



MINUTES OF MEETING of the CLACKMANNANSHIRE COUNCIL held in the Council Chamber, Kilncraigs, Alloa, on Thursday 19 March 2026 at 9.30 am.

PRESENT

Councillor Phil Fairlie (Convener)
Provost Donald Balsillie
Councillor Martha Benny
Councillor Denis Coyne
Councillor Kenneth Earle (Via Teams)
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. (Via Teams)
Councillor Jane McTaggart
Councillor Janine Rennie (Via Teams)
Councillor Bryan Quinn (Via Teams)

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)
Lindsay Sim, Chief Finance Officer (Partnership & Performance) (Via Teams)
Michael Boyle, Improving Outcomes Business Manager (People) (Via Teams)
Alison Davidson, Service Manager Development (Place)
Kate Fleming, Housing Strategy Officer (Place)
Wendy Forrest, Head of Strategic Planning and Health Improvement, HSCP (Via Teams)
Claire Fullarton, Communications Officer (Partnership & Performance) (Via Teams)
Sarah Goldberg, Team Leader, Legal and Governance (Partnership & Performance) (Via Teams)
Alastair Hair, Senior Manager (Partnership & Performance)
Cherie Jarvie, Senior Manager, Partnership & Transformation (Partnership & Performance) (Via Teams)
Carla Macfarlane, Communications Officer (Partnership & Performance) (Via Teams)
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)
Ben Watson, Team Leader, Revenues (Partnership & Performance)
Melanie Moore, Committee Services (Partnership & Performance)
Gillian White, Committee Services (Partnership & Performance) (Minute)

CC(26)019 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor Craig Holden.

CC(26)020 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

**CC(26)021 MINUTES OF MEETING OF CLACKMANNANSHIRE COUNCIL –
29 JANUARY 2026**

The minutes of the meeting of the Clackmannanshire Council held on 29 January 2026 were submitted for approval.

Decision

The minutes of the meeting of Clackmannanshire Council held on 29 January 2026 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Convener.

Action

Clerk to the Council

**CC(26)022 MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING OF CLACKMANNANSHIRE COUNCIL –
26 FEBRUARY 2026**

The minutes of the special meeting of the Clackmannanshire Council held on 26 February 2026 were submitted for approval.

Decision

The minutes of the special meeting of Clackmannanshire Council held on 26 February 2026 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Convener.

Action

Clerk to the Council

CC(26)023 COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS REFERRED TO COUNCIL

The report, submitted by the Chief Executive, sought Council approval of recommendations which had been made by the Audit & Scrutiny Committee on 5 February 2026.

Motion

To agree the recommendations as set out in the report.

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

Decision

The Council:

1. Approve the revised Contract Standing Orders, as set out in Appendix 1 of the report, and agreed their adoption and implementation with effect from 19 March 2026.

Action

Chief Executive

**CC(26)024 CLACKMANNANSHIRE AND STIRLING INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD -
NOMINATION OF VICE CHAIR**

The report, submitted by Senior Manager, Legal and Governance, asked Council to nominate a Vice Chair for the Integration Joint Board (IJB) from Clackmannanshire Council's current membership of the IJB.

Motion

To nominate Councillor Fiona Law to serve as Vice Chair of the IJB commencing on 1 April 2026.

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

Decision

The Council:

1. Nominated Councillor Fiona Law to serve as Vice Chair of the IJB commencing on 1 April 2026.

Action

Senior Manager, Legal and Governance

CC(26)025 ADDITIONAL PUBLIC HOLIDAY – MEN'S FOOTBALL WORLD CUP

The report, submitted by the Senior Manager, HR and Workforce Development, asked Council to determine whether or not to recognise an additional public holiday to mark Scotland's participation in the 2026 men's football World Cup finals.

Motion

To agree the recommendations in the report and determine not to recognise Monday 15 June 2026 as an additional public holiday for Clackmannanshire Council.

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

Decision

The Council:

1. Noted the contents of the paper as presented;
2. Reviewed the options appraisal at Appendix 1 in relation to the proposed public holiday; and
3. Determined **not** to recognise Monday 15 June 2026 as an additional public holiday for Clackmannanshire Council.

Action

Senior Manager, HR and Workforce Development

CC(26)026 COUNCIL TAX LONG TERM EMPTY AND SECOND HOME POLICY

The report, submitted by the Chief Finance Officer, asked Council to agree formal policies on Council Tax for Long Term Empty Property and Second Homes and updated Council on future changes to Council Tax legislation.

Motion

To agree the recommendations in the report.

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

Decision

The Council:

1. Agreed to formalise the Council Tax policies on: Long Term Empty Property (Appendix 1A), and Second Homes (Appendix 1B); and
2. Noted the update in relation to future changes in Council Tax legislation (paragraph 3.5)

Action

Chief Finance Officer

CC(26)027 NON-DOMESTIC RATES - EMPTY PROPERTY RELIEF

The report, submitted by the Chief Finance Officer, provided information to allow Council to review and agree the revised Non-Domestic Rates Empty Property Relief Policy.

The proposed change is to introduce a new provision granting 100% relief where a property is legally prohibited from being occupied. This relief has no time limit.

The Chief Finance Officer advised that there was an error in Paragraph 3.5 in that the effective date should be 1 April 2026, not 2025.

Motion

To agree the recommendations in the report.

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

Decision

The Council:

1. Approved the revised Non-Domestic Rates Empty Property Relief Policy (paragraph 3.4 and Appendix 1) effective from 1 April 2026.

Action

Chief Finance Officer

CC(26)028 HOUSING SERVICE – ESTATE AND OPEN SPACE MANAGEMENT POLICY

The report, submitted by the Strategic Director (Place), sought Council approval for the Housing Estate and Open Space Management Policy.

Motion

To agree the recommendations in the report.

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

Decision

The Council:

1. Approved the Housing Estate and Open Space Management Policy (Appendix 1);
2. Noted the Service's policy position on requests relating to the management and maintenance of fencing relating to Housing Revenue Account (HRA) properties; and
3. Noted the Service's approach to the allocation and management of garage plots and lock-ups held within the HRA.

Action

Strategic Director (Place)

CC(26)029 LEARNING ESTATE WORKS PROGRESS

The report, submitted by the Strategic Director (Place), updated Council on the progress of work across the Learning Estate, including targeted investment and planned works. The report also provided Council with an update on improvement works for St Mungo's RC Primary as part of their permanent integration to Alloa Campus.

Motion

To agree the recommendations in the report.

Moved by Councillor Graham Lindsay. Seconded by Councillor Scott Harrison.

Decision

The Council:

1. Noted the progress made in relation to Targeted Investment, Planned works and St Mungo's Improvement Works. (paragraph 3.3 - 3.10);
2. Noted the progress made and planned works associated with the Learning Estate Strategy and Condition Work that will influence the future Learning Estate Strategy and future capital programme; and
3. Agree to the recommendation to demolish the former St Mungo's RC Primary. (paragraph 3.11 – 3.13)

Action

Strategic Director (Place)

CC(26)030 LOCAL GROWTH FUND

The report, submitted by the Strategic Director (Place), updated Council on the UK Government's recently announced Local Growth Fund Programme (LGF), the replacement for previous European Structural Funding and more recently UK Shared Prosperity Funding. The report also intended to outline the immediate steps required by the Council to progress in order to receive the LGF investment within the Forth Valley Region.

The Strategic Director (Place) advised that there was an error in the report in that paragraphs 3.10 – 3.13 are duplicated later in the report.

Motion

To agree the recommendations in the report.

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

Decision

The Council:

1. Noted the significant changes to UK Government funding for 2026 onwards, particularly the move to predominantly capital funding, and the requirement for a 3 year Regional plan to be submitted (indicative timescales by May 2026); and
2. Agreed for Officers to develop proposals for a future Council approval, working with colleagues in Stirling and Falkirk Council as outlined within paragraphs 6.1 and 6.2, to:
 - a) Propose an interim regional governance structure and interim programme to meet the requirements of the LGF, and
 - b) Propose a longer-term Regional Governance structure to provide governance and oversight of this and any other future regional funding opportunities (in line with the Regional Economic Strategy currently in development).

Action

Strategic Director (Place)

CC(26)030 HOUSING NEED & DEMAND ASSESSMENT (HNDA)

The report, submitted by the Strategic Director (Place), informed Council of the context for the Housing Need and Demand Assessment (HNDA). Further to the interim Report to Council on 26 June 2025, this report detailed the full findings of the HNDA and consultation feedback and process to achieve 'robust and credible' status from the Scottish Government.

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. Noted the governance and consultation around the Housing Need & Demand Assessment;
3. Notes the findings of the full HNDA research at appendix 1 to ensure that any planning applications for Housing Development are cognisant of the need for new housing over the next 20 years;
4. Noted the consultation report at Appendix 3; and;
5. Note the letter sent from the Cabinet Secretary for Housing in response to the Housing Convenor at Appendix 4.

Action

Strategic Director (Place)

**CC(26)031 MOTION TO COUNCIL – FUTURE OF FORTH VALLEY COLLEGE
ALLOA CAMPUS**

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

Motion

Council notes the recent decision by the Board of Forth Valley College to retain the Alloa Campus for the 2026/27 academic year.

Council recognises that this decision follows sustained engagement between the College, the Scottish Funding Council and the Scottish Government, alongside a strong local campaign supported by students, staff, trade unions and the wider community.

Council further notes the welcome increase in college funding contained within the recent Scottish Budget, which has strengthened the financial context in which the Board reached its decision.

Council believes that further education provision in Alloa is vital for:

- widening access to education and skills
- supporting local employment and economic development
- providing opportunities for young people and adult learners across Clackmannanshire.

Council also recognises the clear expectation expressed at the time of regionalisation that a college campus would remain in Alloa and believes it is important that local people, students and staff have long-term certainty about the future of the campus.

Council therefore:

1. Welcomes the decision to retain the Alloa Campus for the 2026/27 academic year.
2. Pays tribute to the students, staff, trade unions and community members who have campaigned to protect further education provision in Alloa.
3. Agrees that ongoing uncertainty about the future of the campus is not in the interests of students, staff or the wider community.
4. Calls on the Board of Forth Valley College to work with partners to provide long-term assurances about the future of the Alloa Campus and to develop and strengthen its role within the regional college structure.
5. Instructs the Chief Executive to write to the College, the Scottish Funding Council and the Scottish Government to note the Council's interest in, and recognition of, the importance of securing the long-term future of the Alloa Campus.

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

Decision

The Council agreed the motion as set out above.

Action

Chief Executive

CC(26)032 MOTION TO COUNCIL – CIVIC HONOURS IN PUBLIC PLACES

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

Motion

Council notes that there is currently a commemorative slab on Parliament Walk which makes reference to the former Prince Andrew, Duke of York.

Council considers that civic honours displayed within our public spaces must command public confidence and reflect the values and integrity expected by our communities, and that it is therefore appropriate to review recognitions where serious concerns have arisen.

Council therefore agrees:

1. That the existing slab referencing the former Prince Andrew be removed from Parliament Walk;
2. That it be replaced with a fitting and permanent commemoration to George Reid, recognising his exceptional and long-standing service to Clackmannanshire and to Scotland - as Member of Parliament, Member of the Scottish Parliament, Presiding Officer of the Scottish Parliament, Lord Lieutenant of Clackmannanshire, and Freeman of the County; and
3. Subject to the approval by Council of paragraphs 1 and 2 above officers will bring back to Council a proposed design and wording for the replacement of the slab for approval.

Council acknowledges in particular his distinguished tenure as Presiding Officer, during which he helped shape and strengthen Scotland's devolved Parliament, and affirms that his contribution to public life and to Clackmannanshire merits lasting recognition within our civic landscape.

Moved by Councillor Ellen Forson. Seconded by Councillor Scott Harrison

Decision

The Council agreed the motion as set out above.

Action

Chief Executive

Ends: 11.27 pm