

POLICY AND RESOURCES EXECUTIVE SUB-COMMITTEE – 10 MARCH 2022

Policy and Resources Executive Sub-Committee

Thursday 10 March 2022 at 2pm

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

Chair: Councillor McCabe presided.

In attendance: Interim Director Finance & Corporate Governance, Interim Director Environment & Regeneration, Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development, Interim Director (Chief Officer) Inverclyde Health & Social Care Partnership, Head of Legal & Democratic Services, Head of Organisational Development, Policy & Communications, Mr C MacDonald and Ms L Carrick (Legal & Democratic Services), ICT Services 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 Executive Sub-Committee.

176 Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest 176

An apology for absence was intimated by Councillor J McEleny, with Councillor C McEleny substituting.

No declarations of interest were intimated.

177 Allocation of COVID Economic Recovery Funding 177

There was submitted a report by the Interim Director Finance & Corporate Governance seeking approval to allocate the Council's share of the COVID Economic Recovery Fund announced by the Scottish Government.

The Interim Director Finance & Corporate Governance provided a verbal update with respect to paragraph 2.1 of the report, confirming that the final amount to be allocated to the Council from the Scottish Government 2021/22 General Revenue Grant Funding is £1.25million.

The Interim Director Finance & Corporate Governance also advised the Committee of a typographical error in the report and, accordingly, at recommendation 3.3 the reference to "£630,000" should read "£730,000".

After discussion, Councillor McCabe moved that the recommendations contained in the report be agreed.

As an amendment, Councillor Wilson moved that the recommendations contained in the report be agreed, subject to the replacement of recommendation (3) as detailed in paragraph 3.3 of the report with the following text: "that it be agreed to allocate the estimated balance of £730,000 support to businesses by (a) allocating £170,000 towards economic regeneration and primarily for the creation of modern apprenticeships; and (b) delegating the remaining balance to the Interim Director Environment & Regeneration to deploy a series of interventions relating to the sustainability of businesses in Inverclyde, updates on which will be reported to the

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Environment & Regeneration Committee.”

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

Decided:

- (1) that the proposed split of the Council’s share of the £80million Covid Economic Recovery Fund, being £500,000 direct support to Low Income Households and £730,000 towards support for businesses, be agreed;
- (2) that it be agreed that the £500,000 support for Low Income Households will be allocated to increase the £300 payment to £350 for households in receipt of Council Tax Reduction or those exempt from paying Council Tax;
- (3) that it be agreed to allocate the estimated balance of £730,000 support to businesses by (a) allocating £170,000 towards the continuation of free parking within Council Pay & Display car parks until 30 September 2022; and (b) delegating the remaining balance to the Interim Director Environment & Regeneration to deploy a series of interventions relating to the sustainability of businesses in Inverclyde, updates on which will be reported to the Environment & Regeneration Committee;
- (4) that it be agreed to increase the £75 heating payment for eligible over 70s to £150 in respect of awards made during the period December 2021 – April 2022; and
- (5) that it be agreed to retain the 40% uplift to Crisis Grants awards for 2022/23.

178 DEC Appeal – Humanitarian Aid for Ukraine

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There was submitted a report by the Interim Director Finance & Corporate Governance seeking approval to make a donation of £20,000 to the Disaster Emergency Committee (DEC) Crisis in Ukraine Appeal.

After discussion, Councillor Robertson moved (1) the recommendation contained in the report that it be agreed to make a payment of £20,000 towards the DEC Ukrainian Appeal; and (2) that it be agreed to write to the Home Office making representations with respect to the visa delays experienced by Ukrainian refugees who are seeking entry to the United Kingdom.

As an amendment, Councillor Wilson moved the recommendation contained in the report that it be agreed to make a payment of £20,000 towards the DEC Ukrainian Appeal.

Following a roll call vote, 1 Member, Councillor Wilson voted in favour of his amendment and 3 Members, Councillors Clocherty, McCabe and Robertson voted in favour of the motion which was declared carried. Councillors Ahlfeld and C McEleny abstained from voting.

Decided:

- (1) that it be agreed to make a payment of £20,000 towards the DEC Ukrainian Appeal; and
- (2) that it be agreed to write to the Home Office making representations with respect to the visa delays experienced by Ukrainian refugees who are seeking entry to the United Kingdom.