

**SOUTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL.**

Minutes of a hybrid webcast meeting  
on 26 March 2026 at 10.00 a.m.

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

Present Remotely: Councillors Kenneth Bell, Ian Cochrane, Chris Cullen, William Grant and Lee Lyons.

Apologies: Councillors Martin Dowey and Brian McGinley,

Attending in County Buildings: S. Penman, Chief Executive; K. Braidwood, Depute Chief Executive and Director of Housing, Operations and Development; J. Bradley, Director of Communities and Transformation; S. Mulholland, Director of Education; M. Inglis, Director of Health and Social Care; C. Caves, Chief Governance Officer; T. Baulk, Chief Financial Officer; W. Wesson, Chief HR Officer; C. Cox, Assistant Director – Planning and Development; K. Anderson, Assistant Director – Corporate Policy, Strategy and Performance; L. Reid, Assistant Director – Transformation; D. Alexander, Service Lead – Procurement; K. Copland, Senior Accountant/Senior Finance Officer; J. Andrew, Transformation Co-ordinator (Workforce); J. McClure, Committee Services Lead Officer; K. Hancox, Committee Services Officer; and C. McCallum, Clerical Assistant.

Also in Attendance: J. Corrie, Head of Roads and D. Manson, Special Projects Officer, Ayrshire Roads Alliance.

**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; and
- (2) intimated that apologies had been received from Councillors Dowey and McGinley.

**2. Sederunt and Declarations of Interest.**

The Chief Executive called the roll.

In terms of Council Standing Order No. 17 and the Councillors' Code of Conduct,

- (1) Councillor Kenneth Bell declared an interest in Item 6 on the agenda entitled "Granting of the Freedom of South Ayrshire to Ayr Sea Cadets and Royal Marines Cadets" as he was a member of the organisation and affiliated with the Ayr Branch; and
- (2) Councillor Ian Davis declared an interest in Item 14 on the agenda entitled "ARA Parking Service Review" as his past views could be interpreted in a way that undermined his objectivity when undertaking the vote on this matter.

### 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 19 February 2026 as a correct record.

As Councillors Bell, Dowey, Ferry and McGinley were not present at this meeting, they were not eligible to vote on these Minutes.

The Council

**Decided:** to approve the Minutes of 19 February 2026 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) Appeals Panel of [17 December 2025](#)
- (ii) Audit and Governance Panel of [3 December 2025](#)
- (iii) Cabinet of [20 January 2026](#) and [17 February 2026](#)
- (iv) Regulatory Panel – Licensing of [26 November 2025 \(Site Visit\)](#) and [22 January 2026](#)
- (v) Regulatory Panel – Planning of [5 February 2026](#)
- (vi) Service and Partnerships Performance Panel of [11 February 2026](#) and [26 February 2026 \(Special\)](#)

### 4. **Corporate Workforce Plan 2026-31**

There was submitted a [report](#) (issued) of 3 March 2026 by the Chief HR Officer presenting the Council's 5-year Workforce Plan.

The Chief HR Officer introduced the report and thanked the Transformation Co-ordinator (Workforce) and the members of the Strategic Workforce Group for their contribution in developing this plan.

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

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

- (1) the importance of this plan tying into other Council plans and the other transformation work; that sections in the report highlighted areas where the Council had performed well such as Modern Apprenticeships, care experience and absence management and how the Council had performed compared to national averages; and that there were other areas of work to still be examined, such as training including digital skills training and work around health and wellbeing which was important for all employees;

- (2) the percentage of employees who had experienced stress and burnout and for those who felt their physical and mental health was unsupported and the plans for reducing these figures; and the Chief HR Officer advised that investment had been made in terms of employee support and wellbeing and that the Trauma Support Officer had produced a well publicised calendar of events, including a Wellbeing Bus for employees to access services; that an Employee Assistance Programme had been launched through the Council's employee benefits partner Vivup which had been well received as employees did not require to wait for an Occupational Health (OH) referral to access this programme; that Stress Risk Assessments were carried out for employees who presented with stress related health problems and reasonable adjustments were made to support them back to work; and that this work would continue to be developed;
- (3) whether OH could offer face to face meetings rather than a telephone consultation; and the Chief HR Officer advised that the majority of OH appointments were through telephone consultation as, when the new service was procured each of the tenderers had advised that they delivered services via telephone consultation during Covid and had found this to be of benefit to the recipient of the service, however, if there was a requirement for a face to face appointment, this could be offered;
- (4) the membership of the Steering Group and where the progress of this Group would be reported to; and the Chief HR Officer advised that a Workforce Group had been established to develop the Plan which was at a strategic level and that the Steering Group would be more operational and would comprise of Co-ordinators and Team Leaders to help deliver actions from the Plan; and that the Group would report to the Transformation Board and also regular reports would be submitted to Service and Partnerships Performance Panel; and
- (5) welcoming the alignment with the medium term financial plan, that one of the four powers of the Plan was staff wellbeing and that the Plan acknowledged that the workforce was the Council's most valuable asset.

The Council, having thanked the Chief HR Officer and the Transformation Co-ordinator (Workforce) for their work on this comprehensive document,

**Decided:**

- (a) to approve the Workforce Plan, attached as Appendix 1 to the report; and
- (b) to agree that progress and annual updates would be presented to Service and Partnerships Performance Panel.

**Adjournment**

The time being 10.15 a.m., the Council adjourned to consider an amendment which had been submitted in relation to the following item on the agenda.

**Resumption of Meeting**

The Council resumed at 10.30 a.m.

## 5. Additional Public Holiday

There was submitted a [report](#) (issued) of 4 February 2026 by the Chief Executive advising of the decision of the Scottish Government, following royal proclamation, to grant Monday 15 June 2026 as a one-off Scottish bank holiday.

The Chief HR Officer introduced the report and outlined that, since this report had been written, the final budget gap had been announced as £8.463m therefore, the cost of funding the additional holiday was prohibitive given the existing budgetary constraints; and that COSLA had been keeping note of the position with Scottish Local Authorities and that, to date, eighteen Councils had not granted the additional public holiday and only three Councils had approved the holiday, with some Councils yet to take this decision.

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

By way of Amendment, Councillor Philip Saxton, seconded by Councillor Ian Cavana, moved: "that the Council agree to the public holiday and delegate authority to officers to implement a paid one-day off for all staff which would be done either by a full day off on 15 June 2026 or a day in lieu; and that any financial implications could be taken from Reserves".

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

- (1) this being a proposed one day holiday to celebrate the success of the Scottish men's football team taking part in the World Cup and was an appreciation of the staff's hard work; and that this holiday had been endorsed by King Charles and the Scottish Parliament; and
- (2) there being no connection between how well staff performed to the World Cup; and that this was a Saturday evening match so staff had the Sunday off before being back to work.

Five Members voted for the Amendment, twenty one Members voted for the Motion and the Council

**Decided:** not to approve the additional public holiday, as the associated costs were prohibitive and could not be justified within the current financial context.

**Having previously declared an interest in the following item, Councillor Kenneth Bell left the meeting during consideration of this matter.**

## 6. Granting of the Freedom of South Ayrshire to Ayr Sea Cadets and Royal Marines Cadets

There was submitted a [report](#) (issued) of 5 February 2026 by the Chief Governance Officer seeking the Council's agreement to grant the Freedom of South Ayrshire to the Ayr Sea Cadets and Royal Marines Cadets.

The Chief Governance Officer introduced the report and advised that, in terms of Section 206 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, it was a requirement that in granting this, the Council had a two thirds majority in favour of doing so.

Councillor Laura Brennan-Whitefield, seconded by Councillor Ian Davis, moved the recommendations as outlined in the report.

Comments were made by a Member in relation to this giving recognition to the excellent work carried out by this organisation, particularly in Ayr North; that the organisation provided its members with many opportunities; and the organisation had made ongoing improvements to the Council owned building.

The Council unanimously

**Decided:**

- (1) to grant the Freedom of South Ayrshire to the Ayr Sea Cadets and Royal Marines Cadets;
- (2) to agree that consideration of funding for the event would be delegated to the Chief Governance Officer; and
- (3) to note that the costs associated with the Freedom ceremony would be met from within the Civic budget.

**Councillor Kenneth Bell rejoined the meeting at this point.**

**7. Decision in favour of the Council in the Judicial Review by the Petitioner Allanvale Homes (Prestwick) Limited**

There was submitted a [report](#) (issued) of 17 March 2026 by the Chief Governance Officer advising Members of the decision by the Court of Session in favour of the Council in the judicial review which had been raised against the Council by Allanvale Homes Limited against the council decision not to approve in principle the provision to them of £21.41m of funding in relation to the development of the land at Corton; and seeking approval to seek the expenses of the action.

The Chief Governance Officer 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) had these monies been granted to the petitioner, this could have bankrupt the Council; and thanking all officers involved in this matter;
- (2) welcoming that the Council was planning to recoup the expenses of the action; and noting the concerns expressed by some Members reflected in the action that they had not been given sufficient information on this matter but that the court disagreed and commenting expressly that the report provided to Members in December 2024 had been very comprehensive;
- (3) being pleased to note that this report was now available to members of the public who could access Lord Lake's judgement; and thanking the Chief Governance Officer for her advice to Members throughout this case; and
- (4) the Judge's findings where he stated that it was Councillors' responsibility to request further information if they required it before taking a decision.

The Council

**Decided:**

- (a) to note the decision in favour of the Council in the petition for judicial review by Allanvale Homes (Prestwick) Limited against the Council as set out in Appendix 1 to the report; and
- (b) to note that the Council would seek the expenses of the action from Allanvale Homes (Prestwick) Limited.

**8. Procurement Strategy Update 2026/27**

There was submitted a [report](#) (issued) of 26 February 2026 by the Chief Financial Officer seeking approval of minor updates to the Council's Procurement Strategy covering 2026-2027.

The Service Lead - Procurement 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 by Members in relation to:

- (1) the Council being a Recruit with Conviction employer; and in relation to 3.3 of the report, namely "Improvements delivered in relation to tracking and delivering of community benefits through contracts" enquiring what these improvements were; and the Service Lead – Procurement advised that the community benefits process had been updated in the last couple of years; that there was a new process for community groups to submit requests to the Council rather than suppliers suggesting their own community benefits; that he worked closely with Thriving Communities and Employability to deliver a number of community benefits in the past year including apprenticeships and new employment within South Ayrshire; and that he could provide further detail to the Member following the meeting;
- (2) support to local businesses and whether they would be supported through the Meet the Buyer Scheme; and the Service Lead – Procurement advised that a Meet the Buyer event would be taking place at the end of 2026 run by South Ayrshire Council and also attended by colleagues from East Ayrshire and North Ayrshire Councils; that he would shortly be attending the national Meet the Buyer event; and that a Supplier Development Programme had recently taken place which was an online course allowing new companies who had not tendered before to get an insight on completing the relevant documentation;
- (3) the Electronic Punch Out system and best prices; and the Service Lead – Procurement advised that this system provided the best price for every product supplied to the Council and the catalogue provided options to narrow down products;
- (4) whether the timescales would be reduced for new businesses to join frameworks to tender; and the Service Lead – Procurement advised that the Regulations stated that, once a framework had been tendered, it had to proceed for the full duration of the lifespan which was normally three to four years, however, there were other framework options available but these were not in place for a lot of the current systems but would be examined for future provision. The Member further stated that a three to four year duration prevented small businesses accessing the framework; and the Service Lead – Procurement advised that he would examine all options for future tenders; and

- (5) whether there was still a commitment to the Ayrshire Growth Deal (AGD) and Ayrshire Economic Strategy; and the Service Lead – Procurement advised that the Council was still heavily involved with the AGD and that he was currently working with colleagues to procure various services through the AGD; that looking at local suppliers as sub-contractors had been highlighted to the main contractors involved; and that the community benefits clause would apply with the AGD and all pan-Ayrshire services through the Economic Development Team;

The Council, having thanked the Service Lead – Procurement and his Team for their work on this Strategy,

**Decided:** to approve the updated Procurement Strategy for 2026-2027 attached as Appendix 1.

## 9. Treasury Management and Investment Strategy 2026/27

There was submitted a [report](#) (issued) of 26 February 2026 by the Chief Financial Officer requesting that Members consider the proposed Treasury Management and Investment Strategy for financial year 2026/27.

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 by Members in relation to:

- (1) thanking the Chief Financial Officer and his officers for their work on this detailed report and for their work throughout the year; and
- (2) whether a three year Investment Strategy could be considered for future years; and the Chief Financial Officer advised that a one year Investment Strategy was required by the CIPFA Code of Practice, however, him and his officers generally considered further than one year ahead when compiling the Investment Strategy.

The Council

**Decided:** to approve the draft Treasury Management and Investment Strategy for 2026/27 (attached as Appendix 1 to the report).

## 10. Maybole Regeneration Programme II

There was submitted a [report](#) (issued) of 24 February 2026 by the Depute Chief Executive and Director of Housing, Operations and Development recommending the initial phase of a new regeneration programme for Maybole, with the programme aiming to build on the work undertaken through the existing Maybole Regeneration Scheme, nearing completion.

The Assistant Director - Planning and Development introduced the report and advised that this report was recommending three projects to be advanced through the new Maybole Regeneration Scheme which was a separate scheme and not part of the existing Maybole Regeneration Project, which was nearing completion; and outlined the three proposed projects.

Councillor William Grant, seconded by Councillor Brian Connolly, moved the recommendations as outlined in the report.

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

- (1) thanking officers and Ward Members for producing these recommendations which would restore the town centre and was excellent news for the residents of Maybole; and
- (2) that these recommendations would have a huge impact on the town; that if the public realm was improved this would also have a positive impact; and that hopefully the parking strategy could also be agreed soon;

The Council

**Decided:**

- (a) to agree that officers prepare a new Maybole Shopfront Grant Improvement Scheme for the area as set out in Appendix 1 with a budget allocation of £250,000 from the Maybole Regeneration Budget;
- (b) to note the finalised Maybole Shopfront Grant Improvement Scheme would be presented to Council for approval in September 2026;
- (c) to approve building improvements to three Council owned properties on School Vennel (No.6-8, No.14 and No.16) in accordance with the detail set out in Appendix 1 and a budget allocation of £125,000 from the Maybole Regeneration Budget;
- (d) to agree that officers undertake consultation with the local community on the proposed improvement of the public realm at Greenside (as outlined in Appendix 1) to make greater use of the spaces and places for events and recreational activities;
- (e) to agree that officers procure a design team to produce a feasibility study with a budget allocation of £600,000 for the public realm after consideration of the results of the consultation;
- (f) to note that there was an unallocated balance in the Maybole Regeneration Budget of £875,000 and requesting officers to engage with Ward members regarding proposals to utilise this balance; and
- (g) to note that a report would be brought to Council in September 2026 summarising officers' recommendations for the development of the public realm at Greenside and with recommendations for the use of unallocated balance.

## **11. Prestwick Regeneration – Potential Projects**

There was submitted a [report](#) (issued) of 26 March 2026 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 available for regeneration projects under the Prestwick Capital Regeneration budget.

The Assistant Director - Planning and Development introduced the report and provided an update on the outcome of the Workshop; the work undertaken by the Consultants; the best value assessments; and the results of the public consultation.

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) it being evident that the residents of Prestwick were opposed to the reinstatement of the Freeman's Hall Steeple which was concerning; that a workshop with a small group of hand selected people did not portray the opinion of all residents of Prestwick; and, should grant funding be achieved for the Steeple, would this proceed in this political term; and the Assistant Director – Planning and Development advised that this matter would not be delayed by the Heritage Lottery Fund, however, there were a number of stages to the process starting with an expression of interest and that business cases required to be considered which normally took longer than a year;
- (2) that, although it was desirable to retain architectural heritage, the replacement of the steeple was not a priority with a limited budget and did not appear to be what the residents of Prestwick wanted; and that this would tie up funds intended for the regeneration of Prestwick when other, more positive projects could be delivered;
- (3) what evidence there was to support the various positive impacts on the Integrated Impact Assessment regarding the steeple; and the Assistant Director – Planning and Development advised that she would respond to the Member in writing on this matter;
- (4) the public consultation outlining that two thirds of those consulted were opposed to spending the monies on the steeple; concerns regarding the expert report as it was very vague and did not outline who had been consulted and did not name the groups who were in favour of the replacement of the steeple; concerns that the Freeman's Hall had been built without a steeple, this was then added then removed and it was again being proposed that this be replaced; and that, as the value of the Hall was currently estimated at £200,000 and the cost of replacing the steeple would be approximately £750,000, would this increase the value of the Hall by £750,000; and the Assistant Director – Planning and Development advised that the Estates Department would undertake the valuation of the Hall upon replacement of the steeple, should this be approved;
- (5) concerns regarding the urgency of the progression of these projects as, should the Administration change, these monies could be committed to other projects; that the range of proposals to select from had been fairly limited; and that certain groups within the community had not been involved in the consultation;
- (6) paragraph 5.1 reading “while it is not considered that the planned scope of works will not entail disposing, appropriating or changing the use of those Common Good assets, Legal Services will be involved in reviewing the planned works to ensure that the Council's statutory obligations in relation to public consultation and seeking consent, where required, are fulfilled” and whether it should read “while it is not considered that the planned scope of works will entail.....”; and the Assistant Director – Planning and Development confirmed that this was a typographical error within the report; and
- (7) that the steeple was a huge part of Prestwick's heritage which should be protected; that this project would not delay the investment of Prestwick promenade; and that this report provided a good compromise as, if the Council could attain match funding and Historic Scotland agreed that this was a good project, the Council would go back out to consultation.

Twenty four Members voted for the Motion and two Against and the Council, having thanked everyone involved in this matter,

**Decided:**

- (a) to note the progress made in the development and assessment of potential Prestwick regeneration projects, informed by stakeholder engagement and technical appraisal;
- (b) to allocate £1,000,000 to undertake Promenade and Seafront Improvements to key “Getaway Locations”, including Links Road, Burgh Road, and Grangemuir Road locations as set out in the indicative plan attached in Appendix 1;
- (c) to agree that officers progress grant applications for funding towards potential reinstatement of the Freeman’s Hall steeple and note that a report would be presented to Members with the outcome of the grant applications and recommendations for the progress of any reinstatement;
- (d) to agree that the budget allocation of £750,000 towards the reinstatement of the Freeman’s Hall steeple would be retained until the outcome of the grant applications was confirmed; and
- (e) to note that officers would work with the community to assist them with their establishment of a trust body and that, once established, officers could consider the commissioning of a feasibility study for a proposed Lido project.

**12. Burns Statue Square Redevelopment**

There was submitted a [report](#) (issued) of 27 February 2026 by the Depute Chief Executive and Director of Housing, Operations and Development providing an update on the early work undertaken on the Burns Statue Square Project; and seeking approval for the next steps.

The Head of Roads – Ayrshire Roads Alliance (ARA) introduced the report.

Councillor Bob Shields, 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) this being an exciting project; and welcoming the consultation with businesses and residents as there was a lot of public interest in this project;
- (2) welcoming this report; being pleased to note that the works would not cost the full £16m proposed; and enquiring, exclusive of fees and other costs, what were the plans for the remaining Levelling Up funding, how could the remaining funds be distributed through the area and were the costs comprehensive or a blend of quality and best value; and the Special Projects Officer, ARA advised that presently the costs were high level based on the concept design; that, throughout the process, Balfour Beattie had been appointed and there would be further appointments of a Quantity Surveyor and a Project Manager which was a requirement of the funding criteria from the Regeneration Fund; that costs would invariably rise from what had been quoted and there was also a Shop Front Initiative which would require to be funded from the £16m; and that, provided that the funds or costs came in under that amount, as long as it was contained within the original scope of the application to the Levelling Up Fund, these monies could be utilised, otherwise they would require to be returned or would remain unclaimed;

- (3) that construction inflation was built into the quote, however, should costs continue to rise, was the project still viable; and the Special Projects Officer, ARA advised that the estimated costs were currently £9.26m including the optimism bias and any other inflation costs, however, costs were continuing to rise and he was liaising with Balfour Beattie to bring forward the material palette to members via a members' briefing and that, once approved, he would quantify the volumes required and purchase the materials to accelerate the construction process; and that the materials would then be stored at the ARA depot to remove the risk of further inflation;
- (4) whether there had been liaison with the Scottish Government in light of the lessons learned following the fires at Ayr Station Hotel and Glasgow Central Station in terms of whether the Council was pursuing assistance with the development of the railway station and its interface into Burns Statue Square; and the Chief Executive advised that he was heavily engaged and would continue to engage in discussions with Network Rail and Transport Scotland regarding the plans for the Station and surrounding area; and that the issue of the Station Hotel was still subject to legal proceedings, however, it was critical that the development of Burns Statue Square aligned with the plans for the Station and surrounding area;
- (5) the plans for the memorial fountain at Burns Statue Square; and the Special Projects Officer advised that, at present, it was planned that the fountain would remain in its current location, however, this may change following public consultation;
- (6) that, whilst these were excellent plans, once this matter went out to public consultation, members of the public would be requesting information on plans for the Station Hotel, despite this not being a Council owned building; and
- (7) that this was a very positive project which would be the start of the regeneration of Ayr Town Centre.

The Council, having thanked all officers involved in developing these proposals,

**Decided:**

- (a) to note the revised traffic modelling for the proposed reconfiguration of roads through and around Burns Statue Square as set out in Appendix 1;
- (b) to agree that officers undertake extensive public and stakeholder engagement on the concept design produced by Ironside Farrar (Appendix 2), that regular digital updates be provided throughout the design process and that two public drop-in events be held at key project milestones;
- (c) to agree that officers undertake one-to-one meetings with businesses and residents within the extents of the proposed project;
- (d) to note a further report would be submitted to Council in September 2026 to approve the final design to allow the project to progress to construction; and
- (e) to note the anticipated commencement of construction as January 2027 with completion by 31 March 2028.

**Councillor Lyons left the meeting at this point.**

### 13. **Formal Questions**

In terms of Council Standing Order No. 26.2, there were no Formal Questions 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 items of business on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of exempt information in terms of paragraphs 1, 8 and 9 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

#### **Adjournment**

The time being 11.40 a.m., the Council adjourned.

#### **Resumption of Meeting**

The Council resumed at noon.

**Having previously declared an interest in the following item, Councillor Ian Davis left the meeting during consideration of this matter.**

### 14. **ARA Parking Service Review**

There was submitted a report (Members Only) of 27 February 2026 by the Depute Chief Executive and Director of Housing, Operations and Development providing an update on the recently completed review process into the Council's Parking Service; and seeking approval to adopt a revised delivery model for frontline parking enforcement services in South Ayrshire ensuring financial sustainability, operational resilience, and improved service.

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

Councillor Alec Clark, seconded by Councillor Brian Connolly, moved

- “(1) that the Council do not consider the adoption of a partnership delivery model through participation in the City of Edinburgh Council parking enforcement framework contract for frontline parking enforcement services for South Ayrshire Council, as outlined at 2.1.2 of the report; and
- (2) that a report be presented to a future Council meeting summarising the financial and any service impacts for the delivery of frontline parking enforcement services by South Ayrshire Council in retaining the existing service delivery model, as outlined at 2.1.7 of the report.”

By way of Amendment, Councillor Duncan Townson, seconded by Councillor Craig Mackay, moved

“that the Council agree

- (a) to refuse to adopt the partnership delivery model; and

- (b) to request officers to review provision, including consideration of increasing those employed to help make it more sustainable for South Ayrshire going forward, and to come back to Council with recommendations.”

A full discussion took place in relation to this report and following a request from a Member that a more wide-ranging enforcement strategy be looked at to examine further issues, the Chief Governance Officer advised that this matter would be followed up in writing.

The Mover and Seconder of the Motion agreed to accept the terms of the Amendment and, therefore, the Amendment now became the substantive Motion.

A Member requested a roll-call vote.

The Chief Governance Officer then 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	For
Ian Cavana	For
Alec Clark	For
Ian Cochrane	For
Brian Connolly	For
Chris Cullen	For
Julie Dettbarn	For
Stephen Ferry	For
William Grant	For
Wullie Hogg	For
Hugh Hunter	For
Martin Kilbride	For
Alan Lamont	For
Craig Mackay	For
Bob Pollock	For
Cameron Ramsay	For
Philip Saxton	For
Gavin Scott	For
Bob Shields	For
Duncan Townson	For
George Weir	For

The Council unanimously,

**Decided:**

- (i) to refuse to adopt the partnership delivery model; and
- (ii) to request officers to review provision, including consideration of increasing those employed to help make it more sustainable for South Ayrshire going forward, and to come back to Council with recommendations.”

## 15. Redevelopment of the Former Hourston's Building and Former Arran Mall, Ayr

There was submitted a report (Members Only) of 3 March 2026 by the Depute Chief Executive and Director of Housing, Operations and Development providing an update on work carried out to explore options for a residential development on the site of the former Hourston's department store and Arran Mall shopping centre, and seeking approval to proceed with the project based on the recommended strategy.

The Assistant Director - Planning and Development introduced the report.

Councillor Martin Kilbride, seconded by Councillor Brian Connolly, moved the recommendations as outlined in the report.

A full discussion took place in relation to this report.

The Council

### **Decided:**

- (1) to note the work carried out to explore residential development options for the Hourston's and Arran Mall site;
- (2) to note the preferred development delivery model for the project (subject to (4) below), involving two distinct phases; Phase 1 would consist of private housing above commercial ground floor space by a private developer, supported by enabling/infrastructure funded by SAC, and the Phase 2 would consist of private housing with some affordable housing;
- (3) to agree that officers should proceed with the appointment of a design team to develop a masterplan and design codes and submit a Planning Application Notice (PAN) for Planning Permission in Principle (PPiP), which would involve public consultation on the proposals;
- (4) to agree that officers would proceed with market testing for the delivery of the proposals, including a round-table event with potential developers and appointment of a specialist consultant to assist with development of a delivery model and demonstration of market failure;
- (5) to note officers would establish the availability of the "Power to Advance Wellbeing" set out in the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003 and associated legal issues connected to the delivery of the preferred delivery model; and
- (6) to request that officers submit a further paper, following engagement with the market, consideration of the legal issues and public consultation on the proposals, recommending the proposed development delivery model in October 2026.

**16. Consideration of Above Confidential Reports.**

Following advice from the Chief Governance Officer, the Council

**Decided:**

- (1) not to authorise the disclosure of the following report under Standing Order No. 32.4:-
  - ARA Parking Service Review
- (2) to authorise the disclosure of the following report under Standing Order 32.4 subject to redactions on GDPR and commercial issues:-
  - Redevelopment of the Former Hourston's Building and Former Arran Mall, Ayr

**Provost**

Provost thanked everyone in attendance for their contribution.

The meeting ended at 1.00 p.m.