

POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 5 FEBRUARY 2019

Policy & Resources Committee

5 February 2019 at 3pm

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

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 Strategy & Support Services, Head of Administration, Health & Social Care Partnership, Head of Legal & Property Services, Ms R McGhee (Legal & Property Services), Chief Financial Officer, Revenues and Customer Services Manager, Head of Organisational Development, Policy & Communications, Ms P Ramsay (Organisational Development, Policy & Communications), Corporate Policy, Performance & Partnership Manager and Corporate Communications Manager.

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

68 Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest 68

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillor Ahlfeld, with Councillor McKenzie substituting, and Councillor MacLeod, with Councillor Curley substituting.

Declarations of interest were intimated as follows:

Agenda Item 6 (Welfare Reform Update) – Councillor Robertson;
 Agenda Item 14 (Proposed Increase to the Long Term Empty Council Tax Levy) – Councillor Curley; and
 Agenda Item 18 (River Clyde Homes: Reduction in Board Membership) – Councillor Curley.

69 Policy & Resources Capital Programme 2018/2021 – Progress Report 69

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 current position of the 2018/21 Capital Programme, the reported net advancement and the progress on the specific projects detailed in the report and Appendix 1 be noted.

70 2018/21 Capital Programme 70

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer on the latest position of the 2018/21 Capital Programme.

Decided: that it be agreed to note the current position of the 2018/21 Capital Programme and that Officers continue to examine ways to minimise any further

POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 5 FEBRUARY 2019

slippage.

71 Policy & Resources Committee 2018/19 Revenue Budget – Period 8 to 30 November 2018 71

There was submitted a report by the Chief Executive, Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration & Resources, Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development and Chief Financial Officer on the 2018/19 projected outturn for the Policy & Resources Committee as at Period 8 to 30 November 2018.

Decided:

- (1) that the 2018/19 projected underspend of £705,000 for the Policy & Resources Committee as at Period 8 to 30 November 2018 be noted;
- (2) that approval be given to the transfer of £50,000 from the projected Finance Services underspend to the Digital Strategy Earmarked Reserve to fund specific investments in Purchase to Pay and FMS to meet new legislative requirements and to improve services to customers; and
- (3) that the projected 2018/19 surplus of £19,240 for the Common Good Fund be noted.

72 2018/19 General Fund Revenue Budget as at 30 November 2018 72

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer (1) on the position of the General Fund Revenue Budget as at 30 November 2018 and (2) providing an update in respect of the position of the General Fund Reserves and Earmarked Reserves.

Decided:

- (1) that the latest position of the 2018/19 Revenue Budget and General Fund Reserves be noted; and
- (2) that it be noted that the use of any Free Reserves will be considered as part of the 2019/20 budget process.

73 Welfare Reform Update 73

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer providing an update on the latest developments in relation to Welfare Reform.

Councillor Robertson declared a financial interest in this matter as a Financial Fitness Board Member and left the meeting.

Decided:

- (1) that the latest update regarding the impact of Welfare Reform within Inverclyde be noted; and
- (2) that approval be given to the allocations from the Anti-Poverty Fund as set out in section 6 of the report.

Councillor Robertson returned to the meeting at this juncture.

74 Inverclyde's Best Value Assurance Report Improvement Plan Progress Report 74

There was submitted a report by the Chief Executive providing an update on the Inverclyde Best Value Assurance Report (BVAR) Improvement Plan.

Decided: that the progress made in relation to the BVAR improvement actions, set out in Appendix 1, be noted.

POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 5 FEBRUARY 2019

- 75 Corporate Services Progress Report 2018/19 75**
- There was submitted a report by the Head of Organisational Development, Policy & Communications providing an update on the achievement of key objectives during 2018/19 by the Council's corporate services, as detailed in the Education, Communities & Organisational Development and the Environment, Regeneration & Resources Corporate Directorate Improvement Plans (CDIPs) for 2016/19, focusing on improvement actions in (a) Finance and ICT, (b) Legal & Property Services, (c) Procurement and (d) Organisational Development, Policy & Communications.
- Decided:**
- (1) that the progress made by the Council's Corporate Services during 2018/19 in delivering the three year improvement actions outlined in their respective CDIPs 2016/19 be noted; and
- (2) that it be agreed to consider a second progress report at the meeting of the Committee on 21 May 2019.
- 76 Audit Scotland Reports on Fife, East Ayrshire, West Dunbartonshire, Glasgow City, East Lothian and Dumfries and Galloway Councils 76**
- There was submitted a report by the Head of Organisational Development, Policy & Communications (1) summarising Audit Scotland's 2018 Best Value Assurance Reports (BVARs) on Fife, East Ayrshire, West Dunbartonshire, Glasgow City, East Lothian and Dumfries and Galloway Councils and (2) proposing improvement actions for implementation by Inverclyde Council.
- Decided:**
- (1) that it be agreed to note the content of Audit Scotland's BVARs on Fife, East Ayrshire, West Dunbartonshire, Glasgow City, East Lothian and Dumfries and Galloway Councils and to take cognisance of the recommendations made in respect of each Council; and
- (2) that it be noted that officers are considering implementing the proposed improvement actions, as appropriate.
- 77 Accounts Commission Report - Local Government Financial Overview 2017/18 77**
- There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer (1) on the main issues raised in the recent Local Government Financial Overview report by the Accounts Commission and (2) highlighting actions proposed by Officers.
- Decided:** that it be agreed to note the contents of the Accounts Commission report and to approve the Officer assessment of where the Council is placed against the matters raised in Appendix 1.
- 78 2019/20 Budget Update 78**
- There was submitted a report together with addendum by the Chief Financial Officer (1) updating the Committee on the latest position of the 2019/20 budget and (2) seeking approval of proposals which will assist the Council in setting a legally balanced budget for 2019/20.
- Decided:**
- (1) that it be agreed to note the Draft Local Government Settlement announced in December 2018 and the resultant impact of this and the latest pay offer to Council employees on the estimated 2019/20 funding gap;

POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 5 FEBRUARY 2019

(2) that it be agreed that the Corporate Management Team and Members' Budget Working Group continue to review savings options as part of the development of proposals to deliver a legally balanced 2019/20 budget and progress engagement with potentially impacted employees in consultation with Trades Unions via the Joint Budget Group;

(3) that agreement be given to the proposed adjustments set out in Appendix 3;

(4) that the proposals elsewhere on the agenda in relation to increasing the Long Term Empty Levy on Council Tax and for a 3% increase in all fees and charges from 2019/20 be noted;

(5) that approval be given to the proposed 2019/20 Common Good budget contained in Appendix 4; and

(6) that the intention to approve the Council Tax for 2019/20 on 21 February 2019 be noted and that the Provost be requested to agree to a special meeting of the Inverclyde Council on 21 March 2019 to approve the 2019/20 Revenue Budget.

79 Capital Strategy 2019/30

79

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer seeking approval of the Council's first Capital Strategy, a requirement of the Prudential Code from 2019/30.

Decided: that the contents of the Capital Strategy be noted and that the Council's first Capital Strategy covering the period 2019/30 be approved.

80 Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy 2019/20 – 2022/23

80

There was submitted a report by Chief Financial Officer seeking approval of the Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy for 2019/23, 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:

(1) that the following, as outlined in the report, be remitted to the Inverclyde Council for approval:-

(a) Treasury Management Strategy and Annual Investment Strategy;

(b) Authorised Limits for 2019/23;

(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;

(g) List of Permitted Investments (including those for the Common Good Fund); and

(2) that delegated authority be granted to the Head of Legal & Property Services and the Chief Financial Officer to accept the successful bank tender for the period from 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2024 with an option to extend for a further three one year periods until 31 March 2027.

81 Proposed Increase to the Long Term Empty Council Tax Levy

81

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer seeking approval to increase the Long Term Empty Property Council Tax Levy to the maximum allowed of 100%.

POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 5 FEBRUARY 2019

Councillor Curley declared a non-financial interest in this matter as a Board Member of River Clyde Homes. He also formed the view that the nature of his interest and of the item of business did not preclude his continued presence in the Chamber or his participation in the decision-making process.

Decided: that the contents of the report and the proposed additional change to the Policy set out in paragraph 7.2 of the report be noted and that it be agreed to increase the Long Term Empty Property Council Tax Levy to 100% from 2019/20.

82 Corporate Charging Policy

82

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer appending the updated Corporate Charging Policy and seeking approval to set a standard inflation uplift for all discretionary charges as part of the 2019/20 Revenue Budget process.

Decided:

- (1) that the revised Charging Policy at Appendix 1 to the report be approved; and
- (2) that the proposal to uplift discretionary charges by 3% from 1 April 2019 be approved and that the opportunity for Members to agree further increases as part of the 2019/20 Revenue Budget be noted.

83 Audit Scotland: Housing Benefit Performance

83

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer updating the Committee on Audit Scotland's Annual Housing Benefit Performance Audit, a copy of which was attached to the report.

Decided:

- (1) that Inverclyde's strong performance in the areas of risk identified by Audit Scotland be noted; and
- (2) that it be noted that the 5.5 posts lost as part of the 2018/19 budget savings are likely to have an impact on processing performance.

84 Scottish Government Consultation: Prisoner Voting

84

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal & Property Services (1) advising that CoSLA had requested the Council's view on the Scottish Government Consultation on Prisoner Voting, its intention being to develop a co-ordinated local government response on the consultation, and (2) seeking approval of the Council's response.

After discussion, Councillor McCabe moved (1) that the terms of the Scottish Government Consultation on Prisoner Voting be noted; and (2) that approval be given to the Council's response to the consultation as set out in Appendix 2 to the report for onward transmission to CoSLA.

As an amendment, Councillor Wilson moved (1) that the terms of the Scottish Government Consultation on Prisoner Voting be noted; and (2) that the Council's response for onward transmission to CoSLA be that the Council does not support prisoners' right to vote.

On a vote, two Members, Councillors McKenzie and Wilson, voted for the amendment and eight Members, Councillors Clocherty, Curley, McCabe, McCormick, C McEleny, McVey, Moran and Robertson, voted for the motion which was declared carried. Councillor Rebecchi abstained from voting.

Decided:

- (1) that the terms of the Scottish Government Consultation on Prisoner Voting be noted; and

POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 5 FEBRUARY 2019

(2) that approval be given to the Council's response to the consultation as set out in Appendix 2 to the report for onward transmission to CoSLA.

85 River Clyde Homes: Reduction in Board Membership

85

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal & Property Services on (1) the implications of the Regulation of Social Housing (Influence of Local Authorities) (Scotland) Regulations 2018 and (2) the effect on the number of Council nominees to the Board of River Clyde Homes.

Councillor Curley declared a non-financial interest in this matter as a Board Member of River Clyde Homes. He also formed the view that the nature of his interest and of the item of business did not preclude his continued presence in the Chamber or his participation in the decision-making process.

Decided:

- (1) that the implementation of the Regulation of Social Housing (Influence of Local Authorities) (Scotland) Regulations 2018 be noted; and
- (2) that it be remitted to the February 2019 meeting of the Inverclyde Council to determine the two Council nominees to the Board of River Clyde Homes.

86 Women's Forum

86

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development updating the Committee on the progress of the Women's Forum.

Decided:

- (1) that the progress made by the Women's Forum be noted;
- (2) that the terms of reference for the group set out in Appendix 1 to the report be agreed;
- (3) that it be agreed to continue the Forum in the current format;
- (4) that the proposed remit of a Women's Champion as set out in Appendix 2 to the report be agreed; and
- (5) that the appointment of a Women's Champion be remitted to the Inverclyde Council.

87 Earmarked Reserves: Inverclyde Events

87

There was submitted a report by the Head of Organisational Development, Policy & Communications (1) on the opportunity to host a major pipe band championships, it being noted that the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association has decided not to award the event to another west coast location, and (2) highlighting a range of additional event opportunities considered by the Corporate Management Team as alternatives in light of the current budget position and ongoing review of reserves.

After discussion, Councillor McCabe moved:

- (1) that the recommendations contained in paragraph 6.4 of the report to support the delivery of a James Watt celebration in 2019 be approved up to a funding level from Earmarked Reserves for events and repopulation of £35,000;
- (2) that the recommendations set out at paragraphs 7.5 and 7.6 of the report to support negotiations in partnership with Event Scotland to host a sailing event in 2020 as part of the Year of Coast and Water be approved up to £135,000 from event Earmarked Reserves;
- (3) that the creation of a new fledgling Inverclyde Comedy Festival in 2019 and 2020

POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 5 FEBRUARY 2019

as set out in paragraph 9.4 of the report be supported up to a total of £30,000 from repopulation Earmarked Reserves;

(4) that the development of a launch event at the new Greenock Ocean Terminal facility set out at paragraph 10.3 of the report be supported up to £30,000 using funding through the Glasgow City Region; and

(5) that £195,000 be removed from the existing Earmarked Reserve for events.

As an amendment to (2) above, Councillor McVey moved that the recommendations set out at paragraphs 7.5 and 7.6 of the report to support negotiations in partnership with Event Scotland to host a sailing event in 2020 as part of the Year of Coast and Water up to £135,000 from event Earmarked Reserves not be supported and that £135,000 be returned to Reserves.

On a vote, three Members, Councillors McKenzie, McVey and Wilson, voted for the amendment and eight Members, Councillors Clocherty, Curley, McCabe, McCormick, C McEleny, Moran, Rebecchi and Robertson, voted for the motion which was declared carried.

Decided:

(1) that the recommendations contained in paragraph 6.4 of the report to support the delivery of a James Watt celebration in 2019 be approved up to a funding level from Earmarked Reserves for events and repopulation of £35,000;

(2) that the recommendations set out at paragraphs 7.5 and 7.6 of the report to support negotiations in partnership with Event Scotland to host a sailing event in 2020 as part of the Year of Coast and Water be approved up to £135,000 from event Earmarked Reserves;

(3) that the creation of a new fledgling Inverclyde Comedy Festival in 2019 and 2020 as set out in paragraph 9.4 of the report be supported up to a total of £30,000 from repopulation Earmarked Reserves;

(4) that the development of a launch event at the new Greenock Ocean Terminal facility set out at paragraph 10.3 of the report be supported up to £30,000 using funding through the Glasgow City Region; and

(5) that £195,000 be removed from the existing Earmarked Reserve for events.

88 People and Organisational Development Strategy 2017-2020 - Update

88

There was submitted a report by the Head of Organisational Development, Policy & Communications providing an update on the key actions completed during 2018 and setting out targets for 2019 to support the Council's People and Organisational Development Strategy 2017-2020.

Decided: that the key workforce planning actions outlined in section 5 of the report, which will support the Council to manage the workforce implications required to address the projected funding gap and also to support employees through the next period of significant change, be noted.

89 Corporate Health & Safety Report

89

There was submitted a report by the Head of Organisational Development, Policy & Communications seeking approval of the Corporate Health & Safety report for 2017/18, a copy of which was appended to the report.

Decided:

(1) that the Corporate Health & Safety report be approved; and

(2) that the report be supported by active promotion and support of Health and Safety.

POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 5 FEBRUARY 2019

90 Externally Commissioned Review of Advice Provision 90

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director (Chief Officer), Inverclyde Health & Social Care Partnership on the findings and recommendations from the externally commissioned review of advice provision.

Decided:

- (1) that the analysis, findings and recommendation from the external review of advice provision be noted;
- (2) that Officers progress recommendation numbers 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9 and 10 contained within the report; and
- (3) that the Corporate Director (Chief Officer), Inverclyde Health & Social Care Partnership take a lead on the further discussion required in relation to recommendations 1, 6 and 11 and provide an update to a future meeting of the Committee.

91 Equal Pay 91

It was noted that with the agreement of the relevant Elected Members consideration of this item of business would be deferred to a future meeting of the Committee.

92 Implementation of Pay and Grading Model and Consolidation of Living Wage 92

There was submitted a report by the Head of Organisational Development, Policy & Communications (1) advising of the positive outcome of the Trades Unions consultative ballots regarding the revised pay and grading model and (2) confirming that arrangements are now being made to implement the revised model with effect from 1 April 2019.

Decided: that the Committee note the positive outcome of the Trades Unions consultative ballots and that it be agreed to consider implementation of the revised pay and grading model as part of the 2019/20 budget process.

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:-

Item	Paragraph(s)
Education & Community Services - Management Restructure	1
PPP Contract – Conclusion of Review	6, 8 and 9

93 Education & Community Services - Management Restructure 93

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development proposing changes to the Heads of Service remits within Education & Communities Services.

Decided:

- (1) that approval be given to change the remit and title of the current Head of

POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 5 FEBRUARY 2019

Inclusive Education, Culture & Communities to Head of Culture, Communities & Educational Resources;

(2) that approval be given to the change of remit of the current Head of Education as outlined in the report; and

(3) that it be noted that a more comprehensive report on roles and remits sitting within the Education Services restructure will be submitted to the March 2019 Education & Communities Committee.

94 PPP Contract – Conclusion of Review**94**

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer (1) updating the Committee on the conclusion of the recent PPP Contract review and (2) confirming the savings achieved.

Decided: that the conclusion of the PPP Contract review exercise be noted.