

CABINET

Minutes of a hybrid webcast meeting on 18 March 2025 at 10.00 a.m.

Present

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

Apology: Councillor Martin Dowey.

**Attending
in County**

Hall: M. Newall, Chief Executive; K. Braidwood, Director of Housing, Operations and Development; J. Bradley, Director of Communities and Transformation; L. Reid, Assistant Director – Transformation; G. Hunter, Assistant Director – Communities; K. Briggs, Service Lead – Legal and Licensing; T. Simpson, Service Lead – Corporate Accounting; J. Tait, Service Lead – Thriving Communities; S. MacMillan, Transformation Co-ordinator; L. Duncan, Chief Finance Officer, Health and Social Care; B. McDonnell, Ayrshire Roads Alliance; A. Gibson, Committee Services Officer; and E. Moore, Committee Services Assistant.

Attending

Remotely: C. McGhee, Chief Internal Auditor.

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.

The minutes of 18 February 2025 ([issued](#)) were submitted and approved.

3. **Decision Log.**

The Cabinet

Decided:

- (1) to note there were no overdue actions;
- (2) to approve the actions listed with revised due dates; and
- (3) to note the recently completed actions.

Economic Development.

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4. **Ayr Parking Consultation and General Parking Review.**

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 7 March 2025 by the Director of Housing, Operations and Development presenting

- (1) the Outcome Report for the 2023 Ayr Parking Consultation which set out the feedback received in relation to proposals for residents' parking and pay and display parking, along with the resultant recommendations; and
- (2) observations on the 2 hours free parking initiative following a public consultation and setting out proposals for the future management of the Council's parking estate.

Having heard the Director of Housing, Operations and Development, it was noted that there was a typographical error on page 2 of Appendix 2 of the report, where it should read "..... a potential loss in parking income for the 2024/25 year of £500,000" and not £700,000 as indicated in the report.

There followed extensive discussion on the proposals.

Councillor Clark seconded by Councillor Shields moved that the status quo be maintained and that the Director of Housing, Operations and Development present revised proposals to Cabinet in six months' time. By way of an Amendment, Councillor Pollock moved the above, but that the revised proposals be reported back to Council instead of Cabinet. He failed to find a seconder and subsequently his Amendment fell.

Contrary to the recommendations contained in the report, the Cabinet

Decided: to agree to maintain the status quo and that the Director of Housing, Operations and Development present revised proposals to Cabinet in six months' time.

5. **Prestwick Parking Consultation.**

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 5 March 2025 by the Director of Housing, Operations and Development seeking approval for a range of recommendations arising from the Prestwick Parking Consultation which took place between 25 March and 31 May 2024.

Following matters being raised, including visitor permits, permits for carers, the provision of a disabled bay at Prestwick Toll and the timescales involved for the introduction of the proposals, the Cabinet

Decided:

- (1) to note the contents of the Prestwick Parking Consultation Outcome Report, as contained in Appendix 1 of the report, and to approve the report recommendations;
- (2) to note the statutory process to promote Traffic Regulation Orders;
- (3) to instruct the Head of Roads to prepare draft Traffic Regulation Orders and commence the statutory consultation process for the following proposed amendments to the existing residents permit scheme:
 - (a) expansion of the permit scheme into the streets highlighted within the outcome report;
 - (b) the removal of the existing two permits per household cap;
 - (c) the removal of the multi-year permit discount;
 - (d) the introduction of a resident's visitor permit option at £2 per permit; and
 - (e) the introduction of a free resident's carer permit option;
- (4) to instruct the Head of Roads to commence the statutory consultation process for the introduction of a 2 hours limited waiting restriction within the Prestwick Toll parking layby; and
- (5) to note the Head of Roads' intention to review various other locations throughout Prestwick and consider appropriate measures to help alleviate indiscriminate parking.

6. **UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) Year 4.**

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 5 March 2025 by the Director of Communities and Transformation seeking approval to progress with proposals for the final year of UKSPF (Year4 2025/26).

Having noted that proposals for the final year of UKSPF (Year4) were for 2025/26 and not 2024/25, as stated in the report and that a report would shortly be presented to the Service and Partnerships Performance Panel with details of who received grants from the Ambitions Programme, the Cabinet

Decided:

- (1) to approve the Financial Profile for Year 4 (2025/26) as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report;
- (2) to approve that officers, in consultation with the Chief Financial Officer, have the flexibility to make changes to Financial Reprofile and Programme Delivery, if required throughout Year 4 (the UK Government would be updated through routine reporting as required); and
- (3) to request that a UKSPF Year 4 Progress Report be submitted to the Service and Partnerships Performance Panel in June 2026.

Corporate and Strategic.**7. Community Councils – Consultation on the Scheme for Establishment of Community Councils.**

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 5 March 2025 by Director of Communities and Transformation seeking approval for officers to commence a process to review the Scheme for Establishment of Community Councils.

Following questions from Members and having noted that an update would be provided to Cabinet in September 2025, on how the Council was dealing with areas that currently did not have a community council; on how good practice and achievements in areas which had a community council could be shared with those areas where there was no community council; and on how adjoining areas with no community council could come together to form one community council, the Cabinet

Decided:

- (1) to note that officers would commence a process to invite views and representations on the current Scheme for Establishment of Community Councils;
- (2) to approve the recommended engagement approaches and consultation plan, as set out in the Consultation Mandate in Appendix 1 of the report; and
- (2) to agree that officers submit a further report to Cabinet, with proposals for amendment to the Scheme for Establishment of Community Councils following the initial exercise seeking views, for approval to consult on those proposals.

Health and Social Care.

8. South Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership – Social Care Charges for 2025-26.

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 5 March 2025 by the Director of Health and Social Care Partnership presenting the proposed social care charges for the financial year 2025-26 for approval.

Following discussion regarding the removal of the subsidy for hot meals, the Cabinet

Decided:

- (1) to note the benchmarking exercise and review of current costs of services to inform charges;
- (2) to approve the implementation of a financial administration charge for Corporate Appointees; and
- (3) to approve the increase to the proposed social care charges for 2025-26.

Finance, HR and ICT.

9. Budget Management – Revenue Budgetary Control 2024/25 – Position at 31 January 2025.

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 11 March 2025 by the Chief Financial Officer presenting a financial overview of the General Services revenue account, Housing Revenue Account and Common Good Accounts for 2024/25 as at 31 January 2025.

Having heard a Member of the Panel, when it was agreed that the Chief Executive would provide Members with details of any costs, prior to the fire at the Station Hotel, the Cabinet

Decided:

- (1) to note the revised Directorate budgets following the budget movements, as outlined in paragraph 3.3 of the report;
- (2) to approve the budget transfers and requested earmarking of resources to be carried forward to 2025/26, as summarised in paragraphs 4.1.6 and 4.1.7 of the report;
- (3) to note the projected in year under-spend of £1.089m., as detailed in paragraph 4.2.1 of the report;
- (4) to approve the two required draws from uncommitted reserves, as detailed in paragraph 4.2.4 to 4.2.6 of the report; and
- (5) to approve the two requested changes to the Housing Revenue Account committed/uncommitted reserves, as detailed in paragraph 4.3.2 of the report.

10. Treasury Management and Investment Strategy Quarter 3 Report 2024/25.

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 5 March 2025 by the Chief Financial Officer providing an update on the 2024/25 treasury prudential indicators for the period October-December 2024 (Quarter 3) and providing an update on the latest wider economic position.

Having noted that there had been no concerns raised by the Audit and Governance Panel on the information contained within this report, the Cabinet

Decided: to approve the Quarter 3 Update Report, as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report.

Finance, HR and ICT/Corporate and Strategic.

11. Business Case: Process Automation.

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 7 March 2025 by the Director of Communities and Transformation seeking Members' approval to proceed with the Process Automation project and to agree £160,000 funding for the project from the Transformation Fund.

Following questions from Members, including the options appraisal, proposed savings, achievable efficiencies and the appointment of an automation specialist, the Cabinet

Decided:

- (1) to note the approval of the Business Case for Process Automation by the Transformation Board on 25 February 2025, as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report;
- (2) to approve funding of £160,000 from the Transformation Fund to enable appointment of an automation specialist;
- (3) to note the options appraisal, included in Appendix 2 of the report;
- (4) to note the outline Benefits Tracker, as provided in Appendix 3 of the report; and
- (5) to note that reporting would be in line with established Transformation Reporting and Scrutiny arrangements.

The meeting ended at 12.02 p.m.