

POLICY AND RESOURCES EXECUTIVE SUB-COMMITTEE – 21 APRIL 2020

Policy and Resources Executive Sub-Committee

Tuesday 21 April 2020 at 3pm

Present: Councillors Ahlfeld and Clocherty (by telephone), McCabe, C McEleny, Robertson and Brooks (for Wilson).

Chair: Councillor McCabe presided.

In attendance: Chief Executive, Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration & Resources, Head of Legal & Property Services and Chief Financial Officer.

Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development, Corporate Director (Chief Officer), Inverclyde Health & Social Care Partnership, Head of Organisational Development, Policy & Communications, Head of Environmental & Public Protection, Head of Regeneration & Planning and Service Manager, Communications, Tourism and Health & Safety (all by telephone).

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

213 Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest 213

An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Councillor Wilson, with Councillor Brooks substituting.

Declarations of interest were intimated as follows:

Agenda Item 3 (Changes to Civic Licensing: Coronavirus (Scotland) Act 2020) – Councillor McCabe.

Agenda Item 4 (Civic Licensing – Taxi Drivers and Taxi Operators – Request by Councillor C McEleny) – Councillor McCabe.

214 COVID-19 (Coronavirus): Scrutiny Report 214

There was submitted a report by the Chief Executive providing an update on actions taken by officers in order to address and mitigate the risks arising from the COVID-19 emergency.

Decided:

- (1) that the actions taken to date to mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 emergency in Inverclyde be noted;
- (2) that it be noted that further reports would be submitted regularly for Members' scrutiny and review;
- (3) that the current suspension of parking enforcement remain in force for a further six weeks, to 2 June 2020 or alternatively until there are any significant changes to government guidance on social distancing, whichever is the sooner;
- (4) that a report be submitted to a future meeting of the Executive Sub-Committee on the application of the guidance received from the SQA on securing outcomes for pupils across the Senior Phase;
- (5) that a report be submitted to a future meeting of the Executive Sub-Committee on the position in relation to the registration of deaths within Inverclyde;
- (6) that it be noted that the Chief Financial Officer will liaise with Directors of Finance

POLICY AND RESOURCES EXECUTIVE SUB-COMMITTEE – 21 APRIL 2020

and CoSLA on the allocation of consequential funding and the balance of business grants funding for the purposes of financial support for the future recovery plan;

(7) that a report be submitted to the next meeting of the Executive Sub-Committee providing more detailed information on workforce attendance figures in relation to key workers and a breakdown of figures for essential and non-essential staff;

(8) that a report be submitted to a future meeting of the Executive Sub-Committee on Early Learning and Childcare and the implementation of the 1140 Hours Expansion Plan; and

(9) that a report be submitted to the next meeting of the Executive Sub-Committee on the status of the Recovery Plan.

It was agreed unanimously to consider items 3 and 4 together.

215 Changes to Civic Licensing: Coronavirus (Scotland) Act 2020 **215**
Civic Licensing – Taxi Drivers and Taxi Operators – Request by Councillor C McEleny

There were submitted reports by the Head of Legal & Property Services (1) recommending the approach which officers should take in relation to the renewals of all civic licensing in light of provisions contained within the Coronavirus (Scotland) Act 2020 which sets out modifications to licensing legislation following upon the COVID-19 emergency and (2) a request received from Councillor C McEleny that, as taxi drivers are struggling significantly as people stay at home and many drivers are coming off the road for social distancing measures, in line with the recent changes in legislation permitting a three month deferral of renewal applications, all renewals of taxi driver licences and taxi/private hire operator licences be extended for three months at no cost to the applicants.

The Head of Legal & Property Services advised the Executive Sub-Committee that the entries in respect of operators and cab drivers in appendix 1 to his report had been inverted.

Councillor McCabe declared a non- financial interest in this item as the relative of a taxi operator. He also formed the view that the nature of his interest and of the item of business did not preclude his continued presence at the meeting or his participation in the decision-making process.

Following discussion, Councillor McCabe moved (1) that the terms of the report by the Head of Legal & Property Services on changes to civic licensing as a result of the Coronavirus (Scotland) Act 2020 be endorsed, (2) that it be noted that the Act provides that applications for renewal of taxi/private hire operator licences and all other civic licences can now be lodged on good cause up to three months after the date of expiry of the licence and (3) that no action be taken on the request by Councillor C McEleny but that this issue be considered as part of a wider support for local businesses in the future Recovery Plan.

As an amendment, Councillor C McEleny moved that all renewals of taxi driver and taxi/private hire operator licences be extended for three months at no cost to the applicants.

Following a roll call vote, 2 Members, Councillors C McEleny and Robertson, voted in favour of the amendment and 4 Members, Councillors Ahlfeld, Brooks, Clocherty and McCabe voted in favour of the motion which was declared carried.

Decided:

(1) that the terms of the report by the Head of Legal & Property Services on changes to civic licensing as a result of the Coronavirus (Scotland) Act 2020 be endorsed;

(2) that it be noted that the Act provides that applications for renewal of taxi/private

POLICY AND RESOURCES EXECUTIVE SUB-COMMITTEE – 21 APRIL 2020

hire operator licences and all other civic licences can now be lodged on good cause up to three months after the date of expiry of the licence; and

(3) that no action be taken on the request by Councillor C McEleny but that this issue be considered as part of a wider support for local businesses in the future Recovery Plan.

216 COVID-19 Community Funding

216

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development seeking approval for proposals to address and mitigate the risks arising from the COVID-19 emergency across a number of self-managed community centres and a number of recipients of Grants to Voluntary Organisations (GTVO) funding.

Decided:

(1) that it be agreed that officers release the April - June quarter's payment to all self-managed community centres whilst officers review the financial information supplied by each of the centres and that it be noted that a further and more detailed report will be submitted to the Executive Sub-Committee regarding future funding levels; and

(2) that it be agreed that for the GTVO recipients outlined in Appendix 1, officers support the organisations to optimise other funding support available through the COVID-19 crisis and, where required, approve GTVO support up to the same rate as the previous year with this payment to be released prior to the main GTVO exercise on the condition that organisations pursue these funding resources and be not fully reliant on grants from the Council; and

(3) that delegated authority be granted to the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development to provide grant assistance to any previously GTVO-funded organisations with fixed costs, subject to terms and conditions as considered appropriate.

217 Engagement with Scottish Government

217

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal & Property Services providing information on Inverclyde Council engagement with the Scottish Government.

The Head of Legal & Property Services advised the Executive Sub-Committee that the meeting with the local MSP referred to in the report had been arranged for teleconferencing later in the week.

Decided: that it be agreed to note the current position with regard to the Council's engagement with the Scottish Government on (1) the temporary withdrawal by NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde of the Out-of-Hours GP Service in Inverclyde and (2) the request to meet with Inverclyde's constituency MSPs to examine opportunities for additional funding and to re-examine the funding Inverclyde receives.

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 to enable the Executive Sub-Committee to be advised of the proposal for recommencement of an important waste service prior to the next fortnightly meeting of the Executive Sub-Committee on 5 May. This was agreed unanimously.

POLICY AND RESOURCES EXECUTIVE SUB-COMMITTEE – 21 APRIL 2020

- 218 Environmental Services – Service Update 218**
- There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration & Resources advising the Executive Sub-Committee of the current operational situation within Waste and Environmental Services and the plans to restore recycling services.
- Decided:**
- (1) that the Executive Sub-Committee note:
 - (a) that the garden waste recycling service along with the sale of permits will recommence within the next three weeks;
 - (b) that blue bin collections will be reinstated as soon as the Council's contractor is able to commence collection and processing of dry recyclate material;
 - (c) that restoration of food waste collection services will be kept under review and restored when there are sufficient resources to commence this service in line with social distancing guidelines;
 - (d) that grass cutting will commence in cemeteries; and
 - (e) that officers are managing a high throughput at Greenock Crematorium and are exploring a broadcasting service in view of the restrictions on the number of people who can attend funerals; and
 - (2) that an update report in relation to the proposed broadcasting service be submitted to the next meeting of the Executive Sub-Committee.
- 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 paragraphs 2, 6 and 9 of Part I of Schedule 7(A) of the Act.**
- 219 Lease Renewal – Dubbs Road, Port Glasgow 219**
- There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration & Resources seeking approval to grant a new lease of premises in Dubbs Road, Port Glasgow to the current tenants and the Executive Sub-Committee agreed to the action recommended, all as detailed in the appendix.
- 220 Lease Renewal – Church Street, Port Glasgow 220**
- There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration & Resources seeking approval to grant a new lease of premises in Church Street, Port Glasgow to the current tenants and the Executive Sub-Committee agreed to the action recommended, all as detailed in the appendix.
- 221 Variation of Permitted Use – Moss Road, Port Glasgow 221**
- There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration & Resources seeking approval for a variation of the permitted use of premises at Moss Road, Port Glasgow and the Executive Sub-Committee agreed, following a vote, to the action recommended, all as detailed in the appendix.