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 SPECIAL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 1 JULY 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 and Drew Filson; and Religious Representatives: Dr David Lewis and Babs Mowat; and Parent Representative: John Semple.

OFFICERS PARTICIPATING: Joe McLachlan, Chief Executive; David Mitchell, Depute Chief Executive; Linda McAulay-Griffiths, Director of Education and Skills and Chief Education Officer; Craig Young, Chief Governance Officer; Pamela Clifford, Chief Planning Officer; Marion MacAulay, Head of Children's Health, Care and Justice Services; Andrew Kennedy, Head of Facilities and Property Management; Colin Hastings, Head of Finance and Chief Financial Officer; Amanda Lowe, Head of People and Culture; Jane Corrie, Head of Roads - Ayrshire Roads Alliance; Simon Bell, Strategic Lead: Asset Investment; Angela Graham, Strategic Lead – Property and Estates; Lesley McLean, Procurement Manager; Maureen McSeveney, Strategic Manager: Business (Education); Colin MacDonald, LHEES Lead Officer; and Lynn Young, Democratic Services Team Leader.

APOLOGIES: Councillors Graham Barton, Barry Douglas and Neill Watts.

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.

POLICY REVIEW SCHEDULE

2E. There was submitted a report dated 1 June 2026 (circulated) by the Head of People and Culture which recommended to Cabinet the proposed changes and updates to the Employment Policies as detailed within paragraph 2 of the report.

Cabinet agreed:-

(i) to changes to the Disciplinary Policy as detailed within paragraph 7 of the report;

(ii) to note, the retention of the Relocation Expenses Policy without any changes, and agreed to review it again in one year due to its minimal usage within paragraph 8 of the report;

(iii) to changes to the Code of Conduct Policy as detailed within paragraph 10 of the report;

(iv) to the creation of a new Casual Worker Policy as detailed within paragraph 9 of the report;

(v) to changes to the Work Experience Policy as detailed in paragraph 11 of the report;

(vi) to the creation of a new Supporting Trans Employees in the Workplace Policy as detailed in paragraph 12 of the report;

(vii) to changes to the Early Departure Policy as detailed in paragraph 13 of the report;

(viii) to changes to the Secondment Policy as detailed in paragraph 14 of the report; and

(ix) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

LEARNING ESTATE MANAGEMENT PLAN 2024-2025

3E. There was submitted a report (circulated) by the Director of Education and Skills and Chief Education Officer which outlined the 2024-2025 Learning Estate Management Plan (LEMP) as part of the Asset Management Framework and which sought Cabinet approval for its submission to the Scottish Government.

Cabinet agreed:-

(i) to continue to support the vision and priorities for the learning estate;

(ii) to delegate authority to the Strategic Oversight Group to review and where necessary, in response to emerging service needs, re-prioritise projects within the overall approved Capital Investment Programme funding allocation for the Learning Estate. Any material amendments affecting the Programme would remain subject to Cabinet approval, as detailed in paragraph 1.11 of the LEMP;

(iii) to approve the proposal to begin formal consultation on the change of catchment area as a result of Altonhill development, and to develop consequential improvements at Hillhead Primary School to provide additional learning spaces, as described at paragraph 20 of the report and 5.2 of the LEMP;

(iv) to note the progress achieved to date on the delivery of projects aligned with the ASN strategy approved by Cabinet in June 2025, and the development of phases of improvement works earmarked for 2026/2027 and 2027/2028, as outlined in section 7.3 of the LEMP;

(v) to note the significant progress of enhancements to the learning estate over the past 12 years, as shown in Section 6, Table 8 of the report;

(vi) to the key priorities as shown in Section 7 of the report;

(vii) to the 2024-2025 Learning Estate Management Plan (LEMP) being submitted to the Scottish Government; and

(viii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

Religious Representative Babs Mowat joined the meeting during consideration of the above item.

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

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT PLAN PROGRESS REPORT

4. There was submitted a report (circulated) by the Acting Depute Chief Executive which updated on the Property Management Plan (PMP) assessment and review of the property portfolio and outline further action to improve the effectiveness of the operational estate.

Cabinet agreed:-

(i) to note progress made in the overall improvement of the Property Management Plan assessment scores;

(ii) to the recommended actions outlined in Table 3 of the report to address key red and low-amber buildings within the operational estate;

(iii) to the recommendations outlined in Table 5 of the report in relation to vacant and surplus property; and

(iv) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

FINANCIAL RECOVERY - HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

5. There was submitted a report (circulated) by the Chief Executive which provided an update on the current financial position of Health and Social Care services commissioned from the Council by the East Ayrshire Integration Joint Board, with particular emphasis on those areas presenting the highest financial risk. It also set out the strengthened governance and reporting arrangements that had been introduced to improve financial control, support recovery, and enhance scrutiny throughout 2026/27.

Cabinet agreed:-

(i) to approve the proposed risk-based reporting arrangements outlined in the report;

(ii) to note the enhanced financial governance measures now in place within the Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP); and

(iii) to note that an earlier version of the report was presented to the Governance and Scrutiny Committee for consideration on 4 June 2026.

LOCAL HEAT AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY STRATEGY (LHEES) UPDATE

6. There was submitted a report (circulated) by the Chief Planning Officer which presented Cabinet with a progress update on the Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy (LHEES) and which sought approval to publish the LHEES Delivery Plan.

Cabinet agreed:-

(i) to the actions set out in the LHEES Delivery Plan and to formally publish it; and

(ii) to use a maximum of £25,000 LHEES grant funding to deliver a feasibility study of crosswall construction properties in partnership with Dumfries and Galloway Council.

CORPORATE PROCUREMENT STRATEGY 2026-2027

7. There was submitted a report (circulated) by the Acting Chief Governance Officer which sought Cabinet approval to implement the annual Corporate Procurement Strategy 2026-2027.

Cabinet agreed:-

(i) to approve the Corporate Procurement Strategy 2026-2027;

(ii) to note that the Corporate Procurement Strategy would support and complement the Regional Economic Strategy to support the priorities which would contribute to the delivery of inclusive growth, community wealth building and sustainability; and

(iii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

BONFIRE AND FIREWORK EVENTS ON COUNCIL OWNED

8. There was submitted a report dated 26 March 2026 (circulated) by the Acting Chief Governance Officer which requested that Members adopt a policy position whereby bonfire and firework events would not be permitted on Council owned ground unless the Event Organiser had made contact with the Council's Events and Resilience Officer and/or the Licensing Section to obtain guidance to ensure a safe and well organised event.

Cabinet agreed:-

(i) to adopt a policy position of refusing to permit bonfire and firework events from taking place on Council owned property, unless the Event Organiser had made contact with the Council and secured the appropriate permission; and

(ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

PAVEMENT PARKING ENFORCEMENT UPDATE

9. There was submitted a report (circulated) by the Acting Depute Chief Executive which (i) provided an update to Cabinet on the progress made towards the implementation of pavement parking exemptions underpinned by the Transport (Scotland) Act 2019; and (ii) outlined work undertaken since the commencement of pavement parking enforcement to assess further streets and sets out recommendations in relation to additional exemptions.

Cabinet agreed:-

(i) to the proposed list of additional exemptions prepared following further street assessments as detailed within the report and listed in Appendix 1 of the report;

(ii) to note the progress made in relation to the preparation of the exemption order; and

(iii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

10. 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 item 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 DIRECT AWARD CONTRACT FOR THE PROVISION OF ROAD MARKING TRAINING FOR AYRSHIRE ROADS ALLIANCE ROADWORKERS

11. There was submitted a report (circulated) by the Acting Depute Chief Executive which sought the approval of Cabinet to allow the Head of Roads to enter into a partnership arrangement with a sole training provider to deliver Road Marking Training to support workforce development and enhance our ability to deliver high quality, in-house road marking services across the public road network.

Cabinet agreed:-

(i) to approve the Head of Roads to negotiate terms with a sole training provider for the delivery of SVQ Road Marking training; and

(ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

The meeting terminated at 1202 hours.