

SOUTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL.

Minutes of a hybrid webcast meeting
on 26 June 2025 at 10.00 a.m.

Present in County Buildings: Councillors Iain Campbell (Provost), Laura Brennan-Whitefield, Ian Cavana, Alec Clark, Chris Cullen, Ian Davis, Brian Connolly, Julie Dettbarn, Mark Dixon, Stephen Ferry, William Grant, Hugh Hunter, Martin Kilbride, Mary Kilpatrick, Alan Lamont, Craig Mackay, Brian McGinley, Bob Pollock, Cameron Ramsay, Philip Saxton, Gavin Scott, Bob Shields, Duncan Townson and George Weir.

Present Remotely: Councillors Kenneth Bell and Lee Lyons.

Apologies: Councillors Ian Cochrane and Martin Dowey.

Attending in County Buildings: L. McRoberts, Acting Chief Executive; K. Braidwood, Director of Housing, Operations and Development; J. Bradley, Director of Communities and Transformation; S. Mulholland, Acting Director of Education; C. Caves, Chief Governance Officer; T. Baulk, Chief Financial Officer; W. Wesson, Chief HR Officer; C. Cox, Assistant Director – Planning and Development; M. Inglis, Head of Children's Health, Care and Justice Services; K. Briggs, Service Lead – Legal and Licensing; T. Simpson, Service Lead – Corporate Accounting; C. Iles, Service Lead – Planning and Building Standards; J. Hall, Co-ordinator (Planning Strategy); C. Neillie, Solicitor; S. Tyeson, Senior Manager (Planning and Performance – Health and Social Care); J. McClure, Committee Services Lead Officer; A. Gibson, Committee Services Officer; J. Chapman, Committee Services Officer; and C. McCallum, Clerical Assistant.

In Attendance: C. Sneddon.

Attending Remotely: C. McGhee, Chief Internal Auditor.

1. **Provost.**

The Provost

- (1) welcomed everyone to the meeting, outlined the procedures for conducting this meeting and advised that this meeting would be broadcast live;
- (2) intimated that apologies had been received from Councillors Cochrane and Dowey; and
- (3) advised that he had written, on the Council's behalf, to express the Council's warmest congratulations to the following who had received Honours in the King's Birthday Honours List:
 - (i) Margarete Bryan of Ayr who received an MBE for services to the retail sector in Scotland; and
 - (ii) Paula Daly of Dundonald of the Royal National Mission to Deep Sea Fishermen who received an MBE for services to Fishermen and their Families.

Additional Item

Councillor Brian Connolly, seconded by Councillor Alec Clark, gave notice of an urgent exempt item for consideration by Council.

Provost advised that, in terms of Standing Order No. 13.1(12), he had exercised his discretion that this matter be considered in terms of urgency at the end of the meeting.

2. Sederunt and Declarations of Interest.

The Acting Chief Executive called the Sederunt for the meeting and having called the roll, confirmed that there were no declarations of interest by Members of the Council in terms of Council Standing Order No. 17 and the Councillors' Code of Conduct.

3. Minutes of previous meetings

(1) Minutes of Previous Meetings of the Council.

- (a) Provost Iain Campbell, seconded by Councillor Mary Kilpatrick, moved the Minutes of South Ayrshire Council of [1 May 2025](#) as a correct record.

The Council

Decided: to approve the Minutes of 1 May 2025 and authorise these minutes to be signed as a correct record.

- (b) Provost Iain Campbell, seconded by Councillor Mary Kilpatrick, moved the Minutes of South Ayrshire Council (Special) of [14 May 2025](#) as a correct record.

The Council

Decided: to approve the Minutes of 14 May 2025 (Special) and authorise these minutes to be signed as a correct record.

- (c) Provost Iain Campbell, seconded by Councillor Mary Kilpatrick, moved the Minutes of South Ayrshire Council (Special) of [20 May 2025](#) as a correct record.

The Council

Decided: to approve the Minutes of 20 May 2025 (Special) and authorise these minutes to be signed as a correct record.

- (d) Provost Iain Campbell, seconded by Councillor Mary Kilpatrick, moved the Minutes of South Ayrshire Council (Special) of [23 May 2025](#) as a correct record.

The Council

Decided: to approve the Minutes of 23 May 2025 (Special) and authorise these minutes to be signed as a correct record.

(2) Minutes of previous meetings of Panels.

The Minutes of the undernoted Panels were submitted for information:-

- (i) Audit and Governance Panel of [26 March 2025](#) and [7 May 2025](#).
- (ii) Cabinet of [18 March 2025](#) and [29 April 2025](#)
- (iii) Local Review Body of [25 February 2025](#).
- (iv) Regulatory Panel – Licensing of [20 March 2025](#) and [30 April 2025](#).
- (v) Regulatory Panel – Planning of [27 March 2025](#) (Site Visit) and [15 May 2025](#).
- (vi) Service and Partnerships Performance Panel of [22 April 2025](#) and [21 May 2025](#).

4. Appointments to Convention of Scottish Local Authorities.

There was submitted a [report](#) (issued) of 19 June 2025 by the Chief Governance Officer seeking approval to make alterations to the list of representatives on the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA).

The Chief Governance Officer introduced the report.

Councillor Brian Connolly, seconded by Councillor Alec Clark, moved the recommendations as outlined in the report.

The Council, having considered any other amendments which may be required to COSLA representation,

Decided:

- (1) to note the change in the representative nominated by members of the Administration identified in para 4.1 of the report, namely that Councillor Chris Cullen replace Councillor Bob Pollock as the Council's representative on the COSLA Environment and Economy Policy Board; and
- (2) to request that the Conservative Group Leader confirm the appointment as Conservative representative to the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities identified in paragraph 4.2 of the report (subsequently agreed as Councillor Ian Davis).

5. Appointments to Panel

There was submitted a [report](#) (issued) of 20 June 2025 by the Chief Governance Officer seeking approval to make changes to the membership of Panels.

The Chief Governance Officer introduced the report.

Councillor Brian Connolly, seconded by Councillor Alec Clark, moved the recommendations as outlined in the report.

The Council, having considered any other amendments which may be required to membership of Panels,

Decided: .

- (1) to note the change in the representative nominated by members of the Administration identified in paragraph 4.2 of the report, namely that Councillor Martin Kilbride replace Councillor Bob Pollock on Ayrshire Shared Services Joint Committee;
- (2) to note the change in the representative nominated by the Labour Group identified in paragraph 4.4 of the report, namely that Councillor Duncan Townson replace Councillor Philip Saxton on the Chief Officers' Appointments/Appraisal Panel;
- (3) to appoint a new member to the South Ayrshire Integration Joint Board to replace Councillor Mark Dixon (subsequently named as Councillor Alan Lamont); and
- (4) to request that officers make the required amendments to the list of Panels to reflect these changes.

6. Representation on Outside Bodies.

There was submitted a [report](#) (issued) of 19 June 2025 by the Chief Governance Officer seeking approval to make alterations to the membership on the list of Outside Bodies.

The Chief Governance Officer introduced the report and advised that an amendment also required to be made to the Ayrshire Community Wealthbuilding Commission, namely that Councillor Brian Connolly replace Councillor Martin Dowey (as Leader) on this Body.

Councillor Brian Connolly, seconded by Councillor Alec Clark, moved the recommendations as outlined in the report and the amendment to the membership of the Ayrshire Community Wealthbuilding Commission.

The Council, having thanked Councillors Mackay and Saxton for their contribution to the CK Marr Trust during their term,

Decided:

- (1) to approve the appointment of Councillors Kenneth Bell and William Grant as Trustees of CK Marr Educational Trust (as Governors);
- (2) to approve the amendment to the membership of the Ayrshire Community Wealthbuilding Commission, namely that Councillor Brian Connolly replace Councillor Martin Dowey on this Body (as Leader); and
- (3) to request that officers make the required amendments to the list of Outside Bodies to reflect these changes.

7. Representation on Working Groups.

There was submitted a [report](#) (issued) of 19 June 2025 by the Chief Governance Officer seeking approval to make alterations to the membership of Working Groups.

The Chief Governance Officer introduced the report and advised that further alterations to representation on Working Groups would be submitted to the next meeting of South Ayrshire Council on 18 September 2025.

Councillor Brian Connolly, seconded by Councillor Alec Clark, moved the recommendations as outlined in the report.

A question was raised on whether a Member was being displaced from the Best Value Member/Officer Working Group on Councillor Clark's appointment and the Chief Governance Officer advised that Councillor Connolly had been appointed to this Group at a previous Council meeting replacing Councillor Martin Dowe, however, Councillor Connolly had already been a Member of this Group, therefore no Member was being displaced on Councillor Clark's appointment.

The Council, having considered any other amendments which may be required to membership of Working Groups,

Decided:

- (1) to note the change in the representative nominated by members of the Administration identified at paragraph 4.1 of the report, namely that Councillor Alec Clark be appointed as a member of the Best Value Member/Officer working Group; and
- (2) to request that officers make the required amendments to the list of Working Groups to reflect this change.

8. Schedule of Meetings.

There was submitted a [report](#) (issued) of 18 June 2025 by the Chief Governance Officer seeking approval of a proposed timetable of meetings from August 2026 to April 2027.

The Chief Governance Officer introduced the report .

Councillor Brian Connolly, seconded by Councillor Alec Clark, moved the recommendations as outlined in the report.

The Council

Decided: to approve the timetable of Council, Cabinet and Panel meetings from August 2026 to April 2027, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report.

9. South Ayrshire Charitable Trust.

There was submitted a [report](#) (issued) of 19 June 2025 by the Chief Governance Officer providing an annual update on the South Ayrshire Charitable Trust; and seeking approval of the Trust Business Plan for the 2025/26 financial year.

The Service Lead – Legal and Licensing introduced the report and outlined that the South Ayrshire Charitable Trust commenced in 2015 as a consolidation of a number of historical trusts to provide simpler management and disbursement to those in need in South Ayrshire; that in the last eight years grants and donations of more than £700,000 had been made from this trust; that during 2024/25 Committees for Ayr, Girvan and Prestwick and Monkton had decided to utilise the remaining funds as outlined in Appendix 1 to the report; that Girvan funds included external investments in the name of predecessor trusts and trustees that were currently inaccessible, with the Finance Team working to resolve these access issues; that Appendix 2 to the report set out the business plan with the current limit for grants for Girvan in respect of those external investments; that a sum of £50,000 had been set aside in the 2025/26 Council budget for a Small Grants Scheme to replace Trust Grants and that the Service Lead – Corporate Accounting and other officers were considering options for the use of these funds and an update would be provided in due course; and that, if this sum was added to the trust fund of South Ayrshire Charitable Trust then a further report would be submitted to Trustees for a decision on how these monies would be allocated.

Councillor Brian Connolly, seconded by Councillor Ian Davis, moved the recommendations as outlined in the report.

Comments were made and questions raised by Members in relation to:

- (1) the Charitable Trust being very successful and the existing grant process should remain and not be transferred to Thriving Communities as it would disadvantage local people; and the Service Lead- Corporate Accounting advised that the exhaustion of the majority of the trust funds and the Council's decision to create a budget of £50,000 for small grants had given officers the opportunity to examine the options available for these monies and that a report on this matter would be submitted to Council following Summer recess; that officers were conscious of the requirement for administration and audit fees associated with running the Charitable trust; and that the member's comments were noted and all members would be consulted on the best ways to spend these monies;
- (2) that this annual report advised of the inaccessible monies in the Girvan fund and what progress had been made over the past year in accessing these funds; and the Service Lead – Corporate Accounting advised that progress had been made with re-establishing contact with the investments houses and updating new trustees details was almost complete; following which the previous trustees could be removed and fresh instruction provided to the investment houses to release the funds held in abeyance, at which time the trustees could agree how these monies could be spent;
- (3) given the proposals for the £50,000, could an Elected Members' briefing be arranged following summer recess to explore these proposals further; and the Service Lead – Corporate Accounting advised that this could be arranged;

- (4) that the Charitable Trust was an excellent initiative which brought the trusts together and this should not be transferred to Thriving Communities; and the monies should not be utilised for administration fees and only used for what it was intended for; and the Service Lead – Corporate Accounting advised that, whilst the administration charges and audit fees were not excessive, it was a legal requirement that the Trust pay for those governance costs which officers sought to minimise;
- (5) that it had been a pleasure sitting on the Trust; that the small amounts granted to organisations had made a real difference to communities; and would the organisations be able to bid for small grants should this scheme be transferred to the grants fund process through Thriving Communities; and the Service Lead – Corporate Accounting advised that these bodies could still apply for grants and it would be an open and transparent process;
- (6) the role of the trustees and whether this report was presented to the members of the Council as trustees or as Elected Members; and the Service Lead – Legal and Licensing advised that all Members were trustees of this Trust which was a separate legal body and registered charity; that this annual report was presented to Council as Elected Members, however, when making decisions on the Trust these decisions were as trustees, therefore, if the Council wished to augment the funds remaining in this Trust, a report would be submitted to the Councillors as Trustees asking if the Trust wished to accept the £50,000 and outlining the options for the spending of these monies; and
- (7) that this Trust did fantastic work and provided grants to individuals in need of assistance.

The Council, having thanked the Service Lead – Legal and Licensing, the Service Lead – Corporate Accounting and the Solicitor for their work on this matter,

Decided: by a majority of 25 votes For the Motion and one Abstention,

- (a) to note the summary of grant and donation funding made by the Trust during 2024/25, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report;
- (b) to approve the business plan for the running of the Trust for the year 2025/26, as detailed in Appendix 2 to the report; and
- (c) that an Elected Members' briefing be held following summer recess on this matter.

10. Audit and Governance Panel – 2024/25 Annual Report.

There was submitted a joint [report](#) (issued) of 18 June 2025 by the Chief Financial Officer and the Chief Governance Officer providing the Audit and Governance Panel annual report for 2024/25.

The Chief Financial Officer introduced the report and advised that the report provided a variety of information on the activity of the Audit and Governance Panel during the financial year; and that the Audit and Governance Panel considered the report at its meeting of 4 June 2025 when it was agreed to remit the report to this meeting of Council for consideration.

Councillor Ian Davis, seconded by Councillor Julie Dettbarn, moved the recommendations as outlined in the report.

Councillor Dettbarn, as Chair of Audit and Governance Panel outlined that she was pleased to be presenting the Panel's second annual report for the scrutiny of Council; that this was an important function to give Council the opportunity to hold the Panel and its members to account for the work undertaken on behalf of the Council in the past year; that the annual self-assessment allowed Panel members to identify areas for further improvement and that they should always be on a journey of self-improvement; thanked all Panel members for the work undertaken; and thanked the Chief Financial Officer and the Service Lead – Democratic Governance for their support.

Comments were made by a Member in relation to the good work carried out by Panel members, specifically around the financial elements; recognising the commitment of staff working tirelessly to complete the annual accounts, led by the Chief Financial Officer; that the practice of an annual report for Panels was beneficial and could be adopted by other Panels; that the annual self-assessment was important and other Panels should also consider carrying this out; that governance required to be prioritised by the Audit and Governance Panel and driven forward to ensure more transparency and accountability.

The Council, having thanked the members of the Audit and Governance Panel for the work undertaken,

Decided: to approve the Audit and Governance Panel annual report for 2024/25 (attached as [Appendix 1](#) to the report).

11. Girvan Conservation Area Management Plan.

There was submitted a [report](#) (issued) of 18 June 2025 by the Director of Housing, Operations and Development seeking approval to hold a public consultation on the Girvan Draft Conservation Area Management Plan (CMP).

The Service Lead – Planning and Building Standards introduced the report and advised that this document was the next stage in the planning authority supporting the Girvan story project; that a conservation area appraisal to extend the boundary of the conservation area had been undertaken and was approved in June 2024; that the Management Plan set out guidance and strategies and would guide the conservation of the core of the town centre buildings and would help inform all subsequent conservation decisions; and that, should the proposals be approved, it was intended to consult over the summer period and report back to Council thereafter.

Councillor Chris Cullen, seconded by Councillor Alec Clark, moved the recommendations as outlined in the report.

Comments were made and questions raised by Members in relation to:

- (1) this report outlining the strategic approach to preserving and enhancing the unique character and heritage of Girvan's culture, that the management plan was designed to guide future developments, maintenance and investment decisions, it included an appraisal of various key characteristics, identified challenges and proposals and policies to safeguard Girvan's heritage by supporting sustainable regeneration and economic growth; and that this document would serve as a key tool for planners, developers and the local community to ensure that change was managed sensibly and positively;
- (2) this Plan being essential for the heritage of Girvan and the maintenance of that heritage and a priority document which tied in with the work of the Council;

- (3) that this was an extensive paper, however, there were no options outlined for Members should the recommendation not be approved; and the Service Lead – Planning and Building Standards advised that the Plan set out the key buildings in the area and the options going forward were set by national guidelines regarding good and bad practice for the protection and development of buildings and allowing the growth of these areas; and that the options for Members were to support this consultation or to not support the conservation of this area; and
- (4) Prestwick having identified a conservation area and asking if there had been a conservation management plan; and also requesting the position for Maybole; and the Assistant Director – Planning and Development advised that a review to look at a conservation area for Prestwick had commenced but did not proceed further; and that a management plan could only go forward once a designated conservation area had been identified; and that Maybole had been the subject of grant funding from various national bodies and had a management plan;

The Council

Decided:

- (a) to agree to public consultation on the draft Girvan Conservation Area Management Plan, as set out in Appendix 1, and that delegation be given to make appropriate typographical changes, if required; and
- (b) to agree that a further report would come back to Cabinet on 28 October 2025 detailing the consultation findings and seeking Cabinet approval to adopt the finalised and potentially modified Girvan Conservation Area Management Plan.

12. Local Development Plan 3 (LDP3) Public Engagement Framework

There was submitted a [report](#) (issued) of 18 June 2025 by the Director of Housing, Operations and Development seeking approval to implement the Public Engagement Framework for Local Development Plan 3 (LDP3).

The Service Lead – Planning and Building Standards introduced the report and laid out the various methods of engagement used to consult with the public.

Councillor Chris Cullen, seconded by Councillor Alan Lamont, moved the recommendations as outlined in the report.

Comments were made and questions raised by Members in relation to:

- (1) acknowledging that the LDP2 had not been as successful as was hoped, however, this framework outlined how the Council would ensure meaningful, accessible and inclusive engagement with residents, business and stakeholders as the future land use and the development of South Ayrshire was shaped; that this document placed a strong emphasis on early involvement, digital accessibility and reaching under-represented groups to support the development of a robust and community driven Local Development Plan; and that the report set out key principles, methods and timelines for this engagement process;

- (2) being pleased to note that children and young people, Community Councils and Community Groups were all being consulted; that LDP3 was one of the Council's most important documents and it was important that as many people as possible were consulted; and asking how groups were being consulted, would it be through the links to Thriving Communities or other routes; and would various versions of the document be available to ensure it was accessible to everyone; and the Service Lead – Planning and Building Standards advised that all methods available would be used for consulting, including through Thriving Communities and the links through Community Groups would be built upon to ensure everyone was included; and that various versions of the document would be available, including in other languages and in braille;
- (3) that decisions could be controversial when a planning officer interpreted the framework in a particular way and the community had a differing view; and were officers confident that the framework was robust, gave clarity and gave enough consideration to the views of the community; and the Service Lead – Planning and Building Standards advised that there were always differences of opinion with some members of the public wishing to see growth and others wishing things to remain as they were and it was the role of Planning to strike a balance and that sometimes the decisions made by Planning were unpopular, however, Planning ensured that these decisions could be justified and a clear understanding given to the communities as to why the decision was made; that it was important to carry out the consultations to ascertain the differing opinions and the framework was set following the consultation and the document should be shaped from this consultation;
- (4) consultees for social housing; and the Service Lead – Planning and Building Standards advised that colleagues in Housing Services were consulted on those document and there was engagement with social landlords, however, Members should advise him of any other proposed consultees and these would be included;
- (5) that Ayr North was in the unfortunate situation of having no Community Council, however, there were active community groups so it was worthwhile to consult with them; that it was important to consult directly with young people as this was a long term strategy and the young people would be the recipients of these plans; and that the difficulty with the LDP documents was they were very strategic and prescriptive and the communication required to be inclusive; and the Service Lead - Planning and Building Standards advised that it was challenging taking the document out for consultation on a level that all consultees could understand, therefore, there were different styles of delivery which covered the same issues but in different tones with the same message; and that engagement with young people was necessary to take this document forward and they also helped engage their parents;
- (6) that Parent Councils should be consulted with and also the various Champions Boards within the Council;
- (7) that people would interpret this document in different ways and the consultation should be as wide as possible; and the Service Lead – Planning and Building Standards advised that it was his intention to get as many opinions as possible and not just from those with a special interest in the document;
- (8) the column entitled "DPEA Gatecheck of SAC Evidence Report" in Annex 2 being unchecked so had this been completed; and the Service Lead – Planning and Building Standards advised that Annex 2 set out the timescales going forward and the Gatecheck point was a role for the Scottish Government and outwith the control of the Council; and

- (9) that the first meeting of the LDP3 Member/Officer Working Group had been very productive with work on that Group becoming increasingly important and that the work of the Group should be reported back to all Members; and that the Scottish Government's timeframes for consulting on the LDP2 had not allowed for a proper consultation, were the timescales for consultation on LDP3 realistic and were resources in place to deliver this consultation effectively; and the Service Lead – Planning and Building Standards advised that there were always challenges in terms of resources, however, he was seeking support from the Scottish Government to assist in achieving the timescales; that he was confident an appropriate timetable was compiled and that, with resources and support from the Scottish Government, the Planning Service could complete this consultation, with assistance from Council colleagues in other Departments.

The Council

Decided:

- (a) to approve the LDP3 Public Engagement Framework set out in Appendix 1 to the report for implementation as the framework for defining how the Council would consult with various groups and communities in developing the South Ayrshire Local Development Plan 3; and
- (b) to note that, once dates for public consultations with Community Councils had been established, as set out in Annex 2 to Appendix 1, an Information Bulletin would be issued to all Elected Members for awareness.

Adjournment

The time being 11.10 a.m., the Council adjourned for 10 minutes.

Resumption of Meeting

Council resumed at 11.20 a.m.

13. Ayrshire Roads Alliance Service Plan 2025/26 and Performance Report 2024/25

There was submitted a [report](#) (issued) of 18 June 2025 by the Director of Housing, Operations and Development presenting the Ayrshire Roads Alliance Service Plan for 2025/26 and the Performance Report for 2024/25.

The Head of Roads, Ayrshire Roads Alliance, introduced the report and advised that the Ayrshire Shared Services Joint Committee had approved the 2025/26 Service Plan at its meeting of 6 June 2025; that a report had been presented to the Service and Partnerships Performance Panel for scrutiny on 10 June 2025 prior to this report to Council; and referred to an adjustment within the report to the Revenue Budget for East Ayrshire Council.

Councillor Chris Cullen, seconded by Councillor Martin Kilbride, moved the recommendations as outlined in the report.

Comments were made and questions raised by Members in relation to:

- (1) some targets not being as high as expected, however in the current climate with the costs of materials and contractors, this was the best that could presently be hoped for;
- (2) as the price of tarmacadam had increased, had inflation impacted on what could be achieved; and the Head of Roads advised that over the last few years an increase in the cost of bitumen products had affected what works could be carried out as the bulk of the costs for the resurfacing works was for the materials themselves;
- (3) commending the report and noting that the approach being taken was generally working well; commending the Head of Roads for retaining good relationships with Community Councils and Community Groups; noting the improvement of the ARA website; advising of contact he had received from some constituents regarding roads requiring repairs and difficulties with the designation of parking areas; and seeking assurances that monies allocated to this Council and to East Ayrshire Council were monitored and spent in the respective areas; and the Head of Roads advised that repairs were carried out on a risk based approach whereby the biggest repairs were completed first, however, this may need to be extended to carrying out preventative treatments which could prove more cost effective; and that the monitoring of budgets was done individually for both Council areas and it was monitored where all monies were spent;
- (4) the fleet of electric cars and vans; and the Head of Roads advised that the fleets were separate and that in East Ayrshire these were being changed over to electric vehicles; and the Director of Housing, Operations and Development advised that a report on the Fleet Strategy for this authority had been submitted to Service and Partnerships Performance Panel on 21 May 2025;
- (5) the vast improvements on the A714; and enquiring if there had been any feedback on the introduction of the pavement parking legislation; and the Head of Roads advised that enforcement had commenced in South Ayrshire on 1 May 2025; that enforcement had been high in May but had now tailed off and parking attendants were finding less infringements; and that exemptions were being considered for some areas as a result of feedback and these would be brought forward later in the year to promote those exemption orders to allow pavement parking in those areas;
- (6) whether monies could be ring-fenced to tackle pot holes and resurfacing on residential roads; and the Head of Roads advised that, when prioritising spending for resurfacing, the level of use and speed of a road was judged with the higher class of road more likely to achieve funding; that, with a limited budget it was important to tackle the correct roads; and that, should the Council wished to allocate additional funding to residential roads and footpaths, they could be prioritised in future;
- (7) outlining that the pavement parking ban was a good initiative, however, the flexibility of the parking enforcement officers was appreciated as it was not possible to avoid pavement parking in some streets; and enquiring how the Plan would be affected if prices of materials continued to rise; and the Head of Roads advised that ARA would require to be flexible with the Plan and that, should prices increase, the budget would be monitored and works may require to be reduced to remain within budget;

- (8) disappointment about a street in Ayr where there had been several accidents recently and had not been raised for exemption; and the Head of Roads advised that, had this street been raised by Members, her team would be aware of it, however, the ARA worked under strict guidelines over which streets they could make exempt and, although her officers were flexible, certain streets could not be made exempt;
- (9) thanking the Head of Roads for the exemption of a street in Maybole as this street was never able to have a car parked on the road;
- (10) constituents contacting him to advise that they had received a fine for pavement parking, however were not able to pay the fine for almost a week; and requesting that ARA ensure these fines were uploaded expeditiously to ensure the fine did not increase; and the Head of Roads advised that these fines should be uploaded within twenty four hours, however, should there be an issue with the system, this would be taken into account when people were paying a fine; and
- (11) a complaint from a member of the public regarding them receiving a ticket for parking on the pavement in a private road; and the Head of Roads advised that tickets should not be issued for private or adopted areas and if the Member supplied her with the details she would look into this.

The Council

Decided:

- (a) to approve the Development Plan Scheme 2025 (Appendix 1) for publication, and consultation, including the proposed Participation Scheme for public and stakeholder consultation; and
- (b) to approve the Delivery Programme 2025 for Local Development Plan 2 (Appendix 2).

14. Integration Joint Board (IJB) Strategic Plan Refresh

There was submitted a [report](#) (issued) of 18 June 2025 by the Director of Health and Social Care seeking approval of the refreshed IJB Strategic Plan for 2025-28 .

The Senior Manager (Planning and Performance) introduced the report and laid out the background to this Strategic Plan, including the engagement which had been carried out; and advised that, should this Plan be approved at this meeting, it would be published via various means and progress would be reported through the IJB.

Councillor Hugh Hunter, seconded by Councillor Julie Dettbarn, moved the recommendations as outlined in the report.

Comments were made and questions raised by Members in relation to:

- (1) this being a service which had improved dramatically since the inception of this Plan; that the work carried out by the service was to be commended and the Plan itself was extremely ambitious, however, he was confident that the ambitions would be realised due to achievements already made;

- (2) that it was good to take account of the progress made; that the collaboration and partnership working was commendable with everyone pulling together for the people of South Ayrshire; and that, as part of the Scottish Government's public service reform agenda, a film had been published on social media regarding the Ageing Well Strategy in South Ayrshire which was outstanding work;
- (3) that this was a very detailed document which acknowledged the issues of an ageing population; and that the figures regarding mental health revealed that there had been an increase of 18.9% of people prescribed medication for mental health issues showing that mental health issues were not to be stigmatised and anything the Council could do to assist people with these issues was beneficial;
- (4) that it was pleasing to note the journey the IJB had been on; commending the leadership team for their work whilst noting the recent changes in staffing; that partnership arrangements were key to success with the IJB, having other organisations play into the prevention agenda to ensure that people did not get ill rather than assisting them when they were ill; and enquiring if the officer agreed that the two areas that required to be focussed on next were around prevention and getting other organisations to be central to the wellbeing agenda; and the Senior Manager (Planning and Performance) advised that the actions and activities of the Health and Social Care Partnership Senior Management Team and operational team was around the prevention agenda, however they also had a day job around meeting people's needs who were further down their health care journey but were focussed on prevention and the Scottish Government was also focussed on early intervention; and that whilst there was a degree of uncertainty around losing two senior members of staff, the team was strong and would continue on their journey and ensure the strategic plan was delivered;
- (5) outlining that the Housing Statement in Appendix 2 of the report recognised the good work carried out within the Housing Service and the Health and Social Care Partnership providing specialist accommodation for particular groups of people and recognising that more work required to be undertaken around the prevention of homelessness and asking how this was being taken forward; and the Senior Manager (Planning and Performance) advised that the Health and Social Care Partnership was working strategically with a number of groups to ensure that good accommodation and easy access to this accommodation was available for people with additional needs;
- (5) improving housing outcomes for young care leavers which set out the aim to ensure that they did not require to make a homeless application to meet housing needs; that it was unacceptable that any care leaver should require to make a homeless application to gain housing as everyone was a corporate parent; and how would this be addressed; and the Head of Children's Health, Care and Justice advised that he agreed it was unacceptable that young people were requiring to present themselves as homeless and that, for the corporate parenting executive group, this was a key priority; that he strived to deliver on this to ensure that no child who was care experienced presented as homeless, however, this was challenging due to lack of housing and limited foster carers;
- (6) that in relation to the prevention agenda, health and wellbeing of residents fed in from the sports and leisure facilities which were phenomenal in South Ayrshire; and that there was a huge programme of preventative measures;
- (7) the good work done by the locality planning panels throughout South Ayrshire; and the review of Girvan Community Hospital which had introduced various clinics to enable local people to have treatment without travelling to larger hospitals;

- (8) that the locality planning groups had experienced challenges in attracting membership from the public, however the support from officers was excellent; and that the funding these groups could make to bodies in their area was welcomed as a small grant could make a huge impact on these groups and this funding should be protected; and
- (9) wishing Tim Eltringham, Director of the Health and Social Care Partnership; Billy McClean, Head of Head of Community Health and Care Services; and Linda Semple, Chair of the IJB, well in their future endeavours; acknowledging the outstanding work carried out by the Health and Social Care Partnership; referring to the fund established for efficiency and transformation which had engaged staff at all levels, giving them an opportunity to bid for "pet projects"; and outlining that, although two senior members of staff were leaving the Partnership, due to the outstanding leadership training, other officers would be able to step up and carry on the work.

The Acting Chief Executive advised that the Scottish Government had recently released a video on Ageing Well; and that, following the launch of the public service reform work, a recent event had been held in Edinburgh whereby South Ayrshire had led a section of the work on the radical place leadership within Ayr North and that the feedback on this innovative work and how services were delivered in Ayr North had been incredible.

The Council, having thanked the Head of Children's Health, Care and Justice, the Senior Manager (Planning and Performance) and their staff for the work undertaken on this Plan,

Decided: to approve the contents of the refreshed IJB Strategic Plan 2025-28 (Appendix 1 to the report).

15. International Ayr Show – Festival of Flight.

There was submitted a [report](#) (issued) of 18 June 2025 by the Director of Communities and Transformation providing an update on the financial position in relation to the International Ayr Show 2025; and seeking approval to access funding from uncommitted reserves.

The Director of Communities and Transformation introduced the report and outlined the overspend for the 2024 event and the reasons for this; outlined the income generated from the 2023 and 2024 events, the sources of the income and reasons for the fluctuation in income; referred to the impact the weather may have on the 2025 event; advised that, by agreeing to a commitment of £590,000 from uncommitted reserves it was expected that the final draw would be significantly less once the income generated through sponsorship and general event income was netted off; advised that the economic impact assessment which had been carried out on the 2024 Ayr Show indicated an estimated total gross expenditure for this event to be £7.9m, an increase on the previous year of £0.7m; and outlined the benefits that the International Ayr Show brought to the area.

Councillor Alec Clark, seconded by Councillor Brian Connolly, moved the recommendations as outlined in the report.

Adjournment

The time being 12.15 p.m., the Council adjourned to allow an Amendment to be put to writing.

Resumption of Meeting

The Council resumed at 12.30 p.m.

By way of Amendment, Councillor Philip Saxton, seconded by Councillor Brian McGinley, moved that, in addition to the recommendations in the report, the following be included:

That Council

- 2.1.3 agrees that a report comes to Service and Partnerships Performance Panel in January 2026 which provides the Economic Impact Assessment for the 2025 Ayr Show and a breakdown of the revenue and income available at that time; and
- 2.1.4 agree that officers provide a members' briefing on the decision that this is a free event and the steps taken by officers to generate income at the Ayr Show.

Councillor Connolly and Clark, as Mover and Seconder of the Motion, agreed to accept the terms of the Amendment into their Motion.

Comments were made and questions raised by Members in relation to:

- (1) this being a major event for South Ayrshire which was building year upon year raising the profile of South Ayrshire across the UK; the education of children who had attended the STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) exercises and the STEM tent at the event which would give them aspirations to achieve a job in this field; and that, although monies were being spent on the Ayr Show, this had a result on tourism and education and through investment in the Prestwick apron, all being a boost for South Ayrshire;
- (2) being fully supportive of the Ayr Show, however, the Impact Assessment for the 2023 event had not been assessed by Service and Partnerships Performance Panel (S&PPP) until January 2025 which was eighteen months after the show; that the Impact Assessment for the 2024 show had been scheduled to be considered at the S&PPP in June 2025, however, Panel Members had deferred this report to allow them to read the report fully prior to scrutiny at Panel; and that it was important that due diligence was done before more funding was committed to and Members had to be satisfied that this event was a good use of tax payers' money and was best value;
- (3) that the Ayr Show was a popular event, however, Members required to ensure there was value for money and costs against the Council were minimised as much as possible, especially in the current climate; and that Members required to know and receive evidence on who was benefiting from these monies to ensure due diligence was carried out and the Council required to generate as much income as possible to offset costs;

In response to questions and comments, the Director of Communities and Transformation advised that £1.18m was the total overall cost to deliver the Ayr Show which included the £347,000 of income and sponsorship which was not directly from the Council budget and also included £200,000 from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund to support local traders; that she scrutinised every invoice and purchase order in order to cut costs; that this was the third year of running this event and lessons had been learned from the previous two events and a different approach was being taken this year in terms of delivery of food and beverage and it was expected that more income would be generated for the Council; that the Council had conducted its own Economic Impact Assessment in 2023, however, due to staff shortages, ECOS had carried this out in 2024 and also following the 2025 event as they could gather more data; that, weather permitting, income should rise again this year; and that, although the maximum commitment of £590,000 had been requested, those monies would not leave reserves and would only be drawn down when the final figure minus the income and sponsorship was known following the event.

- (4) the SNP Group being unable to support this draw down on uncommitted reserves in the current climate; that an event on this scale should be budgeted for in advance when it was clear this event had not been and that, in terms of Best Value, the Council required to account for every penny; and that it would be preferable for the officer to report back to Council once the amount required was known; and the Director of Communities and Transformation advised that, when the budget was initially identified it was anticipated that additional monies would be required from the Significant Events Budget to support the monies identified; and outlined the significant increase in costs from the event in 2018 to the event in 2023 advising that therefore the Council aspired to generate as much income as possible to keep costs down;
- (5) the monies requested being from reserves and this situation being worst case scenario; that it was unlikely the show would progress should there be no income from sponsors or traders; that the recommendation in the report was preferred rather than officers requesting more monies later, however, every penny should be accounted for; and in relation to the amendment, whilst he was pleased to note that a third party would be producing the Economic Impact Assessment, would January 2026 be sufficient time for this to be carried out; and the Director of Communities and Transformation advised that ten to twelve weeks was sufficient to carry out an Economic Impact Assessment as the company would be on site this year collecting data and last year proved difficult as the company was working on data provided by officers; that some sponsorship monies were already in place and contracts fixed; that the variables were where the Council took percentages of income; and that the intention was to access uncommitted reserves rather than requesting a specific budget to allow officers to identify the gap in funding and draw down on that amount;
- (6) when it was anticipated that this event would break even or make a profit; and the Director of Communities and Transformation advised that, had costs remained the same in year 2 of the Ayr Show, the event would have broken even; that she was doing everything possible to minimise costs and achieve Best Value, however, as a public body there were strict procurement regulations which proved challenging; that she was confident things were moving in the right direction and dependent on the numbers of people attending the Show, she was hopeful this event would get to a point where it was breaking even or even making a profit, however, the main costs were not the aircrafts but were road closures, fencing, toilet facilities, etc;
- (7) whilst appreciating the STEM work which was taking place, she could not support this paper as constituents had written to her advising that, whilst they enjoyed the Ayr Show, the monies could be spent in more worthwhile ways;

- (8) that, prior to the first of the Ayr Shows it had been stated that the aim was to break even around year three; that the Ayr Show was being held at the expense of other events in terms of monies and officer time; and that the additional £590,000 sought could not be justified given the wider budget challenges;
- (9) the S&PPP receiving a summary report with the full report now having been emailed to all Members, however it was important that the full report be scrutinised at Panel; and raising concerns at the comments from those businesses surveyed in the "Review Impact" section of the report;
- (10) the Economic Impact Assessment being carried out by an external company and whether this would give the Council a more robust financial cost benefit analysis; and the Director of Communities and Transformation advised that the company carried out the work in 2024 using data collected by staff and that this year they would be on site to have more engagement with businesses; that businesses had previously stated that the days of the Ayr Show were their busiest trading days of the year; that local food vendors were being prioritised to receive pitches at the event; that issues surrounding the Ayr Show were being examined and mitigated and lessons had been learned over the last two years with car parking and toilet facilities now greatly improved;
- (11) it was superb that South Ayrshire hosted a national event, however, unless the event obtained a major sponsor it would never make money; and that various liquor licence holders had advised that they had no increase in sales as many people attended the Ayr Show then went home; and, should the weather not be good, would the amount requested remain at £590,000 or would more monies be required; and the Director of Communities and Transformation advised that in 2024 all hotel rooms in South Ayrshire were fully booked with hotels charging significantly more than normal; that this year there was already limited availability for hotels, therefore, hospitality businesses also benefited and the event was held over two days to encourage people to stay in South Ayrshire; that the Red Arrows were opening and closing the event with people coming a great distance to see the acts on display; and that, although the income generated would not be as considerable if the weather was not good, the Council already had sponsorship for this event and the £590,000 was the element that was dependent on income and sponsorship so if income and sponsorship could be driven up, it lessened the amount required to be drawn down from reserves;
- (12) the inability to attract a major sponsor; and the Director of Communities and Transformation advised that the majority of sponsors continued to sponsor this event year on year and that it was difficult to attract larger sponsors as the Council was considered relatively young in delivering the Ayr Show as some events in England had been delivering for years so the Council required to continue growing its brand;
- (13) seeking assurances that the amount requested would not increase over £590,000; and the Director of Communities and Transformation advised that should this report be approved, it would be for a maximum of £590,000;
- (14) whether the EIA was being carried out for Ayr, South Ayrshire or further as there was scope to request that other local authorities contribute if they were also seeing financial benefits; and the Director of Communities and Transformation advised that the scope of the EIA could be extended further; and that, following questions on why the event was not ticketed, the biggest challenge was fencing off the Low Green which would be cost prohibitive due to the multiple entry and exit points required; that there was a ticketed chill-out zone at the Gardens which was selling well and that having a free event encouraged people to attend;

- (15) a major sponsor reducing costs; and the Director of Communities and Transformation advised that a major sponsor would be very welcomed; and that she was in discussions with all aerospace companies and any new companies coming into the area;
- (16) this being a three year contract with potential to extend to five years and at which point would a decision be made on extending the contract; and the Director of Communities and Transformation advised that she would acquire this information and update Members in a Members' Briefing paper;
- (17) why the monies could not be taken from reserves once the amount required was known; and the Chief Financial Officer advised that Members were not being asked to agree to draw down £590,000 from reserves but to give a commitment to potentially draw down a maximum of £590,000 should the income not be achieved; that it was expected that the income would be achieved but this was weather dependent; that the report was before Council to be fully transparent for Members to understand the potential costs of this event, however, it was expected to be much less; and should Members not agree the report, there would be an overspend and a report would be back before Council asking for a draw on reserves, so this report was being proactive; and that, in his opinion, this was the correct course of action;
- (18) that this course of action was appropriate as organising a large event was stressful for staff and providing officers with this safety net could remove some stress, however, it was hoped that the final figure would be a lot less than £590,000;
- (19) why was a substantial amount of additional monies being requested so soon after the budget setting when the cost of running the Ayr Show must have been known at that time; and the Director of Communities and Transformation advised that the difficulty with the budget for the Ayr Show was the variable element and, had she requested additional monies at the budget setting, those monies would have gone into her budget and may not have been required once sponsorship and income had been achieved; and that this was an alternative way of requesting the monies rather than requesting monies that were not required;
- (20) whether assurances could be given that the event would not be overspent; and the Chief Financial Officer advised that, should this report be approved and the £590,000 approved, he would be very surprised if that total amount was required as, depending on the weather, it was hoped to achieve the income that last year's event achieved, or more;
- (21) whether this event would be viable without using reserves; and the Director of Communities and Transformation advised that this was all dependent on income generated and sponsorship achieved, that should a large sponsor come forward she could confidently say yes, however, these were variable amounts;
- (22) whether there was an element of risk to public money in holding this event; and the Director of Communities and Transformation advised that there was public money being spent on this event, however, there was not an element of risk as officers had been clear and transparent on the monies being spent; and that it was for Members to decide if this was the best use of public money;
- (23) whether any officers had visited other Air Shows to gain experience or been in contact with other organisers; and the Director of Communities and Transformation advised that she had spoken to various organisers who delivered Air Shows and also other local authorities in England; that the Council had a strong air show team who were well connected and viewed the Ayr Show as an up-and-coming event and were overwhelmed with what the Council had achieved over the past two years;

- (24) whether assurances could be given that over the next few years that costs would be examined and an appraisal given on whether this event had a future; and the Director of Communities and Transformation advised that having had two Ayr Shows did not provide a trend, more comparisons were required; that the income rose last year but unfortunately so did costs; that measures had been taken to increase income; and that having one more event's figures could then be compared and recommendations made to Members;
- (25) this being a huge event for South Ayrshire which had also raised the profile of Prestwick Airport; and that the bigger picture was not to do with costings but the creation of jobs, home building, huge projects for South Ayrshire and whilst, not lessening the budget for the Ayr Show, the potential for the area was much bigger than the cost of the Ayr Show; and
- (26) that the Council always sought to achieve best value for the public pound and continuous improvement; that this major event raised the profile of South Ayrshire and was a huge boost for tourism; and the partnerships with Ayrshire College Skylab and the RAF Benevolent Fund were good for everyone.

A Member requested a roll-call vote and the Chief Governance Officer took the vote by calling the roll For or Against the Motion as follows:-

| | |
|--------------------------|---------|
| Iain Campbell | For |
| Mary Kilpatrick | For |
| Kenneth Bell | For |
| Laura Brennan-Whitefield | Against |
| Ian Cavana | For |
| Alec Clark | For |
| Brian Connolly | For |
| Chris Cullen | For |
| Ian Davis | For |
| Julie Dettbarn | Against |
| Mark Dixon | For |
| Stephen Ferry | For |
| William Grant | Against |
| Hugh Hunter | For |
| Martin Kilbride | For |
| Alan Lamont | For |
| Lee Lyons | For |
| Craig Mackay | Against |
| Brian McGinley | For |
| Bob Pollock | For |
| Cameron Ramsay | For |
| Philip Saxton | For |
| Gavin Scott | For |
| Bob Shields | For |
| Duncan Townson | For |
| George Weir | Against |

Twenty One Members voted for the Motion and five Members against the Motion and the Council

Decided:

- (a) to note the estimated budgetary position for the International Ayr Show in 2025;

- (b) to approve access to funding from uncommitted reserves of a maximum sum of £590,000 for the International Ayr Show in 2025 as outlined in Sections 4.3 to 4.5 of the report;
- (c) to agree that a report be submitted to Service and Partnerships Performance Panel in January 2026 providing the Economic Impact Assessment for the 2025 Ayr Show and a breakdown of the revenue and income available at that time; and
- (d) to agree that officers provide a members' briefing paper on the decision that this was a free event and the steps taken by officers to generate income at the Ayr Show.

Time of Meeting

The time being 1.30 p.m., Provost, seconded by Councillor Mary Kilpatrick moved that Council agree to continue the meeting beyond 2.00 p.m. as the business of the meeting was not likely to be completed by 2.00 p.m., in accordance with Standing Order No. 6.2.

The Council

Decided: to continue the meeting beyond 2.00 p.m. in accordance with Standing Order No. 6.2.

16. Formal Questions.

In terms of Council Standing Order No. 26.2, there were submitted [Formal Questions](#) from Councillors George Weir and Craig Mackay.

With reference to the Ayr Parking Strategy and General Parking Review, having thanked Councillor Connolly for recognising that more Member input was required to get this Policy right, Councillor Mackay raised a supplementary question as follows: "given that none of the Cabinet Members supported the previous proposals, are you confident that whatever is submitted following the recess will be acceptable to the administration?" and Councillor Connolly responded as follows "I am confident that there will be a compromise with the paper from ARA and that the compromise will allow us to approve it."

Valedictory

Provost

- (1) referred to the imminent retiral of Karen Briggs, Service Lead - Legal and Licensing, thanked her for her assistance over the years and wished her a long and happy retirement; and
- (2) thanked the Acting Chief Executive, Lyndsay McRoberts for all her work during her time in South Ayrshire and wished her well in her new post in South Lanarkshire.

Exclusion of press and public.

Councillor Brian Connolly, seconded by Councillor Alec Clark, moved that the remaining urgent item of business be considered in private.

Twenty five Members voted For this Motion and one Member voted Against the Motion and the Council

Decided: to agree to consider the following item of business in private.

The Council 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 paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

Adjournment

The time being 1.40 p.m., Council adjourned to allow Members to read the report.

Resumption of Meeting

Council resumed at 2.00 p.m.

Point of Order

Councillor Ian Cavana raised a Point of Order regarding how this confidential report was being shared with those Members who had joined the meeting remotely; and the Chief Governance Officer advised that this report had been emailed to the two Members joining remotely on a "read only" basis and that access to this report would be withdrawn once consideration of this report had concluded.

17. Interim Chief Executive

In terms of Standing Order No. 13.1(12), there was submitted a report (tabled - Members only) of 25 June 2025 by the Chief Governance Officer advising of the resignation of the Chief Executive with effect from 30 June 2025; and requesting that Council consider the necessity to secure, on an interim basis, some additional leadership capacity and assistance, and approve proposals to address the matter.

The Chief Governance Officer introduced the report.

Councillor Brian Connolly, seconded by Councillor Alec Clark moved the recommendations as outlined in the report.

Following a full discussion and questions responded to by the Acting Chief Executive, Chief Governance Officer, Chief Financial Officer and Chief HR Officer; and having heard from Cleland Sneddon, the Council

Decided:

- (1) given the exceptional circumstances, to agree the need to appoint an interim Chief Executive and to vary the normal selection and appointment process due to the circumstances outlined at paragraphs 3.4 to 3.7 of the report;
- (2) to note that SOLACE had provided the biography of a suitable candidate (attached as Appendix 1), namely Cleland Sneddon so that the Council could be aware of the range and calibre of experience to allow fulfilment of the interim role;
- (3) to agree to make an offer of appointment of interim Chief Executive to Cleland Sneddon and, subject to acceptance of that offer, Mr Sneddon would commence his appointment from Monday 14 July 2025;
- (4) to note all costs associated with the appointment of an interim Chief Executive would be met from consequential savings following the departure of the Depute Chief Executive and Director of Education; and
- (5) to note that the interim arrangements would be reviewed at the Council meeting in December 2025.

18. Consideration of Disclosure of the above Confidential Reports.

The Council

Decided: not to authorise the disclosure of this report under Standing Order 32.4:

- Interim Chief Executive

Provost

Provost thanked everyone in attendance for their contribution.

The meeting ended at 2.45 p.m.