

**East Ayrshire Health & Social Care Partnership  
Integration Joint Board  
31 March 2026 at 11.30am  
MS Teams**

**Present:**

- \*Councillor Douglas Reid, Leader of EA Council (Chair)
- Craig McArthur, Chief Officer
- \*Dr Sukhomoy Das, NHS Non-Executive Director
- Dr Erik Sutherland, Depute Chief Officer
- Ms Eilidh Mackay, Interim Chief Finance Officer
- Ms Dalene Steele, Associate Nurse Director
- Ms Lianne McNally, AHP Senior Manager
- \*Councillor Clare Maitland, East Ayrshire Council
- \*Councillor Linda Mabon, East Ayrshire Council
- \*Councillor Neill Watts, East Ayrshire Council
- Ms Moira Fenton, HSCP Team Manager CVO (3<sup>rd</sup> sector representative)
- Ms Allina Das, RCN Representative
- \*Ms Sheila Cowan, Non-Executive Board Member
- Mr David Mitchell, Monitoring Officer
- Ms Lynne McNiven, NHS Director of Public Health
- \*Ms Jenny Wilson, Executive Nurse Director

***\*signifies a voting member***

**In Attendance:**

- Mr Jim Murdoch, Senior Manager Wellbeing, Planning & Performance
- Ms Amanda McInnes, Senior Manager Business Support
- Ms Dale Meller, Depute Chief Social Worker
- Ms Julie Ross-Binning, Senior Business Support Officer (Minutes)

| Agenda | Discussion                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Action |
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| 1.     | <p><b><u>Welcome &amp; Apologies</u></b></p> <p>Councillor Reid welcomed everyone to the Special IJB meeting.</p> <p>Apologies were noted from Marion MacAulay, Dr Alexia Pellowe, Fiona Pirrie, Neil McAleese, Shirley Ferguson and Dr Laura McGarrity.</p> <p>A formal welcome was given to Eilidh Mackay who has taken over the role of Interim Chief Finance Officer of the IJB. Eilidh gave thanks to Alex McPhee and Charles Staines for their contribution in the preparation of today's Annual Budget Report 2026/27.</p> |        |

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| 2. | <p><b><u>Annual Budget 2026/27</u></b></p> <p>Craig McArthur provided an overview of the 2026/27 budget report based upon the funding allocations from the Parties to the IJB to allow the Partnership to proceed with detailed service planning across all Council and NHS commissioned service areas at individual budget owner level. It was noted that formal detailed Directions will be issued to East Ayrshire Council and NHS Ayrshire and Arran to deliver services to the IJB within the overall delegated resource.</p> <p>The statutory finance requirements noted within the report requires budget owners to deliver services which align to budgets, prioritising those most in need guided by sectoral statutory and professional guidance.</p> <p>The report provides information on the current financial position and savings proposals, detailing some of the work that has been undertaken, including the establishment of an Ayrshire Transformation Board to help support and provide oversight on financial aspects and integration opportunities across the whole-system.</p> <p>It was noted that a further report is being presented to Council on Thursday 2 April 2026, providing an update on the Financial Recovery Assurance Board (FRAB). This will provide details of strengthened financial governance arrangements implemented for Council-commissioned services. The report along with the Terms of Reference for the FRAB will be tabled at the next scheduled Audit and Performance (APC) meeting for information. In terms of governance, it was noted that the FRAB would operate alongside the APC and other governance groups. Normal reporting and escalation processes of the Audit and Performance Committee continue.</p> <p>Craig advised the IJB that the Interim Chief Finance Officer of the IJB would intervene when and where necessary if budgets were forecasting overspends. The Planning and Performance Team will support the redesign work being carried out and if broader support is required this will be sought.</p> <p>Of note, the Strategic Plan will require to be reviewed and amended to ensure alignment to the challenging financial landscape.</p> <p>Craig advised that the Annual Budget Report also included a statement from the Chief Social Work Officer which can be found at paragraphs 47-54 of the report.</p> <p>It had previously been noted that the volume of complaints had increased due to the change in criteria around packages of care. Several complaints had since been escalated to the SPSO, with confirmation recently received from the Ombudsman that they were not upholding the complaint.</p> |  |
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|    | <p>Regarding NHS Ayrshire and Arran, work continues to meet the target of 3% recurring CRES, alongside the savings required to ensure a balanced budget.</p> <p>Due to the current financial situation, there are currently no reserves. It is hoped to re-establish 2% reserves over the next three to five years.</p> <p>The risk register will be regularly reviewed and will continue to take account of the heightened financial risks facing the IJB.</p> <p>The importance of providing clear and concise communication was noted. There needs to be real clarity around changes to service delivery and revised criteria. The importance of an overarching EQIA was noted.</p> <p>The Board:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Agreed to accept the 2026/27 directly managed services budget delegated to the IJB by East Ayrshire Council £129.153m; noting that this budget increases to £131.283m when delegated resources of £2.130m managed out with the Health and Social Care Partnership are included;</li> <li>(ii) Agreed to accept the initial 2026/27 managed services budget anticipated to be delegated to the IJB by NHS Ayrshire &amp; Arran of £253.224m and the estimated £34.003m Set Aside resource;</li> <li>(iii) Approved the overall £418.510m delegated budget for 2026/27 including the underlying spending proposals and actions designed to achieve financial balance;</li> <li>(iv) Directed both Parties to deliver services on behalf of the IJB within the £418.510m delegated resource in line with the IJB Strategic Plan; detailed service planning will inform further directions;</li> <li>(v) Noted the social services financial assurance action being taken by the Council to achieve financial balance in that vulnerable area of the budget;</li> <li>(vi) Noted the statements by the Director of Health &amp; Social Care / Interim Chief Finance Officer and the Chief Social Work Officer; and,</li> <li>(vii) Noted the contents of the report.</li> </ul> |  |
| 3. | <p><b><u>Ayrshire Transformation Board</u></b></p> <p>The purpose of this report is to seek endorsement from Integration Joint Board (IJB) members for the new arrangements to strengthen integrated working across East, North and South Ayrshire Councils, the three Integration Joint Boards, and NHS Ayrshire &amp; Arran, through the establishment of the Ayrshire Transformation Board.</p> <p>On 26 February 2026, representatives from East Ayrshire Council, North Ayrshire Council, South Ayrshire Council, NHS Ayrshire and Arran, North Ayrshire Integration Joint Board, East Ayrshire Integration Joint Board and South Ayrshire Integration Joint Board met to discuss how working together</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |  |

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|    | <p>and making best use of collective resources could deliver sustainable and effective health and care services to the communities of Ayrshire and Arran.</p> <p>To deliver this ambition an “Ayrshire Transformation Board” was established. The purpose of this Board is to support the identification, investigation and recommendations for optimised performance, financial efficiencies and integration opportunities across the whole-system in line with the ‘Once-for-Ayrshire’ ideology.</p> <p>The Board has met twice and has identified 5 high levels of work to be undertaken - Shared Services / Lead Agency, Right Care Right Place, Adults with Incapacity (AWI), Digital Transformation, and Communications.</p> <p>Regular reporting will be provided to all seven bodies to ensure everyone is kept up-to-date on the work being undertaken and any actions being progressed.</p> <p>The Board:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Endorsed the establishment of the Ayrshire Transformation Board (ATB) as the formal senior officer structure for strengthening integrated working across East, North and South Ayrshire Councils, the three Integration Joint Boards, and NHS Ayrshire &amp; Arran;</li> <li>Noted the agreed governance arrangements, including the ATB’s remit, membership, reporting structures, and its alignment with existing local and national oversight frameworks;</li> <li>Approved the initial programme areas identified for system-wide redesign;</li> <li>Approved the Terms of Reference (v01.0) for the ATB, as set out in Appendix 1 of the report; and,</li> <li>Noted the content of the report.</li> </ol> |     |
| 4. | <p><b>AOCB</b></p> <p>The Board agreed that the Development Session on Wednesday 6 May 2026 should be re-scheduled due the Scottish Election. A new date will be issued in due course.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | JRB |
| 5. | <p><b><u>AOCB</u></b></p> <p>Nothing further for discussion.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |     |
| 6. | <p><b><u>Date Of Next Meeting</u></b></p> <p>Development Session on 6 May 2026 to be re-arranged.</p> <p>Next Full Meeting scheduled for 24 June 2026, at 2.00pm, Council Chambers / MS Teams.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |     |