

CABINET

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

Present

In County

Hall: Councillors Brian Connolly (Chair), Alec Clark, Ian Davis, William Grant, Hugh Hunter and Martin Kilbride.

Apologies: Councillors Chris Cullen and Bob Shields.

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; S. Mulholland, Director of Education; L. Reid, Assistant Director - Transformation; C. Caves, Chief Governance Officer; L. Duncan, Chief Finance Officer – Health and Social Care; S. Marshall, Head of Community Health and Care Services; S. McCall, Service Lead - Transformation; K. Hancox, Committee Services Officer and E. Moore, Clerical Assistant.

Attending

Remotely: C. McGhee, Chief Internal Auditor; and P. Morrison, Audit Scotland.

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 Councillor Hunter was not in attendance at this meeting, he was not eligible to vote on these minutes.

The minutes of 28 April 2026 ([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](#).

Economy and Strategy/Finance and Corporate Services.

4. Collaborative Working Update

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 16 April 2026 by the Chief Executive updating Members on the progress of collaborative working.

The Cabinet

Decided:

- (1) to note the collaborative activity that the Council were actively engaged in at a national level at section 4.1;
- (2) to note the activity being progressed to review opportunities for local sharing of services;
- (3) to note that Shared Services scoping work was being progressed as part of the Council's transformation activity and that authority to commence any implementation would be sought, as relevant to the Council's Scheme of Delegation and Financial Regulations and governance arrangements; and
- (4) to agree an update report on Shared Services be provided to Cabinet in November 2026.

Economy and Strategy.

5. Policy – Artificial Intelligence

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 23 April 2026 by the Chief Executive seeking approval for an update to the operational Policy for the ethical and responsible use of Artificial Intelligence at South Ayrshire Council.

Following discussion regarding training and compliance, the Cabinet

Decided:

- (1) to note the work progressed by officers to further develop a framework for the Council's use and governance of Artificial Intelligence;
- (2) to approve the Policy for Artificial Intelligence at Appendix 1; and
- (3) to agree the Policy would be reviewed in 12 months' time.

Health and Social Care.

6. Self Directed Support 2026-27

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) 20 April 2026 by the Director of Health and Social Care presenting the current approach to Self-Directed Support across South Ayrshire and for Cabinet to approve updated Guidance.

Following discussion, the Cabinet

Decided: to approve the Self-Directed Support Guidance (Appendix 1), the Fair Access to Care and Eligibility Criteria Guidance for Adults and Older People's Services (Appendix 2), and the Resource Allocation Guidance for Adults and Older People's Services (Appendix 3).

7. Social Care Day Care Charging Implementation

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) 17 April 2026 by the Director of Health and Social Care presenting a proposal to implement day care charges for attendance at Adult and Older People Day care services.

Following discussion, including what the charges covered, the Cabinet

Decided:

- (1) to note the consultation on day care charging and feedback received;
- (2) to note the benchmarking information on day care charging;
- (3) to approve the implementation and proposed Day Care Charge of £10 payable by South Ayrshire residents in receipt of Day Care Services from 15th June 2026 with a maximum £20 weekly charge;
- (4) to approve the proposed Day Care Charge to other Local Authorities was set at the actual cost of delivering the service;
- (5) to note service users' entitlement to benefits would be maximised; and
- (6) to note Social Care Charging Policy for Non-Residential and Residential included guidance for waiving or abating non-residential charges in cases of financial hardship or in other exceptional circumstances.

8. Social Care Charging Policy

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) 23 March 2026 by the Director of Health and Social Care presenting the annual updated Social Care Charging Policy to Cabinet for approval reflecting national guidance.

The Cabinet

Decided:

- (1) to approve the Social Care Charging Policy (Appendix 1);
- (2) to note the exemptions from social care charges in line with COSLA guidance;
- (3) to note the inclusion of waiving an abating charge in circumstances of financial hardship in line with COSLA guidance;
- (4) to note no change to the percentage taper applied to residual income to calculate the contribution to non-residential social care charges;
- (5) to note update to the Social Care Charging Policy in line with the implementation of day care charging and annual social care charging increases, following approval by Cabinet on the 26th of May 2026; and
- (6) to note the financial assessment process for calculating contributions to residential care homes follows Charging for Residential Accommodation national guidance.

9. Social Care Charges Increases 2026-27

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 8 April 2026 by the Director of Health and Social Care presenting the proposed social care charges increases for the financial year 2026-27 for approval.

Following discussion, The Cabinet

Decided: to approve the increase in proposed social care charges for 2026-27 set out in appendix 1.

The meeting ended at 11.30am.