

POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 16 NOVEMBER 2021

Policy & Resources Committee

Tuesday 16 November 2021 at 3pm

Present: Councillors Ahlfeld, Clocherty, Curley, McCabe, McCormick, J McEleny, McVey, Moran, Rebecchi, Robertson and Wilson.

Chair: Councillor McCabe presided.

In attendance: Chief Executive, Interim Director Finance & Corporate Governance, Interim Director Environment & Regeneration, Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development, Interim Corporate Director (Chief Officer) Health and Social Care Partnership, Interim Head of Legal & Democratic Services, Head of Organisational Development, Policy & Communications, Interim Head of Public Protection and Recovery, Interim Head of Property Services, Head of Culture, Communities & Educational Resources, Mr C MacDonald, Ms D Sweeney and Ms C Craig-McDonald (Legal & Democratic Services), Procurement & Building Services Manager, Corporate Policy Manager, Ms T Bunton (Finance Services), Ms B McQuarrie (Human Resources), ICT Services Manager, and Service Manager Communications, Tourism and Health & Safety.

The meeting was held at the Municipal Buildings, Greenock with Councillors Ahlfeld, Clocherty, Curley, McCormick, J McEleny, McVey, Moran, Rebecchi and Robertson attending by video-conference.

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

475 Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest

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No apologies for absence were intimated.

Declarations of interest were intimated as follows:

Agenda Item 6 (Finance Service Performance Update) – Councillors Clocherty and Curley;

Agenda Item 16 (Progress and Development for Anti-Poverty Interventions 2021-2023) – Councillor J McEleny; and

Agenda Item 19 (Update in Relation to Former Owners of Property in Clune Park Estate) – Councillors Curley, McVey and Rebecchi.

476 COVID-19 Update

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There was submitted a report by the Interim Director Environment & Regeneration (1) providing an update on actions taken to mitigate the risks around the COVID-19 outbreak; and (2) reporting on items requiring Committee approval or scrutiny under the expedited procedures.

The Interim Head of Public Protection and Recovery advised the Committee of a typographical error in the report and, accordingly, at paragraph 3.2 the reference to 'Covid Contingency EMR' should read 'Covid Fund'.

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Decided:

- (1) that the actions taken to date to mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 outbreak in Inverclyde be noted; and
- (2) that the use of £40,000 from the Covid Fund over 2 years to fund ongoing additional occupational health provision be approved.

477 2021/22 Revenue Budget Update 477

There was submitted a report by the Chief Executive, Interim Director Finance & Corporate Governance and Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development advising of the 2021/22 projected outturn for the Policy & Resources Committee, including the General Fund Revenue Budget and latest position regarding COVID funds.

Decided:

- (1) that the update in respect of the Policy & Resources Committee budget including the 2021/22 projected overspend of £333,000 be noted;
- (2) that approval be given to the virement as detailed in appendix 4 of the report;
- (3) that the projected 2021/22 surplus of £43,230 for the Common Good Budget be noted;
- (4) that the overall overspend of £327,000 projected as at Period 6, 30 September for the General Fund, its overall Earmarked Reserves position and the position of the Free Reserves be noted; and
- (5) that the update relating to COVID expenditure and funding as detailed in appendix 10 of the report be noted.

478 Policy & Resources Capital Budget and 2021/24 Capital Programme 478

There was submitted a report by the Interim Director Finance & Corporate Governance providing the latest position of the Policy & Resources Capital Budget and the 2021/24 Capital Programme.

Decided:

- (1) that the current position of the 2021/24 Policy & Resources Capital Budget be noted; and
- (2) that the current position of the 2021/24 Capital Programme be noted.

479 Treasury Management – Mid-Year Report 2021/22 479

There was submitted a report by the Interim Director Finance & Corporate Governance advising of the operation of the treasury function and its activities for the first six months of 2021/22 as required under the terms of Treasury Management Practice 6 on "Reporting Requirements and Management Information Arrangements".

Decided:

- (1) that the contents of the Mid-Year Report on Treasury Management for 2021/22 and the ongoing work to ensure the delivery of financial benefits for the Council be noted; and
- (2) that the Mid-Year Report be remitted to the Inverclyde Council for approval.

480 Finance Service Performance Update 480

There was submitted a report by the Interim Director Finance & Corporate Governance (1) providing an update on a range of Finance Service matters; and (2) seeking

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approval as appropriate.

Councillor Clocherty declared a non-financial interest in the matter as a Board Member of Inverclyde Leisure. Councillor Curley declared a non-financial interest as a Board Member of Inverclyde Leisure and a Board Member of Kilmacolm Community Centre Co Ltd. 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 meeting or their participation in the decision making process.

Decided:

- (1) that the updates in respect of Welfare Reform, the annual Insurance Fund report and the Annual External Organisations Governance update be noted;
- (2) that the proposals as detailed in section 5 of the report regarding the proposed grant level for the Tenant Hardship Grant Fund be agreed;
- (3) that approval be given to the External Organisations to be subject to the Council's formal governance process for the period November 2021 – October 2022 as detailed in appendix 3 of the report;
- (4) that approval be given to the request from the Environment & Regeneration Committee to use up to £90,000 from the Former Housing Repairs & Renewals Fund to carry out the Local Housing Condition Survey linked to the Local Housing Strategy; and
- (5) that it be remitted to officers to submit a further report to the next meeting of the Committee on the impact of changes to Universal Credit.

481 Procurement Update

481

There was submitted a report by the Interim Director Finance & Corporate Governance (1) providing an update on procurement related activity including outcomes delivered during the period 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2021; (2) seeking approval to publish the Annual Procurement Report; (3) providing an update in respect of the Scottish Government's commitment to Fair Work; and (4) seeking approval to add SCAPE Scotland to the named frameworks with the Council's Standing Orders Relating to Contracts.

Decided:

- (1) that approval be given for the Annual Procurement Report as detailed in appendix 1 of the report to be published with the Scottish Government and on the Council's website;
- (2) that the latest Procurement Compliant Spend position and spend with small and medium-sized enterprises and local suppliers be noted;
- (3) that (a) the current position including actions required to embed/apply the revised Fair Work First principles in line with the updated policy and guidance be noted; and (b) that it be noted that a Fair Work First Action Plan will be developed and submitted to the February 2022 meeting of the Committee;
- (4) that it be agreed to revise the Council's Work Life Balance Policy to allow employees to make an application for flexible working from day one of employment;
- (5) that (a) approval be given to the addition of SCAPE Scotland to the listed bodies within section 6.6 of the Council's Standing Orders Relating to Contracts; and (b) authority be delegated under section 6.7 of the Standing Orders to the Corporate Procurement Manager to sign the SCAPE Scotland Access Agreement; and
- (6) that it be remitted to officers to submit a further report to a future meeting of the Committee on Inverclyde Council's procurement spend on local contractors in comparison with other Local Authorities, including data on Inverclyde companies securing spend in other Local Authorities.

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| 482 | Contract Awards – 1 April 2021 to 30 September 2021 | 482 |
| | <p>There was submitted a report by the Interim Director Finance & Corporate Governance advising of contracts awarded for the supply of goods or materials, provision of services and execution of works during the period 1 April 2021 to 30 September 2021.</p> <p>Decided: that the contracts awarded by the Council during the period 1 April 2021 to 30 September 2021 be noted.</p> | |
| 483 | Delivering Differently Programme Update | 483 |
| | <p>There was submitted a report by the Interim Director Finance & Corporate Governance (1) providing the annual update on the Delivering Differently programme; and (2) seeking decisions as appropriate.</p> <p>Decided:</p> <p>(1) that the current position of the Delivering Differently Programme as detailed in appendix 1 of the report be noted;</p> <p>(2) that approval be given to (a) the changes to projects as detailed in paragraph 5.3 of the report; and (b) the addition of a new project in relation to Home Care;</p> <p>(3) that authority be delegated to the Chief Executive to conduct Voluntary Early Release Trawls for relevant projects in the Programme on the proviso that no decisions are taken without a report to the relevant Committee; and</p> <p>(4) that approval be given to the £20,000 virement in respect of Internal Audit Shared Services in order to address the outstanding saving in this area.</p> | |
| 484 | Corporate Policy, Performance and Organisational Development Update Report | 484 |
| | <p>There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development providing an update on a number of issues relating to corporate policy, performance and organisational development.</p> <p>Decided:</p> <p>(1) that the progress made against the Corporate Plan priorities and Statutory Performance Indicators be noted;</p> <p>(2) that the Annual Performance Report be approved;</p> <p>(3) that the updated guidance on the Fairer Scotland Duty be noted;</p> <p>(4) that the new Life Expectancy data be noted; and</p> <p>(5) that the Workforce Information and Activity Report be noted.</p> | |
| 485 | Freedom of Information Annual Report - 2020 | 485 |
| | <p>There was submitted a report by the Interim Director Finance & Corporate Governance providing details of Freedom of Information requests received by the Council during the period 1 January 2020 – 31 December 2020.</p> <p>Decided: that the information provided in relation to Freedom of Information requests received by the Council during 2020 be noted.</p> | |
| 486 | Inverclyde Council Annual Complaint Handling Report 1 April 2020 - 31 March 2021 | 486 |
| | <p>There was a report submitted by the Interim Head of Legal & Democratic Services advising the Committee of all the annual performance in relation to complaints received and handled by Inverclyde Council, Inverclyde Health and Social Care Partnership,</p> | |

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Inverclyde Leisure and Riverside Inverclyde for the period from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021.

Decided:

- (1) that the annual performance of Inverclyde Council's complaint procedure be noted; and
- (2) that approval be given to the publication of the Annual Complaint Handling Report on the Council's website.

487 2022/23 Budget Update 487

There was submitted a report by the Interim Director Finance & Corporate Governance providing an update on (1) the current position of the 2022/23 Revenue Budget; (2) the work being undertaken via the Members Budget Working Group; and (3) planned timescales for further reports.

Decided:

- (1) that the Committee notes (a) the current position of the 2022/23 Budget; and (b) that the Scottish Government Budget is due to be announced on 9 December 2021;
- (2) that the unavoidable Budget pressures as detailed in appendix 1 of the report be approved;
- (3) that the adjustments/savings as detailed in appendix 2 of the report be approved;
- (4) that the proposed approach to determining the Council contribution to the IJB for 2022/23 as detailed in section 6 of the report be approved;
- (5) that the latest estimated 2022/23 Budget funding gap be noted; and
- (6) that the proposed next steps and timescales for reporting back to the Committee and Inverclyde Council be noted.

488 Programme for Government 2021-22 488

There was submitted a report by the Interim Director Environment & Regeneration providing (a) a summary of the document 'A Fairer, Greener Scotland: Programme for Government 2021-2022' published by the Scottish Government on 7 September 2021; and (b) a comparison with the previous year's programme for government.

Decided: that the Committee (a) notes the new Scottish Government 'A Fairer, Greener Scotland: Programme for Government 2021/2022'; (b) notes the allocation of officer responsibility as detailed in appendix 1 of the report; and (c) agree to appropriate reports being presented to the relevant Committees in due course.

489 Pensions Discretions Policy Statement 489

There was submitted a report by the Head of Organisational Development, Policy & Communications seeking approval for an updated Pensions Discretions Policy Statement.

Decided: that the updated Pension and Retirement Policy Statement as detailed in the report be approved.

490 Progress and Development for Anti-Poverty Interventions 2021-2023 490

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development providing an update on the progress and development of initiatives being funded from the £1.08m Anti-Poverty Budget, including additional Scottish Government policy initiatives for Holiday Meal Payments and Child Payment

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Bridging Payments.

Councillor J McEleny declared a non-financial interest in this item of business as a Co-Chair of Home Start Renfrewshire and Inverclyde. 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 meeting or his participation in the decision making process.

Decided:

- (1) that the content of the report be noted;
- (2) that the progress made in the implementation of the initiatives from the Anti-Poverty funding be noted;
- (3) that the proposals for Holiday Meal payments and Child Payment Bridging Payments as detailed in section 6 of the report be approved; and
- (4) that it be noted that the further proposals in relation to the Scottish Government's Winter Support Fund will be considered at the meeting of the Inverclyde Council on 2 December 2021.

491 Update on Participatory Budgeting in Inverclyde

491

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director, Education, Communities & Organisational Development providing an update on the progress made with the implementation of participatory budgeting in 2020/21 and proposed activity over the next six months.

Decided:

- (1) that the content of the report be noted;
- (2) that approval be given to the forthcoming participatory budgeting activity on aspects of the Road Asset Management Plan planned for November/December 2021, subject to final agreement by the Environment & Regeneration Committee; and
- (3) that the actions being progressed to ensure at least 1% of the Council's budget will be available for allocation through participatory budgeting from April 2022 be noted.

492 HM The Queen Platinum Jubilee 2022 and City Status

492

There was submitted a report by the Head of Organisational Development, Policy & Communications highlighting the opportunity to bid for City Status as part of the HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

Decided: that having considered the views of the community and Perth's bid for city status it be agreed to make a submission for City Status for Greenock.

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 6 & 12 of Part I of Schedule 7(A) of the Act.

493 Update in Relation to Former Owners of Property in Clune Park Estate

493

There was submitted a report by the Interim Head of Legal & Democratic Services providing legal advice in relation to the Clune Park Estate and the Committee agreed to the action recommended, all as detailed in the Appendix.

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Councillors Curley, McVey and Rebecchi declared a non-financial interest in this item as private landlords. 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 meeting or their participation in the decision making process.