

SOUTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL.

Minutes of a hybrid webcast meeting
on 18 September 2025 at 10.15 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; William Grant, Hugh Hunter, Martin Kilbride, Mary Kilpatrick, Alan Lamont, Craig Mackay, Brian McGinley, Bob Pollock, Cameron Ramsay, Philip Saxton, Gavin Scott and Duncan Townson.

Present Remotely: Councillors Kenneth Bell, Martin Dowey, Stephen Ferry, Lee Lyons, Bob Shields and George Weir.

Apology: Councillor Ian Cochrane.

Attending in County Buildings: C. Sneddon, Chief Executive; K. Braidwood, Depute Chief Executive and Director of Housing, Operations and Development; J. Bradley, Director of Communities and Transformation; S. Mulholland, Acting Director of Education; T. Baulk, Chief Financial Officer; C. Cox, Assistant Director – Planning, Development and Regulation K. Dalrymple, Assistant Director – Housing and Operations; G. Hunter, Assistant Director – Communities; W. Carlaw, Service Lead – Democratic Governance; T. Simpson, Service Lead – Corporate Accounting; C. McMenamin, Service Lead – Legal and Licensing; F. Ross, Service Lead – Neighbourhood Services; P. Bradley, Service Lead – Professional Design Services; C. Neillie, Solicitor; H. Templeton, Procurement Contracts Co-ordinator; A. Steven, Co-ordinator, Democratic Governance; J. Chapman, Committee Services Officer; E. Moore, Clerical Assistant; and C. McCallum, Clerical Assistant.

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 no apologies had been received; and
- (3) referred to the recent sad death of Councillor Mark Dixon; advised that he had written to Mark's family expressing his condolences; invited Members to say a few words and Councillors Dettbarn, Davis, Dowey, Townson, Scott, Brennan-Whitefield and Connolly spoke of the great loss of Councillor Dixon. The Council then held a minute's silence.

2. Sederunt and Declarations of Interest.

Provost advised that he had been made aware that all Members may have an interest to declare in item 7 of this Minute entitled "Small Grants Scheme" as all Members were Trustees of the recipient Body and there was a connection but applying the objective test, there was no requirement to declare an interest as this was a non-financial interest on a personal basis. Members could claim the exemption and participate and vote on this item, therefore each Member did not require to declare an interest.

The Chief Executive then called the roll and 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.

Councillor Cochrane lost connectivity and did not re-join the meeting.

Councillor Lyons left the meeting at this point due to technical difficulties.

3. Minutes of previous meetings

(1) Minutes of Previous Meeting of the Council.

Provost Iain Campbell, seconded by Councillor Mary Kilpatrick, moved the Minutes of South Ayrshire Council of [26 June 2025](#) as a correct record.

The Council

Decided: to approve the Minutes of [26 June 2025](#) 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 [4 June 2025](#) and [25 June 2025](#).
- (ii) Cabinet of [28 May 2025](#) and [17 June 2025](#).
- (iii) Chief Officers Appointments/Appraisal Panel of [9 January 2025](#).
- (iv) Local Review Body of [6 May 2025](#)
- (v) Regulatory Panel – Licensing of [29 May 2025](#) and [19 June 2025](#).
- (vi) Regulatory Panel – Planning of [5 June 2025](#) and [24 June 2025](#).
- (vii) Service and Partnerships Performance Panel of [10 June 2025](#).

4. Revised Portfolio Structure.

There was submitted a [report](#) (issued) of 9 September 2025 by the Chief Executive seeking consideration of amendments to the Portfolio structure.

The Chief Executive introduced the report and advised that the report was being presented on behalf of the Administration who had identified changes to the current portfolio structure; highlighted the introduction of the terminology "Policy Lead" to denote the earlier involvement of Portfolio Holders in the development of policies and proposals to Council; and outlined that the Leader had communicated with the Opposition Groups proposing that they consider arrangements for Shadow Portfolio Holders/Policy Leads and that he had offered the opportunity for those shadow appointees to be participants in policy briefings; and that this was a live document which would be subject to further amendments.

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

Questions were raised and comments made by Members in relation to:

- (1) welcoming that every new Administration organised the Council to suit its ideas and abilities; and asking whether the offer of Cabinet positions were non-remunerated and non-voting positions; and the Leader advised that these positions were not remunerated and that there would be a Shadow Cabinet with no voting rights and in addition two positions were being offered on Cabinet with voting rights;
- (2) seeking further clarification on the Shadow Cabinet; and the Chief Executive advised that the Leader had approached the Group Leaders in the opposition parties to share these proposals, suggesting that the opposition parties may wish to appoint a shadow spokesperson for each Portfolio who would attend the briefings with the appropriate Portfolio holder to allow the opposition parties to become more involved and more informed to help develop a greater approach to consensus;
- (3) whether two of the Shadow Policy Leads would be Cabinet Members with voting rights; and the Leader advised that was an option, however, that would be a decision for the opposition parties;
- (4) as Community Planning now fell within the Leisure and Community Services Portfolio, would this Policy Lead now be Chairing the Community Planning Partnership Board (CPPB); and the Leader advised that Councillor Dettbarn would remain as Chair of the CPPB;
- (5) being happy to have further discussions around the two Cabinet Members with voting rights; that there were Shadow Members on the Integration Joint Board which worked well; and referring to a typographical error in Appendix 2 of the document; and the Chief Executive advised that he would amend this error; and
- (6) congratulating the Leader on implementing what he said he would by offering the Opposition parties two positions on the Cabinet and hoping that these offers would be taken up as this would address a lot of historical issues regarding information sharing.

Twenty four Members voted for the Motion and one Member abstained and the Council, having considered the contents of the report,

Decided:

- (a) to agree the amendments to the Portfolio Structure proposed in Appendix 1 to the report and to note the Policy Leads for each of the Portfolios set out in Appendix 2 to the report; and
- (b) to request that the Chief Governance Officer arrange publication of the revised Scheme of Delegation incorporating any agreed amendments.

Councillor Lyons rejoined the meeting at this point.

5. Representation on Outside Bodies

There was submitted a [report](#) (issued) of 9 September 2025 by the Chief Governance Officer seeking approval to make alterations to the list of Outside Bodies.

The Service Lead – Democratic Governance introduced the report and advised that the Council had five positions on the AVJB and as a result of the recent death of Councillor Dixon, a vacancy had arisen.

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

A comment was made by a Member that this matter should be deferred until following the by-election when the new Elected Member had been appointed; and the Service Lead – Democratic Governance advised that a meeting of the AVJB was taking place on 25 September 2025 to consider and approve the Board's annual accounts which required to be signed; and that the Vice-Chair was not available, therefore a Chair required to be in place for that meeting.

Nineteen Members voted for the Motion, 1 Member against the Motion and six Members abstained and the Council, having considered any other amendments which may be required to representation on Outside Bodies,

Decided:

- (1) to note the change in representative nominated by Members of the Administration identified in paragraph 4.1 of the report, namely that Councillor Gavin Scott replace Councillor Mark Dixon as a representative on the Ayrshire Valuation Joint Board (AVJB); and
- (2) to note the proposal that Councillor Gavin Scott be recommended to the AVJB as Chair from South Ayrshire Council membership of the Board, as outlined in paragraph 4.4 of the report.

6. SAC LLP (Nominees) Limited.

There was submitted a [report](#) (issued) of 9 September 2025 by the Chief Governance Officer seeking approval of a change of representative on the SAC LLP (Nominees) Limited.

The Service Lead – Legal and Licensing introduced the report.

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

Questions were raised and comments made by Members in relation to:

- (1) why the Depute Chief Executive and Director of Housing, Operations and Development was being appointed to this position as previously it had been the Chief Executive and Leader who had been Directors of the company; and the Service Lead – Legal and Licensing advised that currently only a Secretary was in post who was a former officer of the Council so the company had no active Members and the purpose of this report was to allow the company to continue; and that a substitution of Directors of the company could be made in future should this be felt appropriate; and

- (2) the decision taken in 2018 to wind up the Ayr Renaissance LLP Agreement and transfer the assets and why this had taken so long to be undertaken; and the extent of discussions with the Heritage Lottery Fund and how quickly would matters be resolved; and the Service Lead – Corporate Accounting advised that there had been a number of claims ongoing and resolved regarding potential clawback from private home owners in connection with work around Townscape Heritage Initiative; that one claim remained outstanding which would hopefully be resolved in the next few weeks which would then clear the way for Ayr Renaissance LLP to be wound up, however, the company remained in place while the position was being confirmed with the Heritage Lottery Fund and other funders and that, once concluded the Council would be in a position to wind up the company.

The Council

Decided:

- (a) to note that Mike Newall, former Chief Executive, resigned as a Director of SAC LLP (Nominees) Limited with effect from 6 August 2025, and Councillor Martin Dowey resigned as a Director with effect from 17 August 2025; and
- (b) to approve the appointment of Councillor Brian Connolly and Kevin Braidwood, Director of Housing, Operations and Development, as Directors of SAC LLP (Nominees) Limited with immediate effect.

7. Small Grants Scheme.

There was submitted a [report](#) (issued) of 9 September 2025 by the Chief Governance Officer presenting options regarding the application of £50,000 from the 2025/26 approved revenue budget for a small grants scheme.

The Chief Financial Officer introduced the report and advised that officers had considered various options and, following a Members' briefing in August 2025, the Members' preference was for a contribution from South Ayrshire Council to continue the good work of the Trust since its inception.

Councillor Ian Davis, seconded by Councillor Brian Connolly, moved the recommendations as outlined in the report, namely to accept Option 2 as outlined in paragraph 4.7 of the report.

A comment was made regarding this Scheme being very worthwhile providing funding for both individuals and small groups.

The Council, having thanked the officers involved for their work on this matter and with the Elected Members' briefing,

Decided:

- (1) to contribute £50,000 for a small grants scheme per the Council's approved 2025/26 budget to South Ayrshire Charitable Trust for the purpose of providing grants and donations which met the purposes of that Trust; and
- (2) that, acting as Trustees of South Ayrshire Charitable Trust, the Council:
- (a) accept the contribution of £50,000 from South Ayrshire Council as set out in paragraph 2.1.1 of the report;

- (b) agree to accept Option 2 as set out in paragraph 4.7 of the report as how Members wished the contribution to be allocated;
- (c) approve the Business Plan for their preferred option for the operation of South Ayrshire Charitable Trust for the year 2025/26 as detailed in [Appendix 1](#) of the report;
- (d) agree to delegate to Committees of Trustees, as detailed in the Business Plan for Option 2, decisions for disbursement of the £50,000 contribution by way of grants and donations from South Ayrshire Charitable Trust; and
- (e) agree to continue to review the South Ayrshire Charitable Trust Business Plan and Committee arrangements on an annual basis.

8. Standing Orders Relating to Contracts.

There was submitted a [report](#) (issued) of 9 September 2025 by the Chief Financial Officer seeking approval to amend the Council's Standing Orders Relating to Contracts following their most recent review.

The Chief Financial Officer introduced the report.

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

Questions were raised and comments made in relation to:

- (1) Standing Order No. 17.1, and the importance of community benefits, whether an additional line could be added stating "and/or community benefits"; and the Chief Financial Officer advised that the Standing Orders Relating to Contracts were in line with the Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act 2014 which included community benefits so the Council's Standing Orders already had this inbuilt;
- (2) whether the omission of "community benefits" within the Standing Orders mitigated against the consideration of community benefits; and the Chief Financial Officer advised that this would certainly not be the case; that there was the option to include community benefits for contracts between £10,000 and £50,000 and that, for contracts over £50,000, the Council was required to include it as part of the contract; and
- (3) that any improvements to the Standing Orders and operational arrangements around contracts was welcomed as this was a very important area for the Council's procedures and reputation and that, whilst there were improvements around the operation of contracts, previously who was eligible to approve contracts and evidence and tracking of this was lacking; that the governance arrangements required to be examined, how the contracts and procedures related to the priorities of the Council and the auditing and reporting mechanisms; and that consideration should be given to the strategic monitoring of these contracts, either by way of being considered at a Scrutiny Panel or the Council satisfying itself in terms of Best Value; and the Chief Financial Officer advised that he would take these comments on board and consider these proposals.

The Council, having considered the revisions proposed to the Standing Orders Relating to Contracts (summary of proposals contained in Appendix 1 to the report),

Decided: to approve the revised Standing Orders Relating to Contracts (Appendix 2) and the list of delegations (Appendix 3) with effect from 19 September 2025.

9. **Financial Regulations Review.**

There was submitted a [report](#) (issued) of 9 September 2025 by the Chief Financial Officer seeking approval of the revised Financial Regulations following review.

The Chief Financial Officer introduced the report and advised that the main amendments were outlined in paragraph 4.1 of the report and all amendments were highlighted in bold text throughout the document in Appendix 1 to the report.

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

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

- (1) paragraph 21.4 of the report regarding pre-printed, pre-signed cheques; and the Chief Financial Officer advised that cheques were still used to issue some benefits; and
- (2) the periodic review of insurance cover; and the Chief Financial Officer advised that the insurance cover must be reviewed annually, however, stating "periodically" in the Regulations allowed the insurance to be reviewed more frequently if necessary; and
- (3) the Transformation Fund being used for cashable benefits and whether this was in-year, medium term or if there was a timescale for the monies being used; and the Chief Financial Officer advised that all of these timescales applied; that cashable benefits required to be identified as soon as possible to allow the budget to go forward; that, as long as it was anticipated savings required to be made, cashable benefits required to be made through the Transformation Fund; and that the monies in the Fund would eventually be expended, however, there were currently sufficient funds.

The Council,

Decided: to approve the revised Financial Regulations (Appendix 1), to be effective from 19 September 2025.

10. **Treasury Management Annual Report 2024/25.**

There was submitted a [report](#) (issued) of 9 September 2025 by the Chief Financial Officer presenting, in line with the requirements of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Code of Practice on Treasury Management, the annual report of treasury management activities for 2024-25 (as attached at [Appendix 1](#)) and seeking Members' consideration of its contents.

The Chief Financial Officer introduced the report and advised that the Audit and Governance Panel of 25 June 2025 had considered the report and agreed to remit it to Council for approval.

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

Comments were made and questions raised in relation to the report being well written and easy to follow; and seeking clarification on the under borrowed position outlined in paragraph 4.3 and the overspend in item 6.3; and the Chief Financial Officer advised that, in terms of the under borrowed position, that reflected the Capital Investment Programme; that the Council had planned to borrow monies, however, if the Programme did not perform or there was slippage, the monies were moved; that interest rates in the last 18 months or so had been higher than anticipated; and that, despite borrowing less, interest rates had been higher, however interest rates were now coming down and there would hopefully be no overspend this year.

The Council, having thanked the members of the Audit and Governance Panel for scrutinising this report and the Treasury Management Team for the work undertaken,

Decided: to approve the Annual Treasury Management Report 2024/25, as attached at [Appendix 1](#).

11. **Guidance on Justification to Support Capital Projects.**

There was submitted a [report](#) (issued) of 11 September 2025 by the Depute Chief Executive and Director of Housing, Operations and Development seeking approval for the adoption of Guidance on the justification required for the approval of different categories of capital projects/ works; and that, if approved, adoption of the Guidance would involve some minor amendment to the Asset Management Plan and the Guidance would be included as Annex 1b to that Plan.

The Assistant Director – Planning, Development and Regulation introduced the report and advised that a flow chart had been developed to assist officers in working through the steps in the guidance, which could be provided to Members.

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

A comment was made by a Member that, whilst understanding that procedures were necessary, it was hoped that these processes did not cause delays and possible price increases before projects could be delivered; and the Assistant Director – Planning, Development and Regulation advised that these procedures required to be adhered to and that setting them out earlier in the process provided early guidance to officers and Members to assist in delivering the projects more timeously.

The Council

Decided:

- (1) to approve the Guidance on the levels of justification required for different categories of capital projects/ works, as set out in Appendix 1; and
- (2) to approve the amended Asset Management Plan as set out in Appendix 2 at 5.2 and 5.3. as outlined in paragraph 4.2 of the report.

12. **Memorial Policy**

There was submitted a [report](#) (issued) of 9 September 2025 by the Depute Chief Executive and Director of Housing, Operations and Development seeking approval regarding the future management of both existing and new memorial tributes; and seeking approval 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 Service Lead – Neighbourhood Services introduced the report and outlined the current options available to families to commemorate a loved one and the proposed options and locations for these, as outlined within the report.

Councillor Martin Kilbride, 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) requesting that the locations of these memorials be discussed with ward members and that the public be made aware of these locations;
- (2) welcoming this report as there was a waiting list of people wishing to have a memorial to their loved ones; welcoming the different options available; requesting that consideration be given to introducing plaques on trees as a memorial; and requesting that a report be submitted to Council in one year with an update on how this matter was progressing; and the Service Lead – Neighbourhood Services advised that she would examine the potential of plaques on trees, however, when used previously these had been subject to vandalism or theft which had caused further upset to families; and that a proposal had been the use of QR codes on tree branches which she would also examine;
- (3) welcoming the affordable cost of a plaque on a memorial bench, however, having six plaques on a bench could be felt by families that it was not as personal as it was shared with another five families; and the Service Lead – Neighbourhood Services advised that historically it had been one plaque per bench, however there were now no available benches; and having multiple plaques on benches provided families with a location to remember a loved one;
- (4) paragraph 4.5 of the report outlining that the cost of a plaque on a bench was £250 for five years with a renewal option available and seeking clarification on the cost of the renewal; and the Service Lead – Neighbourhood Services advised that there would be a renewal cost, however, this was subject to change due to budgetary increases;
- (5) welcoming that Bereavement Services had recognised the requirement for these memorials, however, there had been no consultation with Elected Members on this matter; and seeking a quarterly update on progress; and the Service Lead – Neighbourhood Services advised that consultation had taken place with Community Councils on this matter; that the most popular requested areas for a memorial were Troon Promenade, Ayr Promenade, Rozelle Park and Belleisle Park, therefore those areas had been focussed on, however, should a specific area be requested, this would be examined; and the Chief Executive further advised that quarterly reporting was too regular for a new initiative as this required time to "bed in" and that an update report would be provided in one year;
- (6) requesting that the annual update report to Council be included as a recommendation; and Councillor Kilbride as the Mover of the Motion agreed to this request;

- (7) Troon being a hotspot for memorials and there had been historic problems with families failing to maintain benches which became a safety issue and the Council required to contact families to replace or remove the bench; that six plaques per bench may make this more manageable as the Council would be responsible for maintenance; that the people of Troon were very receptive to memorial sculptures in various locations; and would families be able to have a memorial tree at any suitable location; and the Service Lead – Neighbourhood Services advised that it was her intention to work with families to find suitable locations; that benches offered a different way to remember a loved one; and that a memorial hedge had been installed in Prestwick which had created a lot of positive interest;
- (8) the process for the introduction of the memorial hedge in Prestwick and congratulating the Service Lead – Neighbourhood Services on the consultation with ward members and Community Council members to establish a preferred location; and seeking clarification on the process for contacting family members to obtain permission to add additional plaques on existing benches; and the Service Lead – Neighbourhood Services advised that she speak to those families who she had contact details for, however, where the bench had already been purchased by a family, no additional plaques would be added;
- (9) the cost of the memorials; and the Service Lead – Neighbourhood Services advised that once the memorial had been purchased, the cost of maintenance then fell to Neighbourhood Services thus taking the burden off families; and
- (10) benches on golf courses; and whether a policy existed for the interment or scattering of ashes; and the Service Lead – Neighbourhood Services advised that she did not have responsibility for golf courses; and that there was no specific policy for ashes, however, some families had asked for a loved one's ashes to be interred at the time of planting a memorial tree and this had been facilitated.

The Council

Decided:

- (a) to approve the increased range of tributes, as detailed in [Appendix 1](#), that Neighbourhood Services was able to offer family and friends;
- (b) to request that officers finalise and agree appropriate Terms and Conditions with Legal Services to accompany the offer of the tributes identified above to the public; and
- (c) to request that an annual update report be submitted to Council.

13. Proposed Ward Capital Projects – Update 2023 to 2025 and Approval of New Capital Projects 2025 to 2026

There was submitted a [report](#) (issued) of 11 September 2025 by the Depute Chief Executive and Director of Housing, Operations and Development providing an update on ward capital projects approved by the Council of 29 June 2023 and 12 December 2024, and also by Cabinet at its meeting of 26 September 2023; and also recommending further capital projects for initiation and implementation during the financial years 2025/26 and 2026/27.

The Assistant Director – Housing and Operations introduced the report, gave an update: on the Ward Capital and Promenade profiled spend and advised that the budget was split into various factors for each ward and included the most up to date position; of the programme over the next 18 months; that some wards had budget commitments close to allocated; and that regular meetings had taken place on this matter and it was important that these meetings continue to consider potential future projects.

Councillor Martin Kilbride, 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) thanking officers and the Ayr North Members for their excellent work on Ayr North projects;
- (2) the slow progress with projects in Prestwick and enquiring if there was a date for the reopening of the Prestwick Leisure Centre; and the Director of Communities and Transformation advised that the Centre would reopen on 29 September 2025;
- (3) the importance of the power supply at Boydfield Gardens, Prestwick; and the interest from the community, Community Council and organisers of the three main events in Prestwick of the banner signage and it would be welcomed if consultation on these matters could take place to allow them to advance;
- (4) that the work undertaken by officers had made a significant difference to the Ayr North community; and that Wallacetown residents should forward ideas to further improve the community;
- (5) welcoming how processes had advanced; that the report included more than just the ward capital projects; that Ayr East Members had received no consultation on Ayr Town Centre or Promenade Projects and enquiring if Members would be consulted in future; and the Assistant Director – Housing and Operations advised that Town Centres were dealt with separately and that, should Members prefer, two reports could be submitted for March 2026, one for Wards and one for Promenades; and the Assistant Director – Planning, Development and Regulation further advised that the majority of the Promenade works came from the Ayr Esplanade Strategy which had gone out to consultation in November 2023, however, there was not much response to this consultation; that most projects had not had the benefit of consultation; and that the Chief Executive was currently examining Working Groups and she would be requesting a change as to how the Ayr Town Centre Member/Officer Working Group was constituted;
- (6) the Ayr Town Centre Member/Officer Working Group; and the Assistant Director – Planning, Development and Regulation advised that the Group had been established in 2012 to oversee the work of Ayr Renaissance and had been constituted with ward members of Ayr West; that the Group had not met since 2019, however, had been reconvened earlier this year and that the Leader and relevant Portfolio Holders had been invited to the meeting; and that it was hoped to review the membership;
- (7) whether the timescales in the Kyle Ward of Autumn 2025 and October 2025 were achievable; and the Assistant Director – Housing and Operations advised that the Ayrshire Roads Alliance projects would advance quickly now the purchase orders had been obtained; and various other projects would come to fruition over the winter months; that there were issues with supplies due to other Local Authorities also using the same suppliers which had led to delays and slippage of timescales, however, regular update meetings would continue and Members would be kept advised of progress;

- (8) that the update meetings on how projects were progressing were welcomed and that discussions would take place with the Assistant Directors on how best to proceed to continue to update Members; and
- (9) thanking the officers for the work undertaken on the projects across all Wards that had been completed to date.

The Council

Decided:

- (a) to agree the capital investment projects identified in [Appendix 1](#) with a white background under project description for initiation and implementation during the financial years 2025/26 and 2026/27 and to approve the projects with a budget commitment in excess of £100,000 as detailed in Appendix 1;
- (b) to agree that, to ensure ongoing proper financial management, Ward Members provide a list of priority projects at the next round of officer/member Ward Capital meetings to plan the projects within the balance of the remaining ward and promenade budgets and to amend programmes in line with the overall budget provision, with an update provided to Council in December 2025;
- (c) to note that some of the projects in [Appendix 1](#) may require public consultation as part of an Integrated Impact Assessment prior to being able to be recommended to Council for approval;
- (d) to note the progress made with the capital investment projects identified in columns 6 and 7 of [Appendix 1](#);
- (e) to agree to remove all projects identified as red in Appendix 1; and
- (f) to note that a copy of [Appendix 1](#) containing all potential projects would be forwarded to Community Councils for information.

Adjournment

The time being 11.55 a.m., the Council adjourned.

Resumption of Meeting

The Council resumed at 12.05 p.m.

Councillor Philip Saxton left the meeting at this point.

14. Review of Capital Estimates: General Services Capital Investment Programme 2025/26 to 2036/37

There was submitted a [report](#) (issued) of 11 September 2025 by the Depute Chief Executive and Director of Housing, Operations and Development seeking approval to update the General Services Capital Investment Programme for financial years 2025/26 through to 2036/37, as a result of a combination of (a) re-profiling of budgets between financial years; (b) budget reductions to projects; and (c) budget increases to projects, which if approved, would lead to reduced debt charges to the Council and reduce the pressure on revenue budgets.

The Depute Chief Executive and Director of Housing, Operations and Development introduced the report.

Councillor Ian Davis, seconded by Councillor Bob Shields, moved the recommendations as outlined in the report.

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

- (1) the Council facing a challenging budget setting for 2026/27 and that it was appropriate that steps be taken at this point to reduce the projected deficit; that the Council had carried out a capital review in February 2025 which had saved monies and that these further adjustments would save more in the coming years; and that, given the options available to Members, these decisions were the appropriate steps to take;
- (2) could the revenue spending be reduced further over the next two years; and the Depute Chief Executive and Director of Housing, Operations and Development advised that the programme was influenced by construction costs and inflation, however, he would continue to reprofile throughout the duration of the programme;
- (3) the £810,000 transferred from Climate Emergency Projects in 2025/26 to the Citadel Refurbishment; and the Service Lead – Professional Design Services advised that the Climate Emergency Fund was a Scottish Government Grant which had been allocated to provide enhanced efficiency measures in the Citadel;
- (4) the reduction in Ayr Town Centre regeneration works due to part of the budget being reallocated and did this affect the Hourstons Project; and the Service Lead – Professional Design Services advised that the Council had received Levelling Up funding from the Scottish Government which was being utilised for the Burns Statue Square project, which was what the Town Centre Regeneration monies were previously earmarked for; and that the Hourstons Project had a separate budget line; and
- (5) whether any external funding received had influenced this fund; and the Depute Chief Executive and Director of Housing, Operations and Development advised that income from capital grants from numerous sources influenced the capital programme.

The Council

Decided:

- (a) to approve the adjustments detailed in Appendices 2 and 3 attached to the report;
- (b) to approve the revised General Services Capital Programme 2025/26 to 2036/37 as detailed in Appendix 4; and
- (c) to note the associated debt charge implications as detailed in Appendix 5 and specifically the £1,442,080 reduction in the planned increase in debt charge budgets for 2026/27.

15. **Capital Investment Programme – Troon Regeneration.**

There was submitted a [report](#) (issued) of 9 September 2025 by the Depute Chief Executive and Director of Housing, Operations and Development providing an update on the development of potential regeneration projects and to identify funding priorities for the Troon Regeneration Projects budget.

The Assistant Director – Planning, Development and Regulation introduced the report and advised that the full Business Case was outlined in Appendix 1 to the report.

Councillor Martin Kilbride, seconded by Councillor Alec Clark, moved the recommendations as outlined in the report.

Comments were made by Members in relation to:

- (1) this project being an example of joint working of members and officers producing good results; that this process should be introduced for Ayr Town Centre to ensure that all buildings and walkways were continuously improved; and that further ways to improve Ayr Town Centre in conjunction with the Scottish Government and other agencies should be examined to ensure that the town centre was thriving again; and that good lessons had been learned from this project; and
- (2) this being an excellent piece of work with exciting projects which would transform Troon; the resurfacing of part of Academy Street car park which had highlighted the poor quality of the area owned by the Council; and that this also tied into the wider car parking strategy for the town centre which Ayrshire Roads Alliance would be examining.

The Council

Decided:

- (a) to note the development of potential regeneration projects in Troon and the options appraisal on the proposals in Appendix 2;
- (b) to agree the allocation of £1,000,000 from the Troon Regeneration Capital Budget to progress internal refurbishment and upgrades to the Troon Municipal Buildings, comprising the Town Hall/ Concert Hall and Walker Hall;
- (c) to agree an allocation of £150,000 to progress design work to improve the public realm around the Municipal Buildings and wider environment to support development of a café culture in the town; and
- (d) to agree an allocation of £500,000 to progress an extension to the swimming pool at Troon Leisure Club.

16. Troon Pool - Scotland's Public Sector Heat Decarbonisation Fund Phase 2

There was submitted a [report](#) (issued) of 11 September 2025 by the Depute Chief Executive and Director of Housing, Operations and Development

- (1) providing an update in relation to a grant award from Phase 2 Scotland's Public Sector Heat Decarbonisation Fund of £1,718,998 (£1.72m hereafter) towards building fabric upgrades of Troon Pool with the aim of reducing energy consumption, revenue costs, and carbon emissions from the property; and
- (2) that, in order to meet the terms of the £1.72m grant, the Council must make a contribution of £862,502 (£0.86m hereafter). The purpose of the paper is therefore to request approval of additional funding of £862,502 through a realignment of other budgets within the General Services Capital Programme to the Troon Swimming Pool - Health and Fitness Extension budget to enable the delivery of the project.

The Assistant Director – Planning, Development and Regulation introduced the report .

Councillor Chris Cullen, seconded by Councillor Ian Davis, moved the recommendations as outlined in the report.

Comments were made by Members in relation to:

- (1) this being a forward looking investment that demonstrated the Council's commitment to climate responsibility and sustainable service delivery by securing phase 2 funding from the Scottish Government Public Sector Heat Decarbonisation Fund putting this Council at the forefront of the transition to net zero; commending the officers for the work on this matter; and outlining the benefits of this investment;
- (2) that the Council should be proud of the sport and leisure facilities within South Ayrshire; and thanking the staff involved for their efforts with this programme of works;
- (3) that this upgraded facility would encourage people to become more active; and that the centre would become more financially viable which was commendable; and
- (4) that this project was a good example of the need to invest in the Council's assets, using national funding and other sources to make this sustainable; that support for a leisure centre in any town was not just around health benefits but also around building sustainable communities; and that when budget cuts were predicted, the Council should ensure that these community assets were protected.

The Council:

Decided:

- (a) to note the award of £1.72m from Phase 2 Scotland's Public Sector Heat Decarbonisation Fund for building fabric upgrades of Troon Pool; and
- (b) that, given the conditionality of said award, to approve £0.86m to be transferred from through a realignment of other budgets within the General Services Capital Programme to Troon Swimming Pool - Health and Fitness Extension budget to enable the delivery of the project.

17. **Ayrshire Growth Deal (AGD) Spaceport.**

There was submitted a [report](#) (issued) of 9 September 2025 by the Depute Chief Executive and Director of Housing, Operations and Development outlining that £3.279 million of capital expenditure incurred to date on the Prestwick Spaceport Project, which formed part of the Ayrshire Growth Deal investment programme was now not progressing following the agreed restatement of the AGD programme.

The Depute Chief Executive and Director of Housing, Operations and Development introduced the report.

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

A question was raised regarding whether any of the preparatory work undertaken would be refundable and could be used for another capital programme; and the Chief Financial Officer advised that, following discussions with the Scottish Government, unfortunately the costs were at the risk of the Council and the work undertaken could not be converted to alternative works; and the Leader further advised that he had also asked these questions and the Chief Financial Officer had examined this matter; and commended the Depute Chief Executive and Director of Housing, Operations and Development on the programme in place to progress the Ayrshire Growth Deal.

The Council:

Decided:

- (1) to note the previous approval of 6 February 2025 authorising officers to re-profile the Ayrshire Growth Deal investment and submit to both Governments under the change management process which had now been approved;
- (2) to note the strategic rationale behind this decision following revised feasibility assessments and changes in market conditions; and
- (3) to note the £3.279m of capital expenditure associated with the Prestwick Spaceport Project had been met from the previously created provision currently held in the Council's balance sheet.

18. **Notice of Motion**

The Provost advised that, in terms of Standing Order No. 18, the Notice of Motion on the agenda had now been withdrawn due to it being incompetent as it was not seconded within the deadline.

19. **Formal Questions.**

The Council noted that no Formal Questions had been submitted.

Exclusion of press and public.

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 paragraphs 8 and 9 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

20. **Citadel Leisure Centre**

There was submitted a joint report (Members only) of 9 September 2025 by the Depute Chief Executive and Director of Housing, Operations and Development and the Director of Communities and Transformation providing an update on progress on the delivery of the Refurbishment of the Citadel Leisure Centre project, the current financial position, and to set out the additional funding that was required as a result of market conditions in the construction industry to enable the delivery of the project in accordance with current programme scope and timelines.

The Depute Chief Executive and Director of Housing, Operations and Development introduced the report.

Councillor Chris Cullen, seconded by Councillor Ian Davis, moved the recommendations as outlined in the report.

Point of Order

A Point of Order was raised by Councillor Hunter that a Member had spoken on more than one occasion, however, Provost advised that one instance was a comment and one was a question.

Following a full discussion and questions, twenty one Members voted for the Motion and four Members against and the Council

Decided:

- (1) to note the current project status in respect of works completed and the current financial position requiring additional allocation; and
- (2) to approve additional funding of £4.9m through a transfer from Ayr Town Centre Regeneration Works budget to the Citadel Refurbishment budget to enable the delivery of the project in accordance with current programme timelines.

21. **Consideration of Disclosure of the above Confidential Report.**

Following advice from the Service Lead – Democratic Governance, nineteen Members voted for the Motion and six Members against the Motion and the Council

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

- The Citadel Leisure Centre

Provost

Provost thanked everyone in attendance for their contribution.

The meeting ended at 1.15 p.m.