

AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE PANEL.

Minutes of a hybrid webcast meeting on 1 October 2025 at 10.00 a.m.

Present in
County Hall: Councillors Julie Dettbarn (Chair), Alan Lamont, Bob Pollock and George Weir.

Present
Remotely:

Apologies: Councillors Kenneth Bell, Mary Kilpatrick, Brian McGinley and Cameron Ramsay.

Attending in
County Hall: C. Sneddon, Chief Executive; T. Baulk, Chief Financial Officer; K. Anderson, Assistant Director – Corporate Policy, Strategy and Performance; W. Carlaw, Service Lead - Democratic Governance; T. Simpson, Service Lead – Corporate Accounting; C. McGhee, Chief Internal Auditor; J. Chapman, Committee Services Officer; and E. Moore, Clerical Assistant.

Attending
Remotely: L. Reid, Assistant Director – Transformation,

Opening Remarks.

The Chair

- (1) welcomed everyone to the meeting;
- (2) outlined the procedures for conducting this meeting and advised that this meeting would be broadcast live; and

1. Sederunt and Declarations of Interest.

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

2. Call-ins from Cabinet.

The Panel noted that there were no call-ins from Cabinet of 23 September 2025.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting.

The Minutes of the meeting of 3 September 2025 ([issued](#)) were continued to the next Panel meeting as there were insufficient numbers to form a quorum.

4. Action Log and Work Programme.

There was submitted an update of the Action Log and Work Programme for this Panel (issued).

The Chief Financial Officer advised there was one item omitted in error for the Action Log which will now be reported to the next Panel meeting. It was noted that within the Work Programme there was typographical errors in that June 25 should be June 26.

The Panel

Decided: to note the current status of the Action Log and Work Programme.

5. Best Value Action Plan – Progress Update.

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 26 August 2025 by the Assistant Director of Corporate Policy, Strategy and Performance updating members on the progress toward delivering the Council's Best Value Action Plan.

A Member of the Panel asked for reassurance that the plans in place were sufficiently ambitious to credibly respond to the financial challenges that were faced. The Interim Chief Executive advised that there had been an increased pace and urgency across the range of work taking place to manage the budget gap and put the Council on a more sustainable financial footing.

A Member of the Panel thanked the Interim Chief Executive for the sterling work carried out in his interim role and enquired if there were adequate plans in place for a handover with the new Chief Executive. The Interim Chief Executive briefed Members on the plans that would take place before the new Chief Executive started on the 17th of November 2025.

The Interim Chief Executive provided Members with a response to a question in relation to Shared Services Options.

A Member of the Panel requested clarification as to who would manage Recommendation 1, Action 1. The Interim Chief Executive advised it would be him until the new Chief Executive starts.

The Panel, having scrutinised the content of the Best Value Action Plan update report,

Decided:

(1) to consider the progress through the narrative set out within Appendix.1

