

POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 11 AUGUST 2020**Policy & Resources Committee****Tuesday 11 August 2020 at 3pm**

Present: Councillors Ahlfeld, Clocherty, Curley (for MacLeod), McCabe, McCormick, Crowther (for 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 Legal & Property Services, Mr A Greer, Mr P MacDonald, Ms R McGhee and Ms D Sweeney (Legal & Property Services), Chief Financial Officer, Head of Organisational Development, Policy & Communications, Head of Environmental & Public Protection, Head of Regeneration & Planning, Corporate Policy, Performance & Partnership Manager and Service Manager, Communications, Tourism and Health & Safety.

The meeting was held by video conference.

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

272 Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest 272

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillor MacLeod, with Councillor Curley substituting, and Councillor C McEleny, with Councillor Crowther substituting.

Declarations of interest were intimated as follows:-

Agenda Item 2 (COVID-19 (Coronavirus): Scrutiny Report) – Councillor Moran; and
Agenda Item 3 (Funding of Excess COVID Costs) – Councillor Clocherty.

273 COVID-19 (Coronavirus): Scrutiny Report 273

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.

Councillor Moran declared a non-financial interest in this item due to the nature of his part-time employment. 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.

(Councillor McCormick joined the meeting during consideration of this item of business).

Decided:

- (1) that the actions taken to date to mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 emergency in Inverclyde be noted;
- (2) that the recruitment of additional teachers for primary and secondary school provision from the Council's allocation of Additional Teachers funding be noted; and
- (3) that approval be given for charges in car parks to remain suspended until the New Year at which point these be reviewed again and that the further estimated loss of £54,000 income be funded from the COVID-19 Budget, that a review of the time limits

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on-street and in car parks be carried out with a report on the outcome being submitted to the 29 October 2020 meeting of the Environment & Regeneration Committee and that it be agreed that should it be necessary to resume enforcement of no-waiting restrictions this be preceded by a public communications campaign.

274 Funding of Excess COVID Costs

274

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer seeking approval for how the estimated extra costs associated with the COVID-19 pandemic are to be funded in order that this matter can be addressed before commencing consideration of the 2021/23 Revenue Budget.

Councillor Clocherty declared a non-financial interest in this item as a member of the Board of Inverclyde Leisure and as a member of the Board of Greenock Arts Guild Ltd. He also formed the view that the nature of his interests and the item of business did not preclude his continued presence at the meeting or his participation in the decision-making process.

Decided:

- (1) that the latest estimated financial pressure of £15.1 million for the period ending 31 March 2021 arising from the COVID-19 pandemic be noted;
- (2) that it be agreed to note the assumption that all excess costs incurred by the HSCP will be contained by either Scottish Government funding or the IJB Reserves and that were this to change then this would increase the funding pressure on the Council; and
- (3) that approval be given to the Members' Budget Working Group proposals for the write back of earmarked reserves as set out in Appendix 2 to the report.

275 Revenue Budget Outturn 2019/20 - Unaudited

275

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer (1) on the unaudited outturn of Service Committee Budgets for the year ending 31 March 2020 and (2) highlighting any significant variances between revised budgets, the Period 10 report (Period 9 for Service Committees) and outturn as set out in 2019/20 unaudited accounts.

Decided:

- (1) that the underspend as set out in the unaudited accounts for 2019/20 of £2,172,000, the reasons for the material variances from budget and the 1.23% movement from Period 10 to final outturn be noted; and
- (2) that it be noted that Officers will identify any opportunities for adjustments to be included in the 2021/23 Budget.

276 2019/20 Capital Programme Performance

276

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer on the performance in the delivery of the 2019/20 Capital Programme.

Decided: that it be agreed to note the 2019/20 Capital outturn position of 13.42% slippage and that it be noted a separate report on the agenda seeks approval to reset the 2020/21 Capital Budget.

277 Capital Budget, Revision of 2020/23 Base Budgets

277

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer providing an update of the 2020/23 Capital Programme in light of the significant impact the COVID-19 pandemic

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has had on the construction industry as well as other areas relating to the Capital Programme.

Decided:

- (1) that approval be given to the revised Capital Programme and specifically that the revised 2020/21 projections be adopted as the approved budget for measuring 2020/21 Capital delivery performance; and
- (2) that it be agreed to note the estimated cost increases as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and that it be noted these increases are addressed in a separate report on the agenda.

278 Treasury Management – Annual Report 2019/20 278

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer on the operation of the treasury function and its activities for 2019/20 as required under the terms of Treasury Management Practice 6 (“TMP6”) on “Reporting Requirements and Management Information Arrangements”.

Decided:

- (1) that the contents of the annual report on Treasury Management for 2019/20 and the ongoing work to seek to ensure the delivery of financial benefits for the Council during the current uncertainty and beyond be noted; and
- (2) that the annual report be remitted to the Inverclyde Council for approval.

279 Inverclyde Council Corporate Plan Annual Report 2019/20 279

There was submitted a report by the Head of Organisational Development, Policy & Communications on the Corporate Plan Annual Report 2019/20, a copy of which was appended to the report.

Decided:

- (1) that the Corporate Plan Annual Report 2019/20 be approved; and
- (2) that it be noted that the Inverclyde Outcomes Improvement Plan Annual Report 2019/20 had been approved by the Alliance Board and was available on the Community Planning Partnership section of the Inverclyde Council website.

280 General Data Protection Regulation Update 280

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal & Property Services providing the annual update on the implementation of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) within the Council.

Mr Greer advised the Committee that the majority of the GDPR budget was reserved for an information management system to assist managing Freedom of Information and Subject Access Requests.

Decided:

- (1) that the contents of the report be noted; and
- (2) that it be noted that the annual GDPR update will be reported to future Committees as part of an annual Data Protection update.

281 Review of Community Council Grant Funding 281

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal & Property Services (1) on the feedback received from the Community Councils on proposals to change the basis of their grant funding and, having regard to that feedback, (2) seeking approval of a

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proposed new Scheme of Funding for Community Councils.

Decided:

- (1) that the responses received from the Community Councils on proposals for changing how they are funded, as set out in the body of the report and Appendix 1, be noted;
- (2) that the “Inverclyde Council – Scheme of Funding for Community Councils” set out in Appendix 2 to the report be approved and adopted, to apply from and including 1 April 2020;
- (3) that the terms of the Guide to Community Council Grants as set out in Appendix 3 to the report be approved;
- (4) that approval be given to the treatment detailed in paragraphs 7.1 to 7.5 of the report of any grant funds released or to be released to the Community Councils in terms of the existing funding model with the extension of the transitional period in those paragraphs to 31 March 2022; and
- (5) that a report be submitted to the appropriate Committee at the earliest opportunity on how to seek to stimulate community interest in establishing Community Councils in those areas where none exist and on alternative ways of supporting communities where there is no Community Council.

282 Use of Anti-Poverty Funds – Remit from Policy & Resources Executive Sub-Committee 282

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer requesting the Committee to consider a remit from the Policy & Resources Executive Sub-Committee in relation to various Anti-Poverty initiatives to be progressed in the current financial year.

Decided:

- (1) that approval be given to the proposals set out in the report for the utilisation of the Anti-Poverty funding of £1m and other funding received from the Scottish Government; and
- (2) that it be noted that a follow-up report providing more detail of the Food Insecurity, Digital Connectivity and Community Grants proposals will be submitted to the Education & Communities Committee on 1 September 2020.

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 item on the grounds that the business involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 1 of Part I of Schedule 7(A) of the Act.

283 Voluntary Severance Scheme Releases 283

There was submitted a report by the Head of Organisational Development, Policy & Communications updating the Committee on the position of releases agreed under the Council’s Voluntary Severance Scheme since the previous report on 26 March 2019.

Decided:

- (1) that the agreement to release 37 employees under the Council’s Voluntary Severance Scheme as set out in Appendix 1 to the report be noted; and
- (2) that it be noted that future reports will be submitted to update Members on the release of employees by the Chief Executive under delegated authority on an annual basis.