

**SOUTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL.**

Minutes of a hybrid webcast meeting  
on 10 October 2024 at 10.00 a.m.

Present in County Buildings: Councillors Iain Campbell (Provost), Ian Cavana, Alec Clark, Ian Davis, Brian Connolly, Julie Dettbarn, Martin Dowe, William Grant, Hugh Hunter, Martin Kilbride, Mary Kilpatrick, Alan Lamont, Craig Mackay, Brian McGinley, Bob Pollock, Cameron Ramsay, Philip Saxton, Bob Shields, Duncan Townson and George Weir.

Present Remotely: Councillors Kenneth Bell, Ian Cochrane, Chris Cullen, Mark Dixon, Stephen Ferry and Lee Lyons.

Apologies: Councillors Laura Brennan-Whitefield and Gavin Scott.

Attending in County Buildings: M. Newall, Chief Executive; L. McRoberts, Depute Chief Executive and Director of Education; J. Bradley, Director of Strategic Change and Communities; K. Braidwood, Director of Housing Operations and Development; C. Caves, Chief Governance Officer; T. Baulk, Chief Financial Officer; C. Cox, Assistant Director – Planning and Development; K. Dalrymple, Assistant Director – Housing and Operations; C. Iles, Service Lead – Planning and Building Standards; W. Carlaw, Service Lead – Democratic Governance; D. Alexander, Service Lead – Procurement; C. Richards, Transformation Co-ordinator (Technology); K. Copland, Senior Accountant/Senior Finance Officer; J. McClure, Committee Services Lead Officer; J. Butchart, Committee Services Officer; K. Hancox, Committee Services Officer; and C. McCallum, Committee Services Assistant.

**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 Councillors Laura Brennan-Whitefield and Gavin Scott; and
- (3) referred to the recent sad death of ex-Councillor Ian Fitzsimmons.

Various Members then spoke on their memories of Mr Fitzsimmons, stated that he would be sadly missed and sent their condolences to his family and friends.

**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.

### 3. Minutes of previous meetings

#### (1) Minutes of Previous Meetings of the Council.

- (a) Provost Iain Campbell, seconded by Councillor Mary Kilpatrick, moved the [Minutes](#) of South Ayrshire Council of 21 June 2024 as a correct record.

The Council

**Decided:** to approve the Minutes of 21 June 2024 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 (Special) of 19 August 2024 as a correct record.

The Council

**Decided:** to approve the Minutes of 19 August 2024 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 [9 May 2024](#), and [10 May 2024](#)
- (ii) Audit and Governance Panel of [29 May 2024](#), [26 June 2024](#) and [4 September 2024](#).
- (iii) Cabinet of [21 May 2024](#), [18 June 2024](#) and [27 August 2024](#).
- (iv) Local Review Body of [30 April 2024](#) and [25 June 2024](#).
- (v) Regulatory Panel – Licensing of [2 May 2024 \(Special\)](#), [15 May 2024 \(Special\)](#), [23 May 2024](#), [12 June 2024 \(Special\)](#), [20 June 2024](#), [29 August 2024](#) and [5 September 2024 \(Special\)](#).
- (vi) Regulatory Panel – Planning of [6 June 2024](#), [3 June 2024](#) (Site Visit).
- (vii) Service and Partnerships Performance Panel of [11 June 2024](#) and [20 August 2024](#).

### 4. Appointments to Panels

There was submitted a [report](#) (issued) of 4 October 2024 by the Chief Governance Officer seeking approval to make alterations to the membership of Panels

Councillor Martin Dowey, seconded by Councillor Bob Pollock, moved the recommendations as outlined in the report.

Following a question from a Member on the responsibilities of the Chair, the Chief Governance Officer advised that Councillor Lamont would fulfil all duties of the role of Chair.

In terms of Standing Order No. 19.9, there was no general agreement to the unopposed motion, therefore, the Panel moved to a vote undertaken for or against the Motion. Sixteen Members voted for the Motion, four voted against the Motion and six Members abstained and the Council, having considered any other amendments which might be required for membership of Panels,

**Decided:**

- (1) to note the change in the representative nominated by the Conservative Group as a Conservative Member of the Regulatory Panel and Local Review Body, namely Councillor Lee Lyons replace Councillor Kenneth Bell;
- (2) to agree that Councillor Alan Lamont be appointed Chair of the Regulatory Panel and Local Review Body; and
- (3) to request officers to make the required amendments to the list of Panels to reflect these changes.

**5. Live Webcasting of Meetings**

There was submitted a [report](#) (issued) of 3 October 2024 by the Chief Governance Officer seeking approval to reduce the number of Council meetings that were live webcast as a result of the re-establishment of in-person access to Council meetings, budget constraints and lower than expected viewing figures.

Councillor Ian Davis, seconded by Councillor Bob Pollock, moved a Motion as follows, contrary to the recommendations in the report:

"that the Council:

- (1) agrees to maintain the number of Council meetings that are live webcast to be those existing live webcast meetings ; and
- (2) agrees to continue to make available webcasts of Council meetings for public viewing (archived) for 24 months."

Councillor Mackay advised that he had an amendment to this Motion, however, requested an adjournment for this amendment to be discussed with the Chief Governance Officer.

**Adjournment**

The time being 10.20 a.m., the Council adjourned for twenty minutes.

**Resumption of Meeting**

The meeting resumed at 10.40 a.m.

The Chief Governance Officer advised that, following discussion with the Mover and Seconder of the Motion and with the Portfolio Holder, they had agreed to accept Councillor Mackay's amendment, as follows:-

"it is recommended that Council recognises that online viewing figures are much higher than those who have ever attended meetings in person and believes this demonstrates good practice for open democracy. Council will therefore continue to live webcast the existing Panels. This is supported by the significant work undertaken in 2021 comparing functionality and cost from various providers before implementing the current arrangements to best meet Council's needs. The Council believes that the principle of online public access to live and archived meetings should not be deleted and it is agreed that the period for the archived footage remains at two years and officers will bring back a report to Council providing the detail of the most advantageous option selected by officers to deliver this to the public within six months."

Following a question on whether agreeing this Motion would commit the Council to live webcasting or whether a delay to the broadcast could be added, the Chief Governance Officer advised that the Council would continue to use the current technology, however, there was an option to examine a system with a delay.

Comments were made by Members in relation to:

- (a) making meetings easily accessible to the public was good practice and reducing the archive period would contradict this; that there would be financial implications with continuing to webcast all meetings, however, there was merit in exploring alternatives; that the current process was working well and savings could be made without reducing the current retention period;
- (b) that, should the Council agree to record meetings and not live webcast, these should be unedited; and
- (c) that, to reduce the need for adjournments, it was hoped that Members have access to reports earlier and there be no late reports to allow any amendments to be compiled and submitted prior to Council meetings.

The Council,

**Decided:** to approve the Amendment as follows:

"that Council recognises that online viewing figures are much higher than those who have ever attended meetings in person and believes this demonstrates good practice for open democracy. Council will therefore continue to live webcast the existing Panels. This is supported by the significant work undertaken in 2021 comparing functionality and cost from various providers before implementing the current arrangements to best meet Council's needs. The Council believes that the principle of online public access to live and archived meetings should not be deleted and it is agreed that the period for the archived footage remains at two years and officers will bring back a report to Council providing the detail of the most advantageous option selected by officers to deliver this to the public within six months".

## 6. Standing Orders Relating to Contracts

There was submitted a [report](#) (issued) of 2 October 2024 by the Chief Financial Officer seeking approval to amend the Council's Standing Orders Relating to Contracts following their most recent review.

Councillor Martin Dowey, seconded by Councillor Bob Pollock, moved the recommendations as outlined in the report.

The Council, having considered the revisions proposed to the Standing Orders Relating to Contracts (summary of proposals contained in Appendix 1 to the report)

**Decided:** to approve the revised Standing Orders Relating to Contracts (Appendix 2) and the list of delegations (Appendix 3) with effect from 11 October 2024.

## 7. Treasury Management Annual Report 2023/24

There was submitted a [report](#) (issued) of 27 September 2024 by the Chief Financial Officer presenting, in line with the requirements of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Code of Practice on Treasury Management, the annual report of treasury management activities for 2023/24 (as attached at [Appendix 1](#)) and seeking Members' consideration of its contents.

The Chief Financial Officer introduced this report and advised that the Audit and Governance Panel at its meeting of 26 June 2024 had considered the Annual Treasury Management Report 2023/24 (attached at [Appendix 1](#)) and agreed that it be remitted to this meeting of South Ayrshire Council for approval.

Councillor Ian Davis, seconded by Councillor Martin Dowey, moved the recommendations as outlined in the report.

The Council, having thanked the Chief Financial Officer and his team for their work on this matter and the Members of the Audit and Governance Panel for scrutinising the report,

**Decided:** to approve the Annual Treasury Management Report 2023/24, as attached at [Appendix 1](#).

## 8. Local Development Plan 3 Governance Arrangements and Planning Liaison Group

There was submitted a [report](#) (issued) of 2 October 2024 by the Director of Housing, Operations and Development recommending arrangements for a Member/Officer Working Group to oversee the preparation of LDP3; and for the retention of the Planning Liaison Group with an amended brief.

Councillor Martin Dowey, seconded by Councillor Bob Pollock, moved the recommendations as outlined in the report.

The Chief Governance Officer advised that, following a question at item 4 of this Minute regarding the responsibilities of the Chair of the Regulatory Panel, the Chair was also a Member of the Planning Liaison Group.

A question was raised by a Member in relation to when the integrated Equalities Impact Assessment would be rolled out as this report would have been suitable to use this EIA; and the Chief Governance Officer advised that she would ascertain the stage of the process and report back to the Member and that she proposed an Elected Members' Briefing take place on this matter; and the Member confirmed that this would be very useful.

The Council

**Decided:**

- (1) to agree the recommended proposals for a Member/Officer Working Group (MOWG) to oversee the preparation of LDP3, as set out in [Appendix 1](#) to the report;
- \* (2) to agree that the Leader of each of the political groups nominate Elected Member(s) to take up positions on the MOWG and that the Chair of the group would be the Portfolio Holder for Economic Development; and
- (3) to agree to the continuation of the Planning Liaison Group (PLG), with an amended remit, as set out in [Appendix 2](#) to the report.
- \* subsequently agreed as Councillors Bob Pollock (Chair) as PFH Economic Development, Alec Clark, Mark Dixon, Alan Lamont, Martin Kilbride, Craig Mackay and Philip Saxton..

**9. Proposed Ward Capital Projects – Update 2023 to 2025 and Approval of New Capital Projects 2024 to 2026**

There was submitted a [report](#) (issued) of 4 October 2024 by the Director of Housing, Operations and Development providing an update on implementation of capital projects approved by the Council at its meeting of 29 June 2023 and by the Cabinet at its meeting of 26 September 2023; and recommending further capital projects for initiation and implementation during the financial years 2024/25 and 2025/26.

The Director of Housing, Operations and Development introduced the report and advised

- (1) that officers had noted Members' concerns regarding the speed of progress with ward capital projects and, in their view that there had been less than satisfactory consultation with members; and in response to these concerns, a report would be submitted to Council on 12 December 2024 setting out an approval process for ward capital projects to expedite this process;
- (2) that consultation would also take place with Audit Scotland regarding the proposed approval process for ward capital projects to ensure that the process satisfied financial regulation requirements;
- (3) that a review of the resources managing the ward capital projects would also be undertaken to improve communication and consultation with members and, should members have any queries in relation to any individual projects within their ward, as set out in [Appendix 1](#) to the report, they should discuss these with him following this meeting; and
- (4) that four weekly updates would be provided on all ward capital projects noting progress or circumstantial issues, eg design, lead-in times, contractual or construction related difficulties; and that it was important that employee resources be sourced and allocated to this significant workload.



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

Comments were made by Members in relation to:

- (a) this being a complicated report; that officers had taken on board members' concerns; that there would be further consultation with Members going forward; and that this report was the continuation of work from a report considered by Cabinet on 26 September 2023;
- (b) that this was an ongoing report and that they were glad to note that Members could rectify any anomalies within their ward;
- (c) their ward (Ayr East) being the only ward where no progress had been made and that they would like to see progress;
- (d) concerns over the lack of consultation with Members;
- (e) concerns over projects within the report which had not been discussed with or agreed by Members; that should Members agree this report, they would be agreeing to work which they had not had the opportunity to discuss; and that the point of his project was for Ward Members to take the decision on how the monies were utilised, however, this had been strayed from;
- (f) seeking copies of the quotations and final invoices in relation to the upgrade of the surface of the car park area to the north of Kidz Play in Prestwick; and the Director of Housing, Operations and Development advised that he would meet with Prestwick Ward Members following this meeting to discuss this in detail and highlighted that this area of Prestwick suffered from flooding so additional drainage had required to be added, the sub-base of the existing car park had not been up to standard and a power supply had been installed for a future kiosk;
- (g) that communities being involved in capital spend was a "breach of tradition"; that this was a Council process and was for the benefit of the people of South Ayrshire; that officers were correct in ensuring matters were carried out with transparency as Members' wishes may not be incongruent with processes; and that there was a commitment given to Audit Scotland that all place plans would be in place, however, Ayr East Ward did not have a Place Plan or Community Action Plan in place; and
- (h) that the projects were based on place plans which had been out to consultation and that this was a democratic, open process.

Following a question from a Member on whether processes had been followed to date, the Chief Executive advised that processes had been approved early 2023 and officers were carrying these out in line with the procedures stated by the Capital Asset Management Group (CAMG).

Having heard Councillor Pollock advise that he had a proposed Amendment, it was agreed to adjourn to allow his Amendment to be put to writing.

Prior to the adjournment, the Chief Governance Officer advised that Members had previously expressed some concerns regarding parts of the CAMG process, however, this report being considered was regarding the projects and that a further report on the process would be submitted to the meeting of South Ayrshire Council on 12 December 2024.

## **Adjournment**

The time being 11.15 a.m., Council adjourned for twenty five minutes.

## **Resumption of Meeting**

The Council resumed at 11.40 a.m.

By way of Amendment, Councillor Bob Pollock, seconded by Councillor Chris Cullen, moved that the first recommendation (2.1.1) within the report be amended and the other recommendations remain, as follows:

"It is recommended that the Council:

- (i) agree that the Capital Investments Projects that were approved in 2.1.1 of the papers of 26 September 2023 continue to be implemented and any new capital investment projects in the attached Appendix 1 to this paper be subject to consultation with ward members and the Director of Housing, Operations and Development and a paper be brought back to the Council meeting on 12 December 2024;
- (ii) agree that a report be brought to Council on 12 December 2024 recommending a costed design plan to redevelop Burns Statue Square and adjacent streets to improve the public realm and, subject to Traffic Regulation Orders, reorientate traffic flows to reduce the circular flow of vehicle traffic in the area and improve placemaking, pedestrian connectivity through the area and visitor use;
- (iii) agree that a nominal sum of £2m be retained from the Ayr West Ward Capital to fund recommendation (ii) above;
- (iv) agree that the £2m Promenade budget line be split equally between Girvan, Ayr, Prestwick and Troon Wards;
- (v) agree the Plan for Girvan Promenade as set out in Appendix 2 identifying projects in Appendix 1 as the basis for public consultation on potential Ward and Promenade projects;
- (vi) note the progress made with the capital investment projects identified in Appendix 1; and
- (vii) note the intention to provide regular progress updates to all Elected Members on all place projects with the first of these being forwarded by the end of this month."

The Council

**Decided:** to approve the Amendment as outlined at (i) ot (vii) above.



## 10. Notices of Motion

In accordance with Council Standing Order No. 18, a Notice of Motion was submitted by Councillor Julie Dettbarn and seconded by Councillor Laura Brennan-Whitefield as follows:

**“Council notes that:**

- In the 1995 Pensions Act, the Government increased State Pension age for women from 60 to 65, with a further increase to 66 in the 2011 Pensions Act.
- This change was not properly communicated to 3.8m women born in the 1950s until 2012, giving some only one year's notice of a six year increase in their anticipated retirement age. Approximately 6,000 of the affected women are in the Central Ayrshire constituency alone which includes Troon, Prestwick and Kyle. We can deduce that there will be at least similar numbers in the Ayr, Carrick & Cumnock constituency which covers the remainder of South Ayrshire.
- The Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman (PHSO) has found that the Department for Work and Pensions was guilty of maladministration in its handling of the State Pension Age increase for women born in the 1950s.
- The All Party Parliamentary Group on State Pension Inequality for Women has concluded that “the impact of DWP maladministration on 1950s-born women has been as devastating as it is widespread. The APPG believes that the case for Level 6 compensation is overwhelming and clear given the scale of the injustice”.
- Research commissioned by campaign group WASPI has found that by the end of 2022, more than 220,000 1950s born women will have died waiting for justice since the WASPI campaign began in 2015.
- The PHSO has recommended a Level 4 pay-out, which falls between £1,000 and £2,950 to symbolise the "significant" and "lasting impact" experienced by many women. However, given that the average individual loss is IRO £50,000 this level of compensation is inadequate. This motion supports the position of the All Party Parliamentary Group in calling for Level 6 compensation which would result in a pay-out of between £10,000 - £20,000.

**Council believes this injustice has had a profound effect on the individuals involved, on the wider community in South Ayrshire, and on local government, not least because:**

- Our local economy is negatively affected by the reduced spending power and disposable income the uncommunicated State Pension Age changes has brought about among women born in the 1950s.
- There is a broader impact on voluntary services of all kinds locally, which are missing out on able, active volunteers who would otherwise have been able to retire from full-time work as planned.
- Women who would have retired and engaged in caring responsibilities for grandchildren, other family members etc are having to continue working – with a knock-on effect for Council services.
- Women who have been left in poverty are struggling to meet their housing costs.

**Council supports:**

- The conclusion of the All Party Parliamentary Group on State Pension Inequality that women born in the 1950s have suffered a gross injustice, affecting their emotional, physical and mental circumstances in addition to causing financial hardship.
- A swift resolution to this ongoing injustice before more women die waiting for compensation.
- An immediate Level 6 compensation payment to those affected, with the most going to women who were given the shortest notice of the longest increase in their state pension age.

**Council requests:**

- The Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Prime Minister to outline the effects of the injustice to 1950s women and on the community of South Ayrshire and to request their support for an immediate Level 6 compensation package and that this be addressed in the new Government's first Budget on 30<sup>th</sup> October."

In the absence of Councillor Laura Brennan-Whitefield, it was agreed that Councillor Bob Pollock second this Motion.

In moving her Motion, Councillor Julie Dettbarn, seconded by Councillor Bob Pollock, introduced an addition to her Motion as follows:

"On 29 July, the UK Government announced its decision to restrict entitlement to the Winter Fuel Payment to those in receipt of Pension Credit and other means-tested benefits from this winter.

That meant that an important provision of financial support that was available to pensioners in the United Kingdom would no longer be in place. Instead, eligibility would be much more limited to those eligible for Pension Credit and other relevant benefits.

This decision was taken with no notice or discussion with the Scottish Government.

As a result of this decision, Scotland's share of this year's Block Grant Adjustment funding is expected to reduce by roughly £150 million.

That is over 80% of the cost of the Scottish devolved payment, the Pension Age Winter Heating Payment.

As a consequence the Scottish Government has announced that it no longer has the funding to offer the payment as a universal benefit as had been intended.

The Scottish Government has also advised that due to the timing of the UK Government announcement, and the lack of prior consultation with Scottish Ministers, this means that alternative approaches to universal payment and the means-tested approach advocated by the UK Government cannot be implemented in the time left available.

As a consequence the Scottish Government intends replicating the UK Government's approach here in Scotland should that be necessary.

It is estimated by The Chancellor that introducing means testing will remove some 10m pensioners from the WFA, with the Scottish Government estimating that some 900,000 pensioners in Scotland will no longer be entitled to support with heating costs this winter.

And with Ofgem announcing an increase in the energy price cap from this month, low-income households will be under even greater pressure this Winter.

The cut to Winter Fuel Payments and the increase in energy costs is a double whammy for people in Scotland and especially for many of the older and more vulnerable individuals. This has particular relevance for South Ayrshire as 26.1% of the population is aged 65+ (against a Scottish national average of 19.6%) and 11.9% of the population are aged 75+ (Scottish national average 8.7%).

The PM has acknowledged that his Government did not undertake any impact assessments in relation to this policy decision – despite a Labour report in 2019 indicating that introducing means testing would in their estimate lead to an additional 4000 deaths per year. This policy if implemented will have a disproportionate impact on pensioners in Scotland as the Meteorological Office shows that due to a number of features such as:

- Latitude – the further north you go the less direct sunlight you receive, leading to cooler temperatures.
- Air mass – the UK is affected by different air masses, with the south of England generally experiencing warmer air from the continent, whilst the further north you travel the likelihood is of cooler air coming in from the Atlantic.
- Geographical features – the presence of mountains with higher altitudes, such as the numerous ranges of Scotland contribute to lower temperatures than the generally more low lying areas of the south.

These factors mean that on average the temperature difference between the most south easterly parts of England and the far north of Scotland is 10/15C, and can be more extreme at times. In other words this policy will also have a detrimentally greater effect on pensioners the further north travelled.

Council asks :-

The Chief Executive, separately, to write to the Prime Minister and Chancellor to apprise them that South Ayrshire Council agrees, in this Challenge Poverty Week, that the UK Government must reverse the introduction of means testing for the Winter Fuel Payment immediately. 71,152 older people across Ayrshire will miss out on the payment of £200 - or £300 for those aged 80 or older - this coming winter if this is not urgently addressed in the UK Government's Budget on 30<sup>th</sup> October.

### **Point of Order**

A Point of Order was raised by Councillor Philip Saxton that this addition to the Motion was not competent as it did not relate to the original Notice of Motion.

Comments were then made by various Members regarding this addition to the Motion being a different matter and Provost advised that the Council would adjourn to seek legal advice on this issue.

## Adjournment

The time being 11.45 a.m., Council adjourned for twenty five minutes.

## Resumption of Meeting

Council resumed at 12.10 p.m.

Councillor Julie Dettbarn, seconded by Councillor Bob Pollock, submitted an amended addition to the Notice of Motion as follows:

“On 29 July 2024, the UK Government announced its decision to restrict entitlement to the Winter Fuel Payment to those in receipt of Pension Credit and other means-tested benefits from this winter and this has an impact on WASPI women.

The Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Works and Pensions, the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Prime Minister to outline the effects of the injustice to 1950s women and on the community of South Ayrshire and to request their support for an immediate Level 6 compensation package **and to note that the recent decision around the winter fuel Payment has an additional impact on WASPI women** and that this is addressed in the new Government’s first budget on 30 October 2024.”

A full debate took place regarding the terms of the Motion and the addition to the Motion.

A Member requested a roll-call vote and the Chief Governance Officer took the vote For or Against the Motion by calling the roll as follows:-

Iain Campbell	For
Mary Kilpatrick	For
Kenneth Bell	For
Ian Cavana	For
Alec Clark	For
Ian Cochrane	For
Brian Connolly	For
Chris Cullen	For
Ian Davis	For
Julie Dettbarn	For
Mark Dixon	For
Martin Dowey	For
Stephen Ferry	For
William Grant	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
Bob Shields	For
Duncan Townson	For
George Weir	For

The Council

**Decided:** to unanimously agree the Notice of Motion as outlined on the agenda and the amended addition to this Motion as outlined above (page 12).

**11. Formal Question.**

In terms of Council Standing Order No. 26.2, there was submitted a [Formal Question](#) from Councillor Craig Mackay, along with the response, which was made available to all Members.

Councillor Mackay raised a supplementary question in relation to the UK Government's argument that a £22b black hole in the budget had been inherited and what contingency plans were in place should the promised Levelling Up funding for this Council fail to materialise; and Councillor Martin Dowe advised that he had spoken to officers in the UK Government in the last week; and that Council officers were in regular contact with officers in the UK and Scottish Governments regarding this. The Chief Executive further advised that he would be meeting with the four new Labour MPs along with the Chief Executives from East Ayrshire and North Ayrshire Councils to discuss Ayrshire Growth Deal and the Levelling Up Fund.

The meeting ended at 12.35 p.m.