



**MINUTES OF MEETING of the AUDIT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE held in Council Chambers, Kilncraigs, Alloa on THURSDAY 11 DECEMBER 2025 at 9.30 AM.**

**PRESENT**

Councillor Denis Coyne (Chair)  
Councillor Janine Rennie (via Teams)  
Councillor Martha Benny  
Councillor Kenneth Earle (via Teams)  
Councillor Phil Fairlie  
Councillor Ellen Forson

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Chris Alliston, Strategic Director (Partnership & Performance)  
Lorraine Sanda, Strategic Director (People)  
Kevin Wells, Strategic Director (Place)  
Helena Arthur, Solicitor, Legal and Governance (Partnership & Performance) (Depute Clerk to the Committee)  
Colin Bruce, Chief Education Officer (People)  
Lee Robertson, Senior Manager, Legal and Governance (Partnership & Performance)  
Andrew Buchanan, Housing Operations Manager (Place)  
Sarah Goldberg, Team Leader, Legal and Governance (Partnership & Performance) (Via Teams)  
Alastair Hair, Senior Manager HR (Partnership & Performance)  
Cherie Jarvie, Senior Manager, Partnership and Transformation (Partnership & Performance)  
Nicola Mack, Chief Accountant (Partnership & Performance)  
Phil Mason, External Auditor, Deloitte (Via Teams)  
Stephen Craig, External Auditor, Deloitte (Via Teams)  
Sarah McPhee, Senior Internal Auditor, Falkirk Council (Via Teams)  
Wendy Forrest, Head of Strategic Planning and Health Improvement (HSCP)  
Judi Richardson, Performance and Information Adviser (Partnership & Performance)  
Lawrence Hunter, Energy and Sustainability Officer (Place)  
Wendy Robertson, Senior Manager (Transformation & Capital) (Via Teams)  
Lindsay Sim, Chief Finance Officer (Partnership & Performance)  
Councillor Donald Balsillie, Elected Member, Ward 2, Clackmannanshire North  
Melanie Moore, Committee Services, Legal and Governance (Partnership & Performance) (Minute)  
Gillian White, Committee Services, Legal and Governance (Partnership & Performance)

The Chair, Councillor Rennie was attending the Committee today on MS Teams, Councillor Denis Coyne would chair the meeting this morning in Chambers.

**AS(25)64      APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Councillor Keogh.

**AS(25)65      DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

**AS(25)66 MINUTE OF AUDIT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON  
30 OCTOBER 2025**

The minutes of the meeting of the Audit and Scrutiny Committee held on Thursday 30 October 2025 were submitted for approval.

**Decision**

The minutes of the meeting of the Audit and Scrutiny Committee held on Thursday 30 October 2025 were agreed as a correct record by the Committee and signed off by the Vice Chair.

**AS(25)67 COUNCIL GENERAL FUND CAPITAL SPEND 2025/26 AS AT  
SEPTEMBER 2025**

The report, submitted by the Chief Finance Officer, provided the Committee an update on the financial performance for the Council, as at September 2025, in respect of General Fund (GF) capital spend.

**Motion**

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

Moved by Councillor Denis Coyne. Seconded by Councillor Martha Benny.

**Decision**

Having challenged and commented on the report, the Committee agreed to note the General Fund Capital Programmes forecast underspend of £(5.882)m.

**AS(25)68 HRA FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE 2025/26 AS AT SEPTEMBER 2025**

The report, submitted by the Chief Finance Officer, provided an update on the financial performance, as at 30 September 2025, in respect of the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) revenue and capital spend for the financial year 2025/26.

**Motion**

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

Moved by Councillor Denis Coyne. Seconded by Councillor Ellen Forson.

**Decision**

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

1. The HRA revenue forecasted surplus of £(5,825)m which is £(01.169)m greater than budgeted for the year to 31 March 2026; and
2. The HRA Capital programme forecast underspend of £(2.998)m.

**AS(25)69 CORPORATE RISK REGISTER**

The report, submitted by the Senior Manager (Partnership & Transformation), provided the Committee with the 2025/26 Quarter 2 update on Clackmannanshire Council's Corporate Risk Register (Appendix A).

**Motion**

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

Moved by Councillor Denis Coyne. Seconded by Councillor Phil Fairlie.

**Decision**

Having noted, challenged and comment on the report, the Committee agreed to note the report.

**AS(25)70 INTERNAL AUDIT ACTIONS - PROGRESS REPORT**

This report, submitted by the Internal Audit Manager, provided an update on progress with completion of the 2024/25 and 2025/26 Internal Audit Plans. The report also set out the work required to demonstrate compliance with the Global Internal Audit Standards.

**Motion**

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

Moved by Councillor Denis Coyne. Seconded by Councillor Martha Benny.

**Decision**

Having noted, challenged and comment on the report, the Committee agreed to note the report.

**AS(25)71 CLACKMANNANSHIRE AND STIRLING INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT 2024-2025**

This report, submitted by the Head of Strategic Planning and Health Improvement, offered assurance that the Integration Joint Board continues to fulfil its ongoing responsibility to ensure effective monitoring and reporting on the delivery of services, and relevant targets and measures included in the delegated functions, and as set out in the Strategic Commissioning Plan 2023-2033.

The purpose of the Annual Performance Report (APR) is to provide an overview of performance in planning and carrying out integrated functions and is produced for the benefit of Partnerships and their communities.

The Annual Performance report (Appendix 2) reflects our progress as a HSCP from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025. An Executive Summary which focussed on both the highlights and areas for further development is compiled in Appendix 1.

Councillor Coyne advised that on pages 96 and 97, 3.2 to 3.5 were duplicated with the same information and was advised that this would be updated.

*Councillor Earle left during this item of business (10.25 am).*

**Motion**

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

Moved by Councillor Denis Coyne. Seconded by Councillor Ellen Forson.

### **Decision**

Having noted the Annual Performance Report 2024/25 and noted that this has been published on the Partnership website as required.

### **AS(25)72      HSCP – CLACKMANNANSHIRE LOCALITY PERFORMANCE REPORT 2025/26 Q1 & Q2 (1 APRIL TO 30 SEPTEMBER)**

This report, submitted by the Head of Strategic Planning and Health Improvement, highlighted the work and performance of the Clackmannanshire and Stirling Health and Social Care Partnership for the Locality of Clackmannanshire.

### **Motion**

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

Moved by Councillor Denis Coyne. Seconded by Councillor Ellen Forson.

### **Decision**

The Committee agreed to note: -

1. This paper and the continuing work being undertaken across Clackmannanshire: and
2. The performance of Clackmannanshire Locality within the Clackmannanshire and Stirling HSCP.

### **AS(25)73      MANAGEMENT INFORMATION: VOLUNTARY SEVERANCE, EARLY RETIREMENT, AND FLEXIBLE PACKAGES**

This report, submitted by the Senior Manager (HR and Workforce Development), provided Committee with an overview of the number of early retirements, voluntary severances, and flexible retirement approved during the previous financial year, including any associated costs and savings.

### **Motion**

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

Moved by Councillor Denis Coyne. Seconded by Councillor Phil Fairlie.

### **Decision**

Having noted, challenged and comment on the report, the Committee agreed to note the report.

### **AS(25)74      ABSENCE COMPLIANCE UPDATE**

This report, submitted by the Senior Manager ((HR and Workforce Development), provided Committee with an update on the Maximising Attendance and Well-being action plan and an update on the work being undertaken by the Absence Compliance Officer role.

### **Motion**

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

Moved by Councillor Denis Coyne. Seconded by Councillor Ellen Forson.

### **Decision**

The Committee agreed to note the report and accompanying appendices, having challenged and commented on it.

### **AS(25)75 PUBLIC BODIES' CLIMATE CHANGE REPORT DUTY (PBCCRD) CLACKMANNANSHIRE COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2024/25 INTERNAL AUDIT**

This report, submitted by the Strategic Director, presented the findings of Internal Audit's review of the Council's Public Body Climate Change Duties (PBCCD) 2024/25 Annual Return.

### **Motion**

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

Moved by Councillor Denis Coyne. Seconded by Councillor Ellen Forson.

### **Decision**

The Committee was asked to:-

1. Note the contents of the internal audit report on Clackmannanshire Council's progress in delivering its climate change duties (Annex 1), as delivered to the Scottish Government;
2. Note the substantial assurance provided on the Council's PBCCD reporting arrangements; and
3. Endorse the recommendations for improvements:
  - Aim to ensure that all carbon reduction projects include estimated and actual carbon savings and investigate tools to capture emissions savings data.
  - Review and update governance documents referenced in the PBCCD return that predate the 2024/25 reporting period (Annex 1 ref P10).

### **AS(25)76 PARTNERSHIP & PERFORMANCE: 2025/26 HALF YEAR BUSINESS PLAN UPDATE**

This report, submitted by the Strategic Director, Partnership and Performance, updated the Committee on the half year progress of the 2025/2026 Partnership and Performance Business Plan.

### **Motion**

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

Moved by Councillor Denis Coyne. Seconded by Councillor Ellen Forson

### **Decision**

Having noted, challenged and comment on the report, the Committee agreed to note the report.

Ends 11:07 hrs

