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**MINUTE**  
**of**  
**CABINET**  
**(POLICE & FIRE)**

**Minute of meeting held at 10.00am in the Council Chamber, Council Headquarters, Giffnock on 4 September 2025.**

**Present:**

Councillor Owen O'Donnell (Leader)  
Councillor Andrew Anderson  
Councillor Caroline Bamforth

Councillor Katie Pragnell  
Councillor Gordon Wallace(\*)

Councillor O'Donnell, Leader, in the Chair

**Attending:**

Jamie Reid, Head of Communities and Transformation; Stephen Bell, Community Safety Manager; and John Burke, Democratic Services Officer.

**Also Attending:**

Chief Inspector Gillian Faulds, (Area Commander); Superintendent Paul Douglas, Police Scotland; Area Commander Edward Kenna; and Group Commander Alan Coughtrie, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.

(\*) indicates remote attendance

**Apology:**

Councillor Danny Devlin.

**LEADER'S REMARKS**

**1291.** The Leader welcomed Superintendent Douglas and Area Commander Kenna to their first meeting of the Cabinet.

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

**1292.** There were no declarations of interest intimated.

**POLICE SCOTLAND – PERFORMANCE REPORT - QUARTER 1 - 2025-26**

**1293.** The Cabinet considered a report by the Divisional Commander, Police Scotland, providing details of the performance of the police over the first quarter of 2025-26. The report also provided statistical information in relation to various categories of crimes and offences committed during the reported period together with comparative statistics for the corresponding period in 2024-25.

The report provided a summary of police performance against the five local policing priorities contained in the East Renfrewshire Policing Plan 2023-26, with the information summarised.

The report also contained examples of the work being done in East Renfrewshire by officers of Police Scotland on all of the areas of focus covered.

There followed a question and answer session in the course of which Chief Inspector Faulds and Superintendent Douglas responded to a number of questions and provided clarification on a range of operational issues within East Renfrewshire and the crime statistics recorded in the report. In particular, on work to circulate panic alarm systems to small, independent retailers in the area; the definition of non-criminal incidents with particular relation to domestic incidents; violent crimes against emergency response crews; the increase in hate crime incidents; and the prevalence of DVLA wheel clamping in the area.

The Cabinet noted the report.

**SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE (SFRS) PERFORMANCE REPORT FOR THE FIRST QUARTER OF 2025-26**

**1294.** The Cabinet considered a report by the Group Commander, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS), providing details of the performance of SFRS in East Renfrewshire during the first quarter of 2025-26 against the key priorities in their local plan.

Area Commander Kenna took the opportunity to introduce himself and briefly outline some of the highlights from the report, which Group Commander Coughtrie then explained in more detail.

Introducing the report, Group Commander Coughtrie referred to the new layout of the report. He indicated that the format was continuing to evolve based on feedback from members and improvements would be made over the future reports, with a final format established and bedded in.

Group Commander Coughtrie then reported on the performance of SFRS on performance over quarter 1, summarising the information provided in the report.

There followed a question and answer session in the course of which Area Commander Kenna and Group Commander Coughtrie responded to members questions on the success of the Fire Skills course, with particular thanks to the Community Learning and Development team for their funding of the course and work to assist in its development; thanks expressed to the crews at Clarkston Fire Station for their response to a particular incident during the reporting period; clarity on the reporting of slips, trips and falls through partnership work between SFRS and Health and Social Care partners; and clarity around a report in a national newspaper about funding issues within SFRS, and that this would not affect services in East Renfrewshire.

Group Commander Coughtrie also commented that members looking for further information about the investigation into a fire related incident in Broom would receive an update from him as soon as possible.

Thereafter the Cabinet agreed to note the report.

CHAIR



**MINUTE**  
**of**  
**EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL**

**Minute of meeting held at 5.00pm in the Council Chamber, Council Headquarters, Giffnock on 10 September 2025.**

**Present:**

Councillor Andrew Anderson  
Councillor Caroline Bamforth  
Councillor Tony Buchanan  
Deputy Provost Kate Campbell  
Councillor Angela Convery  
Councillor Danny Devlin  
Councillor Paul Edlin  
Councillor Annette Ireland  
Councillor Chris Lunday

Councillor Colm Merrick  
Provost Mary Montague  
Councillor David Macdonald  
Councillor Julie Ann McHale  
Councillor Jim McLean  
Councillor Andrew Morrison  
Councillor Owen O'Donnell (Leader)  
Councillor Katie Pragnell  
Councillor Gordon Wallace

Provost Montague in the Chair

**Attending:**

Steven Quinn, Chief Executive; Alexis Chappell, Chief Officer, Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP); Jennifer Greenshields, Chief Executive's Business Manager; Caitriona McAuley, Director of Environment; Louise Pringle, Director of Business Operations and Partnerships; Mark Ratter, Director of Education; Kirsty Stanners, Head of Finance (Chief Financial Officer); Gerry Mahon, Chief Officer (Legal and Procurement); Michaela Sullivan, Head of Place; Michelle McGuckin, Chief Planner and Building Standards Manager; Barry Tudhope, Democratic Services Manager; Lesleyann Burns, Democratic Services Officer; and Bethany Mitchell, Assistant Democratic Services Officer.

**Apologies:**

There were no apologies.

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

**1295.** There were no declarations of interest intimated.

**ORDER OF BUSINESS**

**1296.** The Provost indicated that, to facilitate the smooth running of the meeting, the items would be considered in the order shown below.

## **SCHEME OF ADMINISTRATION – PLANNING APPLICATIONS COMMITTEE AND LOCAL REVIEW BODY**

**1296.** The Council considered a report by the Director of Business Operations and Partnerships to seek the appointment of an Elected Member to serve on both Planning Applications Committee and Local Review Body; and the appointment of a Chair of both committees.

Councillor Buchanan, seconded by Councillor Bamforth, moved that Councillor Convery be appointed to serve on both Planning Applications Committee and Local Review Body and this was accepted unanimously.

Councillor O'Donnell, seconded by Councillor Wallace, moved that Councillor McLean be appointed to serve as Chair on both Planning Applications Committee and Local Review Body and this was accepted unanimously.

Councillor O'Donnell, seconded by Councillor Devlin, moved that Councillor Ireland be appointed to serve as Vice Chair on both Planning Applications Committee and Local Review Body.

Councillor Wallace, seconded by Councillor Edlin, moved that Councillor Morrison be appointed to serve as Vice Chair on both Planning Applications Committee and Local Review Body.

On a vote being taken by a show of hands 13 votes for Councillor Ireland and 5 votes for Councillor Morrison.

Therefore, the Council agreed that:

- (a) Councillor Convery be appointed to serve on both Planning Applications Committee and Local Review Body;
- (b) Councillor McLean be appointed to serve as Chair on both Planning Applications Committee and Local Review Body; and
- (c) Councillor Ireland be appointed to serve as Vice Chair on both Planning Applications Committee and Local Review Body.

## **A REPORT TO ADDRESS THE REQUIREMENTS OF AN AMENDED MOTION REFERRING TO PLANNING PERMISSION 2025/0043/TP FOR A BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM**

**1297.** Under reference to the Minute of the meeting of Council of 25 June 2025 (Page 1206, Item 1253 refers), the Council considered a report by the Director of Environment to address the requirements of the amended motion approval by Council on 25 June 2025.

Information was given relating to the four points on which Elected Members had requested clarification at the meeting of Council on 25 June 2025.

During discussion, Councillor McLean seconded by Councillor Edlin put forward a motion in the following terms:-

That in terms of recommendation (b) as set out in the presented paper, the decision be as follows:-

*Paragraph 20 on page 48 states “Council would have to appoint external planning, legal and landscaping advisors amongst any others deemed necessary in the event of any public enquiry as Council officers recommended approval and cannot appear to defend the opposite case”.*

*This being the case, the Environment Department as author of the report is also conflicted in preparing a paper to set out the case to overturn an officer recommendation.*

*Thus the motion to the recommendations set out in the paper by our group is to point out officers have identified a conflict of interest in arguing against the development, therefore so too this paper will be subject to a conflict of interest.*

*A Stage 1 complaint has recently been submitted by a local resident, alleging maladministration within East Renfrewshire Council’s Planning Department concerning its handling of the compiled and tabled Report of Handling. Additionally, concerns have been raised regarding the role of AAH in this process. There are further complaints regarding the veracity of the alternative sites reviewed and ruled out as not feasible. In short, several landowners claim they were never approached by the developer but their report states landowner permission was not forthcoming.*

*Further evidence received directly from said landowners, is directly at odds with the application supporting documentation, which must be reviewed also as such statements, if inaccurate undermine the crux of the applicant’s stated need to use a greenbelt location. Whilst we acknowledge Planning Officers do not proactively interrogate statements made by developers, we believe that if credible information subsequently comes to light which suggests those statements are inaccurate, they must be investigated.*

*While we fully acknowledge the potential financial implications for the Council should this proposal be approved, the concerns raised by local residents necessitate a thorough examination of all available options. If it is upheld that the developer submitted inaccurate information, we request the report also includes details of any legal routes to Council recovering its losses via legal proceedings from the applicant.*

*It is imperative that East Renfrewshire Council demonstrates it has explored every possible avenue in reviewing this application, ensuring transparency and confidence in the decision-making process among the community.*

*We acknowledge that local residents have commissioned an independent Judicial Review, which falls outside the scope of this report.*

*In light of new information arising from Stage 1 complaints—including claims from landowners who state they were never consulted, contrary to the findings presented in the AAH report, we formally request that the report be referred to an independent third party for review.*

*Given that this report formed the basis of the Planning Area Committee’s (PAC) decision, an impartial assessment is essential to ensure transparency and public confidence in the process. We urge East Renfrewshire Council (ERC) to commission this independent evaluation to address the concerns raised and verify the accuracy of the information relied upon.*

*An adjournment took place to allow Elected Members to consider this motion.*

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The Provost then sought clarification on the second last paragraph of the motion regarding what report the motion referred to. It was clarified that it was the report that officers had brought to this meeting at the request of the Elected Members.

Another adjournment then took place to allow further consideration.

After discussion, the Chief Officer (Legal Services) explained that, in his opinion, this was not a competent motion as the financial consequence of the motion had not been intimated as required in terms of Standing Order 29 and it was inconsistent with the council's previous decision in June to charge officers with production of the report. The Provost, in light of that advice, ruled that the motion was not competent.

Councillor Morrison raised a point of order with regards to Standing Order 29, however, the Provost stated that her ruling on this matter was final.

Discussion then took place among members regarding a number of concerns with the information presented, including the consideration of alternative sites, potential additional information that had come to light following the initial meeting of the Planning Applications Committee, the independence of the report, and the content of paragraph 20 of the report.

During the discussion, the meeting was adjourned as a member of public in the gallery was recording the meeting. The prohibition on recording was explained and it was clarified that the meeting was both being live broadcast and recorded for publication following the meeting.

Following the discussion, Councillor O'Donnell, seconded by Councillor Pragnell moved that, in terms of recommendation (b) of the report, that the Council not pursue a revocation order under Section 65 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (as amended).

Councillor Morrison, seconded by Councillor Jim McLean, moved as an amendment that, in terms of recommendation (b) of the report, that the decision of the Council be as follows:-

*That Council notes the report as presented, and requests deferment of decision as requested until such time the outcome of the ongoing Judicial Review into the council's conduct and handling of this situation is determined.*

An adjournment took place to allow Members to consider this amendment.

On a vote being taken by a show of hands, 12 votes were cast for Councillor O'Donnell's motion and 6 votes for Councillor Morrison's amendment, therefore the motion was declared carried.

The Council:-

- (a) noted the report prepared by officers in accordance with the amended motion; and
- (b) determined that it should not pursue a revocation order under Section 65 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (as amended).

An adjournment took place to allow members of the public to leave the gallery.

## NOTICE OF MOTION

**1298.** In accordance with Standing Order 27, the following notice of motion had been submitted by Councillor Wallace, seconded by Councillor Morrison:

*Council notes that Glasgow City Council is exploring potential revenue streams, with a congestion charge under consideration as one such option.*

*Council further notes:*

- *That many East Renfrewshire residents travel into Glasgow for work, education or hospital appointments, and would face additional costs if such a scheme were introduced.*
- *That local businesses, trades and suppliers depend on vehicle access and would face higher operating costs.*
- *That East Renfrewshire's infrastructure is already under strain, with many railway station car parks full, restricted access to existing public transport networks, and known areas where access to parking competes with other pressures such as shopping.*
- *That if neighbouring authorities were to follow Glasgow's example and impose their own charges, residents could face multiple, overlapping tolls simply to travel across council boundaries - doubling the burden without addressing the underlying issues.*
- *That Clyde Metro represents the region's long-term, multi-authority commitment to integrated transport planning, and offers the proper vehicle to deliver change in a fair and collaborative way.*

*Council believes that while improving air quality is an important goal, pursuing congestion charging as a revenue measure in isolation risks unfairly penalising East Renfrewshire residents and businesses, worsening pressure on local infrastructure, and placing additional strain on a working population and business community already struggling to recruit and retain staff.*

*Council therefore resolves to:*

1. *Record its opposition to any congestion charge being introduced by Glasgow.*
2. *Request that officers prepare and present to councillors a briefing paper, drawing on available travel data including information from active travel initiatives, setting out the likely impacts on East Renfrewshire residents, businesses and local infrastructure, so that the Council is better prepared should a congestion charge become a formal proposal by Glasgow.*
3. *Call for renewed urgency in progressing the Clyde Metro initiative as the proper, integrated way to tackle congestion and improve transport across the wider region, rather than piecemeal charging schemes imposed by individual councils.*

Councillor Wallace confirmed the motion and there were no amendments so this motion was agreed.

## **REPORT OF THE RETURNING OFFICER – WARD 1: BARRHEAD LIBOSIDE AND UPLAWMOOR BY-ELECTION**

**1299.** The Council considered a report by the Chief Executive/Returning Officer providing details of the results of the Ward 1: Barrhead, Liboside and Uplawmoor By-election and that the new Elected Member, Julie Ann Costello McHale, Scottish Labour Party, had signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

Councillor McHale paid respects to the late Councillor Betty Cuningham OBE and thanked the residents of Barrhead.

The Council noted the report.

## **MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

**1300.** The Council considered and approved the Minute of the meeting held on 25 June 2025.

## **MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF COMMITTEES**

**1301.** The Council considered and approved the Minutes of the meetings of the undernoted:-

- (a) Special Planning Applications Committee – 17 June 2025;
- (b) Cabinet – 19 June 2025;
- (c) Audit and Scrutiny Committee – 19 June 2025;
- (d) Council – 25 June 2025;
- (e) Appeals Committee – 17 July 2025;
- (f) Special Licensing Committee – 22 July 2025;
- (g) Licensing Committee – 5 August 2025;
- (h) Planning Application Committee – 6 August 2025;
- (i) Cabinet – 14 August 2025;
- (j) Audit and Scrutiny Committee – 14 August 2025; and
- (k) Education Committee – 21 August 2025.

## **AUDIT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 14 AUGUST 2025 – ANNUAL TREASURY MANAGEMENT REPORT 2024-25**

**1302.** Under reference to the Minute of the meeting of the Audit and Scrutiny Committee of 14 August 2025 (Page 1233, Item 1284 refers), when it had been agreed to recommend to the Council the approval of the Annual Treasury Management Report 2024/25, the Council considered a report by the Head of Finance (Chief Financial Officer) for approval of the attached organisations for investment of surplus funds.

Councillor Morrison made a statement on Annual Treasury Management Report for 2024/25, which outlined the Council's debt position and compliance with prudential and risk indicators. Long-term borrowing increased by £51m, comprising £25m in new borrowing to support capital programmes and £26m due to changes in lease accounting standards. Borrowing remained within approved limits, and all risk indicators were met.

It was asked if clarity could be given on the PFI debt increase, the Chief Financial Officer confirmed that this was an accounting adjustment.

The Council agreed to approve the Annual Treasury Management Report 2024-25 set out in Appendix 8 to the report.

## **STATEMENTS BY CONVENERS AND REPRESENTATIVES ON JOINT BOARDS AND COMMITTEES**

The following statements were made:-

### **(a) Councillor Anderson – Convener for Education, Culture and Leisure**

Councillor Anderson gave a statement on the successful summer activity camps, high participation in the reading challenge, and the Trust's nomination for Scottish Swim Provider of the Year. Eaglesham Library reopened after refurbishment. He also congratulated pupils on record exam results and continued progress in closing the attainment gap. He stated that he was looking forward to a detailed breakdown at the next Education Committee.

### **(b) Councillor Pragnell – Convener for Social Work and Health**

Councillor Pragnell gave a statement on reflections from the Chief Officer on her early priorities of visibility, engagement, and collaboration, including the introduction of "People Stories" to highlight service impact. The first story showcased life-changing support from the Care at Home team. Updates included progress on the Suicide Prevention Strategy, with East Renfrewshire maintaining the lowest suicide rate in Scotland, and excellent national assessment results for local drug and alcohol services. Budget pressures of £2.4m remained, with work ongoing to address this. Further updates were provided on child poverty, delayed discharge, and veterans support.

Councillor Macdonald raised a point of order under Standing Order 25, he asked why there were only two Conveners making statements and asked what if he had questions for other Conveners.

It was clarified that it was the decision of the Conveners whether they wished to make a statement, and that Elected Members were welcome to contact Conveners at any time.

The Council noted the statements.

## **PROVOST ENGAGEMENTS**

**1303.** The Council considered a report by the Director of Business Operations and Partnerships, providing details of civic engagements attended and civic duties performed by Provost Montague since the meeting on 25 June 2025.

The Council noted the report.

## **ANNUAL STATEMENT ON ADEQUACY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF GOVERNANCE, RISK MANAGEMENT AND INTERNAL CONTROL SYSTEMS**

**1304.** The Council considered a report by the Audit and Scrutiny Committee on providing a statement on the adequacy and effectiveness of the governance, risk management and internal control systems operating within the Council during 2024/25.

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Councillor Morrison summarised the internal and external statement of assurances for 2024/25.

The Council noted the report.

### **POLITICAL MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS: CHANGES TO CABINET, CONVENER REMITS, COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP AND APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES**

**1305.** The Council considered a report by the Director of Business Operations and Partnerships on proposed changes to Cabinet, Convener Remits, Committee Appointments and representation following the Ward 1: Barrhead, Liboside and Uplawmoor By-Election held on Thursday 21 August 2025.

The Council agreed to:-

- (a) the appointment of Councillor McHale as a fifth member of Cabinet;
- (b) the establishment of a new Convenorship for Communities, Equalities and Culture & Leisure, and the revised remits for the Leader of the Council and Conveners (Appendix 2);
- (c) the replacement of Councillor Devlin with Councillor McHale on the Education Committee;
- (d) the replacement of Councillor O'Donnell with Councillor McHale on the East Renfrewshire Culture and Leisure Trust Board; and
- (e) the replacement of Councillor O'Donnell with Councillor Anderson on the Strathclyde Partnership for Transport (SPT) Board.

### **AURS ROAD UPDATE AND FUNDING REQUEST**

**1306.** The Council considered a report by the Director of Environment to update the Council on the progress of the Aurs Road City Deal Project, currently under construction, and to request the approval of additional funds required to complete the project.

It was requested that further communications be issued with regards to alternative routes being used during this project, which was agreed. The Head of Place gave a summary on the progress made and explained that, although significant progress had taken place, there was still work to be carried out and that more precise information could be provided in Spring 2026.

There was discussion around reallocating funding from the City Deal, and it was clarified that, due to financial constraints, that this was not possible.

The Council:-

- (a) noted the progress on site and the strategic importance of the Aurs Road project;
- (b) acknowledged that additional funds would be required to complete the project;

- (c) approved, in principle, £4.3m of additional funds to complete the Aurs Road project, together with an allowance for variance in the remaining unfixed elements of the cost to complete, requiring a total sum of up to £6.9m;
- (d) approved a maximum £3m to be drawn from the Capital Reserve, with the balance of up to £3.9m to be funded from external borrowing and that authority is delegated to the Chief Executive and Chief Financial Officer to determine the exact sums to be drawn from the Capital Reserve and borrowed, dependent on the final outcome of the project and any additional funds that may be obtained; and
- (e) agreed that further communications be issued regarding the use of alternate routes while the project was ongoing.

### **CALENDAR OF COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS TO MAY 2027**

**1307.** The Council considered a report by the Director of Business Operations and Partnerships to seek approval of the proposed Calendar of Council and Committee Meetings to May 2027.

The question was raised as to why Planning Applications Committee was now monthly when previously some Committees had been cancelled, it was clarified that this was to stop any Special Planning Applications Committee meetings having to be arranged due to time constraints.

The Council:-

- (a) approved the Calendars of Meetings, as set out in Appendices 1 and 2 to the report, covering meetings until May 2027; and
- (b) noted the approved dates of meetings of the East Renfrewshire Integration Joint Board.

### **MINISTRY OF DEFENCE EMPLOYER RECOGNITION SCHEME**

**1308.** The Council considered a report by the Director of Business Operations and Partnerships to advise Council on the achievement of gaining Gold accreditation from the Ministry of Defence (MoD) Employer Recognition Scheme (ERS) and of the ongoing work being carried out in support of serving personnel and veterans.

The Deputy Provost gave a statement noting that East Renfrewshire Council has achieved the MoD's ERS Gold Award, recognising outstanding support for the Armed Forces community. This success reflected the ongoing commitment of Council teams and partners, with practical initiatives such as Health for Heroes and the Veterans' Breakfast Club.

The achievement was formally acknowledged by the Lord-Lieutenant. The Council would continue to champion the Armed Forces Covenant and support veterans and their families.

The Council:-

- (a) recognised the achievement of gaining the Ministry of Defence Employer Recognition Scheme Gold Award; and

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- (b) noted the continuing work of the Council, HSCP and East Renfrewshire Culture and Leisure in support of serving personnel and veterans.

PROVOST

**MINUTE**  
**of**  
**LICENSING COMMITTEE**

**Minute of meeting held at 10.00am in the Council Chamber, Council Headquarters, Giffnock, on 16 September 2025.**

**Present:**

Councillor Paul Edlin  
Councillor David MacDonald\*  
Councillor Andrew Morrison

Councillor Kate Campbell  
Provost Mary Montague

(\*) indicates remote attendance

**Attending:**

Nicola McEleny, Senior Solicitor; David Higgins, Civic Government Enforcement Officer; Jillian McGrain, Senior Officer (Private Sector); Arlene MacInnes, Housing Assistant (Private Sector); Lesleyann Burns, Democratic Services Officer and Bethany Mitchell, Assistant Democratic Services Officer

**Also Attending:**

Inspector Brian Eaglesham and Inspector Alan Ferris.

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were submitted by Councillor Colm Merrick.

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

**1309.** Provost Montague indicated that due to being a Ward Councillor who had received questions in relation to Agenda Item 7 and for the purposes of transparency, she would not participate in that item of business.

**Resolution to Exclude Press and Public**

At this point in the meeting, on the motion of the Chair, the Committee unanimously resolved that in accordance with the provisions of Section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, as amended, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the remaining items of business on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 6 and 14 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A to the Act.

1254

#### **PRIVATE HIRE CAR DRIVER'S LICENCE – APPLICATION FOR RENEWAL**

**1310.** The Committee considered a report by the Chief Officer (Legal and Procurement) in relation to an application for the renewal of a Private Hire Car Driver's Licence (agenda item 3).

The applicant was present, accompanied by his legal representative

Inspector Brian Eaglesham and Inspector Alan Ferris, representing the Chief Constable, who had made an objection to the application, were also present.

Inspector Ferris was heard in respect of the representation submitted by the Chief Constable and in response to questions from members.

The applicant's legal representative was then heard in respect of the application.

The Committee agreed to a short adjournment to consider the matter.

On reconvening, the Committee, having taken account of the applicant's previous convictions, their seriousness and relevance to the licence being applied for, and also having taken account of the representation by the Chief Constable, agreed that the application for renewal be refused on the grounds that the applicant was not a fit and proper person to be the holder of such a licence by virtue of his previous convictions.

#### **PRIVATE HIRE CAR DRIVER'S LICENCE – REQUEST FOR CONSIDERATION OF SUSPENSION**

**1311.** The Committee considered a report by the Chief Officer (Legal & Procurement) in relation to a request for consideration of suspension of both Private Hire Car Driver's Licence and Car operator Licence under Paragraph 11(1) of Schedule 1 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 (Agenda Item 4 refers).

The committee noted that given the passage of time the Car Operator Licence had now expired.

The applicant was present.

Inspector Brian Eaglesham and Inspector Alan Ferris, representing the Chief Constable, who had made an objection to the application, were also present.

Inspector Ferris was heard in respect of the representation submitted by the Chief Constable and in response to questions from members.

The applicant was then heard in respect of the application.

The Committee agreed to a short adjournment to consider the matter.

On reconvening, the Committee, having taken account of the applicant's previous convictions, their seriousness and relevance to the licence being applied for, and also having taken account of the representation by the Chief Constable, agreed that the application be refused on the grounds that the applicant was not a fit and proper person to be the holder of such a licence by virtue of his previous convictions and to revoke the applicant's Private Hire Car Driver's Licence.

#### **PRIVATE HIRE CAR DRIVER'S LICENCE – APPLICATION FOR GRANT**

**1312.** The Committee considered a report by the Chief Officer (Legal and Procurement) in relation to an application for the grant of a Private Hire Car Driver's Licence (agenda item 5).

The applicant was present.

Inspector Brian Eaglesham and Inspector Alan Ferris, representing the Chief Constable, who had made an objection to the application, were also present.

Inspector Ferris was heard in respect of the representation submitted by the Chief Constable and in response to questions from members.

The applicant was then heard in respect of the application.

The Committee agreed to a short adjournment to consider the matter.

On reconvening, the Committee, having taken account of the applicant's previous convictions, their seriousness and relevance to the licence being applied for, and also having taken account of the representation by the Chief Constable, refused the application for renewal of the Private Hire Driver's Licence on the grounds that the applicant was not a fit and proper person to be the holder of such a licence.

#### **PRIVATE HIRE CAR DRIVER'S LICENCE – APPLICATION FOR GRANT**

**1313.** The committee considered a report by the Chief Officer (Legal and Procurement) in relation to an application for the grant of a Private Hire Car Driver's Licence (agenda item 6).

The applicant was present.

Inspector Brian Eaglesham and Inspector Alan Ferris, representing the Chief Constable, who had made an objection to the application, were also present.

Inspector Ferris was heard in respect of the representation submitted by the Chief Constable and in response to questions from members.

The applicant was then heard in respect of the application.

The Committee agreed to a short adjournment to consider the matter.

On reconvening, the Committee, having taken account of the applicant's previous convictions, their seriousness and relevance to the licence being applied for, and also having taken account of the representation by the Chief Constable, refused the application for a Private Hire's Driver's Licence on the grounds that the applicant was not a fit and proper person to be the holder of such a licence.

#### **PRIVATE LANDLORD REGISTRATION**

**1314.** The committee considered a report by the Director of Environment regarding an application for inclusion on the Register of Social Landlords under the terms of the Antisocial Behaviour etc. (Scotland) Act 2004, as amended (agenda item 7 refers).

The Senior Housing Officer (Private Sector) was heard in respect of the application and in response to questions from Members.

The applicant was then heard in respect of the application and in response to questions.

The Committee agreed to a short adjournment to consider the matter.

Following discussion the committee agreed with and accepted the Housing Officer's recommendation to:

- (a) refuse the applicant's 'fit and proper' status and refuse the application to be entered upon the register of private landlords;
- (b) authorise Council officers to draw up Rent Penalty Notices and serve them on the Applicant in the event the Applicant does not cease acting as private landlord;
- (c) authorise Council officers to report the Applicant to the Procurator Fiscal, in the event that they do not cease acting as a private landlord;
- (d) authorise Council officers to cooperate with the Procurator Fiscal and Police in any criminal investigation and prosecution relating to this matter; and
- (e) authorise Council officers to defend any litigation instituted by the Applicant in respect of their registration being refused or against the service of Rent Penalty Notices.

Advise the applicant of the decision and make appropriate arrangements to implement decisions (b) to (d) above.

CHAIR

# **MINUTE** **of** **CABINET**

**Minute of meeting held at 10.00am in the Council Chamber, Council Headquarters, Giffnock on 18 September 2025.**

## **Present:**

Councillor Owen O'Donnell (Leader)	Councillor Julie Ann McHale
Councillor Andrew Anderson (Vice Chair)	Councillor Katie Pragnell
Councillor Danny Devlin	

Councillor O'Donnell, Leader, in the Chair

## **Attending:**

Steven Quinn, Chief Executive; Caitriona McAuley, Director of Environment; Kenny Markwick, Head of Environment (Operations); Kirsty Stanners, Head of Finance (Chief Financial Officer); John Buchanan, Operations Manager; Andy Dick, Get to Zero Manager; Michelle McGuckin, Chief Planner and Building Services Manager; and John Burke, Democratic Services Officer.

## **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

**1315.** There were no declarations of interest intimated.

## **LEADER'S REMARKS**

The Leader welcomed Councillor McHale to her first meeting of Cabinet.

## **ESTIMATED REVENUE BUDGET OUTTURN 2025/26**

**1316.** The Cabinet considered a report by the Head of Finance (Chief Financial Officer) detailing the estimated projected revenue budget out-turn for 2025/26 and providing details of the expected year-end variances together with summary cost information for each of the undernoted services as at 31 July 2025 and subsequent assessment of pressures arising.

- (i) Education Department;
- (ii) Contribution to Integration Joint Board;
- (iii) Environment Department;
- (iv) Environment Department – Support;
- (v) Chief Executive's Office;
- (vi) Chief Executive's Office – Support;
- (vii) Business Operations and Partnerships Department;
- (viii) Business Operations and Partnerships Department – Support;
- (ix) Other Expenditure and Income;
- (x) Joint Boards;

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- (xi) Corporate Contingency;
- (xii) Health and Social Care Partnership; and
- (xiii) Housing Revenue Account.

On the basis of the information, and taking account of forecast Council Tax collection, a year-end operational underspend of £2,614k was forecast on General Fund services and an overspend of £15k on the Housing Revenue Account. The reasons for departmental variances were set out in the report. It was outlined that any such operational underspend at this year-end would assist the Council in meeting future years' budget challenges.

It was noted that the forecast outturn position could still be subject to significant change. Conversely, it was hoped that management action to avoid any non-essential expenditure could increase the underspend at year-end.

Following a brief discussion, the Cabinet agreed to:-

- (a) note the forecast underlying General Fund operational underspend of £2,614k and the HRA operational overspend of £15k; and
- (b) approve service virements and operational adjustments, as set out in the notes to the tables on pages 16 to 33, and note the reported probable outturn position.

## **BRIGHTER BARRHEAD 2050 VISION AND ACTION PLAN AND ESTABLISHMENT OF BARRHEAD REGENERATION BOARD**

**1317.** The Cabinet considered a report by the Director of Environment on the Brighter Barrhead 2050 Vision and Action Plan.

The report was accompanied by a presentation from the Chief Planner and Building Services Manager, and it was confirmed that the slides from this presentation would be made available on the Council's website following the meeting.

The Council had commissioned the "Brighter Barrhead 2050 Vision and Plan" project in February 2025 and the final report had been produced in July 2025. On the basis of that report, the Brighter Barrhead Masterplan was produced to build on that momentum and align with national ambitions such as National Planning Framework 4 and East Renfrewshire Council's "A Place to Grow" Strategy.

The report detailed the wide-ranging consultation that had taken place to make the local community the voice behind the vision set out in the masterplan. The voices of over 900 residents, including school pupils, businesses and community groups, had been considered.

Through the consultation process, the four guiding principles of the Plan had been developed, as well as six placemaking goals, all of which were detailed in the report, with diagrams to show how those principles and goals fed into the wider themes of the Plan. The strategic alignment with wider plans and strategies at both local and national level was also demonstrated.

It was proposed that a Barrhead Regeneration Board be established to oversee and co-ordinate the prioritisation and delivery process across a wide range of stakeholders, acting as the central body for strategic decision-making, resource and funding alignment, and performance for output monitoring. The report outlined the proposed key responsibilities of the Board. Clear lines of accountability and decision-making would be established, supported by a Delivery Framework outlining roles, responsibilities and key milestones which were

summarised in the report. A Delivery Manager would also be identified to oversee and support the day-to-day operations of the Board, supported by a multidisciplinary team, including planning, housing, infrastructure and community engagement.

Members welcomed the report and accompanying presentation. It was clarified that this Plan would last for the next 30 years, with joint working between private sector colleagues in Barrhead identified as a key area of work. The department also gave thanks to Kevin Murray Associates Consultants for their assistance in producing the document.

Following the discussion, the Cabinet:-

- (a) noted the content of the report and Brighter Barrhead 2050 Vision and Plan;
- (b) approved the Brighter Barrhead Action Plan, as outlined in the Masterplan; and
- (c) approved the principle of forming a Barrhead Regeneration Board to oversee the Masterplan's delivery.

## **UPDATE ON GET TO ZERO ACTION PLAN**

**1318.** The Cabinet considered a report by the Director of Environment on progress against the Get to Zero Action Plan, which outlined the Council's plans to tackle climate change from 2024-2045.

The Cabinet had approved an ambitious target for the Council to achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2045, for both direct (gas/water/fuel) and indirect (electricity) emissions, aligning with national targets for net-zero emissions as set out in the Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets)(Scotland) Act 2019.

The Get to Zero Action Plan was published in February 2024, setting out the actions that the Council would need to take to reduce emissions to meet those targets

A Get to Zero Board had been established in September 2024, chaired by the Director of Environment, consisting of officers from each Council department, HSCP and East Renfrewshire Community Leisure Trust. Its remit was detailed in the report.

Highlights of progress against Year 1 of the Get to Zero Action Plan were provided, with 53% of actions completed and 17% on track for completion. Further information was provided on those targets that had been pushed back to 2026/27, would not be completed or that had been cancelled due to changing circumstances.

The Year 2 plan was summarised in Appendix A to the report, with 68 actions to be started. Highlights of those actions were provided in the report.

It was confirmed that the Council was not on track to achieve its target of net-zero by 2045 based on current projections, therefore more action would be needed to try to reach the target. Projects and actions being taken to push the Council toward the 2045 target were detailed in the report, as well as actions that focused on property, which provided a significant opportunity to reduce emissions. Further actions relating to supply chain emissions were also detailed.

Cabinet welcomed the progress and clarified some concerns around the funding of initiatives to push forward the Get to Zero agenda.

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The Cabinet noted the updates on the Get to Zero Action Plan Delivery Plans for 2024/25 and 2025/26.

## **LITTER STRATEGY**

**1319.** The Cabinet considered a report by the Director of Environment seeking approval of a new Litter Strategy for East Renfrewshire, which set out the Council's approach on how it would work with communities and businesses to improve cleanliness of streets and open spaces in East Renfrewshire.

The report contained background information on the Council's approach to managing litter and fly tipping, going on to provide details on the new Litter Strategy, attached as Appendix 1 to the report.

The Strategy was framed against the three pillars of "A Place to Grow" and set out the Council's aims and ambitions for further improvement of East Renfrewshire's open spaces through direct action and engagement with local communities. This would involve participation of communities and Community Councils, local businesses and young people to help deliver meaningful and successful outcomes.

The report highlighted some of the actions that would take place to further this agenda, with a launch event planned to be held in Barrhead to reintroduce organised clean up events to East Renfrewshire, as well as the introduction of larger litter bins, with a review on the location of those bins to accompany the roll out.

An active programme of engagement with local communities would be rolled out across East Renfrewshire to encourage local participation.

Performance would be reviewed on an annual basis, with all outcomes and achievements reported back to Cabinet.

Cabinet welcomed the strategy, in particular the focus on community capacity building and working with Community Councils and other partners to push forward community engagement.

The Cabinet approved the Litter Strategy for East Renfrewshire, attached as Appendix 1 to the report.

CHAIR

**MINUTE**  
**of**  
**EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

**Minute of meeting, held at 10.00am in the Council Chamber, Council Headquarters, Giffnock on Thursday 25 September 2025.**

**Present:**

Councillor Andrew Anderson (Chair)  
Councillor Tony Buchanan  
Councillor Kate Campbell  
Councillor Julie Ann McHale

Councillor Colm Merrick  
Councillor Owen O'Donnell  
Ms Fiona Gilchrist  
Mr Des Morris

Councillor Anderson in the Chair

(\*) indicates remote attendance

**Attending:**

Mark Ratter, Director of Education; Janice Collins, Head of Education Services (Quality Improvement and Performance); Graeme Hay, Education Senior Manager Leading Change; Siobhan McColgan, Head of Education Services (Equality and Equity) and Lesleyann Burns, Democratic Services Officer.

**Also Attending:**

Jennifer Miller, Head Teacher, Thornliebank Primary School; Donna Jeffries, Head of Centre, McCready Family Centre; Yvonne Donaldson, Head Teacher, Netherlee Primary School and Nursery Class and Kelly Linn, Netherlee Primary School and Nursery Class.

**Apologies:**

Councillor Katie Pragnell, Councillor Gordon Wallace and Dorothy Graham.

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

**1320.** There were no declarations of interest intimated.

**EDUCATION SCOTLAND REPORT ON THORNLIEBANK PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**1321.** The Committee considered a report by the Director of Education informing members of the report produced by Education Scotland following its inspection of Thornliebank Primary School. A copy of the inspection report accompanied the report.

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The inspection had been carried out by Education Scotland in May 2025. It had covered key aspects of the work of the school and Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig (Gaelic Medium Education) and had identified particular strengths and areas for improvement using the Education Scotland short model for inspection.

In assessing the indicators of quality in the school, Education Scotland found 2 aspects of the work to be good: learning, teaching and assessment; and raising attainment and achievement.

Particular strengths highlighted by the inspection team included:

- Children are confident and articulate. They engage positively in their learning. They work well together, support one another and demonstrate the school's values well. Children are very proud of their school.
- The headteacher works effectively with the whole staff team to create a warm, welcoming and nurturing climate for learning. As a result, children feel safe, valued and cared for.
- Staff implement a range of high-quality interventions for children who require additional support in their learning. This is helping them to make improved progress in their learning.
- Children are making very good progress in developing their understanding of spoken Gàidhlig. They are supported very well by the teachers' skilful use of immersion approaches.

It was particularly pleasing that whilst in its infancy, the inspection team highlighted the high quality provision on offer from Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig.

Members all congratulated the head teacher on the report. The recommendations that were given in the report are already identified by the schools' self evaluation and form part of the action plan.

Having heard members commend the report, the Committee agreed:-

- (a) to note the content of the Education Scotland report on Thornliebank Primary School; and
- (b) to approve the action plan to address the agreed areas for improvement.

## **PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT AND ENGAGEMENT (PIE) STRATEGY 2025-28**

**1322.** The Committee considered a report updating them on the Parental Involvement and Engagement (PIE) Strategy 2025-28.

The report updated Elected Members on the approaches taken to meet the duties outlined in the Scottish Schools (Parental Involvement) Act 2006 in East Renfrewshire schools between 2022 and 2025, and to seek approval for the Parental Involvement and Engagement (PIE) Strategy 2025–2028.

The PIE Strategy 2022–2025 focused on three key aims: Communicate, Collaborate, and Consult. It was informed by extensive consultation and a PIE census involving over 1,100 parents.

The strategy had been developed through consultation with parents, Head Teachers, PIE Coordinators, Parent Council Chairs, and other stakeholders.

A presentation was given to the Members by Donna Jeffries, Yvonne Donaldson and Kelly Linn. They provided two excellent examples of how parental involvement and engagement has worked in their establishment and the difference that it has made to all involved.

Having heard members commend the report, the Committee agreed:-

- (a) to note the finding of the report (Appendix 1/2);
- (b) to approve the Parental Involvement and engagement Strategy 2025-2028; and
- (c) to the Director of Education supporting all educational establishments to implement this strategy.

### **DRAFT ACCESSIBILITY STRATEGY 2025-28**

**1323.** The Committee considered a report updating them on the approaches taken to improve accessibility for children and young people with additional support needs (ASN) in East Renfrewshire settings and schools, and to seek approval for the Accessibility Strategy 2025–2028.

The strategy set out the vision that Education planned to achieve, the progress made to date and agreed actions to further improve accessibility. It aimed to ensure those responsible for the delivery of education and ELC were aware of their legal duties and provided advice on how we will meet the accessibility planning duties as stated in the Education (Disability Strategies and pupils' Educational Records) (Scotland) Act 2002.

Between 2018 – 2025 several actions were taken forward to improve accessibility for children and young people with additional support needs in East Renfrewshire Council schools and ELC settings.

A review of the Accessibility Strategy will be undertaken in June 2028 to evaluate progress over the full three years and to identify new actions for the following three years. Measurement of progress will be informed by feedback and evidence provided by ELC settings and schools, through relevant quality improvement activity and by information provided by children and young people with additional support needs, including disability, and their families. A report on the impact of delivery over the three years will be reported to East Renfrewshire Education Committee in session 2028-29.

The question was asked of how people were consulted and who was consulted. It was confirmed that various groups were consulted ranging from pupil council, parent council chairs to focus groups and equalities parents groups which consisted off roughly 30 parents whom represented around 30 schools.

Having heard members commend the report, the Committee agreed:-

- (a) to note the progress made in advancing accessibility for learners with ASN in East Renfrewshire settings and schools;
- (b) to approve the Accessibility Strategy 2025-2028; and

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- (c) to the Director of Education supporting all educational establishments to implement this strategy.

## **WEST PARTNERSHIP COLLABORATIVE FRAMEWORK 2025-26**

**1324.** The Committee considered a report by the Director of Education on the contents of the West Partnership's Collaborative Framework 2025-26.

The report by Professors Chapman and Donaldson in March 2025 summarised the evidence generated over 7 years that had enabled the West Partnership to collaborate effectively.

The report also noted the importance of 'clarity of overall purpose allied to genuine delegated decision making and effective evaluation should be part of the approach to governance and leadership in any ongoing regional collaboration'. As such, the need for a clear framework and plan remains critical to ensure that ongoing collaboration is effective and makes a difference for practitioners, ELC settings and schools.

The West Partnership Collaborative Framework 2025-26 (Appendix 1) set out the key areas for collaborative action to bring about further improvement across the Glasgow City Region.

The 2025-26 Collaborative Framework was considered at the last West Partnership Overview Group meeting on 22 August 2025. This group, which comprised of Directors, Head teacher representatives and Professors Chapman and Donaldson, reviewed the framework and noted that it would be considered by each Council area through its own local governance arrangements.

Members vocalised that they were pleased to see this work was still being continued and enquired as to how this was being funded. The Director of Education advised that the 8 Directors agreed to a reduced staffing to allow this to continue and that each local authority contributes to this depending on the size of the population the authority covers, this means that ownership is more vital.

Education Committee noted the content of the West Partnership Collaborative Framework 2025-26.

## **PERFORMANCE PRESENTATION**

**1325.** The Committee considered a presentation on the performance of East Renfrewshire schools across the Broad General Education (BGE) and Senior Phase for the academic year 2024–25.

Members noted that East Renfrewshire continued to perform strongly in Curriculum for Excellence (CfE) attainment measures. In the BGE, the percentage of pupils achieving expected levels in literacy and numeracy remained consistently high. Although the national figures are not available, as yet, it is anticipated that the trend of being the highest performing local authority will remain., Stretch aims for literacy and numeracy were broadly met or exceeded, with equity gaps narrowing year-on-year.

Performance in the Senior Phase also showed significant progress. S4 pupils achieved record-breaking results in National 5 awards, with a marked increase in the proportion attaining 8 or more qualifications. S5 and S6 cohorts demonstrated resilience and growth, with

improvements in Higher and Advanced Higher outcomes. Insight tariff points analysis indicated a closing of the attainment gap across S4, S5 and S6 for all SIMD quintiles.

School leaver destination data highlighted that over 98% of pupils entered positive destinations, outperforming both the national and virtual comparator figures. Attendance rates in both primary and secondary sectors improved from 2023-24 to 2024-25.

The Committee welcomed the range of improvement case studies, including bespoke employability programmes and targeted support for care-experienced young people. Members commended the innovative approaches to supporting wellbeing, inclusion, and post-school transitions.

Education Scotland inspection findings were also shared, with East Renfrewshire schools receiving high ratings across key quality indicators. Stakeholder feedback reflected high levels of satisfaction among pupils, parents, and staff.

The Committee acknowledged the continued commitment of school leaders, staff, and partners in delivering high-quality learning experiences and improving outcomes for all learners. The Committee thanked Mrs Collins for an excellent presentation.

CHAIR



**MINUTE**  
**of**  
**AUDIT & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**Minute of meeting held at 1.00pm in the Council Chamber, Council Headquarters, Giffnock on 25 September 2025.**

**Present:**

Councillor Andrew Morrison (Chair)  
Councillor Tony Buchanan (Vice Chair)  
Councillor Paul Edlin

Councillor Annette Ireland  
Councillor David Macdonald \*

Councillor Morrison in the Chair

**Attending:**

Steven Quinn, Chief Executive; Louise Pringle, Director of Business Operations and Partnerships; Kirsty Stanners, Head of Finance (Chief Financial Officer); Kenny Markwick, Head of Operations; Kath McCormack, HR Manager; Paul Parsons, Corporate Finance Manager; Anthony Jenkins, Resilience Coordinator; Fiona Muir, Senior Auditor; Jennifer Greenshields, Chief Executive's Business Manager; Linda Hutchison, Senior Democratic Services Officer; and Bethany Mitchell, Assistant Democratic Services Officer.

**Also Attending:**

Rob Jones and Grace Scanlin, Ernst and Young.

**Apologies:**

Provost Mary Montague and Councillor Gordon Wallace.

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

**1326.** There were no declarations of interest intimated.

**CHAIR'S REPORT – VARIOUS ISSUES**

**1327.** The following matters were raised during the Chair's report:-

**(i) Meeting with External Auditor**

Councillor Morrison confirmed that, in line with the new arrangements implemented following the Committee's self-assessment, members of the Committee had attended a valuable meeting with representatives of the External Audit Team on 8 September, prior to the Committee considering the final Annual Accounts and draft Annual Audit Report. He clarified that all members of the Committee would be invited to the equivalent meeting with the External Auditor in 2026.

**(ii) Treasury Management Training**

Councillor Morrison reported that members of the Committee had been amongst the Elected Members who had attended a useful Treasury Management training session provided by the Council's Treasury Manager Advisors also on 8 September. He highlighted that discussions at that event have informed proposals, to be considered later in the meeting, on the way forward on the submission of reports to the Committee on Treasury Management.

**(iii) Annual Accounts**

Finally, in advance of the Committee's consideration of the Annual Accounts, on behalf of the Committee, he thanked all those involved in their preparation, including the Head of Finance (Chief Financial Officer), the Corporate Finance Manager and those working with them, and also the Council's External Auditors.

The Committee noted the report.

**IMPACT OF TAXATION AND MINIMUM UNIT PRICING ON DRUG AND ALCOHOL USE AMONGST YOUNG PEOPLE; DEBTOR MOVEMENTS BETWEEN YEARS; AND INVESTMENT RETURNS REGARDING STRATHCLYDE PENSION FUND - CLARIFICATION**

**1328.** Under reference to the Minute of the meeting of 8 May 2025 (Page 1161, Item 1201 refers) when comments on an Audit Scotland report on Alcohol and Drug Services had been considered and it had been agreed that further clarification be provided on the impact of taxation and minimum unit pricing on drug and alcohol use amongst young people; and the Minute of the meeting of 19 June (Page 1198, Item 1245 refers) when the Unaudited Accounts had been considered and it had been agreed to seek clarification on debtor movements between years and investment returns regarding Strathclyde Pension Scheme, the Committee considered a report by the Clerk summarising the clarification received and already circulated on the issues concerned.

The Committee noted the report.

**2024/25 ANNUAL ACCOUNTS AND DRAFT ANNUAL AUDIT REPORT FOR EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL**

**1329.** Under reference to the Minute of the meeting of 19 June 2025 (Page 1198, Item 1245 refers), when the Committee had noted the unaudited Annual Accounts for 2024/25 and that a report on the final Accounts and related documents would be submitted to a future meeting, the Committee considered a report by the Head of Finance (Chief Financial Officer) regarding the Annual Accounts for 2024/25; the associated draft Annual Audit Report prepared by the External Auditor which provided an overview of the main issues arising from the 2024/25 audit and would be issued in final form after the financial statements had been certified; and the associated Letter of Representation from the Council to the External Auditor.

The Council had received an audit certificate which was unqualified. It had operated within its operational budget, returning departmental surpluses totalling £2.5m in line with what had been reported to the Cabinet in March 2025. This was due mainly to staff turnover, and reductions in both utility costs and anticipated departmental restructuring costs. In addition, the Council had received additional income and earned increased interest on temporary investment balances, partially offset by increased costs relating to homelessness and temporary accommodation pressures.

The £2.5m underspend had enabled the transfer of £1m to the Capital Reserve, with £1.5m retained in the un-earmarked General Reserve. This equated to 2.7% of the overall 2024/25 budgeted net revenue expenditure and 2.5% of the 2025/26 budgeted net revenue expenditure which was within the recommended range of 2%-4%.

The Council's overall General Fund reserve balances at 31 March 2025 totalled £45.852m, this being an increase of £4.086m from the previous year and comparable with the budgeted position of a reduction of £8.477m representing an improved in-year position of £12.563m, reasons for which were summarised.

Capital expenditure of £64.760m had been invested across both General Fund and Housing Revenue Account (HRA) projects.

Finally, the report commented on the draft Annual Audit Report which made reference to International Standard on Auditing (ISA) 260 matters to those charged with governance, and the Letter of Representation, copies of both of which were appended to the report.

The Head of Finance (Chief Financial Officer) referred to key aspects of the report, highlighting that the deadline of 30 September for the preparation of the Accounts, which were unqualified, had been met, and commending both the Accountancy Team and officers across the Council who had contributed to this achievement. Having welcomed the comments made within the Annual Audit Report and highlighted that only a small number of recommendations had been made all of which had been graded as either medium or low, she thanked the External Audit team for their work.

In response to Councillor Ireland, the Head of Finance (Chief Financial Officer) clarified that the reduction in employee numbers was covered in the report on redundancy and early retirement to be considered later in the meeting. She quantified, approximately, what 2.5% of the 2025/26 budgeted net revenue expenditure was in monetary terms. In response to Councillor Edlin, she explained that nothing required to be incorporated in the Annual Accounts, in terms of accountancy requirements, to take account of net zero environmental targets.

In response to Councillor Morrison, the Chief Executive confirmed that arrangements were in hand to publicise the Council's whistle blowing policy on the internet.

Mr Jones referred to key messages in the draft Annual Audit Report which was essentially complete, during which he commented on the Annual Accounts which he confirmed were supported by working papers of a good quality. He also referred to the good level of support the External Audit team had received from officers, and issues regarding the valuation of property, plant and equipment resolved during the audit. Whilst commenting on the assessment of the wider scope audit responsibilities referred to in the draft Annual Audit Report, such as on financial responsibility and financial management, Mr Jones highlighted ongoing challenges for the Council regarding financial sustainability on which work was continuing to be progressed by the Council. He also referred to the 2024/25 recommendations itemised in the Action Plan in Appendix E and highlighted various issues summarised in other appendices.

In response to Councillor Morrison who referred to the Accounts Commission's concerns regarding exit package decisions for senior officers in Glasgow City Council as published in a recent report, Mr Jones confirmed that the Accounts Commission had written to all local authorities regarding the findings but had not indicated any intention to progress any follow-up work at an individual local authority level. Having heard him clarify that the External Audit team always completed some work locally on exit packages, the Chief Executive confirmed that the Accounts Commission's September 2025 report had been noted, expressed confidence that processes for such payments in East Renfrewshire were in line with the

recommendations made, but explained that it was intended to submit a report on this issue to the Committee in November to offer Elected Members clarity and reassurance on this.

The Committee agreed to:-

- (a) note the draft Annual Audit Report to the Council and Controller of Audit 2024/25 which made reference to International Standard on Auditing 260 to those charged with governance;
- (b) note the content of the Council's Annual Accounts for 2024/25, including the Management Commentary, Annual Governance Statement, Accounting Policies and Audit Certificate;
- (c) note the Letter of Representation; and
- (d) remit the report to the Council for consideration.

### **AMENDMENT TO TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY FOR 2025/26**

**1330.** Under reference to the Minute of the meeting of 20 February 2025 (Page 1087, Item 1118 refers), when it had been agreed to recommend to the Council that the Treasury Management Strategy for 2025/26 and policy on the repayment of loans fund advances be approved, the Committee considered a report by the Head of Finance (Chief Financial Officer) regarding proposed amendments to the Strategy.

Having confirmed that, in line with the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Treasury Management Code of Practice 2021, the Audit and Scrutiny Committee was responsible for ensuring effective scrutiny of the Council's treasury management strategy and policies, the report itemised reports that required to be submitted to the Committee annually. It also referred to CIPFA best practice guidance on undertaking quarterly monitoring of Prudential Indicators, explaining that this was intended to be scalable and aimed at local authorities with more complicated or higher risk strategies than the Council. Consequently the report recommended that the section of the Strategy for 2025/26 relating to reporting be amended to state that reporting would be three times per annum which still met the requirements of the Code and was a more proportional approach. It was clarified that the level of internal monitoring undertaken by the Finance Team would not reduce, and that the revised approach would create capacity in the Finance Team to provide a greater level of support to Council directorates around capital strategy, planning and monitoring.

The Corporate Finance Manager highlighted key aspects of the report, during which he confirmed that, subject to the proposed changes being approved, the four interim reports currently submitted to the Committee would be replaced by one mid-year report, with many internal controls remaining in place regarding the Treasury Management function.

Having heard members of the Committee express support for the proposed way forward, in response to Councillor Ireland, the Head of Finance (Chief Financial Officer) confirmed that there was no threshold for reviewing the arrangements again, and highlighted key aspects of the justification for the proposed change of approach.

The Committee:-

- (a) agreed to **recommend to the Council** that the amended Treasury Management Strategy for 2025/26 be approved; and
- (b) noted that this would allow a more proportional approach to be adopted that continued to meet the requirements of the CIPFA Code of Practice.

## **ANNUAL SICKNESS ABSENCE REPORT 2024/25**

**1331.** Under reference to the Minute of the meeting of 26 September 2024 (Page 954, Item 965 refers), when the position on absence management during 2023/24 had been discussed, the Committee considered a report by the Director of Business Operations and Partnerships providing an update on the Council's annual sickness and performance indicator (PI) data for 2024/25.

The report explained that, Council wide, sickness days per full time equivalent (FTE) employee had reduced from 11 days in 2023/24 to 10.3 days in 2024/25, which was due to a one-day reduction in local government employee (LGE) absence and a minimal increase in teacher absence. A range of related data was provided, including on a reduction in the number of full-time equivalent days lost per employee on Local Government terms and conditions in 2024/25 compared to 2023/24, teacher absence, and the top reasons for absence and days lost in terms of each of these. Having confirmed that Local Government Benchmarking Framework data for 2024/25 was not yet available from the Improvement Service, the report explained that the position for teachers was expected to be similar to 2023/24 but that, compared to 2023/24, East Renfrewshire was expected to be better placed than 16<sup>th</sup> for Local Government employees for 2024/25. The report also referred to sickness absence related research, the continued focus placed on addressing sickness absence issues, and both occupational health and employee assistance referrals.

The report concluded that sickness absence levels remained high but, with the introduction of the revised Policy improvements, a reduction in the overall absence was being witnessed.

Whilst commenting on the report, the HR Manager highlighted statistics referred to within it, the top reasons for sickness absence, and the revised and simplified arrangements for reporting absence. She referred to resource allocated to focus on reducing absence in services with high levels of it following the successful implementation of a trial initiative in the Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) which demonstrated a measurable reduction in absence. She also referred to the role of the Health and Wellbeing Officer, and other actions being taken to help address absence issues.

In reply to Councillor Ireland, the HR Manager clarified that actions taken in respect of the HSCP to address absence included putting Sickness Absence Panels in place, checking that return to work interviews were taking place, and supporting managers and employees regarding the return to work process. In reply to Councillor Morrison, she confirmed that the same approach was now being taken in the Environment Department which, like the HSCP, had many employees who were not office based.

In response to Councillor Macdonald, she provided further clarification on days lost due to sickness for different types of employees, following which reference was made to the information provided in Figures 2 and 3 of the report which had been requested by the Committee to provide context and clarity on issues.

Councillor Buchanan, supported by Councillor Morrison, referred to the impact on absence statistics of a small number of employees who were absent due to ill-health on a long-term basis. He welcomed the improvements reported and stressed the importance of supporting

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employees, following which Councillor Edlin also commended the work being done including in respect of teachers.

The Committee agreed to note the report and related comments made.

## **SUMMARY OF EARLY RETIREMENT/ REDUNDANCY COSTS TO 31 MARCH 2025**

**1332.** Under reference to the Minute of the meeting of 21 November 2024 (Page 1023, Item 1048 refers), when early retirals/redundancies to 31 March 2024 had been discussed, the Committee considered a report by the Director of Business Operations and Partnerships summarising the position on early retirement/redundancy costs from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025 and related issues. Information on the total costs incurred and projected savings was provided.

It was reiterated that the Accounts Commission's September 2025 report on exit packages in Glasgow City Council had been noted, that confidence existed that the Council's processes for such payments were in line with the recommendations made in that report, but that it was intended to submit a report on the matter to the Committee to provided clarity and reassurance.

The Committee, having heard Councillor Morrison welcome the intention to submit a report to the Committee on exit packages, noted the report.

## **REVIEW OF STRATEGIC RISK REGISTER**

**1333.** Under reference to the Minute of the meeting of 27 March 2025 (Page 1120, Item 1161 refers), when the position on the Strategic Risk Register (SRR) and related issues had been noted, the Committee considered a report by the Chief Executive regarding the most recent biannual update of the Register, and presenting the reformatted SRR, the newly introduced Strategic Issues Log, and the draft Risk Management Policy.

The report referred to the Council's current approach to risk management and its review by the Corporate Management Team (CMT), confirming that the SRR appended to the report itemised key strategic risks considered and actions identified to manage these. It was explained that in 2025 an update was being made to the Council's Risk Management Framework and Risk Management Strategy, combining these into a single Risk Management Policy. The SRR was also being updated to reflect *A Place to Grow*, and a Strategic Issues Log was being introduced to distinguish between risks and issues, the definition of and further information on which was provided. The CMT had also agreed to move to a 5 by 5 scoring matrix which was consistent with the HSCP's approach. Reference was made to an Elected Members Risk Management Workshop which had taken place in August 2025 focussing on key risk management principles and practices and the new direction to be followed under the Risk Management Policy.

There were now eight risks within the SRR, five of which were deemed to be very high, and three issues within the Strategic Issues log. Although this represented a reduction from 13 reported in March, this was due to risks being combined rather than removed. A summary of the changes made was provided.

Having commented on the development of the Risk Management Policy, a draft of which was appended to the report, the report referred to horizon scanning which had been raised at a previous meeting of the Committee and was reflected in the Policy, the intention being to have annual conversations on this within the context of the annual World Economic Forum risk reporting, typically published at the start of the calendar year. The report confirmed that inclusion on four potential risks or issues for escalation to the SRR or Strategic Issues Log

would be considered by the CMT in early October. Although the next update on the SRR was scheduled to be submitted to the Committee in Spring 2026, recognising that the Risk Management Policy was being developed for approval by the end of 2025, it was intended that further communications would take place with the Committee on the adoption of the Policy and planned risk reviews.

Whilst commenting on various key issues, the Resilience Coordinator clarified that there remained a gap in the SRR and Strategic Issues Log on the risk type field which would be amended, and highlighted that he would circulate an update to members of the Committee on Risk 2.2 of the SRR as some information on this had been omitted or needed to be updated in terms of control measures. Amongst other things he commented on the new 5 by 5 risk scoring matrix, the merging of some risks, and the intention to submit an updated risk management policy to the Cabinet in November for approval, on which members of the Committee would be updated. He itemised the 4 areas the CMT would consider for inclusion in the SRR or Strategic Issues Log on which feedback would be provided, emphasising that some were already recognised at departmental level. He also referred to the intention to raise horizon scanning in the next report to be submitted to the Committee in Spring 2026, but clarified that, meantime, other opportunities to enable members of the Committee to raise and discuss views on this would be explored.

The Committee, having heard Councillor Morrison welcome the development of opportunities for members of the Committee to be involved in discussions on horizon scanning, noted the development of the Council's Strategic Risk Register and Strategic Issues Log, both of which were considered to be live documents and would be updated and amended by the Corporate Management Team.

## **LOCAL EXTERNAL AUDIT REPORT – BEST VALUE THEMATIC REPORT – TRANSFORMATION: HOW COUNCILS ARE REDESIGNING AND DELIVERING MORE EFFICIENT SERVICES TO ACHIEVE PLANNED OUTCOMES**

**1334.** The Committee considered a Best Value Thematic Report by the External Auditor on Transformation: How Councils are Redesigning and Delivering More Efficient Services to Achieve Planned Outcomes. The report explained that, under the Code of Audit Practice June 2021, External Auditors had been tasked with performing an annual programme of work in relation to Best Value and wider scope responsibilities, including reviews based on annual thematic Best Value topics prescribed by the Accounts Commission.

For 2024/25, the Commission had directed auditors to report on transformation. Key conclusions were provided against four questions posed by the Commission. These questions covered to what extent the Council has clear plans for transformation that link to its priorities and support long-term financial sustainability; do the Council's programme management arrangements facilitate effective oversight of its transformation plans; are partners involved in the development and delivery of the Council's plans for transformation; and has the Council considered the impact of its transformation activity, including on vulnerable or protected groups.

Three recommendations had been made, and accepted, on the Council ensuring that projects are not closed until business change is completed; it assessing the effectiveness of planned changes to reporting arrangements to ensure that it meets the needs of Elected Members; and project closure reports, including specific consideration of the outcomes for vulnerable communities and service users.

Whilst commenting on the report, Ms Scanlin highlighted that, as the Accounts Commission set the questions for the topic under review, a consistent approach was taken across local authorities in identifying good practice, clarifying that a single overview report would also be prepared to complement those prepared for each authority. Having referred to the overall

positive nature of the report, regarding the third recommendation she highlighted, as an example, reaps benefits arising from the review of the revenues and benefits service as the self-service option used by some residents now allowed time to be freed up to focus support on where it was needed most.

In response to Councillor Ireland, Ms Scanlin confirmed that impact assessments had been done for all projects, including the impact on vulnerable groups, following which the Director of Business Operations and Partnerships clarified that equality impact assessments were central to change projects and had been considered in terms of the revised Digital Strategy that would be the subject of a report to the Cabinet prior to the end of 2025. She clarified that residents still had options regarding how they wished to interface with the Council on services rather than options having been withdrawn, and that building capacity to provide support where it was needed most was considered key. She reminded the Committee that it had had an opportunity to discuss a report in November 2024 on the local position relative to the recommendations in the Audit Scotland report on *Tackling Digital Exclusion*.

Having heard Councillor Buchanan welcomed the findings of the report and that various contact options for support were continuing to be provided, he stressed that some projects took time to reap rewards in full. Referring to the case study cited in the report regarding the revenue and benefits service and responding to related questions, the Director of Business Operations commented that the provision of an online service was beneficial for both the Council and residents, describing work to encourage use of Council Tax Online as an ongoing journey and adding that take-up of this option was greatest amongst those moving into the area and residents with a change of circumstances which resulted in them engaging with the Council.

The Committee agreed to note the report and the related recommendations and Action Plan.

## **NATIONAL EXTERNAL AUDIT REPORT – SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT – REDUCING CAR USE**

**1335.** The Committee considered a report by the Clerk on the publication in January 2025 of a report by Audit Scotland entitled *Sustainable Transport – Reducing Car Use*. Under the Committee's specialisation arrangements, Councillor Ireland was leading the review of the report. The Director of Environment had been asked to provide comments, and a copy of the feedback was appended to the report.

It was clarified that in 2019 the Scottish Government had set a target of reducing the number of car kilometres driven by 20% by 2030, but that this had been revoked in April 2025 following the publication of the Audit Scotland report which highlighted failings in the approach taken, and concluded that the target set was unlikely to be met. The report explained that, in June 2025, a renewed policy statement had been issued by the Scottish Government outlining a revised target of 6% by 2035 and the related approach to be taken.

The report provided an overview of the Audit Scotland report, the revised policy statement, and the actions ongoing by the Council to support the Scottish Government's objectives. Issues commented on included car usage in East Renfrewshire, local considerations, and the renewed Scottish Government Policy Statement on achieving car use reduction in Scotland. Whilst commenting on action being taken in East Renfrewshire to reduce car journeys, reference was made to the Local Transport Strategy (LTS), recent statutory consultation on a 20 mph speed limit on residential streets, neighbourhood Traffic Management Zones, Active Travel Corridors, and the Parking Strategy.

It was concluded that officers would monitor the development of the updated policy statement and action plans arising from the Audit Scotland report. Although the Council recognised the

need to reduce car kilometres travelled and the benefits this would bring, there needed to be a just transition which did not disproportionately impact on those who are economically disadvantaged, or who lived in rural or remote areas that did not benefit from viable alternatives to car travel.

In response to questions, the Head of Operations referred to ongoing discussions at a national level on reducing car use, time needed to deliver bus and rail infrastructure improvements, and the role of active traffic corridors in helping to deliver change. He confirmed that the aim of the Scottish Government's Strategy was to reduce car use, not the use of vans or lorries so this would not impact on the local economy. He confirmed that the Council was not aware of any interim targets being set, and that engagement between the Council and Transport Scotland would be required on various issues. Regarding the need to balance achieving public transport improvements with progressing active travel corridors, the Head of Environment commented on the Local Transport Strategy (LTS) currently under development which would set out East Renfrewshire's high level policy approach to transport up to 2035 supported by a delivery framework, referring to various emerging priorities. He confirmed that liaison with Strathclyde Passenger for Transport and Transport Scotland was required on the LTS, that a report on consultation on the LTS would be submitted to the Cabinet in the near future, and that a report on the Strategy would be submitted to the Council early in 2026. Reference was made to the impact of working from home on car use.

The Committee agreed to note the report and the related comments made.

CHAIR



**MINUTE**  
**of**  
**EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL**

**Minute of meeting held at 5.00pm in the Council Chamber, Council Headquarters, Giffnock on 25 September 2025.**

**Present:**

Councillor Andrew Anderson  
Councillor Tony Buchanan  
Deputy Provost Kate Campbell  
Councillor Danny Devlin(\*)  
Councillor Paul Edlin  
Councillor Annette Ireland  
Councillor Chris Lunday(\*)  
Councillor Julie Ann McHale

Councillor Colm Merrick  
Provost Mary Montague  
Councillor David Macdonald(\*)  
Councillor Julieann McHale  
Councillor Jim McLean  
Councillor Andrew Morrison  
Councillor Owen O'Donnell (Leader)

Provost Montague in the Chair

**Attending:**

Steven Quinn, Chief Executive; Alexis Chappell, Chief Officer, Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP); Caitriona McAuley, Director of Environment; Louise Pringle, Director of Business Operations and Partnerships; Kirsty Stanners, Head of Finance (Chief Financial Officer); Gerry Mahon, Chief Officer (Legal and Procurement); Siobhan McColgan, Head of Education Services (Equality and Equity); Barry Tudhope, Democratic Services Manager; Colin Hutton, Senior Communications Officer; Jennifer Greenshields, Chief Executive's Business Manager; Paul Parsons, Principal Account; John Burke, Democratic Services Officer; and Bethany Mitchell, Assistant Democratic Services Officer.

**Also Attending:**

Rob Jones, Ernst & Young

(\*) indicates remote attendance.

**Apologies:**

Councillors Caroline Bamforth, Angela Convery, Katie Pragnell and Gordon Wallace.

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

**1336.** There were no declarations of interest intimated.

**2024/25 ANNUAL ACCOUNTS AND DRAFT ANNUAL AUDIT REPORT FOR EAST RENFRESHIRE COUNCIL**

**1337.** Under reference to the minute of the meeting of the Audit and Scrutiny Committee held earlier that day (Page 1268 , Item refers 1329) the Committee considered a report by the Head of Finance (Chief Financial Officer) regarding the Annual Accounts for 2024/25; the associated draft Annual Audit Report prepared by the External Auditor, which provided an overview of the main issues arising from the 2024/25 audit and would be issued in final form after the financial statements had been certified; and the associated Letter of Representation from the Council to the External Auditor.

The Council had received an unqualified audit certificate. It had operated within its operation budget, returning departmental surpluses totalling £2.5m, with the main drivers behind this detailed in the report.

Transfers of £1m had been made to the Capital Reserve, as anticipated in the Revenue Estimates report, leaving the balance of £1.5m in the Council's un-earmarked General Reserve, which equated to 2.7% of the overall net budgeted revenue expenditure, which was in accordance with the Council's reserves policy to hold a minimum of 2%.

Details were also provided on the Council's overall reserve balances and capital expenditure.

A copy of the Letter of Representation from the Council to Ernst & Young, the external auditors, was attached as Appendix 2 to the report for the Council's consideration.

The Council agreed to:-

- (a) approve the Council's Annual Accounts for 2024/25, including the Management Commentary, Annual Governance Statement, Accounting Policies and Audit Certificate, for signature on behalf of the Council;
- (b) noted the draft 2024/25 Annual Audit Report, including the related Action Plan, the finalised copy of which would be circulated to Elected Members; and
- (c) approved for signature the Letter of Representation to be sent from the Council to Ernst & Young.

**QUESTIONS TO CONVENERS OF WHICH NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN**

**1338.** The Council heard questions submitted to the Leader of the Council, Convener for Health and Social Care and Convener of Education.

Councillor Morrison submitted the following question to the Leader of the Council:-

*"To ask the relevant Convener for a progress update on the survey undertaken to tackle poor mobile phone coverage in Newton Mearns, and wider East Renfrewshire, following announcement on 6th March 2025 of a partnership with Glasgow City Region to install surveying equipment to East Renfrewshire Council refuse collection vehicles."*

The Leader of the Council responded to the question, indicating that the survey of mobile phone coverage that had been announced earlier in the year was part of a Glasgow City Region programme, known as the Smart and Connected Social Places Programme. He provided some details of that programme and the projects involved in it. He indicated that the survey was the largest of its type in Scotland.

A handout was circulated, giving details of the outcome of that survey, with areas of low signal highlighted. Those areas of poor coverage had been flagged to mobile phone providers.

The providers had indicated that coverage was expected to increase through use of shared infrastructure and a follow-up survey was planned, with timescales to be agreed.

East Renfrewshire Council would continue to liaise with the dedicated Telecoms Unit within Glasgow City Council to address areas of poor coverage to address any issues.

Councillor Morrison asked, as a supplementary question, if the Leader would undertake to hold the networks responsible for areas of poor coverage. The Leader responded that the Council could only influence decision making in this area and, working at City Region level, would continue to work to influence those decisions to address any problems that arose.

Councillor Macdonald submitted the following question to the Convener for Health and Social Care:-

*"Can you provide a progress update for the financial assessments being carried out for the introduction of charges for adult social care?"*

The Leader, on behalf of Councillor Pragnell, Convenor of Health and Social Care, who had submitted apologies to the meeting, stated that extensive engagement had been carried out with residents through drop-in sessions, written and video communications; as well as collaboration with third sector providers. There had also been staff training and development of robust processes around the administration of those assessments.

Elected members had received a briefing session on the topic on 23 September 2025, in preparation for the forthcoming paper to Council on the subject.

It was reported that income maximisation work had, on average, seen an annual income increase in excess of £5,000 and, for some, significantly more. The Leader thanked the Council's Money Advice and Rights Team (MART) for their work in assisting HSCP in carrying out the financial assessments.

Of the 515 people identified as being in scope for charging, it was noted that all had received three letters, over 100 had engaged with drop-in and other sessions, 67 had contacted MART for financial assessment and 15 of those assessments had been completed with the remainder still in progress.

The Leader noted that, despite significant efforts to engage, there had been understandable reluctance to fully engage with the financial assessments at the time, with many users waiting for a full and final decision before disclosing any financial details.

A comprehensive report would be presented to Council in October with papers published on the Council website on 14 October.

Councillor MacDonald asked, as a supplementary question, if financial estimates revealed if the charging policy had yielded the revenues expected.

The Leader, and Chief Officer – HSCP, clarified that the outcome had been in line with what was previously stated.

Councillor Macdonald submitted the following question to the Convenor of Education:-

*"Does the Convener of Education recognise that allowing smartphones in our schools is causing our young people a great deal of unnecessary harm both to their mental health and*

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*to the quality of the education they receive in the classroom and is obstructing educators from carrying out their jobs properly?"*

Councillor Anderson, the Convener of Education, stated that the Council currently had a live consultation ongoing where children and young people, as well as parents, carers and school staff were being asked to share their views around mobile phone use in East Renfrewshire schools. Councillor Anderson detailed some of the key themes of that presentation and acknowledged the strength of feeling on the topic, with over 5,000 responses received with just over a week of the consultation still to run.

Councillor Anderson went on to discuss some of the benefits and drawbacks of mobile phone use in schools, referring to various studies and articles that had been produced discussing the topic. He noted that a wide range of evidence had been made available on both sides of the argument.

Councillor Anderson stressed the importance of the role of families in shaping digital habits and the- need to hear the voices of the community before making any decisions. However, he reassured the Council that a range of data, including external scrutiny, highlighted the overall wellbeing and educational experience of children and young people in East Renfrewshire continued to be an area of focus. He provided details of some recent inspections which had shown very good and excellent practices across the Council area.

Councillor Anderson looked forward to the outcome of the consultation and seeing how it translated into policy, encouraging anyone who had not yet engaged with the consultation to do so.

Councillor MacDonald asked, as a supplementary question, what the likely outcome would be in terms of policy changes.

Councillor Anderson, and the Head of Education Services (Equality and Equity) responded that they would have to wait to see the outcome of the consultation before making any decision in that respect. However, scrutiny on those outcomes would be given by the Education Committee.

PROVOST

**MINUTE**  
**of**  
**LOCAL REVIEW BODY**

**Minute of meeting held at 2.30pm in the Ballroom, Eastwood House, Eastwood Park, Giffnock on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2025.**

**Present:**

Councillor Jim McLean (Chair)	Councillor Paul Edlin
Councillor Annette Ireland (Vice Chair)(*)	Councillor Andrew Morrison
Councillor Angela Convery(*)	

Councillor McLean in the Chair

**Attending:**

Michaela Sullivan, Head of Place(\*); Mark Brand, Planning Adviser; Nicola McEleny, Solicitor; and John Burke, Democratic Services Officer.

(\*) denotes remote attendance

**Apologies:**

Councillor Chris Lunday and Provost Mary Montague.

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

**1339.** No interests were declared.

The Chair advised that site visits had been held prior to the meeting.

**NOTICE OF REVIEW – REVIEW 2025/07 – CONSTRUCTION OF A DETACHED PRIVATE DWELLING AND ACCESS AT SITE SOUTH OF WYCHWOOD, HAZELDEN ROAD, MEARNSKIRK. (REF NO:- 2025/0129/TP).**

**1340.** The Local Review Body considered a report by the Director of Business Operations and Partnerships relative to a 'Notice of Review' submitted by Mr & Mrs Alistair and Fiona Miller against the decision taken by officers to refuse planning permission in respect of the construction of a detached private dwelling and access at a site south of Wychwood, Hazelden Road, Mearnskirik.

The decision had been made in accordance with the Council's Scheme of Delegation made in terms of Section 43A of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 as amended.

The Local Review Body, having considered the information previously circulated, agreed that it had sufficient information to determine the review without further procedure.

The Planning Adviser outlined the planning application and reasons for refusal as determined by the Appointed Officer in the decision notice and the applicant's grounds for review.

The Planning Adviser further outlined the proposed condition to be attached to any consent in the event the Local Review Body overturned the decision of the Appointed Officer and granted planning permission.

Discussion took place, particularly around the construction of the site on greenbelt and the granting of a previous application within the area.

Following the discussion, and having heard from the Planning Adviser, the Local Review Body agreed that the Appointed Officer's decision be upheld and planning permission refused for the reasons given in the Report of Handling.

**NOTICE OF REVIEW – REVIEW 2025/08 – ERECTION OF SINGLE STOREY REAR EXTENSION AT 39 TIREE PLACE, NEWTON MEARNs, G77 6UJ. (REF NO:- 2025/0235/TP).**

**1341.** The Local Review Body considered a report by the Director of Business Operations and Partnerships relative to a 'Notice of Review' submitted by Mr and Mrs Antonio Maloku against the decision taken by officers to refuse planning permission in respect of the erection of a single storey rear extension at 39 Tiree Place, Newton Mearns.

The decision had been made in accordance with the Council's Scheme of Delegation made in terms of Section 43A of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 as amended.

The Local Review Body, having considered the information previously circulated, agreed that it had sufficient information to determine the review without further procedure.

The Planning Adviser outlined the planning application and reasons for refusal as determined by the Appointed Officer in the decision notice and the applicant's grounds for review.

The Planning Adviser further outlined the proposed conditions to be attached to any consent in the event the Local Review Body overturned the decision of the Appointed Officer and granted planning permission.

Discussion took place, particularly around the footprint of the original build as compared to the proposed footprint following erection of the extension.

Following the discussion, and having heard from the Planning Adviser, the Local Review Body agreed that the Appointed Officer's decision be upheld and planning permission refused for the reasons given in the Report of Handling.

**NOTICE OF REVIEW – REVIEW 2025/09 – ERECTION OF A REAR SINGLE STOREY SUN LOUNGE EXTENSION AT 14 WIGTON AVENUE, NEWTON MEARNs, G77 6JG. (REF NO:- 2025/0166/TP).**

**1342.** The Local Review Body considered a report by the Director of Business Operations and Partnerships relative to a 'Notice of Review' submitted by Mrs A Asif against the decision taken by officers to refuse planning permission in respect of the erection of a rear single storey sun lounge extension at 14 Wigton Avenue, Newton Mearns..

The decision had been made in accordance with the Council's Scheme of Delegation made in terms of Section 43A of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 as amended.

The Local Review Body, having considered the information previously circulated, agreed that it had sufficient information to determine the review without further procedure.

The Planning Adviser outlined the planning application and reasons for refusal as determined by the Appointed Officer in the decision notice and the applicant's grounds for review.

The Planning Adviser further outlined the proposed conditions to be attached to any consent in the event the Local Review Body overturned the decision of the Appointed Officer and granted planning permission.

Discussion took place, particularly around the planning consent that had previously been granted for a smaller sun lounge extension at this location.

Following the discussion, and having heard from the Planning Adviser, the Local Review Body agreed that the Appointed Officer's decision be upheld and planning permission refused for the reasons given in the Report of Handling.

**NOTICE OF REVIEW – REVIEW 2025/10 – ERECTION OF 3 TWO STOREY DWELLINGS WITH ASSOCIATED ACCESS AT TREESIDE COTTAGE, AYR ROAD, NEWTON MEARNS, G77 6RT. (REF NO:- 2025/0123/TP).**

**1343.** The Local Review Body considered a report by the Director of Business Operations and Partnerships relative to a 'Notice of Review' submitted by Mr Robin Ghosh against the non-determination of a planning application in respect of the erection of 3 two storey dwellings with associated access at Treeside Cottage, Ayr Road, Newton Mearns, G77 6RT.

The appeal related to a non-determination, where the Planning Department had not determined the application within the required timescale, with the Applicant deciding to, therefore, proceed to a review.

The Local Review Body, having considered the information previously circulated, and following discussion, agreed that it had sufficient information to determine the review without further procedure.

The Planning Adviser outlined the planning application and reasons for the non-determination as provided by the appointed officer, which related to the non-submission of a noise assessment for the site. The Planning Adviser also detailed the applicant's grounds for review.

The Planning Adviser further outlined the proposed conditions to be attached to any consent in the event the Local Review Body overturned the decision of the Appointed Officer and granted planning permission.

Discussion took place, particularly around the requirement of a noise impact assessment and the fact that the application was for planning permission in principle.

Following the discussion, and having heard from the Planning Adviser, the Local Review Body agreed that the application be approved and planning permission in principle granted, subject to the following conditions:

*1. The development hereby approved must be begun not later than the expiration of 5 years beginning with the date on which the permission is granted.*

*Reason: To comply with the provisions of Section 59 of The Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997, as amended.*

*2. Development shall not commence until an application for an approval of matters specified in conditions has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Planning Authority relating to the proposed site layout. The proposed layout shall be shown on a plan at a scale of 1:500 or 1:200 showing existing and proposed site levels, the positions of the dwellinghouses, the positions of the driveways/parking areas, the garden ground as well as any hardsurfaced areas.*

*Thereafter the matters that are approved shall be implemented in their approved form.*

*Reason: To ensure the Planning Authority has the necessary information to determine the application and to ensure the matters are acceptable at this location.*

*3. Development shall not commence until an application for an approval of matters specified in conditions has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Planning Authority relating to the proposed floor plans and elevations of these dwellinghouses to be erected on site and shall show dimensions as well as the type and colour of all external materials.*

*Thereafter the matters that are approved shall be implemented in their approved form.*

*4. For the avoidance of doubt the applications in relation to Conditions 2 and 3 above shall allow for the following:*

- i) The parking provision must be provided in line with the requirements set out in East Renfrewshire Council's Good Practice Guide For Residential Development Roads.*
- ii) The design and layout of the driveways and any visitor parking bays should be provided as per East Renfrewshire Council's Good Practice Guide For Residential Development Roads.*
- iii) The new road shall be a minimum of 5.5 metres wide, to accommodate two way traffic.*
- iv) A 2 metre minimum wide footway on at least on one side of the new road is required.*
- v) The visibility splay at the proposed junction between the development and Malletsheugh Road is required to be 2.5 metres x 90 metres x 1.05 metres.*
- vi) To ensure an adequate and safe inter-visibility between vehicles exiting from a driveway and pedestrians on the adjacent footway, visibility splays of 2 metres x 5 metres should be provided and thereafter maintained in perpetuity at either side of the driveway.*
- vii) In relation to the servicing of the development a swept path analysis will be required to demonstrate that service/refuse vehicles can safely access the development without over-run of the adjacent footway.*
- viii) Visibility splays of 2 metres x 20 metres x 1.05 metres must be provided between individual driveways and the new road.*
- ix) A turning area being provided within the site.*

*Reason: To ensure the Planning Authority has the necessary information to determine the application and to ensure the matters are acceptable at this location.*

5. For the avoidance of doubt the applications in relation to Conditions 2 and 3 above shall be accompanied with a Noise Impact Assessment and Air Quality Assessment to demonstrate that the position of each dwellinghouse in the site as well as their internal layouts and any mitigation measures have been informed by the conclusions/recommendations of the Assessments.

*Reason:* To ensure the Planning Authority has the necessary information to determine the application and to ensure the matters are acceptable at this location and that acceptable noise levels within each dwellinghouse can be achieved and the impact of air quality is acceptable.

6. Development shall not commence until an application for an approval of matters specified in conditions has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Planning Authority relating to all walls (including retaining walls) and fences (including any acoustic fences) to be erected on site.

Thereafter the matters that are approved shall be implemented in their approved form.

*Reason:* To ensure the Planning Authority has the necessary information to determine the application and to ensure the matters are acceptable at this location.

7. The principles of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) for the surface water regime shall be incorporated into the development. Development shall not commence until an application for an approval of matters specified in conditions has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Planning Authority relating to details of the surface water management and SUDS proposals. The maximum outflow from the development site into any relevant outfall should not exceed 8 l/s/ha. Thereafter the surface water management details shall be fully be implemented in their approved form.

*Reason:* To ensure the Planning Authority has the necessary information to determine the application and in the interests of sustainable development.

8. Development shall not commence until an application for an approval of matters specified in conditions has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Planning Authority relating to a scheme setting out the measurements to be put in place as required by Policy E1 (Sustainable Design) of the adopted Local Development Plan 2. The said scheme shall include any phasing details as necessary.

Thereafter the matters that are approved shall be implemented in their approved form.

*Reason:* In order for the Planning Authority to determine the application and to ensure the development complies with Policy E1 of the adopted Local Development Plan 2.

9. There shall be no construction work or offloading of delivered materials at the development site out with the hours of 0800 to 1900 Mondays to Fridays and 0800 to 1300 on Saturdays with no working on Sundays or local or national public holidays unless minor and temporary amendments have been otherwise agreed in advance in writing by the planning authority.

*Reason:* In order to avoid disturbance to nearby residential properties.

10. A Phase 1 or Desk Study, to review all currently available information about the historical uses of this site, shall be carried out to determine any types of contamination likely to be encountered and possible pathways to sensitive receptors. Development shall not begin until the report of this investigation has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Planning Authority.

*If this investigation gives any indication of the potential for contaminants to be present, development shall not begin until a full intrusive survey has been carried out and its findings submitted to and, approved in writing by the Planning Authority. This survey shall investigate all aspects of potential contamination of the site. The report of the investigation shall clearly document the methodology, findings and results. The risk posed by the presence of pollutants in relation to sensitive receptors shall be assessed to current guidelines and, where appropriate recommendations made for further investigations or remediation options to reduce those risks identified.*

*Analytical and investigatory work used to support the conclusions of the survey shall include all results, logs etc. and information regarding the methodology and Quality Assurance Systems used. Greater credence will be given to analytical work undertaken by organisations, which participate in the CONTEST SCHEME, or are UKAS accredited in relevant areas. Guidance is given in:*

*CIRIA C552 – ‘Contaminated Land Risk Assessment. A Guide to Good Practice’ by the DETR and CIRIA*

*‘Guidance for the Safe Development of Housing on Land Affected by Contamination’ by the NHBC & Environment Agency*

*‘How to Approach Contaminated Land’ and ‘How to Investigate Contaminated Land’ by Scottish Enterprise.*

*The developer’s reports of ‘Site Investigation’, ‘Risk Assessment’ and ‘Remediation Options and the final Remediation Plan’ shall be submitted to the Planning Authority, for written approval, prior to commencement of development works on the site.*

*Changes to the approved Remediation Plan may only be made with the written agreement of the Planning Authority. Occupation of premises shall not be permitted until remediation/control measures are fully implemented.*

*On completion of all remediation works, a Completion Report shall be submitted to the Planning Authority confirming the works have been carried out to the agreed plan.*

*Reason: In the interests of public health and to protect users of the development and the wider environment from the effects of contamination.*

***\*Note – the suggested inclusion of Condition 5 does not mean that these matters have been addressed and that the proposal is acceptable in terms of noise and air quality impacts.\****

### **Advisory notes**

*The applicant/developer is advised a Construction Consent under Section 21 of the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984 is required.*

*The applicant/developer is advised a Road Bond under Section 17 of the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984 is required.*

*The applicant/developer is advised that there is an obligation in terms of Section 95 of The Roads (Scotland) Act 1984 for the construction site contractor to ensure that any material, of whatever nature, deposited from their vehicles onto the public road is removed as soon as reasonably practicable.*

*The applicant/developer is advised in terms of Section 96 of The Roads (Scotland) Act 1984 the Operator shall be responsible for the expense of any repairs required to any road as a result of any damage caused to it by the excessively heavy or additional traffic from the proposed construction work.*

*The applicant/developer is advised the construction site should include an appropriate level of off-road car parking for all vehicles associated with the project during the extent of the building works. Under no circumstances should any of the aforementioned vehicles be allowed to stop or park on the adjacent Malletsheugh Road or Ayr Road.*

*The applicant/developer is advised: all waste arising from construction or demolition activities must be removed by a licensed waste carrier; there must be no burning on site, other than that permitted by Scottish Environmental Protection Agency by prior agreement and any such burning must not cause nuisance; adequate precautions must be taken to prevent nuisance from dust from the demolition or construction activities.*

*The applicant/developer is advised Scottish Water records indicate that there is live infrastructure in the proximity of the development area that may impact on existing Scottish Water assets. The applicant must identify any potential conflicts with Scottish Water assets and contact their Asset Impact Team via their Customer Portal for an appraisal of the proposals. The applicant should be aware that any conflict with assets identified will be subject to restrictions on proximity of construction. Written permission must be obtained before any works are started within the area of Scottish Water apparatus.*

*The applicant/developer is advised to submit a Pre-Development Enquiry (PDE) Form to Scottish Water via their Customer Portal prior to any formal technical application being submitted, to allow them to fully appraise the proposals.*

CHAIR



**MINUTE**  
**of**  
**PLANNING APPLICATIONS COMMITTEE**

**Minute of meeting held at 2.00pm in the Ballroom, Eastwood House, Eastwood Park, Giffnock.**

**Present:**

Councillor Jim McLean (Chair)	Councillor Paul Edlin
Councillor Annette Ireland (Vice Chair)(*)	Councillor Andrew Morrison
Councillor Angela Convery(*)	

Councillor McLean in the Chair

**Attending:**

Michaela Sullivan, Head of Place(\*); Derek Scott, Principal Planner(\*); Nicola McEleny, Solicitor; and John Burke, Democratic Services Officer.

(\*) denotes remote attendance

**Apologies:**

Councillor Chris Lunday, Provost Mary Montague.

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

**1344.** There were no declarations of interest intimated.

**APPLICATIONS FOR PLANNING PERMISSION**

**1345.** The Committee considered a report by the Director of Environment on applications for planning permission requiring consideration by the Committee.

It was agreed that the applications be determined as indicated at Appendix 1 accompanying this Minute, particular reference being made to the following:-

- (i) 2024/0180/TP – Change of use of training facility to gym; siting of forest sauna and café hut with associated infrastructure (in retrospect); proposed external alterations to gym building; proposed formation of outdoor exercise area beside gym building; proposed enlargement of parking; proposed construction of passing places along Langlee Road at Former Training Facility at the Former Eastwood Golf Course, Langlee Road, Newton Mearns.

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The Principal Planner was heard further on the report, in the course of which he summarised the 78 representations that had been received.

He provided further information on the relevant planning policies and assessments and stated that the proposal was considered to be in accordance with the terms of the development plan, including NPF4 and LDP2.

Following discussion of the application, the Committee agreed to grant planning permission subject to the conditions set out in the Report of Handling.

- (ii) 2025/0384/TP – Installation of replacement air conditioning units at side of 172-174 Fenwick Road, Giffnock, East Renfrewshire, G46 6XF.

The Principal Planner was heard further on the report, in the course of which he summarised the 16 representations that had been received.

He provided further information on the relevant planning policies and assessments and stated that the proposal was considered to be in accordance with the terms of the development plan, including NPF4 and LDP2.

Following discussion of the application, the Committee agreed to grant planning permission, subject to the conditions set out in the report of handling.

## **PLANNING ENFORCEMENT**

**1345.** The Committee considered a report by the Director of Environment requesting authorisation of formal planning enforcement action of an unauthorised extension and outbuilding at Dunterlie Cottage, Dunterlie Court, Barrhead, G78 1BH.

The particulars of the unauthorised development were detailed in the report and the Head of Place outlined concerns that such development undermined trust in the Planning system among local residents.

Following discussion, the Committee agreed to authorise the service of a Planning Enforcement Notice to require the unauthorised structures at Dunterlie Cottage, Dunterlie Court, Barrhead, G78 1BH to be removed.

CHAIR

**APPENDIX**

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997  
AS AMENDED BY THE PLANNING ETC (SCOTLAND) ACT 2006  
PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997**

Draft index of applications under the above acts to be considered by Planning Applications Committee  
on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2025.

**Reference No:** 2025/0180/TP

**Ward:** 5

**Applicant:**

Broom Estate (EW1) Limited  
9 Redburn Avenue  
Giffnock  
G46 6RH

**Agent:**

Simon Wasser  
7 Exchange Crescent  
Conference Square  
Edinburgh  
EH3 8AN

**Site:** Former Training Facility at the Former Eastwood Golf Course, Langlee Road, Newton Mearns

**Description:** Change of use of training facility to gym; siting of forest sauna and cafe hut with associated infrastructure (in retrospect); proposed external alterations to gym building; proposed formation of outdoor exercise area beside gym building; proposed enlargement of parking; proposed construction of passing places along Langlee Road

Please click [here](#) for further information on this application

**Reference No:** 2025/0283/TP

**Ward:** 1

**Applicant:**

Greggs PLC  
Greggs House  
Quorum Business Park  
Newcastle Upon Tyne  
NE12 8BU

**Agent:**

David Cassell  
140 West George Street  
Glasgow  
G2 2HG

**Site:** 172 – 174 Fenwick Road, Giffnock, Glasgow, East Renfrewshire, G46 6XF

**Description:** Installation of replacement air conditioning units at side

Please click [here](#) for further information on this application



**MINUTE**  
**of**  
**SPECIAL LICENSING COMMITTEE**

**Minute of meeting held at 10.00am in the Ballroom, Eastwood House, Giffnock, on 7 October 2025.**

**Present:**

Councillor Paul Edlin (Chair)  
Councillor Colm Merrick  
Provost Mary Montague

Councillor Kate Campbell  
Councillor Andrew Morrison

Councillor Edlin in the Chair

**Attending:**

Nicola McEleny, Senior Solicitor; David Higgins, Civic Government Enforcement Officer and Lesleyann Burns, Democratic Services Officer

**Also Attending:**

Chief Inspector Gillian Faulds, Police Scotland and Inspector Alan Ferris, Police Scotland.

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were submitted by Councillor David Macdonald.

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

**1346.** There were no declarations of interest intimated.

**Resolution to Exclude Press and Public**

At this point in the meeting, on the motion of the Chair, the Committee unanimously resolved that in accordance with the provisions of Section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, as amended, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the remaining items of business on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 6 and 14 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A to the Act.

**PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER'S LICENCE – REQUEST FOR IMMEDIATE SUSPENSION**

**1347.** The committee considered a report by the Chief Officer (Legal and Procurement) in relation to a request for immediate suspension of a Private Hire Car Driver's Licence under

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Paragraph 11(1) of Schedule 1 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 (Agenda Item 3 refers).

The applicant was present.

Chief Inspector Gillian Faulds and Inspector Alan Ferris, representing the Chief Constable, who had made an objection to the application, were also present.

Inspector Alan Ferris was heard in respect of the representation submitted by the Chief Constable.

It was reported that the Chief Constable had complained that in terms of Paragraph 11(2)(a) of Schedule 1 of the Act, the licence holder was no longer a fit and proper person to hold the licence, and he requested immediate suspension of the licence in terms of Paragraph 12(1) of the Schedule, that carrying on of the activity to which the licence relates was likely to cause a serious threat to public order or public safety.

The report explained that in determining the application it would be for the committee to decide what weight it wished to attach to the request by the Chief Constable and its relevance to the types of licence held.

The applicant was then heard in respect of the application.

The Committee agreed to a short adjournment to consider the matter.

On reconvening, the Committee agreed to suspend the licence in terms of Paragraph 11(1) of Schedule 1 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982.

CHAIR