

CABINET

Minutes of a hybrid webcast meeting on 20 January 2026 at 10.00 a.m.

Present
in County Councillors Brian Connolly (Chair), Alec Clark, Chris Cullen, Ian Davis,
Hall: Martin Kilbride and Bob Shields.

Apologies: Councillors William Grant and Hugh Hunter.

Attending
in County
Hall: S. Penman, Chief Executive; J. Bradley, Director of Communities and Transformation; C. Caves, Chief Governance Officer; T. Baulk, Chief Financial Officer; M. Inglis, Director of Health and Social Care; L. Reid, Assistant Director – Transformation; G. Hoey, Chief Social Work Officer; S. McCall, Service Lead – Transformation; and C. McCallum, Committee Services Assistant.

Attending
Remotely: C. Cox, Assistant Director – Planning and Development.

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

As Councillors Cullen and Kilbride were not in attendance at this meeting, they were not eligible to vote on these minutes.

The minutes of 25 November 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](#).

Leisure and Community Services.

4. Accessible Ayr Project Update

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 10 December 2025 by the Depute Chief Executive and Director of Housing, Operations and Development providing an update on the progress of the Accessible Ayr Project and seeking approval for officers to apply for construction funding on a phased basis in line with current funding scenarios.

Following discussion, the Cabinet

Decided: to continue consideration of this matter to a future meeting of Cabinet.

Council Leader, Economy and Strategy/Finance and Corporate Services.

5. Business Support Model

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 9 January 2026 by the Director of Communities and Transformation updating Members on the Business Support Model project and changes to service delivery responsibilities which would be reflected in an updated Scheme of Delegation at a later date.

The Cabinet

Decided:

- (1) to note the Business Support Model Business Case including proposed benefits, approved by the Council's Transformation Board on 17 December 2025 at Annex 1 of the report;
- (2) to note changes to staffing and line management arrangements as a result of the implementation of the new Business Support Model, shown at page 8 of the Business Case;
- (3) to note that requirements to amend the Scheme of Delegation (SoD) to reflect changed organisational responsibilities for Business Support would be considered as part of the next SoD quarterly review;
- (4) to agree a progress update report be provided to cabinet in January 2027 including benefits realisation; and
- (5) to agree that a Members' Briefing be held within 6 months providing members with an update.

Finance and Corporate Services.

6. Budget Management – Revenue Budgetary Control 2025/26 – Position at 30 November 2025

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 12 January 2026 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 November 2025.

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 4.1.6 of the report;
- (3) to approve the requested earmarking of resources to be carried forward to 2026/27 as summarised in 4.1.7 of the report;
- (4) to note the projected General Services in year under-spend of £2.199m after earmarking and a projected uncommitted general reserve balance of £10.351m; and
- (5) to note the revised HSCP projected overspend of £1.603m following the IJB's recent approval of an in-year recovery plan.

Health and Social Care.

7. Chief Social Work Officer Annual Report

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 10 December 2025 by the Chief Social Work Officer providing an update on the performance of statutory social work services for 2024-2025.

The Cabinet, having considered the performance of statutory social work services,

Decided: to note the content of the report

The meeting ended at 10.42 a.m.