



MINUTES OF MEETING of the CLACKMANNANSHIRE COUNCIL held in the Council Chamber, Kilncraigs, Alloa, on Thursday 26 June 2025 at 9.30 am.

PRESENT

Councillor Phil Fairlie (Convener) (Chair)
Councillor Donald Balsillie (Provost) (Via Teams)
Councillor Denis Coyne
Councillor Kenneth Earle
Councillor Ellen Forson
Councillor Wendy Hamilton
Councillor Scott Harrison
Councillor William Keogh (Via Teams)
Councillor Fiona Law
Councillor Kathleen Martin
Councillor Mark McLuckie
Councillor Jane McTaggart
Councillor Bryan Quinn

IN ATTENDANCE

Nikki Bridle, Chief Executive (Via Teams)
Chris Alliston, Strategic Director (Partnership & Performance)
Lorraine Sanda, Strategic Director (People) (Professional Adviser to the Chair)
Kevin Wells, Strategic Director (Place)
Lindsay Sim, Chief Finance Officer (Partnership & Performance)
Colin Bruce, Chief Education Officer (People) (Via Teams)
Lee Robertson, Senior Manager, Legal and Governance (Partnership & Performance) (Clerk to the Council)
Adrienne Aitken, Improving Outcomes Team Leader (People) (Via Teams)
Monika Bicev, Policy Officer, Housing (Place) (Via Teams)
Michael Boyle, Improving Outcomes Business Manager (People) (Via Teams)
Andrew Buchanan, Housing Operations Manager (Place) (Via Teams and in Chambers)
Stuart Cullen, Team Leader Transportation (Place)
Veronica Cully, Senior Manager, Partnership and Inclusion (People) (Chambers & Via Teams)
Lesley Deans, Principal Transportation Manager, (Place)
Kate Fleming, Housing Strategy Officer (Place)
Claire Fullarton, Communications Officer (Partnership & Performance) (Via Teams)
Kim Grieve, Housing Operations Assistant (Place)
Sarah Goldberg, Team Leader, Legal and Governance (Partnership & Performance)
Francois Gouws, Team Leader, Asset Management & Major Works (Place) (Via Teams)
Alastair Hair, Team Leader/Senior Manager (Partnership & Performance)
Elizabeth Hutcheon, Management Accountancy Team Leader (Partnership & Performance) (Via Teams)
Marie Komorowska, Senior Housing Officer (Place) (Via Teams)
Nicola Mack, Chief Accountant (Partnership & Performance) (Chambers & Via Teams)
Carla MacFarlane, Communications Officer (Partnership & Performance)
Wendy Robertson, Senior Manager Transformation (via Teams)
Murray Sharp, Senior Manager, Housing (Place)
Melanie Moore, Committee Services (Partnership & Performance)
Gillian White, Committee Services (Partnership & Performance) (Minute)

CC(25)044 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor Martha Benny, Councillor Janine Rennie, Councillor Graham Lindsay, Councillor Darren Lee and Councillor Craig Holden.

CC(25)045 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

The Convener advised that an item of urgent business had been submitted to the Council for consideration:

Celebrating Clackmannanshire's Young Scot Award Finalists

A motion which asked Council to celebrate the achievement of having three young people from Clackmannanshire recognised at a national level and to congratulate the young people involved was submitted by Councillor Ellen Forson as a matter of urgent business. The Convener agreed that the motion would be taken as a matter of urgent business to allow the Council the opportunity to consider the item. The Convener advised that this item would be taken at the end of the public items of business.

CC(25)046 MINUTES OF CLACKMANNANSHIRE COUNCIL – 15 MAY 2025

The minutes of the meeting of the Clackmannanshire Council held on 15 May 2025 were submitted for approval.

Minute references:

CC(25)040 Drugs & Alcohol Policy Pilot Review

CC(25)042 Motion To Council – Clackmannanshire and Stirling Health and Social Care Integration Scheme

Councillor Quinn advised that the roll call votes for these items of business had not been recorded in the minute. The Clerk advised that the minute would be amended.

Decision

Subject to the above amendment, the minutes of the meeting of Clackmannanshire Council held on 15 May 2025 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Provost.

Action

Clerk to the Council

CC(25)047 MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2025

The report, submitted by the Section 95 Officer, presented the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) for approval. The proposed MTFS represented progress in delivering the Council's Best Value Action Plan, agreed on 28 November 2024, following receipt of the Controller of Audit report and Accounts Commission Findings in September 2024.

Motion

To agree the recommendations in the report.

Moved by Councillor Ellen Forson. Seconded by Council Scott Harrison.

Decision

The Council:

1. Agreed the Medium Term Financial Strategy (Appendix A);
2. Noted that further updates on the budget strategy and budget gap will be reported as usual through the regular Budget Strategy Update reports to Council;

3. Noted the significant uncertainties which continue to prevail from a financial planning perspective, including those in respect of external financial pressures and the quantification of funding levels for future years (paragraph 3.4);
4. Noted that the progress, financial impact and timescales associated with key service and financial sustainability measures being taken forward by the Council will be reviewed on a regular basis, and consequential updates made to the MTFS as appropriate (Paragraphs 3.4-3.6);
5. Noted that the Financial Resilience Framework will be developed following agreement of the Council's MTFS (paragraph 3.7).

Action

Section 95 Officer

CC(25)048 BE THE FUTURE: CLACKMANNANSHIRE TRANSFORMATION SPACE UPDATE

The report, submitted by the Strategic Director, People, updated Council following the report on 20 March 2025 about the Council's Be the Future Transformation Plan. The report noted the successful Invest to Save funding bid and described work that had been taken forward on the creation of the Clackmannanshire Transformation Space, including the Community Interest Company ("CIC"), other funding identified and anticipated broad outcomes from the Transformation Space.

Motion

To agree the recommendations in the report.

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

Decision

The Council:

1. Noted the success of the £1m Invest to Save Fund bid over the financial year 01/04/2025 to 31/03/2026 in connection with Clackmannanshire Transformation Space (Family Wellbeing Partnership);
2. Noted the update on other funding that has been identified for Year 0 of the project (sub paragraphs 3.7.1 to 3.7.3);
3. Noted the update on the Year 0 setup of the CIC, the ongoing diligence and governance requirements (paragraphs 3.3 to 3.6), and the interim arrangement of the appointment of the Strategic Director for People to the CIC; and
4. Approved the transfer of identified Council Budgets and/or Grants noted within the report and subject to input from Senior Manager of Legal & Governance and Chief Finance Officer any future identified Council Budgets and/or Grants to transfer to Foundation Scotland as part of the operation of the Transformation Vehicle/Fund.

Action

Strategic Director, People

CC(25)049 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF HOME TO SCHOOL TRANSPORT POLICY

The report, submitted by the Strategic Director, People, updated the Council on progress following its request for an Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) of the Council's School Transport Policies which was to be brought back to Council for consideration in May 2025 and which was deferred to June 2025's meeting.

Motion

To agree the recommendations in the report.

Moved by Councillor Fiona Law. Seconded by Councillor Scott Harrison.

Decision

The Council:

1. Noted the progress being made on the completion of the EQIA and that additional issues have been raised which require further diligence to be carried out; and
2. Agreed that a completed EQIA be brought back to the meeting of Council in August 2025

Action

Strategic Director, People

CC(25)050 SOUTH OF SCOTLAND ELECTRIC VEHICLE STRATEGY AND UPDATE

The report, submitted by the Strategic Director, Place, provided an update to Council on the progress of the South of Scotland (SoS) electric vehicle partnership and sought approval of the SoS Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy.

Motion

To agree the recommendations in the report.

Moved by Councillor Scott Harrison. Seconded by Council Fiona Law.

Decision

The Council:

1. Approved the publication of the SoS Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy; and
2. Noted the updates since the January 2025 Council report, in particular the following:
 - ChargePlace Scotland back-office to be switched off in April 2026;
 - The Regional SoS procurement for a new charge point operator and Transport Scotland (TS) grant funding for the SoS; and
 - Alternatives to the SoS project.

Action

Strategic Director, Place

CC(25)051 HOUSING NEEDS & DEMAND ASSESSMENT (HNDA)

The report, submitted by the Strategic Director, Place, informed Council of the background requirement of the Housing Need and Demand Assessment (HNDA) and progress of work undertaken to bring the Council's up to date with legislation. The report detailed the timetable to completion, including public consultation on the draft HNDA document.

Motion

To agree the recommendations in the report.

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

Decision

The Council:

1. Noted the purpose of the Housing Need & Demand Assessment;
2. Endorsed the initial findings of the research to ensure that any planning applications for Housing Development are cognisant of them; and
3. Approved the public consultation as set out at 3.12 in relation to the HNDA findings, (draft consultation proposal at Appendix 1).

Action

Strategic Director, Place

CC(25)052 HOUSING PROPERTY ACQUISITIONS POLICY AND ASSET DISPOSAL POLICY

The report, submitted by the Strategic Director, Place, outlined the work undertaken to establish policies for housing acquisition activity and the disposal of housing owned assets. The policies support the efforts made by Clackmannanshire Council to progress the Council's housing investment priorities and our affordable housing development plans.

Motion

To agree the recommendations set out in the report.

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

Decision

The Council:

1. Approved the Housing Property Acquisition Policy (Appendix 1);
2. Approved the Housing Asset Disposal Policy (Appendix 2);
3. Approved the limited delegation to the Strategic Director, Place, in disposing of HRA assets in line with section 4.11 of the report; and
4. Noted that the Service plan is to review the current arrangements in place for a small number of shared ownership mortgage rescue properties that are jointly owned by the Council and private owner occupiers.

Action

Strategic Director, Place

CC(25)052 REINFORCED AUTOCLAVED AERATED CONCRETE

The report, submitted by the Strategic Director, Place, provided Council with an update on progress on the Council's response to Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) being found on the roofing structure of mixed ownership properties in Tillicoultry. The report focused specifically on the three blocks of flats where evacuation action was undertaken. Following the Council receiving costed information from a contractor, this has enabled further detailed consideration of an options appraisal exercise. Additionally, the report provided Council with an update on recommendations approved by Council in May of this year following a hearing of the Petitions Committee relating to RAAC Affected owners and residents on 3rd April 2025.

Motion

To agree the recommendations in the report.

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

Decision

The Council:

1. Noted the progress made by Officers working with evacuated owners and occupiers to find a sustainable and affordable solution for the 3 blocks of flats in Tillicoultry affected by RAAC;
2. Noted the Options appraised by Officers as outlined within Section 5 and summarised within appendix A of this report;
3. Approved the recommendation to progress within Options 1 or 2 of the report, recognising the majority of owners' preference for such options and the resultant benefit to the Council in returning a significant number of Housing Units to operational use;
4. Noted that evacuated tenants will be offered the opportunity to convert their current temporary accommodation into a secure tenancy as provided for in paragraph 7.4;
5. Approved the home loss payment of £1500 for those tenants who have converted their tenancy as provided in paragraph 2.4 the details of the payment are contained in paragraph 7.5;
6. Approved that, for owners who have expressed a preference for a voluntary sale, officers are authorised to enter into negotiations to agree terms and conditions in respect of such sale as outlined in paragraph 8.6;
7. Approved the re-profiling of the Housing Revenue Account ("HRA") Roof and Render budget to accommodate works on the three evacuated blocks, alongside the scheduled programme of activity for 2025/26 as provided for in paragraph 9.1;
8. Approved the recommendation of Option 1 and 2 in respect of repairs to the evacuated blocks as referenced at paragraphs 9.1 to 9.3 to be taken forward by the service in consultation with the Chief Finance Officer and Senior Manager for Legal & Governance; and
9. Noted the responses to the actions agreed as part of the Petitions Committee, 3rd April 2025 as outlined within Section 10 of this report.

Action

Strategic Director, Place

The Convener adjourned the meeting at 11.35 am for a comfort break. When the meeting resumed at 11.45 am, 13 members remained present.

CC(25)053 MOTION TO COUNCIL – POTENTIAL FOR BANKING SERVICES AT THE SPEIRS CENTRE

A notice of motion in terms of Standing Order 16.0 was submitted by Councillor Ellen Forson.

Motion

That Council notes:

- The recent relocation of Council cash services from the Speirs Centre to Kilncraigs, and welcomes the extension of public opening hours at Kilncraigs to 9am–5pm, which supports improved access to Council services.
- The continuing and significant decline in access to local banking services across Clackmannanshire, with only one high street bank branch remaining in operation.
- The growing risk of financial exclusion for residents—particularly older people, those without digital access, and small businesses—as a result of these closures.
- The ongoing campaign by Keith Brown MSP for the establishment of a Banking Hub in Alloa, and recognises the potential benefits such a hub would bring to the local area.
- That the relocation of Council services has created available space within the Speirs Centre.
- That improving access to ethical and inclusive financial services is consistent with the principles of Clackmannanshire’s Community Wealth Building Strategy, particularly around supporting local financial resilience, plural ownership, and community-led economic activity.

That Council agrees:

- To write to all major high street banks and relevant financial institutions, including LINK—the organisation responsible for delivering banking hubs—to highlight the newly available space at the Speirs Centre and the community’s need for improved access to banking services. Subject to the relevant due diligence being carried out the possibility of offering available space at the Speirs Centre as a potential location for a shared banking hub or similar in-person financial service and/or local credit unions or other ethical finance providers, as a way of supporting the Council’s Community Wealth Building Strategy and promoting inclusive access to financial services.
- Encourage the relevant banks and institutions to engage with the Council and local communities to explore collaborative and sustainable solutions for access to cash and banking support in Clackmannanshire.
- Explore opportunities for the space to host financial advice or education services, potentially in partnership with community organisations or third sector providers, to help build financial resilience and inclusion.

That Council further agrees that:

- The Chief Executive, or an appropriate officer, brings a report to a future meeting outlining any responses received, along with potential options for partnership working to improve local banking access

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

Decision

The Council agreed the motion as set out above.

Action

Chief Executive

CC(25)054 URGENT MOTION TO COUNCIL – CELEBRATING CLACKMANNANSHIRE'S YOUNG SCOT AWARD FINALISTS

A notice of motion in terms of Standing Order 16.0 was submitted by Councillor Ellen Forson and accepted by the Convener as an item of urgent business.

Motion

“That Council congratulates Ellie Hodge, an S6 student at Alloa Academy, on receiving the Young Scot Health and Wellbeing Award and being named Young Scot of the Year; commends Ellie for her outstanding voluntary work, including her support for fellow pupils with additional support needs, and her personal growth since taking part in the Columba 1400 leadership academy; recognises her leadership and communication skills, shown through her role in the S3 breakfast club and her commitment to inclusion by learning Makaton and completing sighted guide training to support non-verbal and visually impaired students; acknowledges her wider volunteering efforts, promoting intergenerational connections and the benefits of sport for people with disabilities to support both physical and mental wellbeing; further congratulates Seren McNaught and Kyle Blain from Lornhill Academy, who were finalists in the Sport and Physical Activity, and Entertainment and Culture categories respectively; and celebrates the achievement of having three young people from Clackmannanshire recognised at a national level, reflecting the talent, dedication, and potential of young people across the area.”

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

Decision

The Council agreed the motion as set out above.

Action

Councillor Ellen Forson

EXEMPT ITEM

The Council resolved in terms of Section 50(a) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act, 1973, that the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item of business on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as detailed in Schedule 7A, Part 1, Paragraph 9

CC(25)055 ASSET RATIONALISATION – JUNE 2025

The minute from this item of business is recorded separately.