

**EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL****CABINET****MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 10 JUNE 2026 AT 1000 HOURS  
IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS, LONDON ROAD,  
KILMARNOCK/BY VIDEO CONFERENCE**

**MEMBERS PARTICIPATING:** Councillors Douglas Reid, Jim McMahon, Elaine Cowan, Graham Barton, Neal Ingram, Clare Maitland, Neill Watts and Drew Filson; and Religious Representatives: Dr David Lewis and Babs Mowat; Parent Representative: John Semple; and Teacher Representative: Hazel Malakoty.

**OFFICERS PARTICIPATING:** Joe McLachlan, Acting Chief Executive; David Mitchell, Acting Depute Chief Executive; Linda McAulay-Griffiths, Director of Education and Skills and Chief Education Officer; Amanda Lowe, Head of People and Culture; Jane Corrie, Head of Roads - Ayrshire Roads Alliance; Craig Young, Acting Chief Governance Officer; Colin Hastings, Assistant Director of Finance; Paul Toland, Assistant Director: ICT and Technology; Blair Millar, Head of Housing and Communities; David McDowall, Head of Service: Ayrshire Growth Deal (North and East Ayrshire); Erik Sutherland, Head of Locality Health and Care Services; Simon Bell, Strategic Lead: Asset Investment; Karen Purves, Strategic Manager - Development Planning and Regeneration; Pauline Minnery, Strategic Manager (Improvement, Planning and Performance); Audrey Hill, Interim Strategic Education Manager (Early Years); Gwyneth Quinn, Service Manager, Early Years (Development); David Doran, Health and Safety Manager; Fiona Docherty, Group Finance Manager; Martin Smith, Senior Accountant; Sadha Fathima, Project Officer – EV Charging; and Lynn Young, Democratic Services Team Leader.

**APOLOGIES:** Councillors Iain Linton, Barry Douglas and Linda Mabon.

**CHAIR:** Councillor Douglas Reid, Leader of the Council.

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

1. Councillor Filson, as Chair of the Keepers of the Community Group, declared a financial interest in respect of Item 5 below given the nature of their connection to the item of business was deemed significant, having considered the terms of the objective test, as outlined in Paragraph 5.5 of the Councillors' Code of Conduct, and intimated his withdrawal from the meeting for that item of business in accordance with Paragraph 5.6 of the Code.

Councillor Reid through his involvement with Kilmarnock Community Sports Trust stated that in the interests of transparency he had a non-financial connection to Item 5 below which was not deemed significant, having considered the terms of the objective test, as outlined in Paragraph 5.5 of the Councillors' Code of Conduct. Accordingly, he did not consider the connection to amount to a declarable interest that would require him to withdraw from the meeting for that item of business in accordance with Paragraph 5.7 of the Code.

## **EAST AYRSHIRE PERFORMS – 2025/26 OUTTURN SUMMARY REPORT**

**2E.** There was submitted a report (circulated) by the Acting Chief Executive which (i) advised Members of a number of important performance measures relative to 2025/26 which included the unaudited financial position for the year ended 31 March 2026, expenditure reduction measures, treasury indicators, progress of the capital programme, absence management, complaints, health and safety, and risk management; and (ii) provided Members with details of the projected financial position in respect of the alternative delivery models; East Ayrshire Leisure Trust and Ayrshire Roads Alliance.

Cabinet agreed:-

- (i) to note the improved financial management position as detailed in paragraphs 6 to 35 of the report;
- (ii) to approve the transfer of balances of £6.537m to help alleviate the year-end position of the Health and Social Care Partnership, as per paragraph 10 of the report;
- (iii) to approve transfer of £1m to the Renewal & Repairs Fund for previously agreed capital projects as set out in the capital programme, and £6.570m to the Capital Fund as requested at paragraphs 13 and 14 of the report;
- (iv) to approve service uncommitted underspends, with the exception of Council Wellbeing services within the Health & Social Care Partnership, were carried forward and added to service balances available for immediate use, as per paragraph 15 of the report;
- (v) to approve an additional financial allocation of £2.061m from the General Fund Uncommitted Balance to the Integrated Joint Board, and £0.358m to cover Council Tax Reduction pressures, to recognise the end of year financial position, as per paragraph 16 of the report;
- (vi) to approve the allocation of £0.015m for drug outreach work in Kilmarnock, from Finance and Digital balances, as per paragraph 17 of the report;
- (vii) to approve the earmarking of £16.521m requested by services which included the corporate earmarking detailed at paragraph 34 of the report;
- (viii) to note the contract figure exceeded the accepted tender value by more than 10% in respect of the ground investigations at Ayrshire Athletics Arena, as per paragraph 38 of the report;
- (ix) to note the contract figure exceeded the accepted tender value by more than 10% in respect of the drainage/landscaping improvement works at New Cumnock Early Childhood Centre, as at paragraph 39 of the report;
- (x) to note the contract figure exceeded the accepted tender value by more than 10% in respect of the refurbishment works at 4 Loudoun Avenue, Galston, as per paragraph 40 of the report;
- (xi) to approve the purchase of 15 replacement vehicles and plant within Waste Services, at an estimated cost of £2.1m funded from the pEPR award of £0.700m per year for the next 3 years, as per paragraphs 41 and 42 of the report;

- (xii) to note the information in respect of People highlighted at paragraphs 45 and 46 in the summary report;
- (xiii) that the uncommitted balance of the £0.070m agreed for the restoration of the playpark equipment in Shortlees be utilised for a feasibility study for the creation of an artificial football pitch at Loreny Park, Kilmarnock; and
- (xiv) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

### **EARLY INTERVENTION AND PREVENTION FUND**

**3E.** There was submitted a report (circulated) by the Acting Chief Executive which provided an update on the Council's Early Intervention and Prevention Fund, which included the outcomes from the Early Intervention and Prevention Summit, held on 17 April 2026 and which sought agreement for further investment proposals that would contribute to the ambitions set out within the East Ayrshire Council Strategic Plan and East Ayrshire Community Plan.

Cabinet agreed:-

- (i) to endorse the feedback reported from the Early Intervention and Prevention Summit;
- (ii) to allocate additional funding as follows:-
  - (a) Early Years Footwear and Clothing Grants (£0.150m);
  - (b) Jobs and Training (£3.000m);
  - (c) School Meals (£1.950m);
  - (d) Family Hubs Model (£3.000m);
  - (e) Violence Against Women Partnership (CATCH) (£0.330m); and
  - (f) Mental Health (Morven Centre) (£0.450m);
- (iii) that the reductions in total funding for previously agreed projects - Power of Attorney (£0.500m) and External Funding (£0.130m), with a total of £0.630m be added back to the Early Intervention and Prevention Fund balance;
- (iv) to note that subject to agreement of the recommendations made in the report, the balance remaining in the Early Intervention and Prevention Fund would be £19.473m;
- (v) to note the implications set out from paragraphs 106-115 of the report;
- (vi) to write to both the Scottish Government and UK Government to highlight the positive work of the Early Intervention and Prevention Fund and to request additional funding to expand the Early Intervention and Prevention Fund;
- (vii) to remit to Officers to arrange a summer programme to showcase the positive outcome of the Early Intervention and Prevention Fund; and
- (viii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

### **EARLY LEARNING AND CHILDCARE – PAYMENT OF SUSTAINABLE RATES TO FUNDED PROVIDERS AND CHILDMINDERS 2026-27**

**4E.** There was submitted a report (circulated) by the Chief Education Officer and Head of Education which (i) sought approval from Cabinet to increase the payment of the

current hourly rate agreed at Cabinet on 4 June 2025 to funded providers and childminders delivering funded early learning and childcare (ELC) for academic year 2026-27; and (ii) sought approval to continue to align pay rates for childminders (known as community childminders) who had a service level agreement with the local authority, with childminders on the ELC Flexible Framework.

Cabinet agreed:-

- (i) to increase the current hourly rate of £7.10 to funded providers and childminders for funded ELC for 3 and 4 year old places to £7.60 and to increase the current hourly rate of £7.44 to funded providers and childminders for funded ELC for eligible 2 year olds to £8.31 for academic year 2026-27. The increased rates, if approved, would also be paid to Community Childminders who had a service level agreement with the local authority;
- (ii) to increase the rate paid to funded providers and childminders for funded ELC from £3.00 per meal to £3.22 per meal for academic year 2026-27;
- (iii) that these proposals reflect the key messages in 'Guidance for setting sustainable rates for the delivery of funded early learning and childcare (ELC) in 2026-27' published in March 2026;
- (iv) to provide a further report to Cabinet setting out the recommendations for a revised hourly rate to include payment for meals for academic year 2027-28; and
- (v) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

Councillor Filson, and Religious Representatives Dr David Lewis and Babs Mowat, Parent Representative John Semple and Teacher Representative Hazel Malakoty, left the meeting at this point.

#### **FUNDING FOR REGENERATION PROJECTS PLACE BASED INVESTMENT PROGRAMME AND PRIDE IN PLACE IMPACT FUNDING – EAST AYRSHIRE ALLOCATION**

5. There was submitted a report (circulated) by the Head of Service: Ayrshire Growth Deal which updated Cabinet on the projects being delivered through 2025/26 (Year 5) Place Based Investment Programme (PBIP) and 2025/26 (Year 1) Pride in Place Investment Fund (PiPIF). In addition, the report set out the proposed approach to managing PiPIF in 2026/27 (Year 2) and recommended a suite of projects to be prioritised for investment.

Cabinet agreed:-

- (i) the projects to be prioritised for PiPIF investment 2026/27 (Year 2) as set out in Appendix 1 of the report; and
- (ii) to delegate authority to the Chief Financial Officer to vire monies between projects and reserve list projects as required to ensure full spend of the grant.

#### **EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

6. Cabinet Resolved:- "That under Section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, as amended, the Press be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of exempt

information as defined in the Paragraphs of Schedule 7A of the Act, as shown against each item”.

Councillor Filson rejoined the meeting at this point.

**AYRSHIRE ROADS ALLIANCE UPDATE ON AYRSHIRE ROADS ALLIANCE  
ELECTRIC VEHICLE INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGY WITH NORTH AYRSHIRE:  
PROCUREMENT PROGRESS AND NEXT STEPS (PARA 9)**

7. There was submitted a report (circulated) by the Head of Ayrshire Roads Alliance which provided Cabinet with an update on the Ayrshire Roads Alliance (ARA) Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Fund (EVIF) programme, delivered in partnership with North Ayrshire Council. The report outlined progress through the procurement and tender evaluation stages, summarised key developments in the Ayrshire Concession Contract and associated Schedules, and highlighted the next steps to enabling the contract award and implementation.

Cabinet agreed:-

- (i) 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;
- (ii) to note the issuing of the Stage 2 Invitation to Tender (ITT) in October 2025 and the tender evaluation and contract award completed May 2026;
- (iii) 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
- (iv) to note the contract award by East Ayrshire Council as lead authority.

**FLEXIBLE RETIREMENT AND REDUNDANCY PAYMENT (PARA 1)**

8. There was submitted a report dated 10 June 2026 (circulated) by the Head of People and Culture which (i) sought Cabinet’s approval of a flexible retirement application in respect of one employee in accordance with the Council’s Policies; and (ii) which asked Cabinet to note the cost for employees who had previously left the Council’s service and were due a redundancy payment following approval under delegated authority.

Cabinet agreed:-

- (i) to approve the flexible retirement cost for a Local Government employee, as detailed within Appendix A of the report;
- (ii) to note the decision of the Head of People and Culture to approve the redundancy payment of two employees under delegated authority; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

The meeting terminated at 1150 hours.