

CABINET

Minutes of a hybrid webcast meeting on 17 June 2025 at 10.00 a.m.

Present

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

Apology: Councillor Chris Cullen.

Also

Present

in County

Hall: H. McGuire and G. Laird (in attendance for items 4 to 7).

Apologies: D. Gemmell, I. Gall and N. Fullard.

Attending

in County

Hall: L. McRoberts, Acting Chief Executive; J. Bradley, Director of Communities and Transformation; T. Baulk, Chief Financial Officer; S. Mulholland, Acting Director of Education; C. Cox, Assistant Director – Planning and Development; G. Hunter, Assistant Director – Communities; L. Reid, Assistant Director – Communities; K. Briggs, Service Lead – Legal and Licensing; T. Burns, Service Lead – Asset Management and Community Asset Transfer; S. McCardie, Service Lead – Performance, Community Planning and Sustainability; N. Gemmell, Service Lead – Revenues and Benefits; F. Ross, Service Lead – Neighbourhood Services; B. Sanderson, Service Lead – Human Resources; P. Bradley, Service Lead – Professional Design Services; M. Greaves, Co-ordinator – Economy and Regeneration; C. Love, Team Leader – Community Asset Transfer; N. Cecconi, Co-ordinator – Human Resources; L. Traynor, Head Teacher; F. Meney, Head Teacher; J. Thomson, Head Teacher; S. Flint, Head Teacher; A. Gibson, Committee Services Officer; and E. Moore, Committee Services Assistant.

Attending

Remotely: C. McGhee, Chief Internal Auditor.

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 28 May 2025 ([issued](#)) were submitted and approved.

3. **Decision Log.**

It was agreed that the Assistant Director – Planning and Development would raise with the Ayrshire Roads Alliance, a Member's concern that the due date for completion of the Motorhome Parking Scheme 2025 entry was now 29 August 2025 and that, in his view, this would impede this year's summer season.

The Cabinet

Decided:

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

Variation in Order of Business.

In terms of Standing Order No. 13.2, the Cabinet agreed to vary the order of business as hereinafter minuted.

Education.

4. **Inspection of Ayr Academy: Education Scotland Report.**

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 4 June 2025 by the Depute Chief Executive and Director of Education informing the Cabinet of the outcome of the Education Scotland Inspection of Ayr Academy.

Having considered the contents of the National report by Education Scotland and following discussion and having heard from the Headteacher, the Cabinet

Decided: to agree that the main points for action would be addressed by the Headteacher and Quality Improvement Officer.

Councillor Shields left the meeting at this point.

5. **Inspection of Alloway Primary School and Early Years Centre: Education Scotland Report.**

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 4 June 2025 by the Depute Chief Executive and Director of Education informing the Cabinet of the outcome of the Education Scotland Inspection of Alloway Primary School and Early Years Centre.

Having considered the contents of the National report by Education Scotland and following discussion and having heard from the Headteacher, the Cabinet

Decided: to agree that the main points for action would be addressed by the Headteacher and Quality Improvement Manager.

6. **Inspection of Dalmilling Primary School: Education Scotland Report.**

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 4 June 2025 by the Depute Chief Executive and Director of Education informing the Cabinet of the outcome of the Education Scotland Inspection of Dalmilling Primary School.

Having considered the contents of the National report by Education Scotland and following discussion and having heard from the Headteacher, the Cabinet

Decided: to agree that the main points for action would be addressed by the Headteacher and Quality Improvement Manager.

7. **Inspection of Doonfoot Primary School and Early Years Centre: Education Scotland Report.**

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 4 June 2025 by the Depute Chief Executive and Director of Education informing the Cabinet of the outcome of the Education Scotland Inspection of Doonfoot Primary School and Early Years Centre.

Having considered the contents of the National report by Education Scotland and following discussion and having heard from the Headteacher, the Cabinet

Decided: to agree that the main points for action would be addressed by the Headteacher and Quality Improvement Manager.

The Education representatives left the meeting at this point.

The time being 10.55 a.m., the Cabinet agreed to adjourn for five minutes. The Cabinet resumed at 11.00 a.m.

Buildings, Housing and Environment.

8. Memorial Policy.

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 11 June 2025 by the Director of Housing, Operations and Development seeking approval

- (1) regarding the future management of both existing and new memorial tributes; and
- (2) of the increased selection of memorials that Neighbourhood Services could offer family and friends wishing to purchase a tribute to commemorate their loved one.

The Cabinet

Decided: to remit this matter to a future meeting of South Ayrshire Council for consideration.

Buildings, Housing and Environment/Tourism Culture and Rural Affairs.

9. Girvan Regeneration: Girvan's Story.

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 11 June 2025 by the Director of Housing, Operations and Development seeking

- (1) approval to progress submission of potential regeneration projects ('Girvan's Story') to Stage 2 of the Historic Environment Scotland (HES) and National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) Heritage and Place Programme for match funding; and
- (2) the establishment of a 'Girvan's Story Project Partnership Board' to provide advice on the progression of the recommended projects.

Following discussion, including the Terms of Reference for the Partnership Board, the Cabinet

Decided:

- (a) to note the progress made in Stage 1 'Development Stage' of the Girvan's Story project;
- (b) to agree to progress the Girvan's Story Project, including preparation and submission of Stage 2 ('Delivery Stage') applications to project funders, Historic Environment Scotland (HES) and National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF);
- (c) to recognise the Girvan's Story Project Partnership Board as an advisory body as a requirement of external funding bodies and to agree the Terms of Reference for inclusion in the Stage 2 submission, subject to a revision in Section 2 of these Terms of Reference ("Role of Girvan's Story Partnership Board") to clarify in the first two items in the list, that the purpose of the Board was to **make recommendations to Cabinet** in relation to allocation of finance/grant awards and any changes which could impact on budget;

- (d) to agree allocation of £1,000,000 in match funding from the Girvan Regeneration Budget to be included in the Stage 2 submission for delivery of key projects and activities; and
- (e) to authorise the submission of future potential application(s) to the Scottish Government's Regeneration Capital Grant Fund (RCGF) or others as appropriate for funding in regard to the Girvan's Story Project.

Buildings, Housing and Environment/Finance/HR and ICT.

10. Housing Capital Programme 2024/25: Monitoring Report as at 31 March 2025.

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 10 June 2025 by the Director of Housing, Operations and Development

- (1) providing an update on the actual capital expenditure and income, together with progress made on the Housing Capital Programme projects as at 31 March 2025 (Period 12); and
- (2) requesting agreement for the changes to budgets in 2024/25 and 2025/26.

Following discussion on new build housing in Girvan and the process involved for the development of footpaths within housing areas, the Cabinet

Decided:

- (a) to note the progress made on the delivery of the Housing Capital Programme to 31 March 2025, resulting in spend of £48.369m., or 98.33%, as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report;
- (b) to approve the adjustments contained in Appendix 2 of the report;
- (c) to approve the carry forward of budget from 2024/25 to 2025/26 of £780,390; and
- (d) to approve the revised budget for 2025/26 at £58.837m. and 2026/27 at £30.901m., as highlighted in Appendix 2 of the report.

Corporate and Strategic.

11. Council Plan Actions – Year 3 (2025/2026).

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 4 June 2025 by the Depute Chief Executive and Director of Education seeking approval of the Council Plan Actions (2025/2026) for Year Three of the Council Plan 2023-2028.

Following discussion and having noted that up to date information on the entries in the Council Plans could be accessed by Members via Pentana, the Cabinet

Decided:

- (1) to approve the Council Plan actions for Year 3 (2025/2026) as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report;
- (2) to note that actions for the third year of the Council Plan would be reported to Service and Partnerships Performance Panel during 2025/2026, as agreed within the Performance Management Framework; and
- (3) to note that performance against the Council Plan would also be the subject of the annual report to Council.

Sport and Leisure.

12. Coylton Tennis Club Community Asset Transfer under Part 5 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 and Application for Funding from the Advancing Community Assets Fund.

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 9 June 2025 by the Director of Housing, Operations and Development presenting the proposal for the Community Asset Transfer of ownership of Coylton Tennis Club, to Coylton LTC SCIO, under Part 5 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015; for a price less than best consideration; and an associated application for funding through the Advancing Community Assets Fund (ACAF).

Following discussion, the Cabinet

Decided:

- (1) to approve the transfer of ownership of Coylton Tennis Club, as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report, under Part 5 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 to Coylton LTC SCIO for the discounted sum of £3,000 (three thousand pounds) Sterling, having regard to the recommendations made by the Community Asset Transfer Assessment Group (Appendix 2) and in the Best Value Assessment (Appendix 3);
- (2) to agree the Council's responses to the representations received (Appendix 4) following publication of the Notice of Asset Transfer Request (Appendix 5), to approve publication of the responses on the Council website and notification of those who responded to the consultation;
- (3) to note that, if the applicants wished to proceed with the acquisition, they had a period of six months from the date of the decision notice within which to agree the terms of the sale with the Council;
- (4) in the event of an offer being received, to request the Chief Governance Officer to conclude the sale, in accordance with the recommendations of this report;

- (5) to note that Coylton LTC SCIO's Stage 2 CAT Request Form could be viewed at Appendix 6, that their business plan could be viewed at Appendix 7 and constitution at Appendix 8; and
- (6) to agree that the Advancing Community Asset Fund would require to pay a one-off grant of £100,000 to Coylton LTC as a contribution towards the costs of resurfacing the courts; noting that the Advancing Community Assets Fund had sufficient funds to meet this request.

Tourism ,Culture and Rural Affairs.

13. Visitor Levy Scheme.

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 6 June 2025 by the Director of Communities and Transformation

- (1) providing an update on feedback received on the Visitor Levy Scheme survey; and
- (2) seeking approval to delay any proposals to introduce a Visitor Levy scheme in South Ayrshire.

Following discussion, the Cabinet

Decided:

- (a) to note the Visitor Levy survey responses received, detailed at Appendix 1 of the report;
- (b) to note the recommendations of the Transformation Board, as detailed in paragraph 3.7 of the report; and
- (c) to agree to pause any further work to develop a Visitor Levy scheme for South Ayrshire until August 2027, when further evidence would be available to demonstrate the impact of the Scheme on Councils and the visitor economy.

Finance/HR and ICT.

14. Family Leave - Premature and Neonatal Care Leave and Pay.

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 4 June 2025 by the Chief HR Officer seeking approval to implement the new Premature and Neonatal Care Leave and Pay.

The Cabinet

Decided:

- (1) to approve the introduction of the Premature and Neonatal Care Leave and Pay provision; and
- (2) to approve the revisions made to the Family Leave Policy to incorporate the new provision, as contained in Appendix 1 of the report.

15. General Services Capital Programme 2024/25: Monitoring Report as at 31 March 2025.

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 10 June 2025 by the Director of Housing, Operations and Development providing an update on the actual capital expenditure and income, together with progress made on the General Services Capital Programme projects as at 31 March 2025 (Period 12), and requesting agreement for the changes to budgets in 2024/25, 2025/26 and 2026/27.

The Cabinet

Decided:

- (1) to note the progress made on the delivery of the General Services Capital Programme to 31 March 2025, resulting in spend of £39.473m., or 86.94%, as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report;
- (2) to approve the adjustments, as contained in Appendix 2 of the report;
- (3) to approve the carry forward of budget from 2024/25 to 2025/26 of £5.914m.; and
- (4) to approve the revised budget for 2025/26 at £98.358m. and 2026/27 at £82.680m., as highlighted in Appendix 2 of the report.

16. Budget Management – Revenue Budgetary Control 2024/25 – Out-turn Statement at 31 March 2025.

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 11 June 2025 by the Chief Financial Officer presenting a financial overview of the General Services revenue account, Housing Revenue Account and Common Good Accounts for 2024/25, as at 31 March 2025.

Following discussion on employee costs, the Cabinet

Decided:

- (1) to note the out-turn position for each Directorate/service for 2024/25, detailed in Appendix 1 of the report;
- (2) to approve the revisions to previous earmarking and new earmarking of funds, to be carried forward for utilisation in 2025/26, as outlined in Appendix 2 of the report and included in tables 1 at paragraph 4.1.1 of the report;
- (3) to note the overall General Services in-year underspend of £0.182m. at paragraph 4.1.1 of the report (before earmarking) and the accumulated uncommitted reserves position of £4.431m., as outlined in paragraph 4.1.9 of the report;
- (4) to note the £0.097m. HSCP 2024/25 in-year underspend and accumulated reserves position of £11.100m. available to the Partnership for 2025/26, as outlined in paragraphs 4.1.5 to 4.1.6 of the report;

- (5) to note the creation of a new provision for potential abortive capital spend of £3.279m. charged to revenue in 2024/25, as outlined in paragraph 4.1.7, which significantly impacted on the in-year out-turn position noted in paragraph 2.1.3 of the report;
- (6) to note the Housing Revenue Account financial position outlined in paragraph 4.2 of the report and to approve the newly requested £1.350m. earmarking of funds, as detailed in Appendix 1f of the report;
- (7) to note the Common Good Fund's financial position, as outlined in paragraph 4.3 of the report;
- (8) to approve the release of a small number of current committed reserve balances, as noted in paragraph 4.1.11 and detailed in Appendix 3 of the report; and
- (9) to note that the General Fund uncommitted reserve balance was below the desired 2% of expenditure at 31 March 2025, but further noted the previous Council agreement, to contribute £3.928m. of funds to the uncommitted reserve during 2025/26, increasing the balance held above the desired level going forward.

17. Write-offs: Council Tax, Non-Domestic Rates, Customer Invoicing and Housing Benefit Overpayments.

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 4 June 2025 by the Chief Financial Officer seeking the approval to write-off Council Tax, Non-Domestic Rates, Housing Benefit Overpayments and Customer Invoicing Accounts in accordance with Council policy.

Following discussion on how write-offs were determined, the Cabinet

Decided:

- (1) to approve the write-off of Council Tax amounting to £63,147.65;
- (2) to approve the write-off of Non-Domestic Rates amounting to £294,628.33;
- (3) to approve the write-off of Housing Benefit Overpayments amounting to £11,355.49; and
- (4) to note the write-off of Customer Invoicing amounting to £48,808.04 previously approved by the Chief Financial Officer in accordance with Section 7 (FIP10) of the Council's Scheme of Delegation.

18. 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 it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information in terms of paragraphs 8 and 9 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

Economic Development/Buildings, Housing and Environment.

19. Common Good Consultation on Proposed Lease of Kiosk No 1 and Kiosk No 2, Ayr.

There was submitted a report (Members only) of 4 June 2025 by the Director of Housing, Operations and Development

- (1) providing the results from the statutory community consultation – under Section 104 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 – in relation to the proposed lease of Kiosk No 1 and Kiosk No 2 to two separate businesses, each for a period of 25 years; and
- (2) seeking approval to proceed with the process to conclude the new leases.

Following discussion, the Cabinet

Decided:

- (a) to note the results of the public consultation carried out under section 104 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015;
- (b) to agree the responses to the representations received, as outlined in Appendix 1 of the report, approve publication of the responses on the Council website and notification of those who responded to the consultation;
- (c) to grant authority to the Chief Governance Officer to submit a Petition to the Sheriff Court to obtain Court authority to proceed with the proposal, which constituted a disposal of a Common Good asset; and
- (d) to agree, that if Court authority was obtained, to approve the proposals as presented to Cabinet on 18 February 2025 and authorise the Chief Governance Officer to conclude the leases on the terms offered, as contained within the Addenda (Confidential) to this report.

20. Consideration of Disclosure of the above confidential report.

Decided: to agree that under Standing Order 32.4, the undernoted report remain exempt until the leases were concluded and subject to redaction for GDP purposes.

- Common Good Consultation on Proposed Lease of Kiosk No 1 and Kiosk No 2, Ayr.

The meeting ended at 12.30 p.m.