



Board Meeting
11.06.26
Open Session
Item 15.1.11

APPROVED

MINUTE OF MEETING OF THE MORAY INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD

Thursday, 29 January 2026

Council Chambers, Council Office, High Street, Elgin, IV30 1BX

PRESENT

Councillor Peter Bloomfield, Professor Duff Bruce, Mrs Sheila Brumby, Mr Sean Coady, Ms Miriam Connor, Ms Sonya Duncan, Ms Jane Ewen, Councillor Scott Lawrence, Dr Robert Lockhart, Mr Jim Lyon, Ms Aimee McIntosh, Mr Derick Murray, Councillor Bridget Mustard, Ms Deborah O'Shea, Ms Judith Proctor, Mr Sandy Riddell, Mr Dennis Robertson, Ms Elizabeth Robinson, Mr Alex Stephen, Mrs Christine Stevens, Councillor Ben Williams

APOLOGIES

Ms Karen Greaves BEM, Mr Michael Ritchie, Ms Laura Skaife-Knight

IN ATTENDANCE

Deputy Head of Service, Chief Nurse - Moray and Caroline O'Connor, Committee Services Officer

1. Chair

The meeting was chaired by Mr Dennis Robertson.

2. Declaration of Member's Interests

Mr Riddell stated for transparency that he was Chair of the Mental Welfare Commission for Scotland.

The Board noted there were no other declarations of member's interests.

3. Minute of meeting of 27 November 2025

The minute of meeting of 27 November 2025 was submitted.

Mr Riddell referred to the detailed record discussion of concerns raised in relation to the revenue budget however noted the same level of detail was not minuted in relation to concerns he had raised in relation to Item 10 "Mental Health Services and Pressures on Primary Care". In terms of any external scrutiny in relation to mental health services and to evidence the discussions and conclusions reached at the meeting, Mr Riddell asked the minute be amended to include the concerns he highlighted which were escalated from Clinical and Care Governance Committee to the Board relating to primary care accessing secondary care, issues in relation to Dr Grays and Cornhill Hospitals and setting out the detailed chronology of the last few years including his concerns about the time taken to action. The Chair agreed the minute should reflect the detailed discussion and asked the Clerk to amend the minute accordingly.

Subject to the above amendments, the Board unanimously agreed the minute of the meeting.

4. Action Log of 27 November 2025

The Action Log of the meeting of 27 November 2025 was discussed and updated accordingly.

During discussion Mr Riddell referenced Items 4 and 10 relating to mental health which were marked as closed and noted whilst the update column included details of planned actions, they should not be closed off and removed from the Action Log until the scheduled work/actions had been delivered.

Councillor Mustard asked for an update on Item 12 in relation to the Children's Services Pressures Report, noting there was no update on the Action Log. In response to the first action, the Interim Chief Social Work Officer advised an amended version of the report approved by the Board in November 2025 would be prepared for Moray Council, given the joint budget responsibilities, setting out clearly the governance arrangements for the Board in relation of a costed action plan, which would then be reported to the Board. In relation to the second action, the Interim Chief Social Work Officer advised the action was now completed.

5. Minute of Special meeting of 30 October 2025

The Board noted the minute of the Special Meeting of the Board of 30 October 2025.

6. Revenue Budget Monitoring Quarter 3 for 2025-26

The meeting had before it a report by the Chief Financial Officer updated the Board of the current Revenue Budget reporting position as at 31 December 2025 for the MIJB budget.

Ms Connor joined the meeting during discussing of this item.

In response to a question from Councillor Bloomfield asking for an update on what work had been done to reduce the overspend of £2.5m as at 31 December 2025, the Chief Financial Officer advised the figure had been reduced by £0.5m as a result of the additional funding and efforts were being made to reduce the outturn to £7m in terms of grip and control measures previously reported and referred to earmarked reserves not used which may reduce the final figure, however that would not be known until

March. The Chief Officer provided assurance that the grip and control measures remained in force with weekly meetings being held considering every aspect of expenditure through the health and social care partnership including high-cost care packages, changes in care packages, vacancies, unintended spend and efforts had been made to slow as much as possible whilst maintaining service provision, noting how challenging it was to deliver savings while ensuring the safety of those provided with care in the community. In terms of the forthcoming year's budget, the measures in place would continue as savings proposals are developed however anticipated it would continue to be challenging as the areas where there is overspend tend to be demand led budgets relating to keeping vulnerable people safe. She confirmed the improved processes would be continued to maintain the focus and while there is evidence of slowing in overspend on a monthly basis, it was being outstripped by the level of demand.

Councillor Mustard referred to the wording used in paragraph 4.1 of the report where stated that "cost reductions and savings required to ensure that the MIJB remains within the parameters of the partners provisions, which were set aside in their budgets against the risk of MIJB overspending" rather than the cost reductions being met within the MIJB budget. She expressed concern that the wording suggested an assumption that the monies set aside by both Moray Council and NHS Grampian would be used rather than savings being required to enable MIJB to remain within its own budget and was not reliant on the extra provision. In response, the Chief Officer provided assurance the Senior Management Team's approach to managing the budget was not to assume the additional provision would be required and the aim was to remain within the MIJB budget however the paragraph was detailing that it was necessary to call on the provision this year to achieve a balance position year end. She further advised that messaging would need to be considered for the following year's budget setting as it was anticipated contributions from both partners would be required.

Mr Murray referred to the reduction of £0.5m in the forecast outturn position from Quarter 2 to Quarter 3 in paragraphs 4.2 and 4.3 however noted this amounted to approximately the same amount of additional funding received which suggested additional grip and control measures in place were not having much of an impact. In response, the Chief Officer reiterated the additional measures in place as mentioned in her response to Councillor Bloomfield. She further advised, in terms of the forthcoming year, it was planned to hold further monthly service by service finance and performance meetings to provide scrutiny on spend, maintaining the budget oversight group and the governance in terms of delivery of savings for the Board to approve in March.

Councillor Lawrence acknowledged the work undertaken by MIJB every year to set a savings plan to address the budget deficit however, whilst noting the progress made in last couple of years, recognised the recurrence of slippage on the savings plan by this period every year with the consequence that targets to close the deficit could not be achieved. He queried whether the current planning framework and effectiveness of the framework was sufficient or whether improvements could be made, specifically in relation to planning for demand-led services and unplanned pressures which were noted as constant and significant areas of overspend. In response, the Chief Financial Officer highlighted the reasons for the pressures set out in paragraph 4.1, confirming an element of growth was factored in when the savings plan was prepared at the beginning of the year however the unprecedented growth this year across the whole of Scotland had been far more than anyone had anticipated. She further advised some savings, to be

classed as efficiencies, would enable the MIJB to deal better with growth and work differently with a reduced budget. The Chief Officer agreed while populations increases can be predicted, there was a need for transformation within the partnership in terms of proportionate care, anticipatory care, prevention, supporting use of technology, all of which take time to invest in. Recognising it had taken longer than hoped to reach that point and the importance of recognising the growth and demand, work would be undertaken to have services in place, deliver change and transform the partnership.

Mr Stephen welcomed the progress made since the last meeting reformatting the report and, whilst noting it was work in progress, was pleased it would strengthen financial governance and how to move forward. He suggested a useful addition may be to include activity data to evidence the demand and challenges.

Following lengthy consideration the Board unanimously agreed to:-

- i) Note the financial position of the Board as at 31 December 2025 is showing an overspend of £2,507,492 on core services;
- ii) Note the updated forecast position for 2025/26 of an overspend of £8,233,394 on total budget, a slightly improved position for total services since quarter 2;
- iii) Note the progress against the approved savings plan in paragraph 7, and Appendix 4;
- iv) Note the budget pressures and emerging budget pressure as detailed in paragraph 8;
- v) note the revisions to staffing arrangements dealt with under delegated powers and in accordance with financial regulations within the Council (MC) and NHS Grampian (NHSG) for the period 1 October to 31 December 2025 as shown in Appendix 3.

7. Moray Integration Joint Board Strategic Risk Register - Risk 2 (Financial Sustainability)

The meeting had before it a report by the Chief Officer presenting the Board with an update to Risks 2 and 8 of the Board Strategic Risk Register, providing a clear overview of current strategic risks, their assessments, and mitigating actions which supports informed decision-making, strengthens strategic planning, and reinforces effective risk governance aligned with the Strategic Plan.

Following consideration the Board unanimously agreed to:-

- i) note the updated Strategic Risk No 2 (Appendix 1); and
- ii) approve that the mitigating controls and assurance arrangements are adequate.

8. Reappointment of Chief Internal Auditor

The meeting had before it a report by the Chief Officer asking the Board to approve the reappointment of the Chief Internal Auditor, whose current terms of appointment are due to expire on 31 March 2026.

During discussion Mr Murray stated it was his understanding that five yearly external reviews of Internal Audit were to be undertaken and to his knowledge no such review had taken place since he had joined the Board. In response, the Chief Officer was unable to confirm but agreed to follow-up with the Chief Internal Auditor.

Following consideration the Board unanimously agreed to appoint Dafydd Lewis, Service Manager Internal Audit and Risk, Moray Council, as the Chief Internal Auditor of the Moray Integration Joint Board, for a further period of two years to 31 March 2028.

9. Reappointment of Standards Officer and Depute Standards Officer

The meeting had before it a report by the Chief Officer asking the Board to approve the nomination of its Standards Officer and one Depute, whose current terms of appointment are due to expire on 1 April 2026.

Councillor Mustard noted recommendation (ii) did not state the role Aileen Scott was being appointed to and moved the recommendation be amended to include "as the Depute Standards Officer of the Moray Integration Board".

Following consideration and there being no one otherwise minded, the Board unanimously agreed to:-

- i) formally nominate for approval by the Standards Commission, Alasdair McEachan, Chief Governance Officer (Monitoring Officer), Moray Council, as the Standards Officer of the Moray Integration Joint Board, for a further period of two years until 1 April 2028;
- ii) formally nominate for approval by the Standards Commission, Aileen Scott, Service Manager Legal Services, Moray Council, as the Depute Standards Officer of the Moray Integration Joint Board, for a further period of two years until 1 April 2028;
- iii) task the Chief Officer with writing to the Standards Commission with the relevant information; and
- iv) note that arrangements will be reviewed prior to April 2028.

10. Congratulations

The Board joined the Chair in congratulating the Service Manager Provider Services and all staff for their hard work under pressures resulting in the positive Care at Home inspection report published by the Care Inspectorate following an unannounced inspection in late November 2025.