

POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 22 MAY 2018

Policy & Resources Committee

Tuesday 22 May 2018 at 3pm

Present: Councillors Ahlfeld, Clocherty, MacLeod, McCabe, McCormick, Crowther (for C McEleny), McVey, Moran, Rebecchi, Robertson and Brooks (for Wilson).

Chair: Councillor McCabe presided.

In attendance: Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration & Resources, Ms D Gillespie (for Corporate Director (Chief Officer), Inverclyde Health & Social Care Partnership), Head of Legal & Property Services, Ms S Lang (Legal & Property Services), Chief Financial Officer, Ms T Bunton (Finance Services), ICT Services Manager, Ms B McQuarrie (for Head of Organisational Development, Policy & Communications), Ms K McCready and Ms A Rainey (Organisational Development, Policy & Communications), Head of Inclusive Education, Culture & Communities, Corporate Procurement Manager and Corporate Communications Manager.

In attendance also: Mr T Yule, Audit Scotland.

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

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|------------|--|------------|
| 326 | Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest | 326 |
| | <p>Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillor C McEleny, with Councillor Crowther substituting and Councillor Wilson, with Councillor Brooks substituting.</p> <p>Councillors Brooks and McCabe declared a non-financial interest in Agenda Item 25 (Cumberland Walk, Greenock – Remit from Environment & Regeneration Committee).</p> | |
| 327 | ICT Services Performance Update | 327 |
| | <p>There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer providing updates on the Council's Digital and ICT Strategies together with performance and Channel Shift statistics.</p> <p>Decided:</p> <p>(1) that the Committee note the performance report and action plan updates for the Digital and ICT Strategies; and</p> <p>(2) that the Committee note the significant PC Refresh Programme planned for 2018/19.</p> | |
| 328 | Corporate Services Performance Report 2017/18 | 328 |
| | <p>There was submitted a report by the Head of Inclusive Education, Culture & Communities providing an update on the achievement of key objectives during 2017/18 by the Council's Corporate Services as detailed in the Education, Communities & Organisational Development Corporate Directorate Improvement Plan (CDIP) 2016/19 and the Environment, Regeneration & Resources CDIP 2016/19, focusing on actions which sit within Finance and ICT, Legal & Property, Procurement, Corporate Policy and</p> | |

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Organisational Development, Human Resources & Communications.

Decided:

(1) that the Committee note the progress made by the Council's Corporate Services during 2017/18 in delivering the Year 2 improvement actions outlined in the respective CDIPs 2016/19; and

(2) that it be agreed that the Year 3 refresh of the ECOD CDIP 2016/19 be postponed until after the summer 2018 recess to allow the CDIP to be aligned with the Council's new Corporate Plan 2018/22 and changes to the management structure.

329 Annual Corporate Performance Report 2017/18 329

There was submitted a report by the Head of Inclusive Education, Culture & Communities providing an update on the achievement of the Council's wellbeing outcomes through the delivery of improvement actions over the course of 2017/18 as detailed in the Education, Communities & Organisational Development and the Environment, Regeneration & Resources CDIPs 2016/19.

Decided:

(1) that the Committee note the performance information outlined in the report; and

(2) that it be agreed that the report be published on the Council's website as part of the Council's commitment to public performance reporting.

330 NRS Mid-Year Population Estimates (2017) and Population Projections (2016 Based) for Inverclyde 330

There was submitted a report by the Head of Inclusive Education, Culture & Communities providing the Committee with details of the latest population projections published by the National Records of Scotland (NRS) on 28 March 2018 and the mid-year population estimates (2017) published on 20 April 2018.

Decided:

(1) that the Committee note the publication of the NRS population projections for Scottish areas (2016 based) and that the population projections are less pessimistic than in previous years;

(2) that the Committee note that the mid-year population estimates show a small positive increase in net migration in 2017; and

(3) that it be remitted to the Inverclyde Alliance Population Partnership (formerly the SOA Repopulation Outcome Delivery Group) to consider these latest population statistics and agree any additional actions in connection with these.

331 Policy & Resources Capital Programme 2017/2021 – Progress Report 331

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer and the Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration & Resources (1) providing an update in respect of 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 2017/21 Capital Programme, the reported advancement and the progress on the specific projects detailed in the report and in Appendix 1.

332 Capital Programme 2017/21 332

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer on the latest position of the

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2017/21 Capital Programme.

Decided: that the Committee note the current position of the 2017/21 Capital Programme and that a report on the 2017/18 outturn will be submitted to the next meeting.

333 Policy & Resources Committee Revenue Budget 2017/18 - Period 11 to 28 February 2018 333

There was submitted a report by the Chief Executive, the Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration & Resources, the Head of Organisational Development, Policy & Communications and the Chief Financial Officer on the 2017/18 projected outturn for the Policy & Resources Committee as at Period 11 to 28 February 2018.

Decided:

- (1) that the Committee note the 2017/18 projected underspend of £1,376,000 for the Policy & Resources Committee as at Period 11 to 28 February 2018;
- (2) that the Committee note the projected fund balance of £11,220 for the Common Good Fund as at 31 March 2018.

334 General Fund Revenue Budget 2017/18 as at 28 February 2018 334

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer (1) on the position of the General Fund Revenue Budget as at 28 February 2018 and (2) providing an update in respect of the position of the General Fund Reserves and Earmarked Reserves.

Decided:

- (1) that the Committee note the latest position of the 2017/18 Revenue Budget and General Fund Reserves; and
- (2) that the Committee note that the use of any Free Reserves will be considered as part of the 2019/20 budget process.

335 Revenue Budget Update 335

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer (1) providing an update on the approved 2018/19 Revenue Budget and (2) seeking decisions regarding the progression of the Budget for 2019/20 and beyond.

Decided:

- (1) that the Committee note the initial 2018/19 Revenue Budget and Free Reserves position; and
- (2) that the Committee note the reconvening of the Members' Budget Working Group to support the forthcoming budget process and note the initial high level timelines shown in Appendix 2.

336 Welfare Reforms Update 336

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer providing an update on the impacts of the UK Government's Welfare Reforms.

Decided:

- (1) that the Committee note the update on the roll out of Universal Credit, the outturn for DHP/SWF in 2017/18 and the impact on rent arrears since the implementation of Universal Credit;
- (2) that the Inverclyde experience in respect of Universal Credit roll out be fed back to CoSLA; and

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(3) that arrangements be made for an All Members' Briefing on the Scottish Social Security Agency by Scottish Government officials.

337 Efficiency Performance 2017/18 337

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer (1) advising the Committee of the level of efficiencies achieved by the Council in 2017/18 and (2) seeking approval of the Annual Return to be submitted to CoSLA.

Decided:

- (1) that the Committee note the achievement of £1.467m recurring efficiency savings in 2017/18; and
- (2) that approval be given to the submission of the Annual Return to CoSLA.

338 Accounts Commission Report – Challenges and Performance 2018 338

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer (1) advising the Committee of the Accounts Commission report 'Local Government in Scotland, Challenges and Performance 2018', (2) highlighting relevant matters and (3) seeking approval for any actions arising.

Decided:

- (1) that the Committee note the contents of the Accounts Commission report, "Local Government in Scotland, Challenges and Performance 2018"; and
- (2) that approval be given to the contents of the action plan set out in Appendix 1.

339 Local Scrutiny Plan 2018/19 339

There was submitted a report by the Chief Executive advising the Committee of Inverclyde Council's Scrutiny Plan for 2018/19.

Decided: that the Committee note the contents of the Local Scrutiny Plan 2018/19 as set out in the report.

340 Freedom of Information Requests 2017 340

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration & Resources providing details of Freedom of Information (FOI) requests received by the Council from January to December 2017.

Decided:

- (1) that the Committee note the information provided in relation to FOI requests received by the Council during 2017; and
- (2) that future reports include information on (a) cases where information has not been provided and (b) requests categorised by Directorate.

341 General Data Protection Regulation 341

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal & Property Services advising the Committee of the main provisions of the new EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the preparatory work being undertaken by the Council to achieve practical compliance with the GDPR by the implementation date of 25 May 2018.

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Decided: that the Committee note the contents of the report including the main provisions of the GDPR and the preparatory steps being undertaken by the Council to achieve practical compliance with the GDPR by the implementation date of 25 May 2018.

342 Inverclyde PREVENT Strategy and Guidance 342

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director (Chief Officer), Inverclyde Health & Social Care Partnership recommending adoption of the Inverclyde PREVENT strategy and guidance as detailed in the report and appendix.

Decided:

- (1) that the PREVENT strategy and guidance appended to the report be adopted and communicated to all new and existing staff;
- (2) that the PREVENT staff training approach, as detailed in the report, be communicated to all staff and partner agencies; and
- (3) that a report be submitted to the Committee on the feasibility of including completion of the e-learning Introduction to PREVENT Course within the voluntary organisation grant conditions.

343 Wellpark Building Works 343

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director (Chief Officer), Inverclyde Health & Social Care Partnership (1) advising the Committee of the effects of the implementation of the new service model for integrated drugs and alcohol support services and (2) requesting the Committee to note the proposed building works in relation to staff accommodation within the Wellpark Centre.

Decided: that the Committee note the implementation of the new integrated service in respect of drugs and alcohol support and the building works which will be undertaken at the Wellpark Centre to accommodate additional staff and associated clinical activity.

344 Contract Awards – 1 October 2017 to 31 March 2018 344

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration & Resources advising the Committee of contracts awarded for the supply of goods or materials, provision of services and execution of works during the period 1 October 2017 to 31 March 2018.

Decided: that the Committee note the contracts awarded by the Council during the period 1 October 2017 to 31 March 2018.

345 Unite Construction Charter 345

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration & Resources requesting the Committee to agree to the use of an Inverclyde Council Construction Charter, a Trade Union campaign across UK local authorities to lay down a minimum set of standards, conditions and expectations from construction companies which tender for contracts in the public sector.

Decided: that agreement be given to the use of the Construction Charter as detailed within Appendix 2 to the report.

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346 'The Great Get Together' – 22 – 24 June 2018

346

There was submitted a report by the Head of Organisational Development, Policy & Communications advising the Committee of a request from the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities for Councils to support 'The Great Get Together' from 22 – 24 June 2018, an initiative inspired by the circumstances surrounding the murder of Jo Cox MP and which aims to encourage community cohesion through the organisation of community led events.

Decided: that agreement be given to support community groups and individuals organising events as part of 'The Great Get Together' from 22 – 24 June 2018 to a maximum total budget of £10,000 from the Revenue Contingency, with £700 set aside from the budget for promotion of the fund up to a maximum contribution of £350.

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 ground 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:-

| Item | Paragraph(s) |
|--|--------------|
| Welfare Reforms Update – Appendix 5 | 6 |
| Equal Pay Update | 12 |
| Hydro Electric Scheme – Holeburn at Greenock Cut | 6, 8 & 9 |
| Voluntary Severance Policy Update | 1 |
| Cumberland Walk, Greenock – Remit from Environment & Regeneration Committee | 2, 6 & 9 |
| Birkmyre Pitch Contract Award – Remit from Education & Communities Committee | 6, 8 & 9 |

347 Welfare Reforms Update – Appendix 5

347

There was submitted Appendix 5 relative to agenda item 8 (Welfare Reforms Update) providing information on how the impact on rent arrears of Universal Credit is being managed by Registered Social Landlords.

Decided: that the appendix be noted.

348 Equal Pay Update

348

There was submitted a report by the Head of Organisational Development, Policy & Communications providing an update on the current position in relation to equal pay claims against the Council.

The Committee agreed to note the position and to request the submission of a report in respect of a number of claims to the August meeting of the Committee, all as detailed in the appendix.

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Councillor Clocherty left the meeting at this juncture.

349 Hydro Electric Scheme – Holeburn at Greenock Cut 349

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal & Property Services providing an update on the proposed development of a Hydro Scheme on the Holeburn at the Greenock Cut in a partnership between Scottish Water Horizons and the Council. (Councillor Clocherty returned to the meeting during consideration of this item of business).

The Committee agreed to note the level of tender returns and the position arising therefrom and to approve further action, all as detailed in the appendix.

350 Voluntary Severance Policy Update 350

There was submitted a report by the Head of Organisational Development, Policy & Communications providing an update on the position of releases which have been agreed under the Council's Voluntary Severance Scheme since the previous report on 21 March 2017. There was circulated to the Committee, updated Appendix 1 providing information on the Committee approvals relative to the various releases.

The Committee agreed to note the position and to approve the release of two employees, all as detailed in the Appendix.

351 Cumberland Walk, Greenock – Remit from Environment & Regeneration Committee 351

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration & Resources requesting the Committee to consider a remit from the Environment & Regeneration Committee of 3 May 2018 relative to the financial implications for the Capital Fund as a result of the Cumberland Walk transfer.

Councillors Brooks and McCabe declared a non-financial interest in this item as Members of the Board of River Clyde Homes. 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 the Committee approve the financial implications relative to the Capital Fund as a result of the Cumberland Walk transfer, as detailed in the report.

352 Birkmyre Pitch Contract Award – Remit from Education & Communities Committee 352

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration & Resources requesting the Committee to consider a remit from the Education & Communities Committee of 8 May 2018 relative to the Birkmyre Pitch contract award in the circumstances set out in the report.

Decided: that approval be given to accept the most economically advantageous tender as detailed in the report.