

CABINET

Minutes of a hybrid webcast meeting on 25 November 2025 at 10.00 a.m.

Present

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

Apologies: Councillors Chris Cullen and Martin Kilbride.

Attending

in County

Hall: S. Penman, Chief Executive; K. Braidwood, Depute Chief Executive and Director of Housing, Operations and Development; J. Bradley, Director of Communities and Transformation; M. Inglis, Director of Health and Social Care Partnership; C. Caves, Chief Governance Officer; T. Baulk, Chief Financial Officer; K Anderson, Assistant Director – Corporate Policy, Strategy and Performance; G. Hunter, Assistant Director - Communities; C Cox, Assistant Director – Planning and Development; G Cockburn, Service Lead – Education Support Services; D Alexander, Service Lead – Procurement; and E. Moore, Committee Services Assistant.

Also

present

in County

Hall: D. Gemmell, I Gall, H. McGuire, S Bell, G Laird, K. Nelson and D. Griffin.

Opening Remarks.

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

1. Declarations of Interest.

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

2. Minutes of previous meeting.

The minutes of 28 October 2025 ([issued](#)) were submitted and approved.

3. **Decision Log.**

The Cabinet

Decided:

- (1) to approve the [overdue actions](#);
- (2) to approve the actions listed with [revised due dates](#); and
- (3) to note the recently [completed actions](#).

Education and Lifelong Learning Policy.

4. **Inspection of Heathfield Primary School**

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 4 November 2025 by the Director of Education informing Cabinet of the outcome of the Education Scotland Inspection of Heathfield Primary School.

Following discussion, the Cabinet, having considered the contents of the inspection report by Education Scotland as contained in Appendix 1 to the report,

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

5. **Revised, Devolved School Management Scheme**

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 29 October 2025 by the Director of Education seeking approval to implement a revised Devolved School Management scheme (DSM).

Following discussion, the Cabinet

Decided:

- (1) to consider and approve the revised, 2026, Devolved School Management scheme (attached as Annex 1) and,
- (2) to delegate authority to the Director of Education to amend the DSM scheme to reflect any future Council decisions that impact on it.

6. **Update on Pupil Equity Fund and Strategic Equity Fund.**

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) 27 October 2025 by the Director of Education requesting that Cabinet confirm they were content with the current approach to the use of the Pupil Equity Fund and Strategic Equity Fund, and advising of the progress made by schools during 2024-25 in improving equity in educational outcomes.

Following discussion, the Cabinet

Decided:

- (1) to confirm the current approach taken in the use of Pupil Equity Fund;
- (2) to confirm the current approach taken in the use of Strategic Equity Funding; and
- (3) to note the progress made in achieving equity in educational outcomes during session 2024-25 in relation to South Ayrshire's stretch aims and plans for the future.

Finance and Corporate Services/Leisure and Community Services.

7. Annual Procurement Report 2025

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 29 October 2025 by the Chief Financial Officer seeking approval for the publication of the Council's Annual Procurement Report 2025 detailing the Council's procurement activity between 1 April 2024 and 31 March 2025.

Following discussion, the Cabinet

Decided:

- (1) to approve the Annual Procurement Report 2025; and
- (2) to request that Officers forward the report to the Scottish Government before it is published on the Council's website.

Leisure and Community Services.

8. Ayrshire Regional Economic Strategy Update

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 28 October 2025 by the Assistant Director of Communities providing an update on the progress of the Ayrshire Regional Economic Strategy (ARES) including project management arrangements, interim delivery arrangements 2024-26 and proposals for developing the 2026-29 Plan.

Following discussion, the Cabinet

Decided:

- (1) to note the progress of the ARES to date, including a programme of engagement with partner organisations;
- (2) to note the interim delivery arrangements for 2024-2026;
- (3) to note the intention to develop a three-year Delivery Plan for 2026 to 2029 which responds to key findings and recommendations to date from partner engagement;
- (4) to note the route map and key dates to completion of the 2026-2029 ARES Delivery Plan; and

- (5) to endorse the recommendations on our commitment to support the ARES.

Finance and Corporate Services.

9. Budget Management – Revenue Budgetary Control 2025/26 – Position at 30 September 2025

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 12 November 2025 by the Chief Financial Officer presenting Members with a financial overview of the General Services revenue account, Housing Revenue Account and Common Good Accounts for 2025/26 as at 30 September 2025.

Following discussion, the Cabinet

Decided:

- (1) to note the revised Directorate budgets following the budget movements outlined in 3.3 of the report;
- (2) to approve the budget transfers as outlined in the Directorate financial performance reports at Appendix 1 and summarised in 4.1.7 of the report;
- (3) to approve the requested earmarking of resources to be carried forward to 2026/27 as summarised in 4.1.8 of the report;
- (4) to note the projected General Services in year under-spend of £1.806m after earmarking and a projected uncommitted general reserve balance of £9.958m;
- (5) to note the revised HSCP projected overspend of £1.587m following the IJB's recent approval of an in-year recovery plan; and
- (6) to approve the request to utilise £0.800m of the projected HRA underspend to fund increased capital spend on void properties as detailed in 4.3.2 of the report.

10. General Services Capital Programme 2025/26: Monitoring Report as at 30 September 2025

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 6 November 2025 by the Depute Chief Executive and Director of Housing, Operations and Development providing an update on the actual capital expenditure and income, together with progress made on the General Services Capital Programme projects as at 30 September 2025 (Period 6), and seeking approval of the changes to budgets in 2025/26, 2026/27 and 2027/28.

Following discussion, the Cabinet

Decided:

- (1) to note the progress made on the delivery of the General Services Capital Programme to 30 September 2025, resulting in spend of £15.691m, or 24.64%, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report;
- (2) to approve the adjustments contained in Appendix 2 to the report; and

- (3) to approve the revised budget for 2025/26 at £71.225m, 2026/27 at £102.868m and 2027/28 at £69.244m, as highlighted in Appendix 2.

Finance and Corporate Services/Housing and Property Services.

11. Housing Capital Programme 2025/26: Monitoring Report as at 30 September 2025

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 30 October 2025 by the Depute Chief Executive and Director of Housing, Operations and Development updating Cabinet on the actual capital expenditure and income, together with progress made on the Housing Capital Programme projects as at 30 September 2025 (Period 6), and seeking approval of the changes to budgets in 2025/26 and 2026/27.

Following discussion, the Cabinet

Decided:

- (1) to note the progress made on the delivery of the Housing Capital Programme to 30 September 2025, resulting in spend of £11.194m, or 18.80%, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report;
- (2) to approve the adjustments contained in Appendix 2 to the report; and
- (3) to approve the revised budget for 2025/26 at £43.153m and 2026/27 at £47.220m, as highlighted in Appendix 2.

Housing and Properties Services

12. South Ayrshire Council Public Bodies Climate Change Duties Annual Report 2024-2025

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 23 October by the Chief Executive seeking approval of the Council's statutorily required Public Bodies Climate Change Duties Annual Reporting for 2024-2025.

Following discussion, the Cabinet

Decided:

- (1) to approve the annual report for national submission; and
- (2) to recognise as highlighted in the analysis of the report both the positive results and the challenges the Council faces to increase the pace of change to fulfil the Council's duties and targets.

13. Strategic Housing Investment Plan (SHIP) – 2026/27 to 2030/31

There was submitted a joint report ([issued](#)) of 11 November 2025 by Chief Executive and Depute Chief Executive and Director of Housing, Operations and Development seeking approval of the content of the draft Strategic Housing Investment Plan (SHIP) for submission to the Scottish Government.

The Cabinet

Decided:

- (1) to approve the Strategic Housing Investment Plan (SHIP) as detailed in Appendix 1 for onward submission to the Scottish Government;
- (2) to agree that a draw of £100,000 be made available upon the completion of the Green Street Housing Development to Ayrshire Housing in the Council's role as Strategic Housing Enabler;
- (3) to note that additional funding of £0.243 million had been made available as part of the Scottish Government's response to the nationally declared Housing Emergency to be focused on the purchase of ex-LA properties via the Councils buyback programme as part of the wider Resource Planning Assumption (Appendix 2); and
- (4) to delegate authority to the Assistant Director - Corporate Policy, Strategy and Performance and Director of Housing, Operations and Development to amend and finalise this document based on feedback received from the Scottish Government.

Council Leader, Economy and Strategy

14. Place Based Investment Programme 2025/26.

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 12 November 2025 by the Director of Communities and Transformation seeking approval for the allocation of Place Based Investment Programme (PBIP) monies from the Scottish Government allocation for 2025/26.

Following discussion and agreement to change recommendations by officers the Cabinet

Decided:

- (1) to agree an allocation of £376.6k from the Place Based Investment Programme to upgrade audio visual and production equipment in Ayr Town Hall and the Troon Walker and Concert Halls to enhance income generation opportunities and support town centre regeneration activities through increased footfall;
- (2) to agree the allocation of £73,466 to be made available for community projects, note the allocation will be made available to groups, organisations, and businesses with proposals for projects of over £10,000 who will be requested to apply via the 'Your Area, Your Voice, Your Choice' online platform and agree that a panel of officers will consider these applications and make recommendations to the Director of Communities for approval;
- (3) to agree an allocation of £30,911 to dismantle, relocate and reassemble the 'Poet and Scholar' sculpture located outside the Grain Exchange on Ayr High Street, to become part of the Rozelle sculpture park and note any surplus will be applied to the community projects fund referred to in recommendation 2 above; and
- (4) to agree that the Director of Communities and Transformation be given delegated authority to reprofile any PBIP monies based on final costs and supporting deliverable projects.

- (5) that officers take an update report on the progress against the actions to the Service and Partnerships Performance Panel one year after completion of the work at the Ayr and Walker Halls.

The meeting ended at 12.05 p.m.