

CABINET

Minutes of a hybrid webcast meeting on 28 May 2025 at 10.00 a.m.

Present
in County Councillors Brian Connolly (Chair), Alec Clark, Ian Davis, Mark Dixon,
Hall: William Grant, Hugh Hunter and Martin Kilbride.

Present
Remotely: Councillor Chris Cullen.

Apology: Councillor Bob Shields.

Attending
in County
Hall: M. Newall, Chief Executive; T. Baulk, Chief Financial Officer; G. Hunter, Assistant Director – Communities; K. Anderson, Assistant Director – Corporate Policy, Strategy and Performance; L. Reid, Assistant Director – Transformation; M. Inglis, Head of Children's Health, Care and Justice Services; A. Gibson, Committee Services Officer; and E. Moore, Committee Services Assistant.

Attending
Remotely: K. Mullen, Service Lead – ICT Operations; and E. Goldie, Co-ordinator – Development Management.

Opening Remarks.

The Chair took the sederunt, confirmed to Members the procedures to conduct this meeting and advised that the meeting was being broadcast live.

1. Declarations of Interest.

There were no declarations of interest by Members of the Cabinet in terms of Council Standing Order No. 17 and the Councillors' Code of Conduct.

2. **Minutes of previous meeting.**

The minutes of 29 April 2025 ([issued](#)) were submitted and approved.

As Councillor Kilbride was not in attendance at this meeting, he was not eligible to vote on these minutes. Councillors Cullen and Dixon were not eligible as they were not Members of the Cabinet at that time.

3. **Decision Log.**

Following discussion and having noted that it would be helpful if relevant narrative was included for the various actions that had been completed, the Cabinet

Decided:

- (1) to note there were no overdue actions;
- (2) to approve the actions listed with revised due dates; and
- (3) to note the recently completed actions.

Economic Development.

4. **Coastal Communities Fund**

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 14 May 2025 by the Director of Communities and Transformation seeking approval to amend the process for the awarding of Coastal Communities Funding (from Crown Estate net revenues from 2024/25) from which this Council could allocate funding during 2025/26.

Following discussion regarding concerns relating to the proposals, the Cabinet

Decided:

- (1) to approve the amended process for the awarding of Coastal Communities Funding during the financial year 2025/2026; and
- (2) that an update report be presented to the Service and Partnerships Performance Panel, at a later date, to include outcome monitoring on the benefits of the proposals for projects and initiatives.

Health and Social Care.

5. **Return Visit by the Care Inspectorate to Cunningham Place Children's House.**

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 14 May 2025 by the Head of Children's Health, Care and Justice

- (1) informing what the findings were following the return unannounced visit by the Care Inspectorate on Cunningham Place Children's House; and

- (2) advising that this return inspection was carried out by two Inspectors from the Care Inspectorate on 29 January 2025 and that telephone calls and email correspondence were also carried to stakeholders in relation to the young people who resided at Cunningham Place.

Following a number of issues raised by Members of the Cabinet, including how culture change was measured, training for staff, turnover of staff and the need for senior house staff to identify issues, prior to Inspectors raising concerns and that it being agreed that Members be sent details of the timelines for the actions required, the Cabinet

Decided: having reflected upon the key messages from the most recent Inspection report, to acknowledge the Health and Social Care Partnership progress in delivering on the required Improvement Action Plan and take assurances from the resulting improvement work.

Finance, HR and ICT.

6. Policy – Generative Artificial Intelligence.

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 14 May 2025 by Director of Communities and Transformation seeking approval for an operational Policy for the ethical and responsible use of Generative Artificial Intelligence at South Ayrshire Council.

Following discussion and having noted the importance of communication with staff on the proposals, training, compliance and the issue of data breaches, the Cabinet

Decided:

- (1) to note the work progressed by officers to develop proposals for the Council's use and governance of Generative Artificial intelligence;
- (2) to approve the Policy for Generative Artificial Intelligence at Appendix 1; and
- (3) to agree that the Policy would be reviewed in six months' time.

7. Exclusion of press and public.

The Cabinet resolved, in terms of Section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, that the press and public be excluded during consideration of the remaining item of business on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of exempt information in terms of paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

8. Additional Resources – Social Care Support Finance – Revenues and Benefits Services.

There was submitted a report (Members only) of 14 May 2025 by the Depute Chief Executive and Director of Education seeking Members' approval of the use of uncommitted reserves to create new posts within the Social Care Support finance team to accommodate the continued increased demand in the financial administration of a range of social care support services.

Following discussion, the Cabinet

Decided:

- (1) to approve the revised staffing structure, including creation of two new posts as noted in section 4 of the report;
- (2) to approve that the additional net annual cost of £0.151m. be drawn from uncommitted reserves in 2025/26 and thereafter include the revised structural changes in future budget setting processes, and
- (3) to request that the Service Lead - Revenues and Benefits undertake a recruitment exercise to fill the posts.
- (4) to agree that an update be provided in May/June 2026 by way of the Members' Bulletin.

9. Consideration of Disclosure of the above confidential report.

Decided: to authorise the disclosure under Standing Order 32.4 of the following report subject to redaction for GDPR:

- Additional Resources – Social Care Support Finance – Revenues and Benefits.

The meeting ended at 11.10 a.m.