

SOUTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL.

Minutes of a hybrid webcast meeting
on 14 May 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, Chris Cullen, Stephen Ferry, William Grant, Wullie Hogg, Hugh Hunter, Martin Kilbride, Mary Kilpatrick, Alan Lamont, Craig Mackay, Brian McGinley, Bob Pollock, Cameron Ramsay, Philip Saxton, Gavin Scott, Bob Shields, Duncan Townson and George Weir.

Present Remotely: Councillors Ian Cochrane, Martin Dowey and Lee Lyons.

Apology: Councillor Kenneth Bell.

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; M. Inglis, Director of Health and Social Care; C. Caves, Chief Governance Officer; T. Baulk, Chief Financial Officer; K. Anderson, Assistant Director – Corporate Policy, Strategy and Performance; K. Dalrymple, Assistant Director – Housing and Operations; C. Cox, Assistant Director – Planning and Development; J. Tait, Acting Assistant Director – Communities; C. Iles, Service Lead – Planning and Building Standards; P. Bradley, Service Lead – Professional Design Services; K. Gallagher, Co-ordinator (Golf); 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;
- (2) intimated that apologies had been received from Councillor Bell;
- (3) congratulated Ayr Ruby Club and Carrick Ruby Club on their successes this season with both clubs being heavily invested in developing community rugby in South Ayrshire; and
- (4) congratulated Troon Juniors for winning the West of Scotland Cup Final.

2. Sederunt and Declarations of Interest.

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

Councillor Saxton declared that he held a golf season ticket, however, he did not believe that this precluded him from the consideration of item 11 on the agenda entitled "Golf South Ayrshire".

3. Minutes of previous meetings

(1) Minutes of Previous Meeting of the Council.

- (a) Provost Iain Campbell, seconded by Councillor Mary Kilpatrick, moved the **Minutes** of South Ayrshire Council of 5 March 2026 as a correct record.

As Councillor Dowey was not present at this meeting, he was not eligible to vote on these Minutes.

The Council

Decided: to approve the Minutes of 5 March 2026 and authorise these minutes to be signed as a correct record.

- (b) Provost Iain Campbell, seconded by Councillor Mary Kilpatrick, moved the **Minutes** of South Ayrshire Council of 26 March 2026 as a correct record.

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

As Councillor Davis declared an interest in an item on these minutes, he was not eligible to vote.

As Councillor Lyons left the meeting following item 12 of these minutes, he was also not eligible to vote.

The Council

Decided: to approve the Minutes of 26 March 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: -

The minutes (copies previously issued) of the undernoted meetings are for noting:-

- (i) Appeals Panel of [30 January 2026](#) and [10 March 2026](#)
- (ii) Audit and Governance Panel of [25 February 2026](#) and [25 March 2026](#).
- (iii) Cabinet of [17 March 2026](#)
- (iv) Regulatory Panel – Licensing of [18 February 2026](#) and [19 March 2026](#)
- (v) Regulatory Panel – Planning of [26 February 2026](#) (Site Visit) and [4 March 2026](#)

Councillor Dowey left the meeting at this point.

Variation in Order of Business

In terms of Standing Order No. 13.3, Provost, seconded by Councillor William Grant, moved to vary the order of business to consider item 5 on the agenda "Notice of Motion from Councillor Duncan Townson, seconded by Councillor Cameron Ramsay" at the start of the business.

A Member requested a roll-call vote.

The Chief Governance Officer then took the vote by calling the roll as follows:-

| | |
|--------------------------|-----|
| Iain Campbell | For |
| Mary Kilpatrick | For |
| Laura Brennan-Whitefield | For |
| Ian Cavana | For |
| Alec Clark | For |
| Ian Cochrane | For |
| Brian Connolly | For |
| Chris Cullen | For |
| Ian Davis | For |
| Julie Dettbarn | For |
| Stephen Ferry | For |
| William Grant | For |
| Wullie Hogg | For |
| Hugh Hunter | For |
| Martin Kilbride | For |
| Alan Lamont | For |
| Lee Lyons | For |
| Craig Mackay | For |
| Brian McGinley | For |
| Bob Pollock | For |
| Cameron Ramsay | For |
| Philip Saxton | For |
| Gavin Scott | For |
| Bob Shields | For |
| Duncan Townson | For |
| George Weir | For |

The Council

Decided: unanimously to agree to vary the order of business as hereinafter minuted.

4. **Notice of Motion**

In accordance with Council Standing Order No. 18, a Notice of Motion was submitted by Councillor Duncan Townson and seconded by Councillor Cameron Ramsay.

Provost advised that, in order to consider the following Motion, as this referred to a decision taken within the last six months the Council would, in accordance with Standing Order No. 22.1, require to agree to do so by a two thirds majority of those present and voting:

“Motion to Reinstate the Funding for the Diving Pool and its subsequent classes

That Council agrees:-

- (1) In accordance with Standing order 22.1, to reconsider the item of business below with a two -thirds majority of Councillors in attendance and voting at today’s meeting;
- (2) To reverse the decision of Council to remove the diving facilities at the Citadel and to reinstate the diving from the three and five Metre diving platforms for a temporary period of one year;
- (3) To meet the costs detailed in the table below of reinstating these facilities from Council reserves for the one-year period as follows:-

| | |
|--|------------------|
| | <i>2026/2027</i> |
| <i>Mitigating the savings proposal through the reduction in diving provision</i> | <i>£10,000</i> |
| <i>Energy costs associated with overfilling the flexi-pool and heating and water</i> | <i>£20,879</i> |
| <i>Mitigating the loss of income proposed within the budget savings</i> | <i>£40,000</i> |
| <i>Total</i> | <i>£70,879</i> |

- (4) To request that officers present a report to Council within that one year detailing the process and capital and revenue costs of providing a removable diving board and/or replacement of the diving boards and/or the provisions of an alternative diving facility.”

A Member requested a roll-call vote.

Point of Order

Councillor Julie Dettbarn raised a Point of Order that she had not been given the opportunity to speak on this matter. Provost advised that this was not a Point of Order and the vote should proceed.

The Chief Governance Officer then took the vote by calling the roll as follows:-

| | |
|--------------------------|---------|
| Iain Campbell | Against |
| Mary Kilpatrick | Against |
| Laura Brennan-Whitefield | For |
| Ian Cavana | For |
| Alec Clark | Against |
| Ian Cochrane | For |
| Brian Connolly | Against |
| Chris Cullen | Against |
| Ian Davis | Against |
| Julie Dettbarn | For |
| Stephen Ferry | For |
| William Grant | Against |
| Wullie Hogg | For |
| Hugh Hunter | Against |
| Martin Kilbride | Against |
| Alan Lamont | Against |
| Lee Lyons | Against |
| Craig Mackay | For |
| Brian McGinley | For |
| Bob Pollock | Against |
| Cameron Ramsay | For |
| Philip Saxton | For |
| Gavin Scott | Against |
| Bob Shields | For |
| Duncan Townson | For |
| George Weir | For |

Thirteen Members voted in favour of Suspending Standing Orders and thirteen Members voted against Suspending Standing Orders, therefore, in terms of Standing Order No. 21.1(5), the Motion could not be considered as a two thirds majority was not achieved.

5. Results of Scottish Parliament Election 2026

There was submitted a [report](#) (issued) of May 2026 by the Chief Executive advising of the outcome of the recent Scottish Parliament Election.

The Chief Executive introduced the report and thanked all staff involved in this successful election, including colleagues in Police Scotland and the Electoral Registration Office.

A Member thanked the Returning Officer and his staff for their efforts in this process which had been a fair and judicious election; commended the Service Lead – Democratic Governance for her support of all the candidates who had dealt with any issues very efficiently and was an excellent point of contact for all candidates; and congratulated Siobhian Brown on her appointment.

The Council

Decided: to note the outcome of the Scottish Parliament Election of 7 May 2026 and the election of Siobhian Brown for Ayr, Prestwick and Troon.

Point of Order

Councillor Saxton raised a Point of Order in relation to Item 4 of this Minute that the Chief Governance Officer had stated the result of the vote was thirteen Members For and fifteen Members Against hearing the Notice of Motion and there were twenty-six Members in attendance; **and** the Chief Governance Officer advised that she had stated that thirteen Members were for hearing the Motion.

6. Ayrshire Transformation Board

There was submitted a [report](#) (issued) of April 2026 by the Chief Executive seeking Council endorsement of the arrangements put in place by the Chief Executive – along with the Chief Executives of North and East Ayrshire Councils and NHS Ayrshire and Arran – to establish a Transformation Board (ATB) aimed at strengthening integrated working in Health and Social Care.

The Chief Executive introduced the report.

Councillor Brian Connolly, seconded by Councillor Hugh Hunter, moved the recommendations as outlined in the report.

Comments were made and questions raised by Members in relation to:

- (1) this Council having a great deal to bring to the table in collaborating with others and sharing examples of good practice; and outlining that it would be helpful to be kept up-to-date of developments; and the Chief Executive advised that it was critical that progress was reported to Council; that it was very early days and the priority was to decide on what required to be focussed on initially, however, a reporting schedule would be produced for Members' information;

- (2) that when the IJB was created it was with the best of intentions, however, this was now not positioned where it should be; that any monies spent on upstream prevention would have a huge impact on the number of people being admitted to hospital as the NHS were responsible for the late stage crisis point and the IJB was responsible for the previous stream, therefore, joined up working required to be re-examined; that this was an important and interesting piece of work and with planning and preparation, the final results could have a massive impact on reducing hospital admissions with additional focus on early intervention; and the Chief Executive advised that there were significant challenges nationally and locally with this not being the sole responsibility of any organisation to deal with these challenges as they affected Council and NHS Ayrshire and Arran and that it was critical that this was examined closely moving forward;
- (3) that the Audit Scotland report at a recent Audit and Governance Panel had outlined the challenges of all IJBs with there being considerable debate at that meeting around how best to address transformation and learn best practice from within this Council and partnership organisations; and welcoming this report;
- (4) welcoming this enterprise and believing that this could be one of the most important initiatives to be launched in this term of office within the Council; that it was encouraging that the membership of the Board was the most senior officers within the organisations who would be held accountable for the success of this initiative; that roles and remits were very widespread and all encompassing; that the recent report on the joint inspection of children's services had been pleasing as the partnership working was highly commended; that 2.1 of the Terms of Reference entitled "create task-and-finish sub-groups to take forward specific programmes of work" was welcomed as it was important to complete the tasks and finish the groups; that 3.14 of the Terms of Reference entitled "ensure there is a consistent focus on and prioritisation of reducing cost whilst reducing health inequalities and improving clinical outcomes" was the overriding principle for the whole initiative; and wishing the Chief Executive well for this excellent initiative;
- (5) seeking clarification on whether the remit of the shared services was around the Health and Social Care Partnership and not other Council services; and the Chief Executive advised that the report outlined the challenges around terms and conditions and paragraph 4.5 stated that the emphasis was on what could be achieved within the existing framework; that there was a requirement to progress quickly and finish tasks; that the sharing of services would be areas of work within the Health and Social Care Partnership and would require the appropriate approvals from the various organisations and that the governance structure was in place; and that other work regarding the sharing of collaborative services was ongoing as approved by Council in October 2025 and that further updates would be provided to Cabinet in due course;
- (6) whether East Ayrshire Council was the lead agency as the Chief Executive of that organisation was the Chair of the Board; and the Chief Executive advised that all four Chief Executives worked together and there was no lead agency approach; that there was equal representation on the group; that the Chief Executive of East Ayrshire Council had a professional background in health and social care and the majority of the meetings were held in the East Ayrshire Council buildings, therefore it was convenient for Mr Fraser to Chair the Group;
- (7) the timescales for Members receiving updates; and the Chief Executive advised that progress was being made quickly; that a reporting structure was being developed; and that he predicted an update to Council in this calendar year; and

- (8) thanking the Chief Executive for the work carried out on this very important matter; and suggesting that someone from the volunteer sector should also be on the Transformation Board.

Twenty five Members voted for the Motion and one Member voted against and the Council

Decided:

- (a) to endorse the establishment of the ATB as the formal senior officer structure to strengthen integrated arrangements across the three Ayrshire Councils, NHS Ayrshire and Arran, and the three Integrated Joint Boards;
- (b) to note the agreed governance arrangements, including the ATB's membership, reporting structures and alignment with existing frameworks;
- (c) to endorse the initial priority programme areas;
- (d) to endorse the Terms of Reference for the ATB; and
- (e) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

7. Council Plan 2023-28 : Midway Progress Report

There was submitted a [report](#) (issued) of 23 April 2026 by the Chief Executive providing an update on the Council's progress on delivering the ambitions set out in the Council Plan 2023-28.

The Assistant Director – Corporate Policy, Strategy and Performance introduced the report and advised that the report highlighted some of the major achievements under each of the high level Priorities.

Councillor Brian Connolly, seconded by Councillor Alec Clark, moved the recommendations as outlined in the report.

Comments were made and questions raised by Members in relation to:

- (1) thanking the Assistant Director – Corporate Policy, Strategy and Performance for his work on this matter; and that this good news story should be promoted;
- (2) given the plan's emphasis on community engagement, what additional steps were planned over the next two years to further empower local communities and increase participation; and the Assistant Director – Corporate Policy, Strategy and Performance advised that the new Community Engagement Strategy had recently been approved at Cabinet which would prove helpful in meaningfully engaging with communities and allowing their voices to be heard; and that through the Community Planning Partnership the Integrated Neighbourhood Team was being piloted in North Ayr which would allow the Council to gain an understanding of gaps in provision or over-provision and solve any problems;
- (3) whether an Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) could be provided; and the Assistant Director – Corporate Policy, Strategy and Performance advised that the IIA was not in use when the plan had been developed and that the plan itself noted the cross cutting nature of what had been carried out and was the pre-cursor to the IAA; and that usually the IIA would not be provided with a performance report, however, he would take this suggestion back to his team for consideration; and

- (4) that the Council should be proud of the progress made; and thanking staff for getting the new facilities up and running and performing at a top level.

The Council

Decided: to note the achievements detailed in the progress report attached in Appendix 1 to the report.

8. Delivering the Council's Ambitions

There was submitted a [report](#) (issued) of May 2026 by the Chief Executive setting out a strategy for increased delivery of the ambitions contained within the Council Plan; and seeking approval to establish the Programme of Work, associated strategic boards and supporting reporting arrangements, along with next steps.

The Chief Executive 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) paragraph 4.16 of the report referring to Members being involved in approving the key priorities; asking how these priorities would be identified; and the membership of the Working Group; and the Chief Executive advised that the Programme Work Boards were officer boards; that the early Programme of Works would be formed of initiatives already established and that any new proposals would be presented later in the year under each of the headings as line items for Council approval; that Members could propose priorities and officers would continue to work with Members on these to incorporate them into the Programme of Works; that officers would focus on the medium and long term ambitions of the Council, however, Members would determine the priorities of the Council; that later in the year a draft Programme would be submitted for Members consideration and to propose new projects, subject to budgetary controls; and that the purpose of this was to have a sharper focus to ensure the Council could deliver on assurances;
- (2) that the report identified the need to retain young people in Ayrshire by improving job opportunities and with the Ayrshire Growth Deal (AGD) management structure in place, how would this fit in with the existing structure for managing AGD and how would the Council continue to attract investment into Ayrshire; and the Chief Executive advised that the AGD was a prime example of a project that was medium and long-term in its ambition and that, while there were short-term deliverables, the impacts were medium and long-term and designed to meet some of the challenges facing the Council; that the management arrangements of the AGD as the programme continued would continue to exist, the long-term outcomes of the AGD would be incorporated into the programme of work and part of that focus would be to maintain momentum following the conclusion of the AGD; and that the Council required to capitalise on the AGD now and not at its conclusion;
- (3) the concerning statistics regarding the decrease in population and working-age population; and the Chief Executive advised that these were the projections without taking action; that this report focussed on the intent of the programme which was the medium and long-term but the Council required to act now as the pressures described in the report at Item 6 of these Minutes entitled "Ayrshire Transformation Board" were the pressures presently being experienced;

- (4) that the report outlined the reality of this unsustainable situation regarding this demographic timebomb and the Council required to act now or future generations would have no opportunities;
- (5) where the “flight of youth” was concentrated the most in South Ayrshire, rural areas or town centres, to allow policies to be adapted to reflect this; and the Chief Executive advised that a critical part of developing this programme would be robust, reliable data which could be shared across the organisation so part of putting the performance section together was capturing all relevant data; that there would be intelligence on how this data had changed over time and where the trends were; and that the Council required to understand underneath the headline figures to address the problem;
- (6) that research data could be years out of date, therefore, officers should consider developing the Council’s own qualitative data to remain up-to-date with current trends and current problems and take action based on real-time evidence which was an important element for the success of this programme; and the Chief Executive advised that by necessity, for some of the longer term indicators both lag and lead indicators were required; that the Council held significant amounts of data and intelligence and the good use of this was critical as part of this programme; and that the Council was not alone in holding significant data sets and it was critical to work with other organisations throughout this process;
- (7) that, as this was one of several very important reports submitted to this meeting and the timetable was incredibly ambitious, could the Chief Executive provide assurances that the timescales would be met as it was important to adhere to these dates to give the next Administration the opportunity to commence immediately; and the Chief Executive advised that this timetable was very challenging; that the building blocks required to be put in place to have a successful longer term programme of works; and that it was essential that this timetable was met; and
- (8) that works required to commence immediately on this programme; and this report set out the necessary works.

The Council

Decided:

- (a) to approve the strategy to increase delivery of the ambitions contained within the Council Plan;
- (b) to approve the establishment of a Programme of Work and associated strategic boards;
- (c) to approve the reporting arrangements for the Programme of Work;
- (d) upon approval, to note that proposals to fully embed the Council’s transformation approach ‘*Shaping Our Future Council*’ within the new strategy and arrangements would be brought forward to Cabinet in October 2026; and
- (e) to approve the next steps summarised in Table 1 in paragraph 4.24 of the report.

Adjournment

The time being 11.15 a.m., the meeting adjourned.

Resumption of Meeting

The Council resumed at 11.30 a.m.

Councillor McGinley left the meeting at this point.

9. South Ayrshire Parking Strategy – Urban and Rural Parking Framework

There was submitted a [report](#) (issued) of 30 April 2026 by the Depute Chief Executive and Director of Housing, Operations and Development presenting a new strategic framework for the future delivery of parking strategies across South Ayrshire's urban and rural communities; and that the various strategies referred to in the recommendations in the report would deliver the aims and aspirations contained within the South Ayrshire Parking Strategy 2020 – 2024.

The Head of Roads, Ayrshire Roads Alliance introduced the report.

Councillor Alec Clark, seconded by Councillor Martin Kilbride, moved the recommendations as outlined in the report.

By way of Amendment, Councillor Craig Mackay, seconded by Councillor George Weir, moved as follows:

“1. Delete recommendations 2.1.2 – 2.1.5 inclusive, and replace with:

2.1.2 notes that much work has already been undertaken by officers with regard to Ayr town centre on- and off-street parking arrangements, management of seasonal demand along Ayr esplanade, and operation of parking permits for residents, carers and tradespeople.

2.1.3 agrees that in order to avoid further delays in progressing this much-needed review and modernisation of parking provision, that the Head of Roads for Ayrshire Roads Alliance table a report covering detailed proposals and any proposed associated charges for the items listed under 2.1.2 at Council by September 2026 in order that overarching policy considerations be determined; with further detail (where required) delegated to later Cabinet meetings, with officers presenting such reports to Cabinet by latest June 2027.

2. Re-number the existing recommendations 2.1.6, 2.1.7 and 2.1.8 as recommendations 2.1.4, 2.1.5 and 2.1.6 respectively.

3. Add a new Paragraph 4.8 to the report as follows: -

“The Head of Roads and Ayrshire Roads Alliance will prepare a report for consideration by Council in September 2026 to enable all policy matters relating to Ayr town centre on- and off-street parking arrangements, management of seasonal demand along Ayr esplanade, and operation of parking permits for residents, carers and tradespeople to be determined. Where Council agrees the policy for each of these items, she will then present papers as required to Cabinet to allow decisions to be taken on the detail required for the implementation of each policy approved by Council. The reports will be presented to Cabinet as separate reports with the latest presented by June 2027.”

4. Replace paragraph 15.1 with the following:

15.1 If the recommendations above are approved by Members, the Depute Chief Executive and Director of Housing, Operations and Development will continue to update members on the completion status of these items By the Ayrshire Roads Alliance through the Cabinet Decision Log’ reported at each Cabinet meeting until such time as the decision for each item has been fully implemented:

| Implementation | Due date | Managed by |
|---|-----------------|-------------------|
| Council report | September 2026 | Jane Corrie |
| Cabinet report on Ayr town centre management options | Q2 2026/27 | Jane Corrie |
| Cabinet report on Prestwick parking strategy progression | Q2 2026/27 | Jane Corrie |
| Cabinet report on coastal and seasonal parking management | Q2 2026/27 | Jane Corrie |
| Cabinet report on off-street parking review | Q2 2026/27 | Jane Corrie |
| Cabinet report on Maybole and Girvan parking strategy development | Q3 2026/27 | Jane Corrie |
| Cabinet report on residents’ parking permit framework review | Q4 2026/27 | Jane Corrie |
| Cabinet Report on Troon parking strategy development | Q1 2027/28 | Jane Corrie |
| Cabinet report on rural and visitor destination parking pressures | Q2 2027/28 | Jane Corrie |

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

- (1) the merits in this framework but the failings in the process being proposed, with the Amendment being a genuine and constructive attempt to find a better process; that modern processes such as digital permits for carers required to be introduced; that these reports should be submitted to Council for consideration and not Cabinet as contentious matters of policy should be debated at Council and the Amendment sought to bring the overarching policy principles and all these strands of the parking strategy to Council in September leaving only the agreed details to be finalised by Cabinet over the subsequent months; that a previous report on the Ayr Parking Strategy which had been considered at Cabinet had been called-in and Audit and Governance Panel had accepted the recommendation within the call-in that the matter be considered at Council and not Cabinet, however, this did not occur and a further attempt in December had also been stymied;
- (2) the importance of data when making decisions; and the Head of Roads, Ayrshire Roads Alliance advised that she would ensure there was data evidence provided for each of the proposals in future reports;
- (3) while respecting the Amendment, the best route for consideration of this matter was through Cabinet as it was a decision making body within the Council and had been constructed for this purpose; that submitting each paper to Council would lengthen the decision making process for each item as Cabinet met more frequently; and the call-in process existed should a Member not agree with the detail in a report;
- (4) that the Members on Cabinet did not represent all of the South Ayrshire Wards, therefore, this matter should be submitted to Council for approval as it affected the whole of South Ayrshire; and that Cabinet made decisions which could then be called-in and that these reports would ultimately be called-in which would lengthen the process even more and the Amendment sought to avoid this;
- (5) seeking clarification on the process the Leader had referred to; and Councillor Connolly advised that he had referred to a previous report being called-in to Audit and Governance Panel being re-considered at Cabinet and subsequently referred to Council for consideration;
- (6) would all local members be consulted on the preparation of reports on the individual items referred to in the paper for their Wards; would the public consultation also play a part in this; and prior to each report being submitted to Cabinet, would all political groups have had the opportunity to seek a briefing; and the Head of Roads advised that public consultation would be part of the process and that all Members would be kept up-to-date and would be able to input as part of the process; and
- (7) that any paper could be called-in from Cabinet should this be necessary; that all Ward Members would be consulted on the items in each paper prior to the paper being submitted to Cabinet; and that, as Cabinet was held more frequently than Council, it would be quicker and more efficient so submit these reports to Cabinet and that these would be submitted for each town in South Ayrshire.

Sixteen Members voted for the Motion, eight Members voted for the Amendment and one Member abstained and the Council, having thanked the Head of Roads, Ayrshire Roads Alliance for her work on this matter,

Decided:

- (a) to note that officers were developing a new strategic framework for Urban and Rural Parking in South Ayrshire as detailed in the report;
- (b) to agree that future detailed proposals relating to Ayr town centre parking arrangements be brought forward in a subsequent Cabinet report;
- (c) to agree that options for managing seasonal demand along the Esplanade and other coastal locations where appropriate be developed and reported to Cabinet;
- (d) to agree that proposals for the future operation of residents' parking permit schemes be reviewed and reported separately;
- (e) to agree that options for reviewing off-street parking provision across South Ayrshire be developed and reported to Cabinet;
- (f) to note the intention to review opportunities for introducing a modern digital parking permit platform;
- (g) to note that any future changes to tariffs, charging hours or parking controls would be subject to further consultation and statutory processes where required, and
- (h) to agree that further location-specific parking strategy reports covering South Ayrshire's towns and rural settlements be brought forward in phases.

10. Proposed Ward Capital Projects – Update 2023 to 2026 and Approval of New Capital Projects 2026 to 2027

There was submitted a [report](#) (issued) of 23 April 2026 by the Depute Chief Executive and Director of Housing, Operations and Development providing an update on ward capital projects previously approved by Council and Cabinet; and recommending further capital projects for initiation and implementation during the financial year 2026/27.

The Assistant Director – Housing and Operations introduced the report and thanked his colleagues who had assisted him in the projects reaching this point.

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) thanking officers for their work on this matter which was one of the most worthwhile projects the Council had introduced;

- (2) that, in Troon a number of significant projects had been delivered and a number of others were coming to fruition; that with regards to the outstanding works, as Troon was now being recognised as a winter sports hub, could the toilet and shower facilities be prioritised to allow these to be in place prior to the National Kite Surfing Championships in June and potentially in October; and the Assistant Director – Housing and Operations advised that providing a changing shelter, showers and a compostable toilet had been examined and the Service Lead – Professional Design Services was now looking at providing the shelter, followed by the shower and the provision of the toilet may be later down the line, however, these matters should now move quickly over the next couple of months;
- (3) whether ward capital funding could be utilised for community projects; and the Assistant Director – Housing and Operations advised that community projects could be considered but would require to be of benefit to the community; that water sports had to be capital in nature, therefore, would be discussed at CAMG and with Ward Members to ensure they were comfortable with what was being taken forward;
- (4) that this project was testament to what could be achieved with joint working; that a lot of improvements had been made in Ayr North, however there were challenges when capital was allocated and not revenue; and that Wallacetown area had still not received any capital and it was requested that this very deprived area be focussed on;
- (5) thanking the Assistant Director – Housing and Operations for his assistance in establishing the various projects as it was particularly challenging in rural wards to ensure there was equity between the many villages and rural communities and all areas received something meaningful;
- (6) that each application would be considered on its own merits; that three of the four ward Members in Troon had agreed to contribute £20,000 to the Water Sports Club and this should be allowed to proceed with the majority of ward Members agreeing. A further Member then advised that, should agreement not be reached with Ward Members, the decision should be taken at Cabinet; and the Assistant Director – Housing and Operations advised that the allocation for the Water Sports Club was currently noted as “amber” as clarification was required on whether the money was planned to be used for something capital in nature before proceeding;
- (7) how confident were officers that the works would be completed in the coming year; and the Assistant Director – Housing and Operations advised that he was relatively confident that these works would be completed as a great deal of these projects were significantly underway; that many of the projects in Prestwick had only recently been identified, particularly the ones through Ayrshire Roads Alliance; that there were a number of large projects at Prestwick Promenade where ARA had influenced the programme to assist by using their own staff or external contractors to ensure the works were completed; that a great deal of work had been taking place in the background; and that a meeting required to take place in the next six to eight weeks to identify how the remainder of the monies were spent to complete the programme;
- (8) that it was frustrating that the longer these projects took to come to fruition, the more expensive the materials were; that these projects had been warmly welcomed by South Ayrshire residents; and asking would the allocated monies be expended by the end of the financial year; and the Assistant Director – Housing and Operations advised that a report would be submitted to Council in November 2026 which would identify any projects which had gone awry; and that regular meetings would take place to ensure the monies were expended between now and the end of the financial year; and

- (9) that there had been good co-operative working between local members; and that this was a great project which had provided members with the opportunity to spend monies on their local ward.

The Council, having thanked the Assistant Director – Housing and Operations and his team and Ayrshire Roads Alliance for their work on this initiative,

Decided:

- (a) to agree the capital investment projects identified in Appendix 1 with a white background under project description for initiation and implementation during the financial year 2026/27 and approve the projects with a budget commitment in excess of £100,000 as detailed in Appendix 1;
- (b) to note that the projects with an amber background in Appendix 1 which were yet to be approved may require public consultation as part of the Integrated Impact Assessment prior to a recommendation being made to Council for approval;
- (c) to note the progress made with the capital investment projects identified in Appendix 1;
- (d) to agree to remove the projects identified as red in Appendix 1; and
- (e) to note that a copy of Appendix 1 containing all potential projects would be forwarded to Community Councils for information.

11. Development Plan Scheme 2026

There was submitted a [report](#) (issued) of 13 February 2026 by the Depute Chief Executive and Director of Housing, Operations and Development seeking approval to publish and consult on the Development Plan Scheme 2026 for Local Development Plan 3.

The Service Lead – Planning and Building Standards introduced the report.

Councillor Bob Shields, seconded by Councillor Alan Lamont, moved the recommendations as outlined in the report.

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

- (1) Local Place Plans and whether the importance of these was promoted; and the Service Lead – Planning and Building Standards advised that these were promoted through the Council's media platforms; that all Community Councils had been contacted to assist them in producing proposals and that any proposals were required to align with National Planning Framework 4 and the current Local Plan;
- (2) whether training was provided for Community Councils to give them an understanding of their role in this matter and how best to deliver it; and the Assistant Director – Planning and Development advised that the Community Engagement Officer within the Regeneration Service did a great deal of proactive engagement with communities around this area of work to support them in developing Community Action Plans and advise them on Local Place Plans and how they could take the Community Action Plans a step further;

- (3) commending the work of the Community Engagement Officer; and asking if consultation could take place with members of the public in places of high footfall, for example supermarkets to ensure proper public consultation took place; and the Service Lead – Planning and Building Standards advised that this matter had been discussed at the Local Development Plan Member/Officer Working Group (MOWG) and the Planning team were examining the best ways of engaging with members of the public, including if supermarkets could be utilised; and
- (4) that consultations were very time consuming; and that officers had advised at the MOWG of the substantial amount of work undertaken in developing the Local Development Plan (LDP) and that the LDP3 was a very challenging document.

The Council

Decided: to approve the Development Plan Scheme 2026 (Appendix 1) for publication, and consultation, including the proposed Participation Scheme for public and stakeholder consultation.

12. **Golf South Ayrshire - Belleisle Golf Course Enhanced Practice Facility and Course Enhancements**

There was submitted a joint [report](#) (issued) of 24 April 2026 by the Depute Chief Executive and Director of Housing, Operations and Development and the Director of Communities and Transformation providing an update on the options for the Enhanced Practice Facility at Belleisle Golf Course (previously referred to as the Golf Development Centre) and the golf course enhancement works at various golf courses.

The Service Lead – Professional Design Services introduced the report.

Councillor Chris Cullen, 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) welcoming the proposed improvements at Belleisle golf course which was a step towards delivering the ambition set out in the Golf Strategy and ensuring continued investment in modern, accessible and sustainable golf facilities across South Ayrshire; it being encouraging to see the strong level of public support for option 3 alongside the focus on growing participation of women, young people and families; welcoming the wider economic and community benefits this investment could bring; and outlining that this was about securing the long term future of Belleisle as one of South Ayrshire's key sporting and tourism assets;
- (2) welcoming this report and the solution offered; that having improvements and the course maintained at a high level had always been the wish of golfers at Belleisle and that they had been keen to avoid option 1 within the report; that the forthcoming Implementation Plan in October was welcomed; and, as income and expenditure for other courses did not make good reading, how quickly was it anticipated that figures for Belleisle would be positive; and the Co-ordinator (Golf) advised that with the establishment of the golf pods, if option 3 was approved at this meeting, as soon as it was built, that drove a new source of income beyond what was currently offered in terms of green fees, the café and catering, therefore it was around diversification of income; that golf also had a huge social value as it was known to keep an older demographic active for longer and with the establishment of golf pods and other facilities this would assist further and it was hoped to have figures back in the black very quickly once the proposal had been developed;

- (3) the Integrated Impact Assessment and there being no impact on gender when the Council was keen to increase the number of women playing; and the Co-ordinator (Golf) advised that the current number of female season ticket holders was around 8% which was below the national average; that having a safe environment to encourage women and other under-represented demographics to participate in golf was essential and something that had been lacking for a number of years;
- (4) the Integrated Impact Assessment showing a positive impact for all headings under Social-economic inequalities, including for people with low and/or no wealth; and the Co-ordinator (Golf) advised that the Golf South Ayrshire season ticket cost was currently one of the lowest in the area at half of a private golf course and there were a number of initiatives, including Junior Access Plus which provided a concession for under 18s whose parents received benefits and the Golf Concession Scheme which offered a discount; and it was about reaching out to communities to highlight that golf was an accessible and affordable sport;
- (5) whether evidence and statistics of (4) above could be provided to Members to outline how golf was improving the lives of people with low or no income; and the Acting Assistant Director – Community advised that the Gold Strategy report was due to be presented to Service and Partnerships Performance Panel following consideration of this report today providing further information; that a golf strategy for South Ayrshire would highlight the key benefits and impact of golf; and that information could be provided to Members on the key impact of golf;
- (6) the budget for the greenkeepers' facilities at Lochgreen and Fullarton golf courses and would this also include Belleisle; catering facilities running at a loss; that prices had recently been increased by around 15% which would deter golfers from spending money on catering; that when the facilities were refurbished at Belleisle they were to be utilised for other uses which had not occurred; with the proposals to extend Belleisle how would additional income be generated; as the catering facilities at Troon Golf Course were only open for part of the day, revenue was being lost; the priority should be opening clubhouses for golfers and visitors; how did officers propose to generate more income and stop increasing prices for members and visitors; and that, as recruiting and retaining staff was a problem, how would this change at the new facilities in Belleisle; and the Acting Assistant Director – Communities referred to the staffing challenges and advised that, as part of the Council's service redesign, a new Golf structure and Sport and Leisure structure would be submitted to Council in the near future which should address some of the challenges; that, in relation to attracting visitors to golf courses, this was currently being addressed in conjunction with partner organisations. The Co-ordinator (Golf) further advised that new facilities had been added since the last service redesign, the Stables and the catering aspect required to be examined; that following liaison with colleagues in Finance, resources within existing budgets had been identified to ensure the cafes could be staffed; that there was not a large turnover of staff, however, casual staff had been employed which was challenging, therefore, a more resilient structure required to be put in place for the staffing of cafes; opening hours of the cafes would also be examined; that prices in the cafes were not increased last year, therefore, because of inflation these had been increased this year due to staffing costs and costs of ingredients; and that running at a loss had been partly due to insufficient charging of goods;
- (7) paragraph 4.5 of the report regarding re-alignment of the existing holes and the effect on the course; and the Co-ordinator (Golf) advised that the par of the golf course would not change as the changes to the course were relatively modest compared to the first option that was presented to Council in October 2024;

- (8) this report highlighted a lot of money being spent to turn Belleisle into an attractive visitor destination and this was not how best to serve the people of South Ayrshire; that many of the golfers consulted did not agree with the proposals and many had stated that they had only chosen option 3 to avoid option 1; and that golf was not accessible to those on a low income as they did not have money for transport to the golf courses; and the Acting Assistant Director – Communities advised that these improvements were to support the residents of South Ayrshire; that extensive consultation had taken place and option 3 was the preferred option; the Council was investing in one of its assets that would support local residents and the local visitor economy and he was confident that this investment would pay off; and that this was not just about Belleisle, a lot of work would be supported by wider Council teams;
- (9) that when the Golf Member/Officer Working Group had been created, a report had been considered outlining the physical and mental impact of golf and also the economic impact; that it would be interesting to see an updated report on these impacts with information from the NHS included on the benefits of golf, also including information on the economic impact of holding the Open in the area; and that any investment in golf courses made by the Council would give a larger return in a lot of areas;
- (10) understanding the importance of golf in South Ayrshire and what it brought to the area; and noting that the café at Belleisle Golf Course now closed at 5.00 p.m. which could now cater for families attending after school; and requesting that a vending machine be considered for those golfing after 5.00 p.m.
- (11) this being an exciting addition to the Council's leisure services and complemented the work already being undertaken across all leisure services, particularly the leisure centres; that transport for children to and from Belleisle should be an integral part of the considerations; and asking how the pods would be utilised to introduce young people to golf; and the Co-ordinator (Golf) advised that work was currently being carried out in schools around mental resilience and defining pathways from primary schools to leisure facilities, however, having a dedicated practice facility allowed the niche demographics to be encouraged to take up golf;
- (12) that the catering operators required to review their menu; and that the reduction in playing holes should be addressed in the price of the season ticket; and
- (13) that it was a budget decision to increase the season ticket prices and not an officer decision; and that the SIMD 1 activity figures were very low and very disappointing, therefore, that area required to be examined.

Twenty Members voted for the Motion and five Members abstained and the Council, having thanked everyone involved in this matter,

Decided:

- (a) to note the progress made in developing a feasibility study which included three options for the provision of an enhanced practice facility and golf course improvements at Belleisle Golf Course, as per Appendix 1;
- (b) to grant approval to progress with Option 3, at an estimated cost of £5,420,000, which provided for the introduction of GolfPod facilities, enhanced the off-course user experience through improved connectivity between the existing Golf Clubhouse and the Stables building, and deliver the associated programme of Golf Course enhancements at Belleisle;

- (c) to agree the consolidation of the balance of the previously approved three-year capital investment for Golf Course Infrastructure (£4,504,604) with the investment for the Belleisle enhanced practice facilities (£1,224,327) which would provide a total combined investment across the Golf Course Infrastructure programme of £5,728,931;
- (d) to agree that Officers appoint a suitable consultant for the advancement of Option 3 design development, preparation and submission of the required planning application and management of the overall project delivery, with costs to be met from the approved funding within the General Services Capital Investment Programme 2026/27 to 2037/38;
- (e) to agree that officers prepare a Capital Project Assessment Bid form for submission to the Capital Asset Management Group (CAMG) on the basis of option 3; and
- (f) to request officers to submit a further report to Council in October 2026 noting the decision from CAMG and recommending an implementation plan.

13. Formal Questions

In terms of Council Standing Order No. 26.2, there were no Formal Questions submitted.

Councillors Shields and Townson left the meeting at this point

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 item of business on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information in terms of paragraph 10 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

14. Update on Ayrshire Roads Alliance Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Strategy with North Ayrshire: Procurement Progress and Next Steps

There was submitted a report (Members Only) of 17 April 2026 by the Depute Chief Executive and Director of Housing, Operations and Development providing an update on the Ayrshire Roads Alliance (ARA) Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Fund (EVIF) programme, delivered in partnership with North Ayrshire Council; and outlining progress through the procurement and tender evaluation stages, summarising key developments in the Ayrshire Concession Contract and associated Schedules and highlighting next steps to enabling the contract award and implementation.

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

Councillor Alec Clark, seconded by Councillor Martin Kilbride, moved the recommendations as outlined in the report.

A full discussion took place in relation to this report including questions raised and responded to by the Depute Chief Executive and Director of Housing, Operations and Development and the Head of Roads, Ayrshire Roads Alliance.

The Council

Decided:

- (1) to note the progress made by East Ayrshire Council-Ayrshire Roads Alliance in leading the Pan-Ayrshire procurement for the Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Concession Contract, in partnership with North Ayrshire Council;
- (2) to note the issuing of Stage 2 Invitation to Tender (ITT) in October 2025 and the tender evaluation and contract award completed in April 2026;
- (3) to note the continuation of joint working across the three Ayrshire authorities to progress mobilisation and delivery of the Ayrshire EV Infrastructure Programme, supported by Transport Scotland EVIF grant funding and Scottish Futures Trust (SFT); and
- (4) to note the contract award by East Ayrshire Council as lead authority.

15. Consideration of Above Confidential Report.

Following advice from the Chief Governance Officer, the Council

Decided: to authorise the disclosure of the following report under Standing Order 32.4 following the signing of the contract, subject to redactions:-

- Update on Ayrshire Roads Alliance Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Strategy with North Ayrshire: Procurement Progress and Next Steps

Provost

Provost thanked everyone in attendance for their contribution.

The meeting ended at 1.15 p.m.