Transport Partnership) Board	Councillor Fiona Law

4. Agreed the appointment of elected members to the roles of the outside bodies as detailed below:

Outside Body	Appointed 20 March 2025
Children's Hearing Scotland	Councillor Fiona Law
Clackmannanshire and Stirling Environmental Trust	Councillor Scott Harrison
CoSLA Policy Board - Health and Social Care Member	Councillor Fiona Law
CoSLA Policy Board - Community Wellbeing Member	Councillor Graham Lindsay
CoSLA Policy Board - Environment and Economy Member	Councillor Scott Harrison
Integrated Joint Board (Health and Social Care)	Councillor Fiona Law
NHS Forth Valley Board (remunerated position)	Councillor Fiona Law
SEStran (South East Scotland Transport Partnership) Board	Councillor Scott Harrison

5. Agreed to maintain the number of Senior Councillors as 8; and
6. Agreed to allocate the total yearly amount payable to Clackmannanshire Council for remuneration of all its Senior councillors across all 8 Senior Councillors noting that the maximum amount payable, under the legislation, is capped at £37,458, noting that updated legislation will be laid before Parliament to correct this value to become £37,548.

Action

Strategic Director, Partnership and Performance

CC(25)029 HR POLICIES

The report, submitted by the Senior Manager (HR and Workforce Development), invited Council to approve the new Sexual Harassment Policy and Procedure (attached at Appendix of the report).

Motion

To agree the recommendations set out in the report.

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

Decision

Having challenged and commented on the report, the Council:

1. Agreed that the Sexual Harassment Policy and Procedure are formally approved; and
2. Noted the Equality / Fairer Scotland Impact Assessment which had been attached as Appendix B of the report.

Action

Senior Manager (HR and Workforce Development)

CC(25)030 COMMUNITY WEALTH BUILDING 2ND 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 Graham Lindsay.

Decision

The Council:

1. Noted the progress on delivery of 21 actions, as detailed in the Community Wealth Building Action Plan, approved at the Council meeting in December 2020; and
2. Agreed to the proposed activity to be undertaken in 2025 to further embed Community Wealth Building in Clackmannanshire in the year ahead as outlined within Paragraph 7 of the report, and as set out below:

Focus on Community Wealth Building in Clackmannanshire in 2025 will centre around the publication of a Clackmannanshire Strategy for Economic Transformation – supporting both the developing Regional Economic Strategy and the National Strategy for Economic Transformation – and engagement with the Centre for Local Economic Strategies to ensure that both the Council and Anchors remain fully engaged with a refreshed set of actions.

Ends: 12.30 pm