



MINUTES OF MEETING of the CLACKMANNANSHIRE COUNCIL held in the Council Chamber, Kilncraigs, Alloa, on Thursday 2 October 2025 at 9.30 am.

PRESENT

Councillor Phil Fairlie (Convener) (Chair)
Councillor Donald Balsillie (Provost)
Councillor Denis Coyne
Councillor Kenneth Earle (withdrew from meeting at 11.27am)
Councillor Ellen Forson
Councillor Wendy Hamilton
Councillor Scott Harrison
Councillor William Keogh
Councillor Fiona Law
Councillor Darren Lee
Councillor Graham Lindsay
Councillor Kathleen Martin
Councillor Mark McLuckie (joined meeting at 11.48 am Via Teams)
Councillor Jane McTaggart
Councillor Janine Rennie (withdrew from Chambers and joined via Teams from 1.45pm)
Councillor Bryan Quinn

IN ATTENDANCE

Nikki Bridle, Chief Executive (Via Teams)
Chris Alliston, Strategic Director (Partnership & Performance)
Kevin Wells, Strategic Director (Place)
Lorraine Sanda, Strategic Director (People) (Professional Adviser to the Chair)
Lindsay Sim, Chief Finance Officer (Partnership & Performance)
Colin Bruce, Chief Education Officer (People)
Michael Boyle, Improving Outcomes Business Manager (People) (Via Teams)
Andrew Buchanan, Housing Operations Manager (Place) (Chambers & Via Teams)
Veronica Cully, Senior Manager, Partnership and Inclusion (People) (Via Teams)
Alastair Hair, Team Leader/Senior Manager (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)
Ewan Murray, Chief Finance Officer, Clackmannanshire and Stirling Health and Social Care Partnership
Sarah Langsford, Team Leader/Senior Manager (Partnership & Performance)
Lee Robertson, Senior Manager, Legal and Governance (Partnership & Performance) (Clerk)
Wendy Robertson, Senior Manager, Transformation (Via Teams)
Johan Roddie, Senior Manager, Permanence (People)
Gillian Scott, Senior Manager, Early Intervention (People)
Murray Sharp, Senior Manager, Housing (Place) (Chambers & Via Teams)
Pauline Elliot, Interim Chief Planner (Place) (Chambers & Via Teams)
John Hiscox, Principal Planner (Place) (Via Teams)
Kim Grieve, Operations Assistant, Housing (Place)
Stuart Cullen, Transportation Team Leader (Place)
Madeleine Muirhead, Partnership Officer/Employability Lead (Place)
Karen Payton, Team Leader Communications & Marketing (Partnership & Performance)
Melanie Moore, Committee Services (Partnership & Performance)
Gillian White, Committee Services (Partnership & Performance) (Minute)

CC(25)071 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor Martha Benny and Councillor Craig Holden. The Convener passed on the best wishes of Council to Councillor Benny for a speedy recovery.

CC(25)072 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Denis Coyne declared a non-financial interest in “Item 5 Integrated Joint Board Budget” as a substitute member of the Integration Joint Board.

CC(25)073 MINUTES OF CLACKMANNANSHIRE COUNCIL – 21 AUGUST 2025

The minutes of the meeting of the Clackmannanshire Council held on 21 August 2025 were submitted for approval.

Decision

The minutes of the meeting of Clackmannanshire Council held on 21 August 2025 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Convener.

Action

Clerk to the Council

CC(25)074 REINFORCED AUTOCLAVED AERATED CONCRETE (RAAC) UPDATE

The report, submitted by the Strategic Director (Place), provided Council with an update on the engagement and governance arrangements agreed at the Council meeting in June 2025 and seeks further governance approval to enable officers to progress action and avoid any impasse that may impede the remediation and regeneration of the affected blocks and or area.

Motion

To agree the recommendations in the report.

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

Decision

The Council:

1. Noted the outcomes of actions taken by officers following approval at June Council at section 4;
2. Approved that, should owners not legally commit to any of the voluntary opportunities by 31 March 2026, or should the Council need to pursue further action (for example, under the Tenements Act), the Section 95 Officer may recharge the associated costs, as detailed in paragraph 3.13;
3. Approved a minor refinement to the voluntary acquisition offer as referenced in paragraph 3.14 and reaffirm the Council's overall position on the voluntary offer as agreed at the June Council meeting;
4. Approved that, where owners voluntarily commit to progressing the communal repairs, the Council will contribute up to (£500 exclusive of VAT) towards their legal fees for the sign-off of the relevant documentation. This gesture of goodwill would be withdrawn should the Council need to pursue any alternative course of action, as outlined in paragraph 4.3;

5. Approved the designation of the Strategic Director of Place as the Council's Proper Officer for the purposes of the Housing (Scotland) Act 1987 as detailed in paragraph 4.33; and
6. Approved that the Strategic Director of Place, in consultation with the Senior Manager (Legal & Governance), is granted authority to progress the governance arrangements as set out in this report, specifically those referenced in paragraphs 4.33 to 4.34.

Councillor McTaggart congratulated the Housing Team on being shortlisted for the Housing Award's 2025 Team of the Year.

Action

Strategic Director (Place)

CC(25)075 INTEGRATED JOINT BOARD BUDGET

The report, submitted by the Chief Executive, had been prepared to update Council on the report previously considered on the 20 March 2025, which set out a request from the IJB Interim Chief Officer for financial support, following the completion of a series of workshops aimed at addressing the financial deficit in 2025/26. It also sought confirmation of any available financial assistance, to mitigate the forecast adverse outturn for 2024/25. The report also provided an interim update on the work and progress in taking forward the Dispute Resolution process instigated by Stirling and Clackmannanshire Councils.

Councillor Coyne previously declared a non-financial interest in this item of business as he was a substitute member of the Integrated Joint Board. He advised he would participate in the item of business. Councillor Rennie advised that she was also an Integrated Joint Board member and would participate in this item of business.

Motion

To agree the recommendations in the report and confirm that the Council does require the sum of £1.744m in respect of the 2024/25 Integrated Budget to be repaid, in full or in part to the Council in 2026/27.

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

Decision

The Council agreed to:

1. Allocate £0.417m from the Council's planned 2024/25 £3.643m operating surplus to provide total additional financial support of £1.744m to the Clackmannanshire and Stirling 2024/25 Integrated Budget, noting that this reflects a voting share contribution in line with the historic precedent (paragraphs 4.1 to 4.7 and 4.11 to 4.13);
2. Confirm that the Council does require the sum of £1.744m in respect of the 2024/25 Integrated Budget to be repaid, in full or in part, to the Council in 2026/27 (paragraphs 4.11 to 4.14)
3. Monitor the position closely in respect of both the IJB and Council 2025/26 outturn positions to allow for a fuller and more reliable consideration of affordability and risk factors with regards any potential additional financial contributions at the end of the 2025/26 financial year (paragraph 4.18);
4. Delegate to the Section 95 Officer the authority to approve any non-material variation in the figures requested in recommendation 2.1 as a consequence of the IJB Integrated Budget outturn moving from draft to final and to ensure the voting share contribution is maintained;
5. Note the background and financial context to the operation of the Health and Social Care Partnership (paragraphs 3.1 to 3.4);

6. Note the positive progress being made in respect of the resolution of the Dispute(s) instigated by Stirling and Clackmannanshire Councils (Section 5).

Action

Chief Executive

CC(25)076 BE THE FUTURE UPDATE – SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT

The report, submitted by the Strategic Director (People), provided the latest update in Respect of the Council's Be the Future Target Operating Model (BtF TOM) and associated Transformation Programme. The report provided the highlights on the top three themes and an update on progress on the Sustainable Transport Theme.

The Strategic Director (People) advised that the Mott Macdonald Feasibility Report listed as a background paper on the report, will be made available on-line.

Motion

To agree the recommendations in the report.

Moved by Councillor Scott Harrison. Seconded by Councillor Ellen forson.

Decision

The Council:

1. Approved the Wellbeing Economy approach to Transport Strategy as set out in Appendix 1 (Executive Summary pages 5-11);
2. Approved the Short-Term Actions as set out in Appendix 2 (summarised in para 3.10);
3. Noted that a more detailed implementation plan will be developed setting out resources and project detail; and
4. Noted the key strategic highlights from the Be the Future top three priority themes.

Action

Strategic Director (People)

CC(25)077 GRANT AWARD TO CLACKMANNANSHIRE FAMILY SUPPORT COLLABORATIVE

The report, submitted by the Senior Manager, Early Intervention, (People), updated Council on the development of the Family Support Collaborative and sought approval for the next phase of activity, including funding arrangements.

Motion

To agree the recommendations in the report.

Moved by Councillor Fiona Law. Seconded by Councillor Graham Lindsay.

Decision

The Council:

1. Approved the consolidation of funding from the existing Council core budget and WFWF fund as a Grant fund to the Family Support Collaborative with CTSI being the administrator of the Grant fund through the Family Support Collaborative; and

2. Noted that arrangements will be implemented once grant agreements are finalised and signed.

Action

Senior Manager, Early Intervention, (People)

CC(25)078 GOVERNANCE AND DECISION MAKING – EXIT PACKAGES

The report, submitted by the Strategic Director (Partnership & Performance), outlined the findings of the Accounts Commission's scrutiny of senior officer exit packages at Glasgow City Council and provided an overview of Clackmannanshire Council's current governance arrangements and policies in this area. It aimed to support the Council in considering the implications for local practice and assurance.

Motion

To agree the recommendations in the report.

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

Decision

The Council:

1. Noted the overall report;
2. Noted that, in accordance with Clackmannanshire Council's approved discretionary policy, early retirement is only authorised where there is no financial cost to the Council. In such cases, any actuarial reduction is borne by the individual staff member;
3. Noted that internal audit will add a review of early retirements and Voluntary Severance/Redundancy decisions for senior staff to its programme of review for the 2026/2027 cycle;
4. Approved that while the Controller of Audit's report recommends elected member involvement in early retirement decisions, Clackmannanshire Council's approach, where no cost is incurred, supports this remaining an operational decision, consistent with the existing approval process outlined in the discretionary policy; and
5. Approved that an annual report be submitted to the Audit and Scrutiny Committee detailing the number of early retirements, voluntary severances, and flexible retirements approved during the previous financial year, including associated costs and savings.

Action

Strategic Director (Partnership & Performance)

The Convener adjourned the meeting at 11.27 am for a comfort break. When the meeting resumed at 11.45 am, 14 members remained present, Councillor Kenneth Earle having withdrawn from the meeting during the break.

**CC(25)079 MAINSTREAMING EQUALITY, DIVERSITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS
OUTCOMES 2025-2029**

The report, submitted by the Senior Manager, Partnership and Transformation (Partnership & Performance), presented the Council's Mainstreaming Equality, Diversity and Human Rights refreshed outcomes for 2025-2029. The report also provided employee data relating to Equality and Diversity and the Council's Equal Pay Statement all of which are required under the Equality Act 2010 and related Public Sector Duties.

Councillor Mark McLuckie joined the meeting at 11.48 am during questions to this item of business.

Motion

To agree the recommendations in the report.

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

Decision

The Council:

1. Noted the report;
2. Agreed the Equality Outcomes and priority actions set out at in the report; and
3. Noted the requirement to publish on the Council's website.

Action

Strategic Director (Place)

CC(25)080 PLACE BASED INVESTMENT PROGRAMME UPDATE

The report, submitted by the Strategic Director (Place), provided an update to Council on activity around the Council's Place Based Investment Programme. The report described the process that officers have undertaken and outputs to create a plan for the appropriate use of the Scottish Government's Place Based Investment Funds for the year 2025/26. The report updated the Council and provided a platform for discussion to give officers direction for future funding opportunities.

Motion

To agree the recommendations in the report.

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

Decision

The Council:

1. Agreed the allocation of the Place Based Investment Fund 2025/26 for projects to support the improvement of Sauchie Hall and The Ben Cleuch Centre in line with sections 5.2 and 5.3 of the report.

Action

Strategic Director (Place)

CC(25)081 PLANNING ENFORCEMENT CHARTER UPDATE 2025

The report, submitted by the Strategic Director (Place), sought Council approval of the updated Planning Enforcement Charter, required to be published and updated every two years in accordance with Planning Circular 10/2009. Enforcement Charters must be prepared in the light of Section 158A of the 1997 Planning Act. The last Charter was published three and a half years ago; therefore an update was overdue.

Motion

To agree the recommendations in the report.

Moved by Councillor Denis Coyne. Seconded by Councillor William Keogh.

Decision

The Council:

1. Approved the draft Enforcement Charter and enabled it to progress to adoption as policy.

Action

Strategic Director (Place)

CC(25)082 POLLINATOR STRATEGY 2024-2029

The report, submitted by the Strategic Director (Place), provided details of the positive steps that have been taken towards meeting the objectives of the Pollinator Strategy. A summary of the strategy was produced as Appendix C. The report highlighted the positive inroads that have been made across services to deliver on the goals and targets incorporated within the strategy and sought Council approval of the pollinator strategy.

Councillor Coyne noted that on page 274 of the Council Agenda (page 7 of the strategy), paragraphs 2 and 3 were two different versions of the same paragraph and asked for clarification as to which was correct. The Strategic Director (Place) confirmed that paragraph 3 was correct, and paragraph 2 should be removed.

Amendment

An amendment was put before the motion was moved.

“To amend the title of the Strategy to “Pollinator Strategy 2025 – 2030”.

Moved by Councillor Bryan Quinn. Seconded by Councillor Denis Coyne.

The Council agreed the amendment.

Motion

To agree the recommendations in the report as amended.

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

Decision

The Council:

1. Acknowledged the vital role of biodiversity in enhancing climate resilience and recognise nature’s capacity to absorb greenhouse gas emissions;

2. Supported Council Services to increase local pollinator populations and connecting habitats, aligning with Council's emission reduction targets to reach net zero.
3. Amended the title of the Strategy to "Pollinator Strategy 2025 - 2030;
4. Approved the draft Pollinator Strategy 2025 - 2030 set out in Appendix A (as amended with the removal of paragraph 2 on page 274 of the Council Agenda/page 7 of the strategy); and
5. Endorsed the Pollinator Action Plan set out in Appendix B as a live document (which will be subject to changes in legislation and funding) and supported services to deliver the proposed actions.

Action

Strategic Director (Place)

CC(25)083 CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY

The report, submitted by the Strategic Director (Place), provided details of the positive steps that have been taken towards meeting the objectives of the Climate Strategy. The report highlighted to Council the positive inroads that have been made across services to deliver on the goals and targets incorporated within the strategy and sought final approval of the Climate Change Strategy.

The Strategic Director (Place) advised of a typographical error that in paragraph 6.2, it states that "The next iteration will cover the financial year of 2023/24 and is due to be submitted on 30 November 2022". He advised it is due to be submitted by November 2025.

Motion

To agree the recommendations in the report.

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

Decision

The Council:

1. Noted the positive steps that services have been taking to fulfil the targets and objectives laid out with the Climate Change strategy and the associated Climate Emergency Action Plan (CEAP);
2. Approved the proposed Climate Change Strategy and the summary document, provided in Appendix A;
3. Approved the finalised Climate Emergency Action Plan (CEAP), as set out in Appendix B, and delegated responsibility for monitoring its delivery and progress to the Climate Emergency Board;
4. Agreed that the Climate Change Strategy will be reviewed, updated, and presented to the Council every five years;
5. Noted the contents of the report; and
6. Recognised the substantial contributions that Council Services have already made towards meeting the objectives of the Climate Change Strategy.

Action

Strategic Director (Place)

The Convener adjourned the meeting at 1.07 pm for a meal break. When the meeting resumed at 1.45 pm, 15 members remained present with Councillor Rennie withdrawing from the Council Chamber and re-joining via Teams.

**CC(25)084 THE SCOTTISH HOUSING REGULATOR ANNUAL ASSURANCE
STATEMENT 2025**

The report, submitted by the Strategic Director (Place), referenced the 2019 changes to the regulatory framework for social housing in Scotland and asked Council to approve the submission of Clackmannanshire Council's Annual Assurance Statement to the Scottish Housing Regulator (SHR) due to be submitted by 31st October 2025.

Motion

To agree the recommendations in the report.

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

Decision

The Council:

1. Approved the 2025 submission of the Annual Assurance Statement (AAS) (Appendix 1) to the Scottish Housing Regulator (SHR);
2. Noted that two areas of service delivery are highlighted as being materially non-compliant with regulatory requirements (outlined in section 4.1);
3. Noted the improvement actions outlined to redress areas of material non compliance. (outlined within the Annual Assurance Statement at Appendix 1);
4. Noted one area of service delivery highlighted as being non-materially non-compliant with regulatory requirements (outlined in section 4.6);
5. Noted the improvement actions outlined to redress this issue of non-material non compliance (outlined in sections 4.7 and 4.8);
6. Note the development of a Year 2 action plan (Appendix 2) as part of the approved Tenant Participation Strategy 2024-28 and the service intention to deliver the various actions contained within it; and
7. Approved to revoke from use the current Short Scottish Secure Tenancies (SSST) Policy as outlined in sections 4.22 to 4.25.

Action

Strategic Director (Place)

CC(25)085 STRATEGIC HOUSING INVESTMENT PLAN (SHIP) 2026-2031

The report, submitted by the Strategic Director (Place), sought approval of the Strategic Housing Investment Plan 2026–2031 (SHIP) at Appendix 1. The SHIP set out the operational framework for affordable housing development in Clackmannanshire over the next 5 years, establishing the investment priorities.

Motion

To agree the recommendations in the report.

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

Decision

The Council:

1. Approved the Strategic Housing Investment Plan for 2026-2031, including the summary 5 year programme of housing sites, detailed in Appendix 1;
2. Approved extending the Council off the shelf programme for 2025/26 from 20 to 40 units by approving the amendments to the HRA Capital Budget (section 7.2);
3. Approved the Council financial contribution to enable Engelen Drive Site to proceed as per paragraph 5.1 in the report;
4. Noted that from the Council paper approved in October 2024, the RPA for Clackmannanshire was cut in 2024/25 from £5.73 million to £4.523 million and was expected to reduce by 80%, 60% and 40% over the following years; and
5. Noted that an RPA of £3.48 million for 2025/26 was estimated and approved based on this information. The RPA letter from The Scottish Government was received in May 2025, advising the RPA allocation for 2025/26 at £5.879 million, an increase in the 2024/25 year allocation of £4.523 million. Solutions to maximise spend to overcome the unexpected increase in budget is detailed at paragraph 7.4 in the report.

Action

Strategic Director (Place)

CC(25)086 MOTION TO COUNCIL – KEEPING THE PROMISE IN COUNCIL POLICIES

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

Motion

“Keeping The Promise in Council Policies

Council notes the national commitment to Keep The Promise, ensuring that care- experienced children, young people, adults, and their families are supported to live happy, healthy lives, with love and respect at the heart of all public services.

Council further notes that Clackmannanshire Council formally made its commitment to Keeping The Promise on 30 March 2022.

Council recognises that fulfilling The Promise requires reviewing all existing and future policies through the lens of its principles. Council acknowledges that this will be a complex and ongoing process, taking time to complete comprehensively across all service areas. Council therefore affirms its commitment to:

1. Ensuring that The Promise will be explicitly considered in the development of Every new Council policy.
2. Reviewing all existing Council policies through The Promise lens in accordance with Keeping the Promise Plan 2023-2026.
3. In the meantime, where existing policies risk conflicting with, or may not fully reflect, the spirit or principles of The Promise, officers may be empowered to exercise flexibility and discretion. In such cases, senior managers should refer matters to the Extended Senior Management Team ensuring that decisions remain consistent, legally sound, and appropriately documented.
4. Ensuring that any such flexing of policies will be recorded to inform future policy reviews and to maintain transparency.

By adopting this approach, Council reaffirms its determination to ensure that all decisions and services support the wellbeing, rights, and aspirations of care-experienced people in Clackmannanshire.”

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

Decision

The Council agreed the motion as set out above.

Action

Chief Executive

CC(25)087 MOTION TO COUNCIL – OPPOSITION TO CLOSURE OF FORTH VALLEY COLLEGE ALLOA CAMPUS

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

Motion

“Opposition to Closure of Forth Valley College Alloa Campus

Clackmannanshire Council expresses its deep concern at the potential closure of Forth Valley College’s Alloa Campus.

Council recognises that the Alloa Campus is far more than just a building, but a vital resource for our community which provides accessible opportunities for learning, skills development, and personal growth. Council believes that its closure would have a serious and disproportionate impact on Clackmannanshire, particularly for vulnerable learners, working adults, carers, and those seeking to re-enter the workforce, many of whom would be unable to travel to Stirling or Falkirk.

Council further acknowledges the commitment and contribution of staff at the Alloa Campus and notes that the loss of their jobs would be a further blow to our community. Council recalls the assurances given at the time of the merger which created Forth Valley College— that there would always be a college presence in Alloa—and affirms that this commitment should be honoured if trust between our community and public institutions is to be maintained.

Council therefore records its unanimous cross-party opposition to the closure of the Alloa Campus, notes the collective letter already sent to Forth Valley College and the Scottish Government signed by all elected members of this Council, and reaffirms its commitment to working constructively with Forth Valley College, the Scottish Government, and other partners to secure a sustainable and permanent future for further education provision in Clackmannanshire.”

Moved by Councillor Ellen Forson. Seconded by Councillor Bryan Quinn.

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 items of business on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as detailed in Schedule 7A, Part 1, Paragraph 8.

CC(25)088 EXEMPT MINUTE OF CLACKMANNANSHIRE COUNCIL – 21 AUGUST 2025

The exempt minutes of the meeting of the Clackmannanshire Council held on 21 August 2025 were submitted for approval.

Decision

The exempt minutes of the meeting of Clackmannanshire Council held on 21 August 2025 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Convener.

Action

Clerk to the Council

At the conclusion of the meeting, the Convener gave early notice that a Special Meeting of Council is being called at 2.00 pm on Thursday 6 November 2025.

Ends: 2.51 pm