

CABINET

Minutes of a hybrid webcast meeting on 28 April 2026 at 10.00 a.m.

Present
in Girvan
Committee

Room: Councillors Brian Connolly (Chair), Alec Clark, Ian Davis, William Grant, Martin Kilbride and Bob Shields.

Attending
Remotely: Councillor Chris Cullen.

Apology: Councillor Hugh Hunter.

Attending
in Girvan
Committee

Room: S. Penman, Chief Executive; K. Braidwood, Depute Chief Executive and Director of Housing, Operations and Development; J. Bradley, Director of Communities and Transformation; S. Mulholland, Director of Education; G. Docherty, Assistant Director of Education; T. Baulk, Chief Financial Officer; C. Caves, Chief Governance Officer; J. Corrie, Head of Ayrshire Roads Alliance; C. Knape, Strategic Manager – Ayrshire Roads Alliance; T. Burns, Service Lead, Asset Management and Community Asset Transfer; F. Donnelly, Head Teacher; F. Paterson, Head Teacher; K. Shields, Head Teacher; and K. Hancox, Committee Services Officer.

Also
present
in Girvan
Committee

Room: D. Gemmell, I. Gall, G. Laird, S. Bell, G. Laird and K. Nelson.

Apologies: H. McGuire and D. Griffiths.

Also
Attending
Remotely: C. McGhee, Chief Internal Auditor.

Opening Remarks.

The Chair

1. welcomed everyone to the meeting; and
2. outlined the procedures for conducting this meeting, including that this meeting would be recorded and placed on the Council's website at a later date; and that all votes would be taken by ensuring all Members were in agreement.

1. Declarations of Interest.

There were no declarations of interest by Members of the Cabinet in terms of Council Standing Order No. 17 and the Councillors' Code of Conduct.

2. Minutes of previous meeting.

As Councillors Connolly, Cullen, Grant and Kilbride were not in attendance at this meeting, they were not eligible to vote on these minutes.

The minutes of 17 March 2026 ([issued](#)) were submitted and approved.

3. Decision Log.

The Cabinet

Decided:

- (1) to approve the actions listed with [revised due dates](#); and
- (2) to note the recently [completed actions](#).

Education and Lifelong Learning.

4. Educational Services Performance Update

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 25 March 2026 by the Director of Education providing a high-level overview of school performance across South Ayrshire using the most recent authority-level dataset, highlighting key strengths, areas requiring improvement, and proposed next steps that would support continued improvement in attainment, equity and outcomes. The findings drew on evidence from senior phase attainment (Insight Update, February 2026), Broad General Education (P1, P4, P7 and S3 ACEL), attendance, exclusions, leavers' destinations, and demographic trends.

Following discussion, which included thanks to the Education staff, the Cabinet

Decided:

- (1) to approve the Performance Review Report (Appendix 1);
- (2) to note the progress by Educational Services and the collective efforts of all staff across the service over the past year; and
- (3) to note the action points/next steps.

5. Inspection of Coylton Primary School and Early Years Centre: Education Scotland Report

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 10 February 2026 by the Director of Education informing Cabinet of the outcome of the Education Scotland Inspection of Coylton Primary School and Early Years Centre.

Having considered the contents of the Education Scotland Report, following discussion which included congratulations and thanks to the staff, and having heard from the Head Teacher, the Cabinet

Decided:

- (1) to consider the contents of the National report by Education Scotland as contained in Appendices 1, 2 and 3; and
- (2) to agree that the main points for action would be addressed by the Headteacher and Quality Improvement Officer.

6. Inspection of Dundonald Primary School and Early Years Centre: Education Scotland Report

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 23 February 2026 by the Director of Education informing Cabinet of the outcome of the Education Scotland Inspection of Dundonald Primary School and Early Years Centre.

Having considered the contents of the Education Scotland Report, following discussion which included congratulations and thanks to the staff, and having heard from the Head Teacher, the Cabinet

Decided:

- (1) to consider the contents of the National report by Education Scotland as contained in Appendix 1 and Appendix 2; and
- (2) to agree that the main points for action would be addressed by the Head Teacher and Quality Improvement Officer.

7. Inspection of Symington Primary School and Early Years Centre: Education Scotland Report

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 19 February 2026 by the Director of Education informing Cabinet of the outcome of the Education Scotland Inspection of Symington Primary School and Early Years Centre.

Having considered the contents of the Education Scotland Report, following discussion which included congratulations and thanks to the staff, and having heard from the Head Teacher, the Cabinet

Decided:

- (1) to consider the contents of the National report by Education Scotland as contained in Appendices 1, 2 and 3; and
- (2) to agree that the main points for action would be addressed by the Headteacher and Quality Improvement Officer.

Commercial/Operational Services.

8. Road Improvement Plan 2026/27

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 24 March 2026 by the Depute Chief Executive and Director of Housing, Operations and Development seeking Cabinet approval for the 2026/27 Road Improvement Plan for carriageway, footways, street lighting and other related infrastructure improvements.

Following discussion, the Cabinet

Decided:

- (1) to approve the Road Improvement Plan for 2026/2027 contained in Appendix 1; and
- (2) to approve the Carriageway and Footway Programme for 2026/2027 in Appendix 1.

9. Exclusion of press and public.

The Cabinet resolved, in terms of Section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, that the press and public be excluded during consideration of the remaining items of business on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of exempt information in terms of paragraph 9 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

Economy and Strategy/Commercial/Operational Services/Housing and Property Services.

10. Ayrshire Growth Deal (AGD) – Shaw Farm Road, Prestwick (Prestwick Proposition – Company X and Company Y)

There was submitted a report (Members Only) of 23 March 2026 by the Depute Chief Executive and Director of Housing, Operations and Development seeking approval of the Council's proposals for (a) resuming management and control of land located at Shaw Farm Road, Prestwick, (b) selling part of that land to an existing occupier, (c) constructing an industrial unit on another part of the land and leasing it to a company with an existing presence at Prestwick Airport and (d) undertaking the development of improved road access on existing Council-owned land in order to enhance effective access to the said land, with funding for these proposals being provided to the Council from the AGD fund.

Following discussion, the Cabinet

Decided:

- (1) to approve the Council agreeing to accept a lease renunciation by Freeport (Scotland Limited ("Freeport")) of the existing ground lease held by Freeport (the "Freeport Lease") over a site located at Shaw Farm Road, Prestwick (the "Site") outlined in green on the plan attached in Appendix 1 ("Plan");
- (2) to approve payment of the sum of two million seven hundred thousand pounds (£2,700,000) Sterling exclusive of VAT as an agreed premium to Freeport as consideration for Freeport agreeing to surrender the Freeport Lease to the Council;

- (3) to approve the sale of the land and buildings outlined in green on the Plan situated within the Site for the sum of two million seven hundred thousands pounds (£2,700,000) Sterling exclusive of VAT to Company W;
- (4) to delegate approval to the Chief Governance Officer to negotiate an agreement for lease with Company X, pursuant to which the Council would agree to construct a high specification engineering building on the remainder of the Site which, on completion, would be leased to Company X on a long-term basis, on agreed terms; and
- (5) to note that a report seeking approval of the agreement to lease terms would be brought to Cabinet for approval.

11. Ayrshire Growth Deal (AGD) – Shaw Farm, Prestwick, KA9 2RQ (Prestwick Proposition – Ryanair)

There was submitted a report (Members Only) of 10 April 2026 by the Depute Chief Executive and Director of Housing, Operations and Development seeking approval for the purchase and partial development of land situated at Shaw Farm, Prestwick by the Council, using funding from the Ayrshire Growth Deal Fund.

Following discussion, the Cabinet

Decided:

- (1) to approve the purchase of a greenfield site located at Shaw Farm, Prestwick and outlined in red in Appendix 1 (the “Site”) from Scottish Enterprise for a sum no greater than one million, three hundred thousand pounds (£1,300,000) sterling exclusive of VAT;
- (2) to approve the partial development of the Site to provide a carpark and footbridge access as provisionally shown in Appendix 2;
- (3) to note the purchase and development of the Site would be funded using sums from the Ayrshire Growth Deal Fund; and
- (4) to agree to instruct Harper Macleod LLP (the Council’s external legal advisors for AGD projects) to undertake appropriate due diligence and title checks in relation to the Site and to negotiate and conclude the legal aspects of the proposed transactions, in line with the terms of this report, and in accordance with instructions given to them by designated Council officers.

12. Consideration of Disclosure of the above confidential reports.**Decided:**

- (1) not to authorise the disclosures of the following reports under Standing Order No. 32.4:-
- Ayrshire Growth Deal (AGD) – Shaw Farm Road, Prestwick (Prestwick Proposition – Company X and Company Y); and
 - Ayrshire Growth Deal (AGD) – Shaw Farm, Prestwick, KA9 2RQ (Prestwick Proposition – Ryanair).

The meeting ended at 11:30 a.m.

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