



**MINUTES OF MEETING of the AUDIT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE held in Council Chambers, Kilncraigs, Alloa on THURSDAY 23 APRIL 2026 at 9.30 AM.**

**PRESENT**

Councillor Denis Coyne (Vice Chair)  
Councillor Donald Balsillie (S)  
Councillor Martha Benny  
Councillor Kenneth Earle (via Teams) from 9.40 am  
Councillor Ellen Forson  
Councillor William Keogh  
Councillor Janine Rennie (via Teams)

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Chris Alliston, Head of Corporate Services  
Lorraine Sanda, Depute Chief Executive/Director of Wellbeing  
Kevin Wells, Director of Place and Economy (Council Chambers and via Teams)  
Colin Bruce, Head of Wellbeing Service/Chief Education Officer  
Sharon Robertson, Head of Wellbeing Service/Chief Social Work Officer  
Lindsay Sim, Chief Finance Officer (Corporate Services)  
Lee Robertson, Senior Manager, Legal and Governance (Corporate Services)  
Sarah Goldberg, Team Leader, Legal and Governance (Corporate Services)  
Alastair Hair, Senior Manager HR (Corporate Services)  
Cherie Jarvie, Senior Manager, Partnership and Transformation (Corporate Services)  
Phil Mason, External Auditor, Deloitte  
Stephen Craig, External Auditor, Deloitte  
Elizabeth Hutcheon, Management Accountancy Team Leader (Corporate Services) (via Teams)  
Veronica Cully, Senior Manager, Inclusion and Partnership (Wellbeing)  
Catriona Scott, Improving Outcomes Manager (Wellbeing) (via Teams)  
Adrienne Aitken, Senior Manager (Wellbeing) (Council and via Teams)  
Robbie Stewart, Senior Manager, Sport and Leisure (Wellbeing)  
Margaret Lewis, Senior Manager, Care and Protection (Wellbeing) (via Teams)  
Scott McDonald, Senior Manager, Justice Service (Wellbeing)  
Johan Roddie, Senior Manager, Permanence (Wellbeing)  
Michael Boyle, Improving Outcomes Business Manager (Wellbeing)  
Madeleine Muirhead, Strategic Lead, Community, Collaboration and Redesign (Wellbeing)  
Kaylee Robshaw-Jones, Fraud Officer (Corporate Services)  
Wendy Forrest, Head of Strategic Planning and Health Improvement (HSCP) (via Teams)  
Judi Richardson, Performance and Information Adviser (Corporate Services) (Via Teams)  
Wendy Robertson, Senior Manager (Transformation & Capital) (Via Teams)  
David Small, Station Commander, Alloa Fire Station (Scottish Fire and Rescue Service) (via Teams)  
Chief Inspector Garry Smith (Police Scotland)  
Lynsey Kidd, Operating Superintendent, Forth Valley (Police Scotland)  
Helena Arthur, Solicitor, Legal and Governance (Corporate Services) (Depute Clerk to the Committee)  
Melanie Moore, Committee Services, Legal and Governance (Corporate Services) (Minute)  
Gillian White, Committee Services, Legal and Governance (Corporate Services)

Councillor Coyne, Vice Chair chaired the committee today in place of Councillor Rennie, who was unable to attend in person but attended on Teams.

**AS(26)13      APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Councillor Fairlie. Councillor Donald Balsillie is in attendance today as substitute for Councillor Fairlie.

**AS(26)14      DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

**AS(26)15      MINUTE OF AUDIT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON  
5 FEBRUARY 2026**

The minutes of the meeting of the Audit and Scrutiny Committee held on Thursday 5 February 2026 were submitted for approval.

**Decision**

The minutes of the meeting of the Audit and Scrutiny Committee held on Thursday 5 February 2026 were agreed as a correct record by the Committee and signed off by the Vice Chair.

**AS(26)16      POLICE PERFORMANCE REPORT FOR CLACKMANNANSHIRE APRIL  
2025 TO SEPTEMBER 2025**

The report, submitted by the Local Police Commander, provided the Committee with information on the performance of Police Scotland in the Clackmannanshire local authority area for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025 to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2025.

The report is aligned with the headings of the priorities Clackmannanshire - Police Scotland (i.e. Responsive to the concerns of our communities, Enhancing our collective resilience to emerging threats, Protecting people most at risk from harm and Promoting confidence through our actions Road Safety and Road Crime).

The Clackmannanshire Police Performance Report (at Appendix 1) contained the current information on performance against selected performance indicators. The report provided complementary information to that in the table to present a summary of performance of policing in Clackmannanshire Council area and also identified emerging trends, threats and issues.

Data for the report was sourced from Police Databases that are subject to changes as enquiries progress. They can be best regarded as Point in Time figures. 5-year average figures are not available for all measures. The information in the table should be regarded as provisional.

**Motion**

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

Moved by Councillor Denis Coyne. Seconded by Councillor Donald Balsillie.

**Decision**

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

**AS(26)17 FIRE PERFORMANCE REPORT – 6 MONTH (Q1 AND Q2 2025/26)**

The report, submitted by the Local Senior Officer, Clackmannanshire, Fife and Stirling, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, provided Committee with an overview of performance of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) in Clackmannanshire covering the period 1st April 2025 to 30th September 2025. The report (in Appendix One) was based on performance against objectives and targets set out in the Local Fire and Rescue Plan for Clackmannanshire. Performance indicators were detailed in the summary report.

**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 scrutinised the report, the Committee agreed to note the report.

**AS(26)18 CORPORATE PERFORMANCE 2024/25**

The report, submitted by the Senior Manager, Partnership and Transformation, presented a summary of Clackmannanshire Council performance in 2024.25, aligned to the Wellbeing Economy Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP). Appendix A forms part of our Public Performance Reporting (PPR) duties and was published by the statutory 31<sup>st</sup> March deadline. Information is presented for each priority outcome, highlighting significant achievements, challenges, and planned improvements for future reporting.

**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 challenged the report, the Committee agreed to note the report.

*The Vice Chair adjourned the meeting at 11.53 am for a comfort break. When the meeting resumed at 12.07 pm, 7 members remained present.*

**AS(26)19 COUNCIL FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE 2025/26 AS AT DECEMBER 2025**

The report, submitted by the Chief Finance Officer, provided Committee an update on the financial performance for the Council, as at 31 December 2025, in respect of the General Fund (GF) revenue spend and the achievement of savings for the financial year 2025/26, and the Clackmannanshire element of the Stirling and Clackmannanshire Health and Social Care Partnership (H&SCP) revenue spend.

**Motion**

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

Moved by Councillor Denis Coyne. Seconded by Councillor William Keogh.

**Decision**

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

1. General Fund revenue forecast underspend of £(5.227)m for the year to 31 March 2026;
2. The Clackmannanshire element of the Health and Social Care Partnership (H&SCP) forecast overspend of £6.375m, for the year to 31 March 2026;
3. The balances of earmarked reserves used to date and remaining balances at 31 December 2025;
4. Forecast delivery of £3.270m of the £3.814m approved savings programme, representing a forecasted achievement of 86.4%, as at December 2025: and
5. The General Fund Capital programme forecast underspend of £(7.345)m.

**AS(26)20            HRA FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE 2025/26 AS AT DECEMBER 2025**

The report, submitted by the Chief Finance Officer, provided an update on the financial performance, as at 31 December 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 Martha Benny.

**Decision**

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

1. The HRA revenue forecasted surplus of £(6.329)m which is £(1.673)m greater than budgeted for the year to 31 March 2026; and
2. The HRA Capital programme forecast underspend of £(6.785)m;

**AS(26)21            TREASURY MANAGEMENT QUARTERLY UPDATE TO 31 DECEMBER 2025**

This report, submitted by the Chief Finance Officer, presented an update of Treasury Management activity for the third quarter of the 2025/26 financial year – 1<sup>st</sup> October to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025.

**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 Committee agreed to note the review of the Council's Treasury Management activities report.

**AS(26)22 IJB BUDGET 2026/27**

The report, submitted by the Chief Finance Officer, IJB, presented to IJB members on 25 March 2026. The report is brought forward for Council Members' information.

**Motion**

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

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

**Decision**

Committee agreed to note:

1. The IJB forecast deficit for 2026/27 is £19.673m;
2. Of the £19.673m deficit savings of £10.815m have been identified;
3. Further savings of £8.858m require to be found and recovery plan requires to be put in place for this amount to balance the IJB budget for 2026/27; and
4. The 2026/27 IJB budget was agreed by members subject to a budget recovery plan being brought back to the 24 June 2026 meeting.

**AS(26)23 INTERNAL AUDIT ACTIONS - PROGRESS REPORT**

The report, submitted by the Head of Corporate Services, provided the Committee with an update on the progress against actions arising from Internal Audit reports.

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

**AS(26)24 ANNUAL FRAUD RISK ASSESMENT AND ASSURANCE REPORT**

The report, submitted by the Senior Manager, Legal and Governance, recognised the Councils responsibility to ensure the public finances it administers are used efficiently, effectively and for the purposes they were intended; and that it is vulnerable to fraud and corruption and, in the current economic climate, acknowledges the increased risk posed by such illegal activities against valuable public funds.

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

Ends 13:03 hrs