



MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING of the CLACKMANNANSHIRE COUNCIL held in the Council Chamber, Kilncraigs, Alloa, on Thursday 26 February 2026 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 Fiona Law
Councillor Darren Lee
Councillor Graham Lindsay
Councillor Kathleen Martin
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)
Michael Boyle, Improving Outcomes Business Manager (People)
Aidan Fleming, Equality, Diversity & Human Rights Officer (Partnership & Performance)
Wendy Forrest, Head of Strategic Planning & Health Improvement (HSCP) (Via Teams)
Sarah Goldberg, Team Leader, Legal and Governance (Partnership & Performance) (Via Teams)
Fi Grinly, Strategy & Performance Adviser (Partnership & Performance)
Alastair Hair, Team Leader/Senior Manager (Partnership & Performance)
Nicola Mack, Chief Accountant (Partnership & Performance) (Via Teams)
Carla MacFarlane, Communications Officer (Partnership & Performance)
Amy McDonald, Interim CFO for Clackmannanshire and Stirling Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP)
Wendy Robertson, Senior Manager Transformation (via Teams)
Johan Roddie, Senior Manager, Permanence (People) (Via Teams)
Robbie Stewart, Senior Manager, Sport and Leisure (People) (Via Teams)
Melanie Moore, Committee Services (Partnership & Performance)
Gillian White, Committee Services (Partnership & Performance) (Minute)

CC(26)013 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor Craig Holden and Councillor William Keogh.

CC(26)014 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

CC(26)015 BUDGET CONTEXT AND OUTLOOK

The report, which was prepared by the Section 95 Officer in consultation with the Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer, aimed to provide information on the Budget context and outlook for the Council as it prepared to agree its General Services Revenue and Capital Budgets for 2026/27.

The report had been prepared in support of the Council's proposed General Service Revenue and Capital Budget 2026/27 and aimed to allow elected members to consider broad issues of financial resilience and sustainability ahead of taking its decisions.

Motion

To agree the recommendations as set out in the report.

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

Decision

The Council noted:

1. The background and context to the Council's socio-economic and systemic funding challenges, exacerbated by a largely population-based mechanism for distributing the Scottish Government Grant Income received (section 3);
2. Council's track record of delivering budget savings; collaboration, leveraging external resource and innovative transformation (section 4);
3. The financial outlook ahead of setting the Council's Budget and the need to maximise the value of permanent reductions in expenditure and increases in income wherever possible to deliver medium to longer term financial sustainability (section 4); and
4. The financial outlook, residual risks and uncertainties should the 2026/27 General Services Revenue and Capital Budgets, proposed later in this Council agenda, be approved (paragraph 4.17 and section 4).

The Council agreed to:

5. Prioritise, support and invest in the key activities being taken forward to mitigate the pressures (section 5) and to deliver service and financial sustainability;
6. Continue to adhere to its Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) and develop a Financial Resilience Framework (paragraphs 5.14 - 5.17); and
7. Identify any further potential options it would like developed to mitigate current and future service and financial sustainability challenges in addition to the current activities summarised in section 5 of this report (paragraph 5.1).

Action

Section 95 Officer, Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer

CC(26)016 TARGET OPERATING MODEL

The report, submitted by the Chief Executive, made proposals in support of the implementation of the Council's agreed Be the Future Target Operating Model. This phase of development places a particular emphasis on further embedding a whole system outcomes focus, a drive for more integrated service delivery and financial sustainability.

The proposals reflected work towards delivering the 'mixed economy' of service delivery models in line with the Council's agreed Be the Future Target Operating Model (BtF TOM), including the Transformation through Collaboration proposals agreed by Council in November 2025.

The proposals set out in the report also linked to a savings proposal relating to changes to the Council's Management Structure included within the 2026/27 proposed Budget which was also on this Council agenda.

Motion

To agree the recommendations in the report.

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

Decision

The Council agreed:

1. The proposed Be the Future Target Operating Model set out at Appendix A;
2. The implementation of the 'immediate state' changes to the management structure set out in Appendix A (paragraphs 3.12 and 3.13);
3. To delegate authority to the Chief Executive, in consultation with Group Leaders and in accordance with agreed Council processes (as set out in paragraph 3.11), to implement the immediate state management changes, excluding any elements that require a formal interview process; and
4. To delegate to the Chief Executive, in consultation with Group Leaders as appropriate, authority to progress transitional management arrangements, including consultation with potential partners, where service vacancies exist (paragraphs 3.14 and 3.15).

The Council noted:

5. The potential saving of between £70,650 and £127,587 subject to agreed Council processes (paragraph 3.10);
6. That these proposals align with the Transformation Through Collaboration proposals agreed by Council in November 2025;
7. The priority placed on consultation and engagement processes with staff, trade union representatives and elected members in respect of both the 'immediate state' and subsequent phases of implementation (Para 3.12);
8. That all roles will be ringfenced, per Directorate, to existing senior management in the first instance. Should any positions not be filled, the roles will be opened to wider internal and external recruitment; and
9. That where final interviews are required appropriate Appointment Committee(s) will be convened.

Action

Chief Executive

CC(26)017 TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY STATEMENT 2026/27

The report, submitted by the Chief Finance Officer, presented the Council's Treasury Management Strategy Statement for 2026/27 and Prudential Indicators for 2026/27 to 2028/29.

Motion

To agree the recommendations in the report.

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

Decision

The Council:

1. Noted the information contained in the report;
2. Approved the Treasury Management Strategy Statement for 2026/27 and Prudential Indicators for the years 2026/27 to 2028/29 (as attached at Appendix A, in compliance with the Prudential Code requirements;
3. Noted the continuation of the Borrowing Strategy to support continued capital investment (paragraph 5.6); and
4. Noted the investment portfolio position as at 31st January 2026 (Appendix B).

Action

Chief Finance Officer

In line with Standing Order 10.23, the Convener adjourned the meeting at 11.00 am for a comfort break. When the meeting resumed at 11.10 am, 16 members remained present.

CC(26)018 GENERAL SERVICES REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGET 2026-27

The report, submitted by the Administration, presented the General Services Budget for 2026/27. The report builds on the regular update reports and briefings presented to Council and the Audit and Scrutiny Committee throughout the year, including those covering the Be the Future Transformation Programme and implementation of the Target Operating Model (TOM).

Motion

To agree the recommendations set out in the report.

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

Decision

The Council agreed:

1. The General Services Revenue and Capital Budget for 2026/27 as set out in Appendix A, including:
 - 1.1 The proposals for demand pressures totalling £3.000m (Appendix B) (paragraphs 6.2 and 6.3);
 - 1.2 Policy and Redesign savings set out in Appendix D and note the Management Efficiency savings set out in Appendix C (paragraph 6.4);
 - 1.3 The 2026/27 Income and Charging Strategy (Appendix E);

- 1.4 The utilisation of £0.625m Capital receipts to offset loans fund principal repayments (paragraph 6.9);
- 1.5 The utilisation of £2.747m from uncommitted reserves to support the 2026/27 revenue budget (paragraph 6.9);
- 1.6 A net resource transfer of £31.643m for the Clackmannanshire and Stirling Health and Social Care Partnership for 2026/27 (paragraph 7.2 and 7.3);
- 1.7 The earmarking of an additional contribution of up to £2.824m to the 2025/26 projected overspend for the Clackmannanshire and Stirling Health and Social Care Partnership (paragraph 7.5);
- 1.8 The revised General Services Capital Programme incorporating project resource in Appendix A and section 8;
- 1.9 A 5.6% increase in the level of Council Tax for 2026/27 resulting in a Band D Council tax of £1,683.67 (paragraph 5.4);

Council noted:

2. The challenging context within which this Budget is presented (section 3);
3. The summary of recent budget engagement activity detailed in section 4;
4. That the minimum reserve policy of 2% remains unchanged with the balance of £3.624m in uncommitted General Services Revenue reserves, after setting the budget, equating to 2% (paragraphs 6.8-6.9);
5. The five year cumulative indicative gap of £24.462m up to 2031/32 and a funding gap of £10.096m in 2027/28 following setting this budget (Exhibit 5), and
6. The Be the Future Target Operating Model: Corporate Priorities 2026/27 as set out in Appendix A.

Action

Chief Finance Officer

Ends: 12.15 pm

