

**POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 21 MARCH 2017**

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**Policy & Resources Committee**

**Tuesday 21 March 2017 at 3pm**

**Present:** Councillors Ahlfeld, Clocherty, MacLeod, McCabe, McCormick, McEleny, McIlwee, Nelson, Loughran and Rebecchi.

**Chair:** Councillor McCabe presided.

**In attendance:** Chief Executive, Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development, Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration & Resources, Corporate Director (Chief Officer), Inverclyde Health & Social Care Partnership, Head of Legal & Property Services, Ms R McGhee (Legal & Property Services), Chief Financial Officer, Head of Education, Head of Organisational Development, Human Resources & Communications, Service Manager Health Improvement, Inequalities & Personalisation, Corporate Policy & Partnership Manager, Ms K Barclay and Ms J Boyd (Education Services) and Ms K Munro (Regeneration & Planning).

**The following paragraphs are submitted for information only, having been dealt with under the powers delegated to the Committee.**

**192      Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest      192**

An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Councillor Wilson.

Councillors Clocherty and McCabe declared an interest in agenda item 10 (Amendment to Riverside Inverclyde (ri) Articles of Association).

**193      Policy & Resources Capital Programme 2016/20 – Progress Report      193**

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer and the Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration & Resources (1) providing an update on the status of the projects within the Policy & Resources Capital Programme and (2) highlighting the overall financial position.

**Decided:** that the Committee note the current position of the 2016/20 Capital Programme, the reported slippage and the progress on the specific projects detailed in the report and appendix 1.

**194      Capital Programme 2016/20      194**

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer on the latest position of the 2016/20 Capital Programme.

**Decided:** that the Committee note the current position of the 2016/20 Capital Programme.

**195      Policy & Resources Committee Revenue Budget 2016/17 – Period 10 to 31 January 2017      195**

There was submitted a report by the Chief Executive, Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development, Corporate Director Environment,

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Regeneration & Resources and Chief Financial Officer on the 2016/17 projected out-turn for the Policy & Resources Committee as at Period 10 to 31 January 2017.

**Decided:**

- (1) that the Committee note the 2016/17 projected underspend of £164,000 for the Policy & Resources Committee as at Period 10 to 31 January 2017; and
- (2) that the Committee note the action taken in respect of the Common Good Budget.

**196      General Fund Revenue Budget 2016/17 as at 31 January 2017      196**

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer (1) on the position of the General Fund Revenue Budget as at 31 January 2017 and (2) providing an update on the position of the General Fund Reserves and Earmarked Reserves.

**Decided:**

- (1) that the Committee note the latest position of the 2016/17 Revenue Budget and General Fund Reserves; and
- (2) that the Committee note that at the meeting on 16 February 2017, the Council approved the use of free reserves to close the 2017/18 Revenue Budget shortfall and one-off project investment.

**197      Welfare Reforms Update      197**

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer and the Corporate Director (Chief Officer), Inverclyde Health & Social Care Partnership providing an update on the impact on the Council of the ongoing Welfare Reform changes.

**Decided:**

- (1) that the Committee note the ongoing impacts and actions being taken by officers in respect of the implementation of Universal Credit within Inverclyde;
- (2) that the Committee note the financial impact on the Homelessness Service caused by the move to Universal Credit and the associated reduction in income;
- (3) that the Committee approve the proposed allocation of the Anti-Poverty Fund and note that specific updates will be provided to the Committee on progress;
- (4) that the Committee otherwise note the contents of the report;
- (5) that a report be submitted to the Committee on the numbers of 18-21 year olds claiming housing benefit, and trends over the next five years, and providing information on what will happen to these young people in the light of their not having automatic entitlement to help with housing costs from April 2017; and
- (6) that the Leader of the Council write to the relevant Cabinet Secretary requesting that consideration be given to the introduction of measures to mitigate the impact on the Homelessness budget arising from the move to Universal Credit.

**198      Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy – 2017/18 – 2020/21      198**

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer on the Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy for 2017/21, Treasury Policy limits, a policy on the repayment of Loans Fund advances, the Council's Prudential and Treasury Management Indicators for the next four years and the list of Permitted Investments.

**Decided:** that the following, as outlined in the report, be remitted to the Inverclyde Council for approval:-

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- (a) Treasury Management Strategy and Annual Investment Strategy;
- (b) Authorised Limits for 2017/21;
- (c) Treasury Management Policy Statement set out in paragraph 5.2 of the report;
- (d) Policy on repayment of Loans Fund advances set out in paragraph 8.2 of the report;
- (e) Treasury Policy Limits;
- (f) Prudential Indicators and Treasury Management Indicators; and
- (g) List of Permitted Investments (including those for the Common Good Fund).

**199 SOLACE Improving Local Government Benchmarking Framework 2015/16 199**

There was submitted a report by the Head of Inclusive Education, Culture & Corporate Policy (1) providing details of the Local Government Benchmarking Framework (LGBF) 2015/16 data and (2) highlighting Inverclyde's performance across the range of indicators.

**Decided:**

- (1) that the Committee note that the LGBF 2015/16 data was published on 27 January 2017; and
- (2) that it be agreed that the information in the appendix to the report be used to form the basis of the Council's public performance reporting on the LGBF 2015/16.

**200 Autism Friendly Inverclyde Development 200**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director (Chief Officer), Inverclyde Health & Social Care Partnership (1) requesting that the proposed £150,000 funding for Autism Friendly Inverclyde be delegated via the Health & Social Care Partnership to Inverclyde's Autism Implementation Group to fund priority areas of development highlighted within Inverclyde's Autism Strategy and Implementation Plan and (2) informing the Committee of the established multi-partnership Autism Implementation Group, Funding Sub-Group and reporting structure established to take forward the priority areas highlighted within Inverclyde's Autism Strategy.

**Decided:**

- (1) that the £150,000 proposed funding for Autism Friendly Inverclyde be delegated via the Health & Social Care Partnership to the Inverclyde Autism Implementation Group to fund developments highlighted within Inverclyde's Autism Strategy and Implementation Plan; and
- (2) that a report outlining the developments to be funded with the £150,000 be submitted to the Health & Social Care Committee.

**201 Amendment to Riverside Inverclyde (ri) Articles of Association 201**

There was submitted a report by the Chief Executive seeking Council approval, as one of ri's Members, to minor amendments to the company's Articles of Association. Councillors Clocherty and McCabe declared a non-financial interest in this matter as Board Members of Riverside Inverclyde. They also formed the view that the nature of their interest and of the item of business did not preclude their continued presence in the Chamber or their participation in the decision making process.

**Decided:** that, as one of ri's two member organisations, Council approval be given to the ri Board's proposal to amend the company's Articles of Association as follows:

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- (a) a minimum of one and maximum of two directors drawn from the local community;
- (b) a minimum of two and maximum of three directors drawn from the private sector; and
- (c) a minimum of one and maximum of two directors nominated by Inverclyde Chamber of Commerce (or any successor to that body).

**202 Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act Implementation**

**202**

There was submitted a report by the Head of Inclusive Education, Culture & Corporate Policy on the implementation of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 providing a summary of the progress in implementing each part of the Act.

**Decided:** that the Committee note the progress made in delivering the requirements of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015.

**203 Update on the Public Service Improvement Framework (PSIF)**

**203**

There was submitted a report by the Head of Inclusive Education, Culture & Corporate Policy providing an update on the Council's Public Service Improvement Framework (PSIF) Programme which all services within the Council not governed by a formal self-evaluation framework participate in.

**Decided:** that the Committee note:-

- (a) that the Council's 2014/16 PSIF Programme is now complete and that each service has produced an Improvement Plan;
- (b) that a new programme of PSIF assessments, as set out in appendix 1, will begin in March 2017 and will be completed by December 2017, the assessments being carried out using the refreshed PSIF model; and
- (c) that a further report on the next phase of the PSIF Programme will be submitted to the Committee in January 2018.

**204 Equality Mainstreaming Report and Equality Outcomes**

**204**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development seeking approval of the Equality Mainstreaming Report prior to its publication by 30 April 2017, together with approval of the refreshed Equality Outcomes for 2017-21, both of which are required by the Equality Act 2010.

(Councillor MacLeod left the meeting during consideration of this item of business).

**Decided:**

- (1) that the Committee approve the draft Mainstreaming Report;
- (2) that the Committee conditionally approve the draft Equality Outcomes subject to no major amendments being proposed to the Outcomes during the public consultation;
- (3) that final approval of the Equality Outcomes be remitted to the incoming Members of the Policy & Resources Committee at the first meeting following the local government elections in May if major amendments are required following the public consultation exercise; and
- (4) that a briefing for Elected Members on Equality Outcomes be arranged following the local government elections in May.

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| <b>205</b> | <b>Communications Strategy</b>   | <b>205</b> |
|            | <p>There was submitted a report by the Head of Organisational Development, Human Resources &amp; Communications on the establishment of a communications strategy for the Council highlighting the broad aims of the Council's communications with residents, employees, trades unions and visitors, the key mechanisms and approaches.</p> <p><b>Decided:</b> that the Committee approve the contents of the communications strategy set out in appendix 1 to the report.</p>   |            |
| <b>206</b> | <b>Inverclyde Council Local Negotiating Committee for Teaching Staff</b>   | <b>206</b> |
|            | <p>There was submitted a report by the Head of Organisational Development, Human Resources &amp; Communications (1) advising the Committee of the revised composition and operation of the Local Negotiating Committee for Teaching Staff (LNCT) and (2) requesting the Committee to agree that the four management representatives on the LNCT be officers of the Council rather than Elected Members.</p> <p><b>Decided:</b></p> <p>(1) that the Committee note the revised Local Recognition and Procedure Agreement (LNCT01) attached to the report at appendix 1; and</p> <p>(2) that it be agreed that the management representatives on the LNCT be officers of the Council rather than Elected Members.</p>  |            |
| <b>207</b> | <b>Hydro Electric Scheme – Holeburn at Greenock Cut</b>  | <b>207</b> |
|            | <p>There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal &amp; Property Services updating the Committee on the proposed development of a Hydro Scheme on the Holeburn at the Greenock Cut in partnership with Scottish Water Horizons.</p> <p><b>Decided:</b> that the Committee note the position in relation to the project as outlined in the report.</p>   |            |
| <b>208</b> | <b>Regulation of Investigatory Powers (Scotland) Act 2000 (RIPSA)<br/>Inspection by the Office of Surveillance Commissioners</b>   | <b>208</b> |
|            | <p>There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration &amp; Resources (1) updating the Committee on surveillance carried out by Inverclyde Council employees under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers (Scotland) Act 2000 (RIPSA) and (2) on the inspection visit by Sir David Clark, Assistant Surveillance Commissioner, the Inspector appointed by the Office of Surveillance Commissioners, on 16 November 2016.</p> <p><b>Decided:</b></p> <p>(1) that the Committee note the Inspection Report and the positive outcome of the recent inspection in November 2016;</p> <p>(2) that reports on the application of and compliance with the Act be submitted on an annual basis to the Corporate Management Team and once every three years, following the inspection by the Office of Surveillance Commissioners, to the Committee;</p> <p>(3) that the Committee approve the amended RIPSA Policy and Procedures set out in appendix 2 to the report;</p> |            |

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(4) that the Committee approve the appointment of Gerard Malone, Head of Legal & Property Services, as its RIPSA Senior Responsible Officer and the appointment of Ruth Binks, Head of Education, and Martin McNab, Acting Head of Safer & Inclusive Communities, as Authorising Officers along with the Chief Executive; and

(5) that the Committee note the steps taken to meet the recommendations made by the Inspecting Officer.

**It was agreed in terms of Section 50(A)(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 as amended, that the public and press be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items on the grounds that the business involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the respective paragraphs of Part I of Schedule 7(A) of the Act as are set opposite each item:-**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Paragraph(s)</b>
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<b>Appendix 1 relative to Agenda Item 17 comprising Letter and Inspection Report from the Chief Surveillance Commissioner</b>	<b>1 and 14</b>
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<b>Update on Employees Released under the Council's Voluntary Severance Scheme</b>	<b>1</b>
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<b>Tender for Daycare Services</b>	<b>6 and 8</b>
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<b>209</b>	<b>Appendix 1 relative to Agenda Item 17 comprising Letter and Inspection Report from the Chief Surveillance Commissioner</b>	<b>209</b>
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There was submitted appendix 1 relative to agenda item 17 (Regulation of Investigatory Powers (Scotland) Act 2000 (RIPSA) Inspection by the Office of Surveillance Commissioners) comprising letter and inspection report from the Chief Surveillance Commissioner.

**Noted**

<b>210</b>	<b>Update on Employees Released under the Council's Voluntary Severance Scheme</b>	<b>210</b>
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There was submitted a report by the Head of Organisational Development, Human Resources & Communications updating the Committee on the position of releases agreed under the Council's Voluntary Severance Scheme over the period 2016/17.

**Decided:**

(1) that the Committee note that one employee has been released under the Council's Voluntary Severance Scheme as outlined in section 5 of the report; and

(2) that a further report be submitted to the Committee next year updating Members on any employees released under the Council's Voluntary Severance Scheme during 2017/18.

**The Convener being of the opinion that the undernoted report by the Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration & Resources was relevant, competent and urgent moved its consideration in terms of the relevant Standing Order to allow, if agreed, the Daycare Services contract to commence in accordance with the timescales as set out in the report. This was agreed unanimously.**

**211 Tender for Daycare Services**

211

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration & Resources seeking approval as required in terms of the Council's Contract Standing Orders to grant delegated authority to the Head of Legal & Property Services to accept tenders for Daycare Services in order that tenders can be submitted and evaluated and tenders accepted to allow the Daycare Services to commence within the planned timescales as set out in the report.

**Decided:**

- (1) that delegated authority be granted to the Head of Legal & Property Services to accept tenders for Daycare Services; and
- (2) that the Committee note the tender strategy, detailed within Section 5 of the report, which includes the relaxation of the Council's normal financial checks.

Following the conclusion of the Committee business, Councillor McCabe expressed his thanks to officers for their contribution and support and extended his best wishes to them for the future.