

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE MINUTE REQUIRES TO BE APPROVED AS A CORRECT RECORD AT THE NEXT COUNCIL MEETING AND MAY BE AMENDED

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

CABINET

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 16 SEPTEMBER 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, Iain Linton, Neal Ingram, Clare Maitland, Linda Mabon, Neill Watts and Drew Filson.

OFFICERS PARTICIPATING: Joe McLachlan, Chief Executive; David Mitchell, Depute Chief Executive; Craig Young, Chief Governance Officer; Colin Hastings, Head of Finance and Chief Financial Officer; Amanda Lowe, Head of People and Culture; Iain Tough, Head of Corporate Support; Paul Toland, Head of ICT and Digital; and Lynn Young, Democratic Services Team Leader.

APOLOGIES: Councillors Graham Barton and Barry Douglas.

CHAIR: Councillor Douglas Reid, Leader of the Council.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

1. No declarations of interest were intimated by the Members participating in relation to the items of business on the Agenda.

SERVICE IMPROVEMENT PLANS 2024-2027: UPDATED ACTION PLANS

2. There was submitted a report (circulated) by the Chief Executive which presented for Members' consideration, updates to Action Plans contained within the 2024-2027 Service Improvement Plans for three Services aligned to the Chief Executive's portfolio.

Cabinet agreed:-

- (i) to approve the updates to the Action Plans set out in the 2024-2027 Service Improvement Plans for the following Services aligned to the Chief Executive's portfolio:
 - Finance and ICT
 - Governance
 - People and Culture; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

Councillor Filson joined the meeting during consideration of the above item.

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

3. 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 it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 9 of Schedule 7A of the Act".

NEGOTIATED CONTRACT FOR THE REVENUES AND BENEFITS IT SYSTEM

4. There was submitted a report (circulated) by the Head of Finance and Chief Financial Officer which sought approval of the proposed renewal to the current annual license and support and maintenance agreement for the Council's Council Tax, Non Domestic Rates, Council Tax Reduction and Housing Benefit Processing System (Open Revenues) with the company identified within the report.

The Head of Finance and Chief Financial Officer advised of an additional recommendation in that to ensure full system coverage, that the recommendation within the report be implemented in advance of any consideration by the Governance and Scrutiny Committee under the call-in process.

Cabinet agreed:-

- (i) to approve the negotiated direct award of the contract for IT system software and support on premise provision for the Council's Council Tax, Non Domestic Rates, Council Tax Reduction and Housing Benefit Processing to the company identified within the report for a 3 Year Term as proposed within the report;
- (ii) to ensure full system coverage, that recommendation (i) be implemented in advance of any consideration by the Governance and Scrutiny Committee under the call-in process; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

The meeting terminated at 1050 hours.