Clackmannanshire Council | Comhairle Siorrachd Chlach Mhanann

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THIS PAPER RELATES TO ITEM 3 (a) ON THE AGENDA

MINUTES OF MEETING of the CLACKMANNANSHIRE COUNCIL held in the Council Chamber, Kilncraigs, Alloa, on Thursday 20 August 2026 at 9.30 am.

PRESENT

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

IN ATTENDANCE

Nikki Bridle, Chief Executive
Lorraine Sanda, Depute Chief Executive and Director of Wellbeing
Kevin Wells, Director of Place and Economy
Chris Alliston, Head of Corporate Services
Carl Banton, Mining Remediation Authority
Colin Bruce, Chief Education Officer (Wellbeing)
Dr Jennifer Borthwick, Interim Chief Officer for Clackmannanshire and Stirling Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP)
Sharon Robertson, Chief Social Work Officer (Wellbeing)
Lindsay Sim, Chief Finance Officer (Corporate Services)
Adrienne Aitken, Improving Outcomes Team Leader (Wellbeing) (Via Teams & Chambers)
Veronica Cully, Senior Manager, Partnership and Inclusion (Wellbeing) (Via Teams & Chambers)
Wendy Forrest, Head of Strategic Planning and Health Improvement, HSCP (via Teams)
Claire Fullarton, Communications Officer (Corporate Services) (Via Teams)
Alastair Hair, Senior Manager (Corporate Services) (Via Teams)
Phil Mason, External Auditor, Deloitte (Via Teams)
Carla Macfarlane, Communications Officer (Corporate Services)
Melanie Moore, Committee Services (Corporate Services)
Madeline Muirhead, Strategic Lead, Community, Collaboration and Redesign (Wellbeing)
Lee Robertson, Senior Manager, Legal and Governance (Corporate Services) (Clerk)
Wendy Robertson, Senior Manager (Transformation and Capital) (Corporate Services) (Via Teams)
Johan Roddie, Senior Manager, Permanence (Wellbeing) (Via Teams & Chambers)
Zoe-Rose Higgins, Mining Remediation Authority (Via Teams)
Caroline Rodgers, Senior Manager (Place and Economy)
Gillian Scott, Senior Manager, Early Intervention (Wellbeing) (Via Teams & Chambers)
Robbie Stewart, Senior Manager, Sport and Leisure (Wellbeing) (Via Teams & Chambers)
Lesley Taylor, Psychological Services (Wellbeing)
Gillian White, Committee Services (Corporate Services) (Minute)

The Convener advised he would adjust the running order of business so that Item 7 Coalsnaughton Major Incident Update is taken as the first item of substantive business as Mr Carl Banton and Ms Zoe Rose-Higgins from the Mining Remediation Authority were in attendance. Item 4 The 2023-24 Audit of Clackmannanshire Council would be moved to be taken as Item 7 on the Agenda.

CC(26)060 APOLOGIES

None.

CC(26)061 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

CC(26)062 MINUTES OF MEETING OF CLACKMANNANSHIRE COUNCIL – 25 JUNE 2026

The minutes of the meeting of the Clackmannanshire Council held on 25 June 2026 were submitted for approval.

Decision

The minutes of the meeting of Clackmannanshire Council held on 25 June 2026 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Convener.

Action
Clerk to the Council

CC(26)063 COALNSUGHTON MAJOR INCIDENT UPDATE

The report, submitted by the Depute Chief Executive and Director of Wellbeing, provided Council with a further update on the Coalsnaughton Major Incident since the report presented to Council on 25 June 2026, including the Council's response, including the likely cause of the incident, support for affected residents and communities, and arrangements for the Recovery phase.

Carl Banton, Chief Operation Director, Mining Remediation Authority, was present to provide an update to Council and was available to answer questions. Zoe Rose-Higgins, from the Mining Remediation Authority was also in attendance.

Motion

To agree the recommendations as set out in the report.

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

Decision

The Council:

1. Noted the circumstances leading to the declaration of the Coalsnaughton Major Incident, the Council's response, and the continued multi-agency arrangements operating through the Forth Valley Local Resilience Partnership;

2. Noted the MRA's findings that the most probable primary cause of the incident is coal mining related, the implications of the Coal Mining Subsidence Act 1991, and the ongoing claims process;

3. Noted the support provided to affected residents and communities, including housing, welfare, wellbeing, education, communications and engagement activity;

4. Noted the engagement with the Scottish and UK Governments, including the Scottish Government contribution towards emergency response costs;

5. Noted the transition from Response to Recovery and the arrangements being established to support the ongoing recovery programme;

6. Noted the additional resource requirements arising from the incident and the commitment and contribution of Council staff, partner agencies and voluntary sector organisations throughout the response and into recovery.

7. Noted that additional funding may be required and this will be brought forward for consideration and approval by Council.

In line with Standing Order 10.23, the Convener adjourned the meeting at 11.35 am for a comfort break. When the meeting resumed at 11.45 am, 17 members remained present, Councillor Kathleen Martin having withdrawn from the meeting during the break.

CC(26)64 BUDGET STRATEGY AND MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY UPDATE

The report, submitted by the Chief Finance Officer, provided Council with a quarterly update on the implementation of the approved Budget Strategy and Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS), the developing financial outlook for 2027/28 and progress made in preparing the 2027/28 Budget. The report updated Council on the actions being taken to address the Council's significant financial challenges and support long-term financial sustainability. It also sought approval of a Financial Resilience Framework which will complement the MTFS by providing a structured approach to assessing, monitoring and reporting the Council's financial resilience over the medium to long term.

Councillor Mark McLuckie withdrew from the meeting during questions at 12.00 noon.

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. Noted the extremely challenging financial position and financial risks faced by the Council and the mitigations being put in place to manage these risks (paragraphs 3.1 and 3.9);

2. Noted the indicative funding gap of £10.096m in 2027/28 rising to £24.462m by 2031/32 (paragraph 3.2);

3. Noted the update on the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) (paragraph 3.10);

4. Noted the worsening financial position of the Health and Social Care Partnership and the potential for the Council to be asked to make additional financial contributions in 2026/27 which would add to the indicative budget gap for 2027/28 (paragraph 3.11);

5. Approved the proposed Financial Resilience Framework as set out in Section 4 and example Dashboard included within Appendix A, and agreed that officers will develop and populate the Financial Resilience Dashboard, with the first report on the Council's financial resilience to be presented alongside the next Budget Strategy and MTFS update, and

6. Noted progress made in implementing the approved Budget Strategy and preparations for the 2027/28 Budget since May 2026 (section 5).

Action
Chief Finance Officer

The Convener adjourned the meeting at 13.15 pm for a meal break. When the meeting resumed at 13.45 pm, 13 members remained present. Councillors Bryan Quinn, Kenneth Earle, Craig Holden and Darren Lee having withdrawn from the meeting during the break.

CC(26)065 ANNUAL TREASURY MANAGEMENT REPORT 2025/26

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 2026 and how this compares to the 2025/26 Treasury Management Strategy Statement set in February 2025.

Motion

To agree the recommendations as set out in the report.

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

Decision

The Council considered and noted the Annual Report for 2025/26 on the Council's Treasury Management activities.

CC(26)066 THE 2023/24 AUDIT OF CLACKMANNANSHIRE COUNCIL

The report, submitted by the Chief Executive, advised Council of the Controller of Audit's Section 102 Report and the findings of the Accounts Commission and to present the proposed improvement and recovery plan which has been developed to address the matters identified.

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. Noted the findings of the Accounts Commission and the Controller of Audit contained within the Section 102 (Appendix 1);

2. Noted the Council's response submitted to the Controller of Audit during the Section 102 process (Appendix 2);

3. Noted that the Accounts Commission required the Council and its external auditors to jointly agree a recovery plan and that this was submitted to the Controller of Audit within the required timescale;

4. Agreed the improvement plan (Appendix 3) prepared in response to the Account Commission findings outlined in the Section 102 report; and

5. Noted that officers are preparing a balanced and viable proposal for additional resource and support within the Finance Section to support delivery of the recovery plan, for consideration by a future Council meeting.

Action
Chief Executive

As a technical fault had developed for those attending on-line, the Convener adjourned the meeting at 2.56 pm. The fault was rectified and the meeting resumed at 3.05 pm with 13 members remained present.

CC(26)067 BE THE FUTURE: FAMILY WELLBEING PARTNERSHIP

The report, submitted by the Senior Manager, Wellbeing, provided an update on the progress, impact and future priorities of the Family Wellbeing Partnership (FWP). The Family Wellbeing Partnership is a key delivery mechanism for the Council's Be the Future Target Operating Model and Community Wellbeing Plan. Through prevention, whole family support, community empowerment and collaborative leadership, the Partnership brings together communities, public services, third sector organisations and national partners to improve outcomes for children, young people, families and communities. The report outlined progress during 2025/26, highlighted the impact achieved through partnership working and external investment, and set out priorities for 2026/27.

During questions on this item of business, at 3.46 pm, a technical fault developed for those attending on-line. As the fault could not be rectified, the Convener advised that the meeting would continue in the Chamber. Councillor Janine Rennie withdrew from the meeting at that time, leaving 12 members in attendance.

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. Noted the progress and impact of the Family Wellbeing Partnership during 2025/26 and the significant external investment, community wealth-building benefits and partnerships secured through the Family Wellbeing Partnership;

2. Noted the contribution of the Family Wellbeing Partnership to delivery of the Community Wellbeing Plan and the Council's Be the Future Target Operating Model;

3. Noted Clackmannanshire's continued leadership role in shaping national policy and practice relating to prevention, whole family support, child poverty reduction and public sector reform;

4. Noted the significant external investment, community wealth-building benefits and partnerships secured through the Family Wellbeing Partnership; and

5. Noted the strategic priorities for 2026/27 and the continued focus on prevention, community empowerment and public service reform.

CC(26)068 COMMUNITY WELLBEING PLAN 2026-2027

The report, submitted by the Depute Chief Executive & Director of Wellbeing, presented the overarching Community Wellbeing Plan (the One Plan) 2026-2027 (Appendix 1) for Council consideration and approval.

Motion

To agree the recommendations as set out in the report.

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

Decision

The Council:

1. Approved the Community Wellbeing Plan 2026-2027, including its Strategic Priorities, Outcomes and System Actions;

2. Noted the Outcomes Improvement Framework and One Report approach that will support performance monitoring and assurance throughout 2026-2027;

3. Noted the Community Wellbeing Plan's role within the Council's developing Be the Future Target Operating Model; and

4. Noted that the final performance report for the Community Wellbeing Plan 2025-2026 will be presented to the Audit and Scrutiny Committee on 27 August 2026.

Action
Chief Finance Officer

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 9

The Convener paused the meeting for to provide an opportunity for external parties attending virtually to leave the meeting.

CC(26)069 AWARD OF SOUTH OF SCOTLAND ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING INFRASTRUCTURE DELIVERY PARTNER CONCESSION CONTRACT

Following the Report to Council on 26th June 2025, officers were asked to bring a paper back to Council to approve the procurement outcome and next steps for the electrical vehicle charging concession model. The report, submitted by the Director of Place and Economy was drafted to meet this obligation.

Motion

To agree the recommendations as set out in the report.

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

Decision

The Council agreed the recommendations set out in the report.

The detailed minute from this item of business is recorded separately.

Action
Director of Place and Economy

Ends: 4.50 pm