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THIS PAPER RELATES TO ITEM 3 ON THE AGENDA

MINUTES OF MEETING of the AUDIT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE held in Council Chambers, Kilncraigs, Alloa on THURSDAY 28 AUGUST 2025 at 9.30 AM.

PRESENT

Councillor Janine Rennie (Chair)
Councillor Denis Coyne (Vice Chair)
Councillor Martha Benny
Councillor Phil Fairie (Via Teams)
Councillor Ellen Forson
Councillor William Keogh (Via Teams)
Councillor Bryan Quinn

IN ATTENDANCE

Chris Alliston, Strategic Director (Partnership & Performance)
Helena Arthur, Solicitor, Legal and Governance (Partnership & Performance) (Depute Clerk to the Committee)
Kevin Wells, Strategic Director (Place)
Lorraine Sanda, Strategic Director (People)
Colin Bruce, Chief Education Officer (People)
Lindsay Sim, Chief Finance Officer (Partnership & Performance)
Cherie Jarvie, Senior Manager, Partnership and Transformation (Partnership & Performance)
Sharon Robertson, Chief Social Work Officer (People)
Wendy Forrest, Head of Strategic Planning & Health Improvement
Lee Robertson, Senior Manager, Legal and Governance (Partnership & Performance)
Murray Sharp, Senior Manager, Housing (Place)
Joanna McDonald, Interim Chief Officer for Clackmannanshire and Stirling Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP)
Lesley Taylor, Principal Psychologist (People)
Adrienne Aitken, Senior Manager, ELC and Early Years (People)
Veronica Cully, Senior Manager, Inclusion and Partnership (Quality Improvement Manager)
Catriona Scott, Senior Manager, Secondaries and Communities (People)
Johan Roddie, Senior Manager, Permanence (People)
Gillian Scott, Senior Manager, Early Intervention (People)
Robbie Stewart, Senior Manager, Sport and Leisure (People)
Wendy Robertson, Senior Manager, Transformation & Capital
Sarah Langsford, Senior Manager, HR and Workforce Development (Acting) (P&P)
Andrew Buchanan, Team Leader, Housing Business Management (Place)
Melanie Moore, Committee Services, Legal and Governance (Partnership & Performance) (Minute)
Gillian White, Committee Services, Legal and Governance (Partnership & Performance)

ON TEAMS
Rebbecca McConnachie, External Auditor, Deloitte
Derek Barr, Procurement Manager (Partnership & Performance)
Margaret Lewis, Senior Manager, Care and Protection (People)
Nicola Mack, Chief Accountant (Partnership & Performance)
Judi Richardson, Performance and Information Adviser (Partnership & Performance)
Robbie Stewart, Senior Manager, Sport & Leisure (People)
Sarah McPhee, Senior Internal Auditor, Falkirk Council

AS(25)39 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Kenneth Earle.

AS(25)40 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

AS(25)41 MINUTE OF AUDIT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON 12 JUNE 2025

The minutes of the meeting of the Audit and Scrutiny Committee held on Thursday 12 June 2025 were submitted for approval.

Decision

The minutes of the meeting of the Audit and Scrutiny Committee held on Thursday 12 June 2025 were agreed as a correct record by the Committee and signed off by the Chair.

The Strategic Director, Partnership and Performance reminded members that on page 10 of the minute from 12 June 2025, the Audit and Scrutiny Forward Plan, all members are to complete the self-evaluation questionnaire by 5 September 2025.

AS(25)42 COUNCIL FINANCILAL PERFORMANCE 2024/25

This report, submitted by the Chief Finance Officer, provided an update on the financial performance of the Council, as at 31 March 2025, in respect of: the General Fund (GF) revenue and capital spend and the achievement of savings for the financial year 2024/25, and the Clackmannanshire element of the Stirling and Clackmannanshire Health and Social Care Partnership (H&SCP) revenue spend.

Motion

That the Committee agreed the recommendations as set out in the report.

Moved by Councillor Janine Renne. Seconded by Councillor Ellen Forson.

Decision

Having challenged and commented on the report, the Committee agreed to note:

1. General Fund revenue underspend of £(3.643) for the year to 31 March 2025, after adjusting for £3.074)m which is earmarked to be carried forward to 2025/26;

2. The Clackmannanshire element of the Health and Social Care Partnership (H&SCP overspend of £2.425m, for the year to 31 March 2025;

3. The balances of earmarked revenues held and used to date and remaining balances at 31 March 2025;

4. The General Fund Capital Programme underspend of £(13.358)m, with proposed carry forward of £12.333m;

5. Delivery of £4.842 of the £5.383m approved savings programme, representing an achievement of 90.0%, as at 31 March 2025; and

6. That these figures are draft and will be updated within the draft annual accounts if required and confirmed following the completion of the audit of the annual accounts.

AS(25)43 HRA FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE 2024/25

This report, submitted by the Chief Finance Officer, provided an update of the financial performance for the Council, as at 31 March 2025, in respect of: the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) draft revenue and capital spend for the financial year 2024/25.

Motion

That the Committee agreed the recommendations as set out in the report.

Moved by Councillor Janine Rennie. Seconded by Councillor Denis Coyne.

Decision

Having challenged and commented the report, the Committee agreed to note:

1. The HRA revenue surplus of £(6.083)m which is £(3.144)m greater than budgeted for the year to 31 March 2025, and

2. The HRA revenue spend carry forwards of £0.151m to support voids repair works and £0.882m for implementation of system upgrades (paragraph 4.2); and

3. The HRA Capital programme underspend of £(6.836)m, of which £6.362m is proposed to be carried forward.

AS(25)44 EXCEPTIONS FROM THE APPLICATION OF CONTRACT STANDING ORDERS

It is a requirement of Contact Standing Orders that exceptions should be reported to the next available Audit and Scrutiny Committee. The purpose of this paper therefore is to provide detail on any Exceptions to Contract Standing Orders in the previous quarter.

Motion

That the Committee agrees the recommendation as set out in the report.

Moved by Councillor Janine Rennie. Seconded by Councillor Denis Coyne.

Decision

Having challenged and commented the report, the Committee agreed to note the report.

AS(25)45 HEALTH AND CARE (STAFFING) (SCOTLAND) ACT 2019 – STATUTORY ANNUAL REPORT

This report, submitted by the Chief Social Work Officer, presented the first statutory annual report in relation to the Health and Care (Staffing) (Scotland) Act 2019 (attached as Appendix 1)

Motion

That the Committee agrees the recommendations as set out in the report.

Moved by Councillor Janine Rennie. Seconded by Councillor Ellen Forson.

Decision

1. Having challenged and commented the report, the Committee agreed to note the report; and

2. The content of this report is relevant to the functions of the Clackmannanshire & Stirling Integration Joint Board (IJB) and will be reviewed at its meeting.

AS(25)46 RISK STRATEGY ANNUAL REPORT

This report, submitted by the Senior Manager, Partnership & Transformation, provided committee with the second annual report on Clackmannanshire Council's Corporate Risk Management Strategy 2023-28. This includes appendices detailing the 2025/26 Risk Appetite Statement, Guidance & Governance Checklist and revised Corporate Risk & Integrity Forum Terms of Reference. Progress on the Risk Strategy Delivery Plan is also provided, as is the updated Corporate Risk Register, as at Quarter 1, 2025/26.

Motion

That the Committee agrees the recommendation as set out in the report.

Moved by Councillor Janine Rennie. Seconded by Councillor Denis Coyne.

Decision

Having challenged and commented the report, the Committee agreed to note the report.

AS(25)47 PARTNERSHIP & PERFORMANCE: 2024/2025 YEAR END BUSINESS PLAN UPDATE

This report, submitted by the Strategic Director, Partnership and Performance, provided a year-end update on the 2024/25 Partnership and Performance Business Plan. While a detailed summary is available in Appendix 1, key highlights and considerations are presented below.

The Strategic Director advised that there was an omission from 3.28 on page 113, which should read "**The case management system will assist the Legal Team at streamlining, instruction flow, automated documented diary creation, enabling seamless file action and enhancing efficiency and productivity whilst ensuring confidentiality in line with the Law Society's requirements**."

Motion

That the Committee agrees the recommendation as set out in the report.

Moved by Councillor Janine Rennie. Seconded by Councillor Brian Quinn.

Decision

Having challenged and commented the report, the Committee agreed to note the report.

AS(25)48 PLACE SERVICES YEAR END 2024/2025 BUSINESS PLAN PROGRESS

This report, submitted by the Strategic Director, Place, provided the Committee with a year-end status of the 2024/2025 Place Services Business Plan. A detailed summary is available in Appendix 1, key highlights and considerations are presented below.

Motion

That the Committee agrees the recommendation as set out in the report.

Moved by Councillor Janine Rennie. Seconded by Councillor Ellen Forson.

Decision

Having challenged and commented the report, the Committee agreed to note the report.

Councillor Ellen Forson left during questions of the next item of business. (11.57 am)

AS(25)49 COMMUNITY WELLBEING REPORT 2024-2025

This report, submitted by the Strategic Director, Place, provided annual progress on the Community Wellbeing Plan 2024-2025 which covers the full range of People Directorate Plans, including the People Business Plan.

Motion

That the Committee agrees the recommendation as set out in the report.

Moved by Councillor Janine Rennie. Seconded by Councillor Denis Coyne.

Decision

Having challenged and commented the report, the Committee agreed to note the report.

The Committee discussed the next item of business, if it is to be held in private or not. The Committee agreed to take the next item of business as an exempt item.

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 item of business on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as detailed in Schedule 7A, Part 1, Paragraph 12 and 14

AS(25)50 EXEMPT MINUTE OF THE MEETING OF THE AUDIT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON 12 JUNE 2025

The exempt minutes of the meeting of the Audit and Scrutiny Committee held on Thursday 12 June 2025 were submitted for approval.

Decision

The exempt minutes of the meeting of the Audit and Scrutiny Committee held on Thursday 12 June 2025 were agreed as a correct record by the Committee and signed off by the Chair.

Ends 12.06 pm