



**MINUTES OF MEETING of the CLACKMANNANSHIRE COUNCIL held in the Council Chamber, Kilncraigs, Alloa, on Thursday 29 JANUARY 2026 at 9.30 am.**

**PRESENT**

Councillor Donald Balsillie (Provost) (Vice Convener)  
Councillor Martha Benny  
Councillor Kenneth Earle  
Councillor Ellen Forson  
Councillor Wendy Hamilton  
Councillor Scott Harrison  
Councillor Craig Holden  
Councillor William Keogh  
Councillor Fiona Law  
Councillor Darren Lee (Via Teams)  
Councillor Graham Lindsay  
Councillor Kathleen Martin  
Councillor Mark McLuckie.  
Councillor Jane McTaggart  
Councillor Janine Rennie  
Councillor Bryan Quinn

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Nikki Bridle, Chief Executive  
Chris Alliston, Strategic Director (Partnership & Performance)  
Kevin Wells, Strategic Director (Place)  
Lorraine Sanda, Strategic Director (People)  
Dr Jennifer Borthwick, Interim Chief Officer for Clackmannanshire and Stirling Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP)  
Colin Bruce, Chief Education Officer (People)  
Stuart Cullen, Transportation Team Leader (Place)  
Lindsay Sim, Chief Finance Officer (Partnership & Performance)  
Claire Fullarton, Communications Officer (Partnership & Performance) (Via Teams)  
Sarah Goldberg, Team Leader, Legal and Governance (Partnership & Performance) (Via Teams)  
Fi Grinly, Strategy and Performance Adviser, (Partnership & Performance)  
Alastair Hair, Senior Manager (Partnership & Performance)  
Cherie Jarvie, Senior Manager, Partnership & Transformation (Partnership & Performance)  
Nicola Mack, Chief Accountant (Partnership & Performance) (Via Teams)  
Carla Macfarlane, Communications Officer (Partnership & Performance) (Via Teams)  
Sandy McIntosh, Team Leader Planned Works and Compliance (HRA) (Place)  
Jordan McKay, Accountant, (Partnership & Performance)  
Lee Robertson, Senior Manager, Legal and Governance (Partnership & Performance) (Clerk)  
Wendy Robertson, Senior Manager, Transformation (Via Teams)  
Katie Roddie, Team Leader, Housing Business Management (Place)  
Lesley Taylor, Psychological Services (People)  
Melanie Moore, Committee Services (Partnership & Performance)  
Gillian White, Committee Services (Partnership & Performance) (Minute)

**CC(26)001 APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Councillor Phil Fairlie (Convener). In his absence, the Provost, Councillor Donald Balsillie (Vice Convener) took the Chair. Apologies were also received from Councillor Denis Coyne.

**CC(26)002      DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

**CC(26)003      MINUTES OF CLACKMANNANSHIRE COUNCIL – 27 NOVEMBER 2025 – PART 1**

The minutes of the meeting of the Clackmannanshire Council (Part 1) held on 27 November 2025 were submitted for approval.

**Decision**

The minutes of the meeting of Clackmannanshire Council (Part 1) held on 27 November 2025 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Vice Convener.

**Action**

Clerk to the Council

**CC(26)004      MINUTES OF CLACKMANNANSHIRE COUNCIL – 27 NOVEMBER 2025 – PART 2**

The minutes of the meeting of the Clackmannanshire Council (Part 2) held on 27 November 2025 were submitted for approval.

**Decision**

The minutes of the meeting of Clackmannanshire Council (Part 2) held on 27 November 2025 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Vice Convener.

**Action**

Clerk to the Council

**CC(26)005      HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT BUDGET & CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2026/27**

The report, submitted by the Strategic Director, presented the proposed Housing Revenue Account budget and Housing Capital Programme for the financial year 2026/27 for approval as defined within the Housing (Scotland) Act 1987.

**Motion**

To agree the recommendations in the report.

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

**Decision**

The Council agreed to:

1. Approve an increase in Council house rents by 6%, for the financial year 2026/27, effective from 30th March 2026. Appendix 6 of the report set out the new rent charges per property type for 2026-27.
2. Approve a new weekly rental amount of £98.56 (for 2025/26) for residents of Westhaugh as set out in section 7 of the report and approve to increase this by 6% from 30th March 2026 in line with the recommended increase to house rents.
3. Approve the Housing Revenue Account budget for 2026/27, and the anticipated 4-year forward expenditure to 2030/31 as set out in Appendix 1 of the report.

4. Approve the Housing Capital Programme budget for 2026/27 and the forward 4-year illustrative programme to 2030/31, as set out in Appendix 2 of the report.
5. Approve the anticipated HRA Capital Borrowing Requirement for the 5-year period 2026/27 to 2030/31 as set out in Appendix 3 of the report.
6. Note that as per the Council agreement on 30th January 2025, the garage site pitches and lock up rental fees will remain fixed until March 2027.
7. Note the results of the tenant rent consultation process as detailed in section 9 of the report and the views expressed by the Clackmannanshire Tenants and Residents Federation (CTRF) detailed in section 10.2 of the report.

**Action**

Strategic Director (Place)

**CC(26)006 THE FUTURE OF COUNCIL TAX IN SCOTLAND**

The report, submitted by the Chief Finance Officer, required Council to establish a response to the Scottish Government consultation on The Future of Council Tax in Scotland.

**Motion**

To agree the recommendations in the report.

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

**Voting**

For the motion	15 votes
Against the motion	0 votes
Abstain from voting	1 vote

The motion was carried on a division of 15 votes to 0 with 1 abstention.

**Decision**

Having had the opportunity to add any additional comments for inclusion, on a division of 15 votes to 0 with 1 abstention, the Council agreed the officer recommended response (Appendix 1 of the report) to the Scottish Government Consultation: The Future of Council Tax in Scotland (Appendix 2 of the report).

**Action**

Chief Finance Officer

**CC(26)007 ANNUAL TREASURY MANAGEMENT REPORT 2024/25**

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 2025 and how this compared to the 2024/25 Treasury Management Strategy Statement set in February 2024.

**Motion**

To agree the recommendations in the report.

Moved by Councillor Ellen Forson Seconded by Councillor Graham Lindsay.

## **Decision**

The Council noted and considered the Annual Report for 2024/25 on the Council's Treasury Management activities.

### **CC(26)008 STATUTORY REPORT: BEST VALUE IN CLACKMANNANSHIRE COUNCIL – ACTION PLAN UPDATE**

The report, submitted by the Chief Executive, updated Council on the progress made against the agreed action plan developed in response to the four key recommendations set out in the statutory Best Value report for Clackmannanshire Council, published in September 2024.

## **Motion**

To agree the recommendations in the report.

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

## **Decision**

The Council noted and commented on the progress of the Action Plan (Appendix A of the report).

### **CC(26)009 PARKING ENFORCEMENT / DECRIMINALISED PARKING ENFORCEMENT PLAN**

The report, submitted by the Strategic Director (Place), provided Council with an update on the progress of Council Motion of 15 May 2025 on Parking Enforcement.

## **Motion**

To agree the recommendations in the report.

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

## **Amendment**

"Council further agrees that a cross-party working group is established to consider the findings of the Police Scotland review in detail and determine what steps can/should be taken by the Council to ensure that public confidence is maintained in this key part of Police Scotland's public safety duty."

Moved by Councillor Craig Holden. Seconded by Councillor Ellen Forson.

The Council unanimously agreed the amendment.

## **Decision**

The Council noted:

1. That the Chief Executive has written to Police Scotland as provided for in paragraph 3.1 of the report and subsequently met with Police Scotland's Local Area Commander, Chief Inspector Garry Smith to convey the position of Council following the motion by Councillor Holden in May 2025.
2. The preliminary findings from initial works on Parking Enforcement Review by Police Scotland Local Area Commander outlined within section 4 of the report.
3. The DPE Project Plan as outlined in the table in paragraph 5.2 of the report.

4. That an update to the Feasibility Study Report carried out in 2019 will be required as provided for in paragraph 5.3 of the report.
5. The reprioritisation of up to £0.1m of delegated budget to deliver initial DPE project works as detailed in paragraphs 7.1 and 7.2 of the report.

The Council agreed:

6. That Officers will bring forward a future paper for a decision on completion of Phase 3 of the DPE Project Plan.
7. That a cross-party working group is established to consider the findings of the Police Scotland review in detail and determine what steps can/should be taken by the Council to ensure that public confidence is maintained in this key part of Police Scotland's public safety duty."

Councillor Forson advised that she and Councillor Harrison would represent the SNP Administration on the cross-party working group. Councillor Rennie advised that she represent the Labour Group and Councillor Darren Lee advised that he would represent the Conservative Group.

#### **Action**

Strategic Director (Place)

*The Vice Convener adjourned the meeting at 11.25 am for a comfort break. When the meeting resumed at 11.35 am, 16 members remained present.*

#### **CC(26)010 FORTH VALLEY MENTAL HEALTH & WELLBEING STRATEGIC PLAN 2025/2035**

The Strategic Plan was approved by Clackmannanshire and Stirling IJB on 13 August 2025 and by Falkirk IJB on 6 September 2025. The report, submitted by Dr Jennifer Borthwick, Interim Chief Officer, Clackmannanshire & Stirling HSCP, was presented for noting by Clackmannanshire Council.

#### **Motion**

To agree the recommendations in the report.

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

#### **Decision**

The Council noted the content of the Forth Valley Mental Health & Wellbeing Strategic Plan 2025-2035.

#### **CC(26)011 HR POLICIES**

The report, submitted by the Senior Manager (HR and Workforce Development), invited Council to approve the revised Work / Life balance and Flexible Working Policy and Procedure, and the revised Carers Policy and Procedure.

#### **Motion**

To agree the recommendations in the report.

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

Councillor Rennie queried paragraph 7.2 in the Carers Policy, where it states that “There is no statutory right to carer’s leave” as she understood that it was in statute.

The Senior Manager (HR and Workforce Development) advised he would review the legislation.

Councillor Holden raised a point of order that paragraph 7.2 needs to be accurate before any decision is taken on the policy.

The Vice Convener adjourned the meeting at 12.18 pm to allow checks to be undertaken on the legislation. When the meeting resumed at 12.30 pm, 16 members remained present.

The Senior Manager (HR and Workforce Development) confirmed that there is no statutory right to “paid” leave as the Carers Leave Act 2023 defines the leave as “unpaid”. The Council does offer paid carers leave.

### **Amendment**

To add in the word “paid” to amend paragraph 7.2 of the Carers Policy which will read:

“7.2 There is no statutory right to **paid** carer’s leave but the Council will allow employees with 26 weeks’ service the right to request time off.

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

The Council unanimously agreed the amendment.

### **Decision**

Having commented and challenged the report, the Council:

1. Agreed the policies and procedures.
2. Noted the attached Equality Impact Assessments.

### **Action**

Senior Manager (HR and Workforce Development),

## **CC(25)012 MOTION TO COUNCIL – REDESIGNATION OF SAUCHIE FROM A VILLAGE TO A TOWN**

A notice of motion in terms of Standing Order 16.0 was submitted by Councillor Jane McTaggart.

### **Motion**

#### **Council notes:**

In November 2025, Scotland’s Towns Partnership, supported by Stirling University’s initiative, Understanding Scottish Places, redesignated Sauchie from a village to a town, in recognition of sustained growth in population, local services and, very importantly, Sauchie’s strong and lasting commitment to community.

This recognition will have a positive impact on Sauchie’s identity, with the possibility to create further development and investment opportunities, leading to a brighter future for Sauchie and its residents.

Council is asked to:

- (i) Formally recognise and congratulate the people of Sauchie on this milestone and thank all those involved for their commitment and vibrant community spirit.
- (ii) Look to support relevant signage within existing budgets to provide for Sauchie's new status as a town.
- (iii) Subject to paragraph (ii) above confirm that Council will support Sauchie whenever possible to help it reach its full potential into the future.

Moved by Councillor Jane McTaggart. Seconded by Councillor Wendy Hamilton.

**Decision**

The Council agreed the motion as set out above.

**Action**

Chief Executive

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In closing the meeting, the Provost (Vice Convener) and the Spokesperson for People, congratulated Muckhart Primary School on reaching its 180<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Ends: 12.35 pm

