

THE INVERCLYDE COUNCIL – 28 SEPTEMBER 2023

The Inverclyde Council

Thursday 28 September 2023 at 4pm

Present: Provost McKenzie, Councillors Armstrong, Brennan, Brooks, Cassidy, Clocherty, Crowther, Curley, Daisley, Law, McCabe, McCormick, McGuire, McVey, Moran, Nelson, Quinn, Reynolds, Robertson and Wilson.

Chair: Provost McKenzie presided.

In attendance:

Louise Long	Chief Executive
Alan Puckrin	Chief Financial Officer
Kate Rocks	Chief Officer, Inverclyde Health & Social Care Partnership
Iain Strachan	Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services
Audrey Howard	Interim Head of Service, Public Protection (People) (for Chief Social Work Officer)
Hugh Scott	Service Manager, Community Learning & Development, Community Safety & Resilience and Sport
Peter MacDonald	Principal Solicitor
Colin MacDonald	Senior Committee Officer
Lindsay Carrick	Senior Committee Officer
Karen MacVey	Members' & Committee Services Team Leader
PJ Coulter	Corporate Communications Officer (Media Relations)

The meeting was held at the Municipal Buildings, Greenock with Councillors Armstrong, Law, McCormick and McGuire attending remotely.

473 Apologies and Declarations of Interest 473

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors Jackson and McCluskey.

Councillors McVey and Robertson declared an interest in Agenda Item 16 (Business in the Appendix).

**Minutes of Meetings of
The Inverclyde Council, Committees, Sub-Committees and Boards**

474 Planning Board – 7 June 2023 474

Approved on the motion of Councillor McVey.

475 Local Review Body – 7 June 2023 475

Approved on the motion of Councillor McVey.

476 Inverclyde Council – 8 June 2023 476

Approved on the motion of Provost McKenzie.

477 General Purposes Board – 14 June 2023 477

THE INVERCLYDE COUNCIL – 28 SEPTEMBER 2023

	Approved on the motion of Councillor Curley.	
478	Appointment Panel – Head of Physical Assets (Shortlisting) – 19 June 2023	478
	Approved on the motion of Councillor Clocherty.	
479	General Purposes Board (Special) (10am) – 28 June 2023	479
	Approved on the motion of Councillor Moran.	
480	Environment & Regeneration Committee (Special) (3pm) – 28 June 2023	480
	Approved on the motion of Councillor McCormick.	
481	Appointment Panel – Head of Physical Assets (Interview) (10:45am) – 29 June 2023	481
	Approved on the motion of Councillor Clocherty.	
482	Audit Committee (Accounts) – 29 June 2023	482
	Approved on the motion of Councillor Wilson.	
483	Local Police & Fire Scrutiny Panel (Special) – 4 July 2023	483
	Approved on the motion of Councillor Wilson.	
484	Planning Board – 2 August 2023	484
	Approved on the motion of Councillor Clocherty.	
485	Local Review Body – 2 August 2023	485
	Approved on the motion of Councillor McVey.	
486	Policy & Resources Committee – 15 August 2023	486
	Approved on the motion of Councillor McCabe.	
487	Audit Committee – 22 August 2023	487
	Approved on the motion of Councillor Wilson.	
488	General Purposes Board (Special) – 23 August 2023	488
	Approved on the motion of Councillor Moran.	
489	Social Work & Social Care Scrutiny Panel – 29 August 2023	489
	Approved on the motion of Councillor Brennan.	
490	Environment & Regeneration Committee – 31 August 2023	490

THE INVERCLYDE COUNCIL – 28 SEPTEMBER 2023

Approved on the motion of Councillor McCormick.

491 Education & Communities Committee – 5 September 2023 491

Approved on the motion of Councillor Clocherty.

492 Planning Board – 6 September 2023 492

Approved on the motion of Councillor McVey.

493 Grants Sub-Committee – 11 September 2023 493

Approved on the motion of Councillor Brooks.

494 General Purposes Board – 13 September 2023 494

Approved on the motion of Councillor Curley, subject to a point raised by Cllr Wilson which was to be considered in the private session later under Item 16 on the Agenda.

495 Policy & Resources Committee – 19 September 2023 495

Approved on the motion of Councillor McCabe.

496 Local Police & Fire Scrutiny Panel – 21 September 2023 496

Approved on the motion of Councillor Wilson.

Prior to the commencement of the remaining business, the Provost referred to the recent deaths of former Councillor Jim MacLeod and community activist Nell McFadden MBE. The Provost paid tribute to Mr MacLeod's contribution to the community as a respected Port Glasgow Councillor, and to Mrs MacFadden for her services to older people, and extended his condolences to the respective families on behalf of Inverclyde Council. Following which Councillors Robertson, McCabe, Moran, Clocherty and Curley paid tribute to Mr MacLeod and Mrs McFadden.

Provost McKenzie also extended condolences to Councillor McCluskey on the recent death of his mother, Mrs McCluskey.

The Council thereafter observed a period of quiet reflection.

The Provost noted his intention to move Item 14 on the Agenda to Item 7, given the presence of Scottish Fire & Rescue Service representatives in the Chamber for Item 14, this change being agreed by the Council.

497 2022/23 Annual Audit Report – Meeting Request 497

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer seeking approval for a special meeting of the Inverclyde Council to be called for 16 November 2023 at 4pm in order to consider the 2022/23 Annual Audit Report to Elected Members and the Controller of Audit.

Decided: that (a) it be agreed to hold a meeting of the Inverclyde Council for 16 November 2023 at 4pm to consider the 2022/23 Annual Audit Report to Elected Members and the Controller of Audit, and (b) delegated authority be granted to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Provost and Leader of the Council, to agree an alternate date and time should that be necessary.

THE INVERCLYDE COUNCIL – 28 SEPTEMBER 2023

498 Statutory Review of Polling Scheme

498

There was submitted a report by the Chief Executive (1) advising Members of the need to carry out a statutory review of the Council's Polling Scheme, and (2) asking Members to approve for consultation the draft Polling Scheme and Statutory Review timetable as detailed in appendix 3 and appendix 1 of the report, respectively.

Decided:

- (1) that the requirements to undertake a Statutory Review of the Polling Scheme between 1 October 2023 and 31 January 2025 be noted;
- (2) that (a) the timetable relating to the Statutory Review of the Polling Scheme, as detailed in appendix 1 of the report, be approved, (b) that delegated authority be granted to the Chief Executive to make such changes to the timetable as they consider necessary;
- (3) that (a) the consultation for the draft Polling Scheme, as detailed in appendix 3 of the report, be approved, and (b) the Chief Executive be authorised to commence the consultation; and
- (4) that it be noted that a further report will be presented to the Council at its meeting on 25 April 2024, or earlier, once the consultation has ended.

499 Alternative Location for Gourock Flag Pole

499

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services seeking agreement for the new location of the Gourock flag pole, fulfilling an Outstanding Remit of the Inverclyde Council from 22 September 2022.

Decided:

- (1) that it be agreed that the Gamble Halls will be the new location for the flying of flags by the Council in Gourock; and
- (2) that it be noted that officers will take forward the installation of the new flag pole, and once the new flag pole is erected this would be used by the Council for the flying of flags in Gourock going forward, instead of the Gourock Municipal Buildings flag pole.

500 George Wyllie Foundation – Elected Member Representation

500

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services (1) advising of Councillor McGuire's resignation as a Trustee of the George Wyllie Foundation and (2) seeking agreement that the Council does not nominate a replacement Trustee.

Decided:

- (1) that Councillor McGuire's resignation as a Trustee of the George Wyllie Foundation be noted; and
- (2) that it be agreed that no Elected Member should be nominated to replace Councillor McGuire as a Trustee of the George Wyllie Foundation.

501 Scottish Fire & Rescue Service Provision in Inverclyde – Notice of Motion by Councillor McVey

501

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services advising of the receipt of a Notice of Motion received from Councillor McVey, countersigned by Councillor Brennan, in the following terms, as amended at the meeting: "This council regards the safety of Inverclyde's residents as paramount.

"It therefore supports the Fire Brigade Union's position that the proposed cuts to fire and rescue service provision, at Greenock Community Fire Station, will result in increased response times and an increased risk to life.

THE INVERCLYDE COUNCIL – 28 SEPTEMBER 2023

“This council calls on the Scottish Government to reverse the proposed £36m cuts to the SFRS budget in order that resources can be maintained at Greenock Community Fire Station, i.e. two whole time fire and rescue appliances, including provision for high reach capabilities – either separately or combined and one on-call appliance.

“The Council also requests that if the proposed cuts are reversed that the resources identified above will be secured from this fund”.

Decided: that the notice of motion by Councillor McVey, as amended at the meeting and set out above, be agreed.

502 Annual Report on the Audit Committee – 2022-23 – Remit from the Audit Committee 502

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services to consider a remit from the Audit Committee regarding the Annual Report on the Audit Committee 2022-23.

Decided: that the Annual Report on the Audit Committee 2022-23 be approved.

503 Treasury Management – Annual Report 2022/23 – Remit from the Policy & Resources Committee 503

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services requesting that the Council consider a remit from the Policy & Resources Committee regarding the Treasury Management Annual Report 2022/23.

Decided: that the operation of the treasury function and its activities for 2022/23 as required under the terms of the Treasury Management Practice 6 (TMP6) on ‘Reporting Requirements and Management Information Arrangements’ be approved.

504 Inverclyde Socio-Economic Taskforce Update 504

There was submitted a report by the Director Environment & Regeneration highlighting the activity associated with the Inverclyde Socio-Economic Taskforce since its last update.

Decided: that the activity highlighted in the request to the Scottish Government, as detailed in appendix 1 of the report, be noted.

505 Acknowledge the Achievements of Mr John McMaster – Request by Provost McKenzie 505

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services advising of a request received by Provost McKenzie in the following terms:

“That Inverclyde Council acknowledges the achievements of Mr John McMaster in his long and illustrious football career, this being the fortieth anniversary year of Aberdeen beating Real Madrid in the European Cup Winners Cup final. That it also acknowledges his service to Greenock Morton Football Club and commends him in the honours that he has brought and in his continual promotion of Inverclyde.”

Decided: that the Council supports Provost McKenzie’s request.

506 Dementia Friendly & Enabled Communities Project – Request by Provost McKenzie on behalf of Your Voice 506

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services advising of a request received by Provost McKenzie in the following terms:

“Funded by Inverclyde Health and Social Care Partnership and delivered by Your Voice, the Dementia Friendly & Enabled Communities project began in November 2021. Through

THE INVERCLYDE COUNCIL – 28 SEPTEMBER 2023

the delivery of this initiative, Your Voice are working to empower the development of Inverclyde as a community where people impacted by dementia are supported, respected and empowered to remain active. Your Voice has over 30 local assets already signed up to the initiative, and having support from the Council will help to emphasise the important message that Inverclyde Cares; demonstrating the community-wide commitment to work towards a Dementia Friendly Inverclyde.

“People impacted by dementia have shared with Your Voice the importance of being surrounded by a community that is aware and understanding, and the positive impact that this can have on their daily lives. Ultimately, a community that is aware is a community that is empowered to challenge stigma by turning understanding into action and social change.

“The Council is asked to declare its support for this project, and to encourage more citizens, community groups and organisations across Inverclyde to become involved and support this important initiative.”

Decided: that the Council supports Provost McKenzie’s request.

507 Care Experienced Citizens – Notice of Motion by Councillor Clocherty

507

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services advising of the receipt of a Notice of Motion received from Councillor Clocherty, countersigned by Councillor McGuire, in the following terms:

“(1) Inverclyde Council recognises our collective responsibility as corporate parents and our commitment for the delivery of ‘The Promise’ that Scotland’s children and young people will grow up loved, safe, and respected.

(2) Inverclyde Council also recognises that care experienced people require ongoing support to help them to achieve their potential.

(3) Inverclyde Council agrees to add ‘Care Experienced’ as a protected characteristic into our Equalities Impact Assessments where the phrase ‘Care Experienced people’ is used to describe anyone who is currently, or has been, in the care system, for example, kinship care, looked after at home, foster care, residential care, secure homes, and adoption.

(4) Inverclyde Council agrees to continually and proactively seek out and listen to the voices of care experienced people when developing new policies and strategies that affect them.

(5) Notes that Inverclyde Council’s addition of care experienced to the list of protected characteristics would formally recognise the potential impact that the making of any future decisions and Council policies/strategies might have on care experienced people.

(6) To formally call upon all local Registered Social Landlords, the NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde Board and the Inverclyde Integration Joint Board to treat care experienced as a protected characteristic until such time as it may be introduced by legislation.”

Decided: that the notice of motion by Councillor Clocherty be agreed.

508 Commissioner for Older People – Notice of Motion by Councillor Brennan

508

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services advising of the receipt of a Notice of Motion received from Councillor Brennan, countersigned by Councillor Moran, in the following terms:

“That the Council notes the calls from organisations, including Age Scotland and Independent Age, for a new commissioner to champion the rights of older people in Scotland to ensure that the long-term needs of people in later life are considered in policy and practice across government, that negative stereotypes are challenged and the contribution older people make to society are promoted;

That the Council also: -

THE INVERCLYDE COUNCIL – 28 SEPTEMBER 2023

- acknowledges projections that Scotland's population is continuing to age and that by 2040, 1 in 4 people will be aged over 65;
- highlights that new statistics from the Scottish Government published in March 2023 reveal that in 2019-22, 15% of pensioners in Scotland were living in relative poverty after housing costs, compared with 14% in the previous period;
- believes that the COVID-19 pandemic had a profound impact on older people;
- notes the view that this demonstrates more than ever the need to give older people a strong, independent voice to reflect their views and experiences and protect and promote their human rights; and
- further notes that all four nations of the UK now have commissioners for children; understands that Wales and Northern Ireland already have commissioners who are improving the lives of older people, and that the campaign for a commissioner for England is reportedly growing all the time and notes the current consultation on a member's bill to establish an Older Person's Commissioner for Scotland.

"Therefore, the Council agrees that it should respond to the consultation in support of the proposal to amplify the voices of older people in Scotland, with authority being delegated to the Chief Social Work Officer to issue the said response, in consultation with the Convenor of the Social Work & Social Care Scrutiny Panel."

Decided: that the notice of motion by Councillor Brennan be agreed.

509 Disposable Vapes – Notice of Motion by Councillor Reynolds

509

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services advising of the receipt of a Notice of Motion received from Councillor Reynolds, countersigned by Councillor Armstrong, in the following terms:

"Inverclyde Council welcomes the decision by the Scottish Government to consult on a ban on disposable vapes and the intimation that the UK government may do likewise.

"Council is asked to note reports of concern regarding vaping and a surge in children and adolescents using e-cigarettes. Current evidence shows that vaping products are not for children, young people or non-smokers and are useful in adults only as a potential route towards stopping smoking. There is strong evidence from the last 5 years that e-cigarettes, which can be bright and colourful and come in a wide variety of e-liquid flavours, potentially alter and/or slow cognitive and physical development in children and young people. Recent evidence further demonstrates that the long-term risks of vaping cannot yet be definitively confirmed by research studies but it should be considered that these products are harmful and are a risk to the long-term health of young people. Therefore, Council is asked to note the importance of highlighting these potential risks for future generations, locally and across the country, to avoid the vaping industry creating life-long nicotine addicts, in the same way as the tobacco industry did.

"The Council is asked to write to the appropriate Scottish Minister asking them to urgently consider legislation concerning the sale of vaping products to be in line with that for tobacco products, so that the sale of nicotine products (not used for the NHS Scotland smoking cessation programmes) is consistent.

"The Council is asked to write to the appropriate officials at the Scottish Government and NHS Scotland Public Health asking them to urgently consider regulation of vaping products, including product strengths, availability and advertising.

"The Council asks officers to work with partners in Police Scotland and NHS to explore what actions can be taken by the Council to address these concerns, including (i) the expansion of test purchasing to include the sale of age restricted vaping products from retail outlets, (ii) the possibility of introducing an Inverclyde retailers charter that will stop cash sales of vaping products, in an effort to reduce proxy purchasing for underage young people, and (iii) the continuation of health awareness programmes to educate

THE INVERCLYDE COUNCIL – 28 SEPTEMBER 2023

communities over the risk associated with vaping, with officers to bring a report forward to a future meeting of the relevant Committee.

Decided: that the notice of motion by Councillor Reynolds be agreed.

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 for the following item on the grounds that the business involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined the respective paragraphs of Part I of Schedule 7A of the Act as detailed in the relevant minute.

Private Appendices to Minutes

510	General Purposes Board – 14 June 2023	510
	Approved on the motion of Councillor Curley.	
511	Appointment Panel – Head of Physical Assets (Shortlisting) – 19 June 2023	511
	Approved on the motion of Councillor Clocherty.	
512	General Purposes Board (Special) – 28 June 2023	512
	Approved on the motion of Councillor Moran.	
513	Environment & Regeneration Committee (Special) – 28 June 2023	513
	Approved on the motion of Councillor McCormick.	
514	General Purposes Board (Special) – 23 August 2023	514
	Approved on the motion of Councillor Moran.	
515	Environment & Regeneration Committee – 31 August 2023	515
	Approved on the motion of Councillor McCormick.	
516	Education & Communities Committee – 5 September 2023	516
	Approved on the motion of Councillor Clocherty.	
517	General Purposes Board – 13 September 2023	517

Councillor McVey and Councillor Robertson declared an interest in this item, all as detailed in the appendix, and left the meeting.

Following a roll-call vote, the minute was **Approved**, as detailed in the private appendix.

THE INVERCLYDE COUNCIL – 28 SEPTEMBER 2023

The Inverclyde Council

Thursday 28 September 2023 at 6:40pm

Present: Provost McKenzie, Councillors Armstrong, Brennan, Brooks, Cassidy, Clocherty, Crowther, Curley, Daisley, Law, McCabe, McCormick, McGuire, McVey, Moran, Nelson, Quinn, Reynolds and Robertson.

Chair: Provost McKenzie presided.

In attendance:

Louise Long	Chief Executive
Iain Strachan	Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services
Hugh Scott	Service Manager, Community Learning & Development, Community Safety & Resilience and Sport
Peter MacDonald	Principal Solicitor
Colin MacDonald	Senior Committee Officer
Lindsay Carrick	Senior Committee Officer
Karen MacVey	Members' & Committee Services Team Leader
PJ Coulter	Corporate Communications Officer (Media Relations)

The meeting was held at the Municipal Buildings, Greenock with Councillors Armstrong, Law, McCormick and McGuire attending remotely.

518 Apologies and Declarations of Interest 518

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors Jackson and McCluskey.

No declarations of interest were intimated.

519 Review of the Scheme for the Establishment of Community Councils in Inverclyde 519

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services and the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development (1) advising the Council of the outcome of the second round of consultation in the present review process and other engagement conducted by officers, and having regard to those responses (2) seeking formal resolution to publish a final draft Scheme for the Establishment of Community Councils in Inverclyde for a third round of public consultation.

Decided:

(1) That the outcome of the second round of consultation (Stage 2) and the recommendations of officers, all as contained in the body and appendices of the report, be noted;

(2) that, having regard to the outcome of consultation and other engagement conducted to date, all as detailed in the report, the Inverclyde Council resolves that the final draft Scheme for the Establishment of Community Councils in Inverclyde, as detailed in appendix 3 of the report (including names and boundaries for Community Council Areas as outlined in the report), be published for a further 4 week period of consultation (Stage 3) as the amended Scheme for the Establishment of Community Councils in Inverclyde that the Inverclyde Council proposes to adopt;

THE INVERCLYDE COUNCIL – 28 SEPTEMBER 2023

(3) that it be noted that following such further consultation, a report will be brought to a future Special Meeting of the Inverclyde Council on the outcome of such further consultation; and

(4) that it be noted that if (a) a Scheme in the form proposed in this report be ultimately adopted as a new Scheme, and (b) following the first set of elections under such a Scheme, there remain community council areas without an established community council, then officers will bring a report to a future meeting of the Inverclyde Council within a period of not more than 12 months following the completion of such elections on developments of community council activity, which report may include recommendations for a further review, in whole or in part of the Scheme and/or the community council areas.

**APPOINTMENT PANEL
HEAD OF ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, POLICY & COMMUNICATIONS
9 OCTOBER 2023**

Appointment Panel – Head of Organisational Development, Policy & Communications

Monday 9 October 2023 at 1pm

Present: Councillors McCabe, Quinn and Robertson.

Chair: Chief Executive presided.

In attendance:

Louise Long	Chief Executive
Stuart Jamieson	Director Environment & Regeneration
Barbara McQuarrie	Organisational Development & Human Resources Manager (as Adviser to the Panel)

The meeting was held by video-conference.

520 Apologies and Declarations of Interest 520

No apologies for absence or declarations of interest were intimated.

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

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 for 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.

521 Shortlisting and Arrangements for Interview of Applicant – Post of Head of Organisational Development, Policy & Communications 521

There were submitted copies of applications received from 23 candidates for the post of Head of Organisational Development, Policy & Communications.

Decided: that a shortlist of four candidates be called for interview, all as detailed in the Private Appendix.

GENERAL PURPOSES BOARD – 11 OCTOBER 2023

General Purposes Board

Wednesday 11 October 2023 at 3pm

Present: Provost McKenzie, Councillors Armstrong, Clocherty (for Brennan), Cassidy, Crowther, Moran, McCabe (for McCluskey), Quinn and Robertson (for Reynolds).

Chair: Councillor Moran presided.

In attendance:

David Keenan	Solicitor (for Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services)
Fiona Denver	Senior Paralegal Licensing Officer
Diane Sweeney	Senior Committee Officer

In attendance also: Sergeant I Robertson (Police Scotland).

The meeting was held at the Municipal Buildings, Greenock with Councillor Cassidy attending remotely.

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

522 Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest 522

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillor Brennan, with Councillor Clocherty substituting, Councillor McCluskey, with Councillor McCabe substituting, and Councillor Reynolds, with Councillor Robertson substituting.

No declarations of interest were intimated.

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 paragraph 6 of Part 1 of Schedule 7(A) of the Act.

523 Application for Grant of a Taxi Driver's Licence 523

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services on an application for the grant of a Taxi Driver's Licence. This item was continued to a future meeting, all as detailed in the private appendix. There was no Member debate on this item of business.

524 Application for Renewal of a Taxi Driver's Licence 524

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services on an application for the renewal of a Taxi Driver's Licence which was granted, all as detailed in the private appendix.

AUDIT COMMITTEE – 24 OCTOBER 2023

Audit Committee

Tuesday 24 October 2023 at 3pm

Present: Provost McKenzie, Councillors Crowther, Curley, McCabe, McCluskey, McCormick, McGuire, Nelson and Reynolds.

Chair: Councillor Nelson presided.

In attendance:

Iain Strachan	Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services
Vicky Pollock	Legal Services Manager (Procurement, Conveyancing & Information Governance)
Andi Priestman	Chief Internal Auditor
Gerard Smith	Capital Assets Principal Accountant
Lindsay Carrick	Senior Committee Officer
Colin MacDonald	Senior Committee Officer
Karen McVey	Members' & Committee Services Team Leader
PJ Coulter	Corporate Communications Officer (Media Relations)

The meeting was held at the Municipal Buildings, Greenock with Councillors Curley, McCormick, McGuire and Reynolds attending remotely.

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

525 Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest 525

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillor McVey and Councillor Wilson.

No declarations of interest were intimated.

526 Internal Audit Progress Report – 31 July to 29 September 2023 526

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services appending the monitoring report in respect of Internal Audit activity for the period 31 July to 29 September 2023.

Decided: that the progress made by Internal Audit in the period from 31 July to 29 September 2023 be noted.

527 External Audit Action Plans – Current Actions 527

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services on the status of current actions from External Audit Action Plans as at 31 August 2023.

Decided: that the progress made to date in relation to the implementation of External Audit actions be noted.

AUDIT COMMITTEE – 24 OCTOBER 2023

528	<p>National Fraud Initiative Exercise 2022-2023 – Update</p> <p>There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services providing an update on the current position with regard to the National Fraud Initiative in Scotland 2022/2023 Exercise.</p> <p>Decided: that (a) the contents of the report be noted and (b) that a further report be presented to the February 2024 Audit Committee on the 2022-2023 Exercise.</p>	528
529	<p>CIPFA Audit Committee Guidance 2022 – Update on Implementation of Improvement Actions</p> <p>There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services providing an update on the status of improvement actions identified in relation to the self-evaluation exercise completed by Committee in relation to the updated CIPFA guidance on Audit Committees within Local Authorities.</p> <p>Decided: that the implementation status of improvement actions identified in relation to the updated guidance for Audit Committees be noted.</p>	529
530	<p>Annual Report on Risk Management Activity 2022-2023</p> <p>There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services presenting the progress made in 2022/2023 in developing and monitoring a strategic approach to managing risks faced by the Council.</p> <p>Decided: that the progress made in 2022/2023 to maintain a coherent corporate approach to managing risks faced by the Council be noted.</p>	530
531	<p>Revised Risk Management Strategy</p> <p>There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services (a) presenting an updated Risk Management Strategy for consideration and (b) following review of the Strategy recommending that it be referred to the Policy & Resources Committee for approval.</p> <p>Decided:</p> <p>(1) that the Committee having considered the revised Risk Management Strategy detailed at appendix 1 to the report approve its submission to a meeting of the Policy & Resources Committee, subject to officers' consideration of points raised by members during the meeting; and</p> <p>(2) that it be noted that the Corporate Risk Register will be reported to the January 2024 meeting of the Audit Committee, followed by the February 2024 meeting of the Policy & Resources Committee.</p>	531

SOCIAL WORK & SOCIAL CARE SCRUTINY PANEL – 31 OCTOBER 2023

Social Work & Social Care Scrutiny Panel

Tuesday 31 October 2023 at 3pm

Present: Councillors Armstrong, Brennan, Brooks, Daisley, Jackson, McCabe (for Cassidy), McCluskey, Quinn, Reynolds and Robertson.

Chair: Councillor Brennan presided.

In attendance:

Kate Rocks	Chief Officer (Inverclyde HSCP)
Craig Given	Head of Finance, Planning & Resources (Inverclyde HSCP)
Anne Sinclair	Legal Services Manager (for Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services)
Jonathan Hinds	Chief Social Work Officer and Head of Children & Families and Criminal Justice Services (Inverclyde HSCP)
Alan Best	Interim Head of Health & Community Care (Inverclyde HSCP)
Gail Kilbane	Interim Head of Mental Health, Alcohol & Drugs Recovery and Homelessness Services (Inverclyde HSCP)
Audrey Howard	Interim Head of Public Protection(People) (Inverclyde HSCP)
Ian Hanley	Community Justice Lead Officer (Inverclyde HSCP)
Marie Keirs	Senior Finance Manager (Inverclyde HSCP)
Arlene Mailey	Service Manager, Quality & Development Service (Inverclyde HSCP)
Diane Sweeney	Senior Committee Officer
Colin MacDonald	Senior Committee Officer
Karen MacVey	Members' & Committee Services Team Leader
Alison Ramsey	Corporate Communications Officer (Media Relations)

The meeting was held at the Municipal Buildings, Greenock with Councillors Daisley and Quinn attending remotely.

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

532 Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest 532

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillor Cassidy, with Councillor McCabe substituting, and Provost McKenzie.

No declarations of interest were intimated.

533 Revenue & Capital Budget Report – 2023/24 Revenue Outturn Position as at 31 August 2023 533

There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer, Inverclyde Health & Social Care Partnership and the Head of Finance, Planning & Resources, Inverclyde Health & Social Care Partnership, on the projected outturn on revenue and capital for 2023/24 as at 31 August 2023.

Decided:

(1) that the projected current year revenue outturn of £0.023million overspend at 31

SOCIAL WORK & SOCIAL CARE SCRUTINY PANEL – 31 OCTOBER 2023

August 2023 be noted;

- (2) that the current projected capital position be noted;
- (3) that the current reserves position be noted; and
- (4) that it be remitted to officers to provide a further report detailing the budget overspend on Children and Families and service review.

534 National Care Service

Mr Hinds provided a verbal report on the current position regarding the implementation of the National Care Service (NCS).

The following points were noted:

- (1) since the last meeting correspondence was received from the Minister for Social Care, Mental Wellbeing and Sport advising of a series of redesign events across the country and a NCS Forum held in Glasgow, all of which were intended to hear from service providers, service users and carers;
- (2) partners at a national level continue to work to inform proposed amendments to the NCS Bill within the appropriate timescales;
- (3) further work is also continuing at national level on how existing structures will be strengthened, including a focus on improvement outcomes, informed by people with lived experience;
- (4) work is ongoing on the development of a National Social Work Agency (NSWA), particularly around governance; and
- (5) the office of the Chief Social Work Adviser, Social Work Scotland and COSLA continue to work with other partners to develop the NSWA and NCS, and that Mr Hinds contributes to these national discussions as Chief Social Work Officer for Inverclyde through the Chief Social Work Officer Committee.

Decided: that the verbal report be noted.

535 Refugee, Resettlement and Asylum Programmes within Inverclyde

There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer, Inverclyde Health & Social Care Partnership providing an update on the various refugee, resettlement and asylum programmes in Inverclyde.

Decided:

- (1) that the content of the report and the demand on services from the varied UK Home Office asylum seeker work and resettlement programmes be noted;
- (2) that it be noted that a detailed service development and financial planning is underway to ensure the appropriate services are able to respond, with pressures anticipated and mitigated as far as possible; and
- (3) that the thanks and appreciation of the Panel be extended to staff at Inverclyde HSCP, the Third Sector and the wider Inverclyde community for the warm welcome shown to the refugees, asylum seekers and those who have resettled in Inverclyde.

536 Justice Social Work Statistics – People Dying on Community Payback Orders (CPOs) - Update

There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer, Inverclyde Health & Social Care Partnership providing an update on the termination of Community Payback Orders when the reason given was death.

Decided: that the Panel notes (a) the statistical information provided at paragraph 3.5 of the report, and (b) the updates on behalf of (i) Inverclyde Justice Social Work, as detailed at paragraphs 3.8 and 3.9 of the report, and (ii) Inverclyde Community Justice

SOCIAL WORK & SOCIAL CARE SCRUTINY PANEL – 31 OCTOBER 2023

Partnership, as detailed at paragraphs 3.9 to 3.11 of the report.

537 Joint Inspection of Adult Services

There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer, Inverclyde Health & Social Care Partnership advising that the Chief Executive of Inverclyde Council was notified on 2 October 2023 of a joint inspection of health and social care services for adults in the Inverclyde Health & Social Care Partnership by the Care Inspectorate and Healthcare Improvement Scotland, the commencement date for this being 23 October 2023.

Decided:

- (1) that the commencement of the joint inspection for adults in the Inverclyde Health and Social Care Partnership be noted; and
- (2) that it be remitted to officers to provide a future update report following the publication of the inspection report.

538 Integration Scheme

There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer, Inverclyde Health & Social Care Partnership (1) providing an update on the work to review the Integration Scheme between Inverclyde Council and NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde, and (2) presenting the draft revised Integration Scheme between Inverclyde Council and Greater Glasgow and Clyde Health Board which will go out to consultation.

Decided:

- (1) that the content of the report be noted; and
- (2) that the draft revised Integration Scheme, which will go out to consultation, be noted.

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 paragraphs 6 and 9 of Part I of Schedule 7(A) of the Act.

539 Reporting by Exception – Governance of HSCP Commissioned External Organisations

There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer, Inverclyde Health & Social Care Partnership providing an update on matters relating to the Health & Social Care Partnership governance processes for Externally Commissioned Social Care Services.

Decided:

- (1) that the governance report for the period 22 July to 29 September 2023 be noted; and
- (2) that Members acknowledge that officers regard the control mechanisms in place through the governance meetings and managing poorly performing services guidance within the Contract Management Framework is sufficiently robust to ensure ongoing quality and safety and the fostering of a commissioning culture of continuous improvement.

540 Unplanned Closure of Quarriers Countryview – Short Break (Respite) for Disabled Children and Young People

There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer, Inverclyde Health & Social Care

SOCIAL WORK & SOCIAL CARE SCRUTINY PANEL – 31 OCTOBER 2023

Partnership advising the Panel of the decision by Quarriers to temporarily close Countryview residential respite facility for children and young people with complex needs.

Decided: that the content of the report and the ongoing work to support those affected by the unplanned closure by Quarriers of Countryview short break service be noted.

PLANNING BOARD – 1 NOVEMBER 2023

Planning Board

Wednesday 1 November 2023 at 3pm

Present: Provost McKenzie, Councillors Armstrong (for Curley), Brooks, Clocherty, Crowther, Jackson, Law, McCabe, McGuire and McVey.

Chair: Councillor McVey presided.

In attendance:

Stuart Jamieson	Director Environment & Regeneration
Daniel Henderson	Planning and Building Standards Service Manager
Gordon Leitch	Team Leader – Consultancy
Elaine Provan	Supervisory Engineer – Traffic & Transportation
Jim Kerr	Solicitor (for Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services)
Peter MacDonald	Principal Solicitor
Colin MacDonald	Senior Committee Officer
Diane Sweeney	Senior Committee Officer
PJ Coulter	Corporate Communications Officer (Media Relations)

The meeting was held at the Municipal Buildings, Greenock with Councillors Law and McGuire attending remotely.

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

541 APOLOGIES, SUBSTITUTIONS AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

541

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillor Curley, with Councillor Armstrong substituting, and Councillor Daisley.

Councillor Brooks declared an interest in Agenda Item 2(a) (erection of new build residential development comprising of 64no. units in a mix of four storey flats and family houses, together with new parking, landscaping and servicing infrastructure at site bounded by Duncan Street, Holmscroft Avenue and Roxburgh Street, Greenock (23/0013/IC)).

542 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

542

- (a) Erection of new build residential development comprising of 64no. units in a mix of four storey flats and family houses, together with new parking, landscaping and servicing infrastructure:
Site bounded by Duncan Street, Holmscroft Avenue and Roxburgh Street, Greenock (23/0013/IC)**

There was submitted a report by the Director Environment & Regeneration for the erection of a new build residential development comprising of 64no. units in a mix of four storey flats and family houses, together with new parking, landscaping and servicing infrastructure at site bounded by Duncan Street, Holmscroft Avenue and Roxburgh Street, Greenock (23/0013/IC).

Councillor Brooks declared an interest in this matter having submitted a representation in relation to the application and left the meeting during consideration of this item.

PLANNING BOARD – 1 NOVEMBER 2023

Decided: that consideration of the application be continued to enable the Director Environment & Regeneration to discuss, with the applicant, playpark provision and related matters.

Councillor Brooks re-joined the meeting at this juncture.

**(b) Installation of a Top Up Tap for water bottles:
Lochwinnoch Road, Kilmacolm (23/0150/IC)**

There was submitted a report by the Director Environment & Regeneration for the installation of a Top Up Tap for water bottles at Lochwinnoch Road, Kilmacolm (23/0150/IC)

Decided: that planning permission be granted subject to the following conditions:-

- (1) that the development to which this permission relates must have commenced within 3 years from the date of this permission, to comply with Section 58 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (as amended);
- (2) that prior to the commencement of works, full details of the construction work, including the area covered and the extent of removal of hard surfacing shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Planning Authority, in the interests of preserving and enhancing the character and amenity of the Kilmacolm Cross Conservation Area. The works shall then proceed as approved; and
- (3) on completion of the installation, any hard surfacing removed should be reinstated on a like-for-like basis and to an acceptable degree, to the satisfaction of the Planning Authority, and immediately following the completion of the installation, in the interests of preserving and enhancing the character and amenity of the Kilmacolm Cross Conservation Area.

LOCAL REVIEW BODY – 1 NOVEMBER 2023

Local Review Body

Wednesday 1 November 2023 at 4pm

Present: Councillors Brooks, Clocherty, Crowther, Curley, McCabe, McGuire and McVey.

Chair: Councillor McVey presided.

In attendance:

Margaret Pickett	Senior Planner (Planning Adviser)
Daniel Henderson	Planning and Building Standards Manager
Jim Kerr	Solicitor, Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services (Legal Adviser)
Peter MacDonald	Principal Solicitor
Colin MacDonald	Senior Committee Officer
Diane Sweeney	Senior Committee Officer
PJ Coulter	Corporate Communications Officer (Media Relations)

The meeting was held at the Municipal Buildings, Greenock with Councillors McCabe and McGuire attending remotely.

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

543 APOLOGIES, SUBSTITUTIONS AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST 543

No apologies for absence were intimated.

Councillor McCabe declared an interest in Agenda Item 2(a) (Planning Application for Review: 10 Drumshantie Road, Gourrock (23/0094/IC)).

544 PLANNING APPLICATIONS FOR REVIEW 544

**(a) Proposed formation of recessed roof deck at front with associated alterations to rooflights at:
10 Drumshantie Road, Gourrock (23/0094/IC)**

There were submitted papers relative to the application for review for a proposed formation of a recessed roof deck at front with associated alterations to rooflights at 10 Drumshantie Road, Gourrock (23/0094/IC) to enable the Local Review Body to consider the matter afresh.

Mr Kerr referred to photographs submitted by the applicant which were not previously available for publication with the agenda papers due to a technical error with the online Planning Portal. These images were circulated, for the consideration of the Local Review Body, prior to the meeting.

Councillor McCabe declared an interest as an acquaintance of the applicant and left the meeting.

Ms Pickett acted as Planning Adviser relative to this case.

Following discussions, Councillor Brooks moved that (1) sufficient information had been submitted to allow the Local Review Body to decide the matter without further procedure, and (2) the application for review be upheld and that planning permission be granted subject to the following condition:

LOCAL REVIEW BODY – 1 NOVEMBER 2023

1. the development to which this permission relates must be begun within 3 years from the date of this permission, to comply with Section 58 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (as amended).

As an amendment, Councillor McGuire moved that (1) sufficient information had been submitted to allow the Local Review Body to decide the matter without further procedure, and (2) the application for review be dismissed and that planning permission be refused (upholding the Appointed Officer's determination) for the following reasons:

1. by reason of design and position, the development forms an unexpected and incongruous feature on the dwellinghouse that does not reflect local architecture as required by Policy 16(g)(i) of National Planning Policy Framework 4 and Policy 1 of both the adopted and proposed Inverclyde Local Development Plans. There are no material planning considerations that outweigh these policies in order to approve the development;

2. by reason of design and position, the development forms a dominant feature on the principle elevation of the dwellinghouse which would harm the established character of the area, contrary to the aims of Policy 20 of the proposed Inverclyde Local Development Plan.

Following a roll call vote, 2 Members, Councillors McGuire and McVey, voted in favour of the amendment and 4 Members, Councillors Brooks, Clocherty, Crowther and Curley voted in favour of the motion which was declared carried.

Decided:

(1) that sufficient information had been submitted to allow the Local Review Body to decide the matter without further procedure; and

(2) that the application for review be upheld and that planning permission be granted subject to the following condition:

Condition

1. the development to which this permission relates must be begun within 3 years from the date of this permission, to comply with Section 58 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (as amended).

ENVIRONMENT & REGENERATION COMMITTEE – 2 NOVEMBER 2023

Environment & Regeneration Committee

Thursday 2 November 2023 at 2pm

Present: Councillors Brooks, Cassidy, Clocherty, Crowther, Curley, Jackson, McCabe, McCormick, Quinn and Robertson.

Chair: Councillor McCormick presided.

In attendance:

Stuart Jamieson	Director Environment & Regeneration
Gordon Leitch	Team Leader – Consultancy
Elaine Provan	Supervisory Engineer – Traffic & Transportation
Kayleigh Deegan	Technician – Traffic & Transportation
Peter MacDonald	Principal Solicitor
Emma Peacock	Solicitor
Colin MacDonald	Senior Committee Officer
Lindsay Carrick	Senior Committee Officer
Karen MacVey	Members' and Committee Services Team Leader
PJ Coulter	Corporate Communications Officer (Media Relations)

This meeting was held at the Municipal Buildings, Greenock with Councillors Cassidy, Crowther and Jackson attending remotely.

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

545 Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest 545

An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Councillor Nelson.

No declarations of interest were intimated.

546 Proposed Traffic Regulation Order - The Inverclyde Council Disabled Persons' Parking Places (On-Street) Order No.2 2023 The Local Authorities' Traffic Orders (Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 1999 546

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services further to the statutory consultation process undertaken in terms of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 as amended (the Act) and the Local Authorities' Traffic Orders (Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 1999 (the Regulations) on The Inverclyde Council Disabled Persons' Parking Places (On-Street) Order No.2 2023 (the Proposed TRO) (1) requesting that the Committee adopt the Rules of Procedure for the purposes of the special meeting, (2) advising, in relation to the Proposed TRO, of the discussion between Council Officers and the person who has, as part of the public consultation, objected to the Proposed TRO (the Objector), and (3) making proposals to facilitate the effective, fair and proper hearing by the Committee of the Objector who has not withdrawn their objection in order that the Committee can consider their objection and come to a formal recommendation on the Proposed TRO.

Decided:

(1) that the Rules of Procedure as detailed in appendix 1 of the report be approved;

ENVIRONMENT & REGENERATION COMMITTEE – 2 NOVEMBER 2023

(2) that the terms of appendix 2 of the report in relation to the objection be considered and noted;

(3) that it be agreed to allow the Objector an opportunity to be heard at the special meeting in accordance with the Rules of Procedure.

In this regard, Ms L McDade was present and spoke in relation to her objection.

Mr S Jamieson, Director Environment & Regeneration, G Leitch, Team Leader – Consultancy, Ms E Provan, Supervisory Engineer – Traffic & Transportation and Ms K Deegan, Technician – Traffic & Transportation were present and the Committee heard Mr Leitch in support of the Proposed TRO.

The Committee then adjourned to private session to consider the Objection.

Following consideration of the Objection, the Committee returned to public session and Ms McDade, Mr Jamieson, Mr Leitch, Ms Provan, Ms Deegan and Ms Peacock were re-admitted to the meeting.

The Committee, having considered and having had regard to the Objection and the oral representations made by Ms McDade and Mr Leitch at the meeting, further decided:

(4) that the Objection be dismissed and that the Proposed TRO as detailed in Appendix 3 be approved and that it be remitted to the Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services to formally make the TRO and carry out the associated actions in connection with the same.

ENVIRONMENT & REGENERATION COMMITTEE – 2 NOVEMBER 2023

Environment & Regeneration Committee

Thursday 2 November 2023 at 3pm

Present: Councillors Armstrong (for Robertson), Brooks, Cassidy, Clocherty, Crowther, Curley, Jackson, McCabe, McCormick and Quinn.

Chair: Councillor McCormick presided.

In attendance:

Stuart Jamieson	Director Environment & Regeneration
Eddie Montgomery	Head of Physical Assets
Martin McNab	Public Protection Manager
Matt Thomson	Finance Manager (Environment & Technical)
Julie Ann Wilson	Principal Accountant
Gerard Smith	Capital Assets Principal Accountant
David Aitken	Procurement Manager
Daniel Henderson	Planning and Building Standards Service Manager
Steven Walker	Service Manager - Roads
Peter MacDonald	Principal Solicitor
Emma Peacock	Solicitor
Colin MacDonald	Senior Committee Officer
Lindsay Carrick	Senior Committee Officer
Karen MacVey	Members' and Committee Services Team Leader
PJ Coulter	Corporate Communications Officer (Media Relations)

This meeting was held at the Municipal Buildings, Greenock with Councillors Cassidy, Crowther and Jackson attending remotely.

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

547 Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest

547

An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Councillor Robertson, with Councillor Armstrong substituting, and Councillor Nelson.

No declarations of interest were intimated, but certain connections were intimated as follows:

Agenda Item 3 (Environment & Regeneration Capital Programme 2023/26 - Progress) – Councillors Clocherty and Curley.

Agenda Item 5 (Annual Procurement Report) – Councillor Cassidy.

Agenda Item 6 (Inverclyde Local Housing Strategy 2023-28) – Councillors Brooks and Curley.

Agenda Item 7 (Clune Park Masterplan) – Councillors Brooks and Curley.

Agenda Item 12 (Employability Update) – Councillor Clocherty.

Agenda Item 16 (Contract Awards – 1 April 2023 to 30 September 2023) – Councillor Cassidy.

548 2023/24 Environment & Regeneration Revenue Budget at 31 August 2023

548

ENVIRONMENT & REGENERATION COMMITTEE – 2 NOVEMBER 2023

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer and Director Environment & Regeneration advising the Committee of the 2023/24 Environment & Regeneration Committee Revenue Budget projected position at 31 August 2023.

Decided: that (a) it be noted that the Committee's Revenue Budget is currently projected to overspend in 2023/24 by £203,000 based on figures at 31 August 2023, and (b) the actions being taken by the Director to reduce the projected overspend be noted.

549 Environment & Regeneration Capital Programme 2023/26 – Progress

549

There was submitted a report by the Director Environment & Regeneration and the Chief Financial Officer providing an update on the status of the projects within the 2023/26 Environment & Regeneration Capital Programme.

Councillor Clocherty declared a connection as a Member of the Board of Riverside Inverclyde, and Councillor Curley as a Member of the Board of Riverside Inverclyde and as a Director of Inchgreen Marine Park. They also formed the view that the nature of their connections and of the item of business did not preclude their continued presence in the meeting or their participation in the decision making process and they were declaring for transparency.

Decided:

(1) that the current position and progress on the specific projects of the 2023/26 Capital Programme and externally funded projects, as detailed in the report and appendices, be noted;

(2) that the on-going work in respect of the further identification of priority projects relating to core asset condition and allocation of funds from the 2023/25 Core Property budget be noted; and

(3) that delegated authority be granted to the Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services to accept the most economically advantageous tender for the Greenock Town Hall Re-roofing, ventilation and windows project subject to the cost being within the allocated budget for the project.

550 Environment and Regeneration Committee Delivery and Improvement Plan 2023/26 Performance Report

550

There was submitted a report by the Director Environment & Regeneration providing an update on the progress made in the delivery of the Environment & Regeneration Committee Delivery and Improvement Plan 2023/26.

Decided: that the progress made in the delivery of the Environment & Regeneration Committee Delivery and Improvement Plan 2023/26 be noted.

551 Annual Procurement Report

551

There was submitted a report by the Director Environment & Regeneration (1) providing an update on procurement related activity including outcomes delivered during the period 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023 and (2) seeking approval to publish the Annual Procurement Report, as detailed in appendix 1 of the report.

Councillor Cassidy declared a connection as a relative sits on the board of an organisation mentioned in the report. He also formed the view that the nature of his connection and of the item of business did not preclude his continued presence in the meeting or his participation in the decision making process and he was declaring for transparency.

Decided:

(1) that the Annual Procurement Report, as detailed in appendix 1 of the report, for publication to the Scottish Government and on the Council's website, be approved;

ENVIRONMENT & REGENERATION COMMITTEE – 2 NOVEMBER 2023

(2) that the latest procurement compliant spend position and spend with SMEs and local suppliers be noted; and

(3) that the commitment to Fair Work First and community benefits secured for delivery by suppliers during the reporting period 1 April 2022 until 31 March 2023 be noted.

552 Inverclyde Local Housing Strategy 2023-28 552

There was submitted a report by the Director Environment & Regeneration seeking approval for (1) the Local Housing Strategy 2023-28, and (b) the governance and reporting structure for the implementation of the Strategy.

Councillor Brooks and Councillor Curley declared a connection as Members of the Board of River Clyde Homes. They also formed the view that the nature of their connections and of the item of business did not preclude their continued presence in the meeting or their participation in the decision making process and they were declaring for transparency.

Decided:

(1) that the Local Housing Strategy 2023-28 be approved; and

(2) that the implementation plan and reporting strategy for the Local Housing Strategy 2023-28, as detailed in section 4 of the report, be approved.

553 Clune Park Masterplan 553

There was submitted a report by the Director Environment & Regeneration presenting the Clune Park Masterplan for approval.

Councillor Brooks and Councillor Curley declared a connection as Members of the Board of River Clyde Homes. They also formed the view that the nature of their connections and of the item of business did not preclude their continued presence in the meeting or their participation in the decision making process and they were declaring for transparency.

Decided:

(1) that the Clune Park Masterplan, specifically with Option 1 of Phase 2, as detailed in the report, be approved; and

(2) that it be noted that the Committee will receive a progress update on the appointment of a partner RSL in due course.

554 Local Development Plan 554

There was submitted a report by the Director Environment & Regeneration providing an update on the progress of the Local Development Plan, forming part of the Council's Development Plan, to guide future land use and decisions on planning applications.

Decided: that (a) the contents of the report be noted, and (b) it be agreed to support the intended approach, as detailed in the report, to the delivery of the Local Development Plan.

555 Place Based Funding 2023-24 555

There was submitted a report by the Director Environment & Regeneration seeking approval for the Place Based Funding projects for 2023-2024.

Decided:

(1) that the projects for 2023-24 be approved; and

(2) that (a) the suggested projects for 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 be noted, and (b) that it be noted that reports for approval will be presented to the Environment & Regeneration Committee when funding is confirmed.

556 Energy & Climate Change / Net Zero – Update 556

ENVIRONMENT & REGENERATION COMMITTEE – 2 NOVEMBER 2023

There was submitted a report by the Head of Physical Assets providing an update on Energy and Climate Change related activity and associated legislation.

Decided:

- (1) that the progress and update on Net Zero Action Plan items, as detailed in appendix 1 of the report, be noted;
- (2) that that the Energy Performance Certificate Reform 2023 and Inverclyde response, as detailed in appendix 2 of the report, be noted;
- (3) that the progress and programme for the development of the Inverclyde Local Heat & Energy Efficiency Strategy, as detailed in appendix 3 of the report, be noted; and
- (4) that the allocation of funding from NatureScot be noted.

557 Flooding Event 7 October 2023

557

There was submitted a report by the Head of Physical Assets informing the Committee of the actions taken during the flood event on 7 October 2023.

Decided:

- (1) that (a) the actions of the Roads and Grounds Services to manage the flooding event and clear debris from the burns and grids across Inverclyde over a five-day period be noted, and (b) it be noted that the rainfall between 6-7 October exceeded 80mm (as recorded by the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency's rainfall station, Muirshiel RG);
- (2) that it be noted that additional roads and grounds operatives attended to supplement the operatives on standby and to support the response to the event;
- (3) that it be noted that a report will be brought to the January 2024 Committee on resources required to address the development of surface water management plans and undertake coastal change adaption planning;
- (4) that it be remitted to the Director Environment & Regeneration to bring a report to a future meeting of the Committee on the feasibility of using the site of the former Glenbrae Nursery as part of a flood management solution, subject to the approval of officer recommendations for agenda item 18 (Property Asset Management Public – Former Glenbrae Nursery); and
- (5) that it be remitted to the Director Environment & Regeneration to bring a report to a future meeting of the Committee summarising any discussions with Scottish Water regarding the management of their assets within Inverclyde.

558 Employability Update

558

There was submitted a report by the Director Environment & Regeneration providing an update on the Council's services and contracts relating to employability.

Councillor Clocherty declared a connection as a Member of the Board of the Inverclyde Community Development Trust. He also formed the view that the nature of his connection and of the item of business did not preclude his continued presence in the meeting or his participation in the decision making process and he was declaring for transparency.

Decided:

- (1) that the contents of the report be noted; and
- (2) that delegated authority be granted to the Director Environment & Regeneration to undertake a tender exercise for targeted future provision, the outcome of which will be duly reported to the Committee.

559 Firework Control Zones

559

There was submitted a report by the Director Environment & Regeneration (1) providing an update on the Fireworks and Pyrotechnic Articles (Scotland) Act 2022 and associated Scottish Government Guidance, and (2) seeking approval for (a) officers to express

ENVIRONMENT & REGENERATION COMMITTEE – 2 NOVEMBER 2023

interest to the Scottish Government to develop a Firework Control Zone proposal in Inverclyde, (b) the Firework Control Zone development process, and (c) the process for Firework Control Zone Community Requests.

Decided:

- (1) that it be approved that officers will make an expression of interest to the Scottish Government to develop a Firework Control Zone proposal in Inverclyde;
- (2) that (a) the Firework Control Zone development process, as detailed in appendix 1 of the report, including the provision that approval of a particular Firework Control Zone would be a decision of the Full Council, be approved; and
- (3) that the process for consideration of Community Requests, as detailed in appendix 2 of the report, be approved.

560 Proposed Traffic Regulation Order – The Inverclyde Council Disabled Persons' Parking Places (On-Street) Order No.4 2023 560

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services (1) informing the Committee of the outcome of the consultation procedure undertaken for the Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) entitled 'The Inverclyde Council Disabled Persons' Parking Places (On-Street) Order No.4 2023' where one maintained objection has been received, and (2) seeking a decision on whether the Committee will hear the objection relating to the TRO themselves or appoint an independent reporter.

Decided:

- (1) that the requirement to hold a public hearing to consider the maintained objection be noted; and
- (2) that it be agreed to hold a special meeting of the Committee to hear the objection and that it be remitted to the Head of Physical Assets and the Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services to make the necessary arrangements for the public hearing.

561 Transport (Scotland) Act 2019 Part 6 – Parking Prohibitions - Implications 561

There was submitted a report by the Head of Physical Assets highlighting the implications of the Transport (Scotland) Act 2019 in relation to parking prohibitions for pavement parking and double parking and the resource and financial implications associated with implementation and management.

Decided:

- (1) that (a) the implications of the parking prohibitions introduced by the Transport (Scotland) Act 2019 be noted, and (b) it be noted that the Pavement Parking Act will be enforceable from 11 December 2023, but that enforcement will not be possible in Inverclyde without the necessary funding and resources for implementation and management including the promotion of exemption orders;
- (2) that (a) the substantial work involved in assessing all the roads across Inverclyde be noted, and (b) it be noted that an initial desktop study is almost complete with results showing that over 300 roads across Inverclyde may require exemption orders;
- (3) that it be noted that additional funding is required to conclude the initial phase 1 studies and that this will be contained within the Directorate budgets;
- (4) that the additional work required to implement and manage the Act and the range of options, as detailed in section 4.5 and 4.6 of the report, be noted; and
- (5) that it be noted that the current position and the anticipated pressure on existing Roads staff who will require to answer requests and complaints about pavement parking and/or double parking in relation to the expectation that Inverclyde will implement the Act from December 2023 with Transport Scotland running a media campaign to raise awareness of the Act.

ENVIRONMENT & REGENERATION COMMITTEE – 2 NOVEMBER 2023

562 Contract Awards – 1 April to 30 September 2023 562

There was submitted a report by the Director Environment & Regeneration advising of contracts awarded for the supply of goods or materials, provision of services and execution of works during the period 1 April to 30 September 2023.

Councillor Cassidy declared a connection as a relative sits on the board of an organisation mentioned in the report. He also formed the view that the nature of his connection and of the item of business did not preclude his continued presence in the meeting or his participation in the decision making process and he was declaring for transparency.

Decided: that the contracts awarded by the Council during the period 1 April to 30 September 2023 be noted.

563 Annual Assurance Statement 563

There was submitted a report by the Director Environment & Regeneration seeking approval for Inverclyde Council's Annual Assurance Statement.

Decided: that the Annual Assurance Statement for 2023/24 be approved.

564 Property Asset Management Public – Former Glenbrae Nursery 564

There was submitted a report by the Director Environment & Regeneration making recommendations in respect of the former Glenbrae Nursery, Greenock.

Decided: that delegated authority be granted to the Director Environment & Regeneration to remove the former Glenbrae Nursery from the market and thereafter to progress demolition and site clearance, leaving the land as open space.

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)
------	--------------

Property Asset Management Private – Former Schoolhouse Bridgend Avenue / Land at Port Glasgow Church / Housing Stock Transfer Update	6 & 9
---	------------------

565 Property Asset Management Private – Former Schoolhouse Bridgend Avenue / Land at Port Glasgow Church / Housing Stock Transfer Update 565

There was submitted a report by the Director Environment & Regeneration making recommendations in respect of a number of property assets.

Decided: following consideration, the Committee agreed to the actions recommended, all as detailed in the private appendix.

EDUCATION AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE – 7 NOVEMBER 2023

Education and Communities Committee

Tuesday 7 November 2023 at 2pm

Present: Councillors Armstrong, Brennan, Clocherty, Daisley, Law, McGuire, McVey, Moran, Quinn, Robertson and Wilson, and Rev D Burt, Rev F Donaldson and Mr J Docherty, Church Representatives.

Chair: Councillor Clocherty presided.

In attendance:

Ruth Binks	Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development
Tony McEwan	Head of Culture, Communities & Educational Resources
Michael Roach	Head of Education
Anne Sinclair	Managing Solicitor (for Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services)
Hugh Scott	Service Manager, Community Learning & Development, Community Safety & Resilience and Sport
Eddie Montgomery	Head of Physical Assets
Iain Cameron	Principal Accountant (Education & Communities)
Mary McCabe	Finance Manager (Education & Communities)
Emma Peacock	Solicitor
Sarah Christie	Cultural Services Manager
Laurence Reilly	Principal Educational Psychologist
Elaine McLoughlin	Education Officer
Yvonne Gallacher	Quality Improvement Manager – Early Years, Education Services
Diane Sweeney	Senior Committee Officer
Colin MacDonald	Senior Committee Officer
Peter MacDonald	Solicitor
PJ Coulter	Corporate Communications Officer (Media Relations)

The meeting was held at the Municipal Buildings, Greenock with Councillors Daisley, McGuire, Moran and Wilson, Rev Burt and Rev Donaldson attending remotely.

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

566 Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest

An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Ms P McEwan, Teacher Representative.

No declarations of interest were intimated, but certain connections were intimated for the purposes of transparency as follows:

Agenda Item 2 (Communities Revenue Budget Report – 2023/24 Projected Outturn at 31 August 2023) – Councillors Clocherty and Quinn.

Agenda Item 3 (Communities Capital Programme Progress and Asset Related Items) - Councillors Clocherty and Quinn.

Agenda Item 4 (Communities Update Report – Overview of Local and National Initiatives) – Councillors Clocherty and Quinn

Agenda Item 5 (Management Rules for Museums and Libraries in Inverclyde) –

EDUCATION AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE – 7 NOVEMBER 2023

Councillor Law

Agenda Item 6 – School Transport Privilege Passes and Compliance with the Public Vehicles Regulations (PSVAR) – Councillor Wilson

Agenda Item 7 (Summer Holiday Provision for Children and Young People) – Councillors Clocherty and Quinn

Agenda Item 8 (Community Grants Fund 2023/24 – Round 1) – Councillors Armstrong, Clocherty, Daisley, McGuire, Quinn and Robertson

Agenda Item 18 (Governance of External Organisations – Inverclyde Leisure, Community Centres and Beacon Arts Centre) – Councillors Clocherty, Quinn and Robertson

567 **Communities Revenue Budget Report –2023/24 Projected Outturn at 31 August 2023**

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer and the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development advising Committee of the 2023/24 Revenue Budget position at 31 August 2023.

Councillors Clocherty and Quinn declared connections as members of the Board of Inverclyde Leisure. They also formed the view that the nature of their connection and of the item of business did not preclude their continued presence in the meeting or their participation in the decision-making process and were declaring for transparency.

Decided:

(1) that the current projected underspend for 2023/24 of £218,000 as at 31 August 2023 be noted; and

(2) that it be noted that £155,000 of the projected underspend relates to Inverclyde Leisure utility costs due to reduced unit rates, and as such the underlying Committee position is a projected underspend of £68,000.

568 **Communities Capital Programme Progress and Asset Related Items**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development and Chief Financial Officer providing (1) performance information for the Communities part of the Education & Communities Committee, and (2) an update in respect of the status of the projects which form the Communities Capital Programme and Asset related items.

Councillors Clocherty and Quinn declared connections as members of the Board of Inverclyde Leisure. They also formed the view that the nature of their connection and of the item of business did not preclude their continued presence in the meeting or their participation in the decision-making process and were declaring for transparency.

Decided:

(1) that the current position of the 2023/26 Capital Programme be noted; and

(2) that the progress on the following projects be noted (a) Leisure Pitches Asset Management Plan/Lifecycle Fund, (b) Waterfront Leisure Centre Training Pool Moveable Floor, (c) Community Hub King George VI, (d) Bank Street Community Hub (32nd Scouts), (e) Parklea Branching Out, and (f) the Asset Transfer Working Group updates on (i) The Coppermine, (ii) land at Wateryetts Drive, Kilmacolm, (iii) Walled Garden, Gourrock, (iv) Crawfordsburn Centre, and the future/potential community asset transfers, all as detailed at paragraph 3.10 of the report.

569 **Communities Update Report – Overview of Local and National Initiatives**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development providing an update on the Communities aspect of the

EDUCATION AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE – 7 NOVEMBER 2023

service.

Councillors Clocherty and Quinn declared connections as members of the Board of Inverclyde Leisure. They also formed the view that the nature of their connection and of the item of business did not preclude their continued presence in the meeting or their participation in the decision-making process and were declaring for transparency.

Decided: that the updates on the following be noted (a) 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence, (b) the Community Safety Partnership, (c) Period Poverty, (d) Young Persons Health and Wellbeing Substance Use Officers, (e) Inverclyde Leisure Annual Report 2022/23, (f) School Letting arrangements, (g) COSLA Excellence Awards 2023, (h) Inverclyde Libraries shortlisted for award, (i) Inverclyde Culture Collective, and (j) Emergency Powers request to make a payment to pupils entitled to free school meals who are affected by school closure due to industrial action.

570 Management Rules for Museums and Libraries in Inverclyde

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital and Customer Services seeking approval of the draft Libraries Management Rules and Museum Managements Rules prior to a statutory public consultation.

During discussion of this item it was noted that references to smoking and vaping were omitted from the draft Museum Managements Rules and officers advised that this would be reviewed.

Councillor Law declared a connection as a regular volunteer at the Watt Museum. She also formed the view that the nature of her connection and of the item of business did not preclude her continued presence in the meeting or her participation in the decision-making process and was declaring for transparency.

Decided:

- (1) that the draft Libraries Management Rules and Museum Management Rules be approved for public consultation, after review of the omission noted above;
- (2) that delegated authority be granted to the Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital and Customer Services to take all action which is required in terms of implementing the statutory consultation procedure in terms of the proposed management rules;
- (3) that it be noted that the Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital and Customer Services will report back to the Committee on the outcome of the public consultation exercise to allow the Committee to consider any objections received and any consequential amendments considered appropriate; and
- (4) that it be noted that the outcome of the public consultation exercise and recommendations of the Committee following that exercise will, subject to the decision of the Committee, be reported to the Inverclyde Council and that authority will subsequently be sought from the Inverclyde Council to make the Management Rules.

571 School Transport Privilege Passes and Compliance with the Public Service Vehicles Regulations (PSVAR)

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development seeking agreement to alter the Inverclyde Council policy on school transport by withdrawing the fee for privilege school bus passes from October 2023 in accordance with Public Service Vehicles Accessibility Regulations.

Councillor Wilson declared a connection as a Vice Chair of Strathclyde Passenger Transport. He also formed the view that the nature of his connection and of the item of business did not preclude his continued presence in the meeting or his participation in the decision-making process and was declaring for transparency.

Decided: that it be agreed that the Inverclyde Council policy on school transport be altered to withdraw the fee for privilege school bus passes from October 2023.

572 Summer Holiday Provision for Children and Young People

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development advising of the services and activities that supported children and young people during the 2023 school summer holiday period.

Councillors Clocherty and Quinn declared connections as members of the Board of Inverclyde Leisure. They also formed the view that the nature of their connection and of the item of business did not preclude their continued presence in the meeting or their participation in the decision-making process and were declaring for transparency.

Decided: that the provision of local services delivered to children and young people during the summer of 2023 be noted.

573 Community Grants Fund 2023/24 – Round 1

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development providing details of the applications which have been received as part of round 1 of the Community Grants Fund 2023/24.

Councillors Clocherty and Quinn declared connections as members of the Board of Inverclyde Leisure, Councillor Armstrong declared a connection as a member of the Executive Committee of Inverclyde Voluntary Council of Social Service, Councillor Robertson declared a connection as a member of the Boards of Inverclyde Youth Theatre (Kayos) and Financial Fitness, Councillor Daisley declared a connection as he has a connection to Port Glasgow Boat Club, Councillor McGuire declared a connection as she was previously the Council's representative on the George Wyllie Foundation, is Chairperson of Inverclyde Youth for Christ and attends the Inverclyde Vineyard Church. They also formed the view that the nature of their connections and of the item of business did not preclude their continued presence in the meeting or their participation in the decision-making process and were declaring for transparency.

Decided: that the level of funding allocated by the Grants Sub-Committee to the organisations, as detailed in appendix 1 to the report, be noted.

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 of Part 1 of Schedule 7(A) of the Act.

574 Governance of External Organisations – Inverclyde Leisure, Community Centres and Beacon Arts Centre

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development providing an update on matters relating to the governance of funded providers.

Councillors Clocherty and Quinn declared connections as members of the Board of Inverclyde Leisure and Councillor Robertson declared a connection as a member of the Board of Greenock Arts Guild. They also formed the view that the nature of their connection and of the item of business did not preclude their continued presence in the meeting or their participation in the decision-making process and were declaring for transparency.

Decided: following consideration, the Committee agreed to the actions recommended in the report, all as detailed in the private appendix.

EDUCATION AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE – 7 NOVEMBER 2023

The Communities business concluded at 3.20pm. The Committee commenced consideration of the Education items of business at 4pm with Rev Burt and Rev Donaldson joining the meeting remotely.

575 Presentation – Historic Links to Slavery – Community Engagement and Schools Project

The Committee heard a presentation given by Elaine McLoughlin, Education Officer, on the work undertaken regarding Inverclyde's historic links to slavery. Thereafter officers answered a number of questions from Members.

Decided:

- (1) that the presentation be noted;
- (2) that congratulations be conveyed to officers for winning the COSLA Excellence Award for their work examining historic links to slavery; and
- (3) that thanks be conveyed on behalf of the Committee to everyone connected with the production of the video contained within the presentation.

576 Education Revenue Budget Report – 2023/24 Projected Outturn at 31 August 2023

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer and the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development advising Committee of the 2023/24 Revenue Budget position at 31 August 2023.

Decided:

- (1) that the current projected overspend for 2023/24 of £713,000 as at 31 August 2023 be noted;
- (2) that it be noted that the action taken to reduce the projected overspend and the proposals to bring the budget back on track will be reported to the next meeting; and
- (3) that it be noted that (a) the Communities part of the Committee is currently projecting an underspend of £218,000, £155,000 of which relates to Inverclyde Leisure utility bills and will be returned to the non-pay inflation contingency by year end, and (b) the remaining balance partially offsets the projected overspend for the Education part of the Committee.

577 Education Capital Programme 2023/26 - Progress

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development and Chief Financial Officer (1) providing performance information for the Education part of the Education & Communities Committee, and (2) providing an update in respect of the status of the projects which form the Education Capital Programme.

Decided:

- (1) that the current position of the 2023/26 Capital Programme be noted; and
- (2) that the progress on the following projects be noted (a) general lifecycle works, (b) CO² Monitors in Schools, (c) Universal Free School Meals, and (d) Reinforced Aerated Autoclave Concrete (RAAC).

578 Education and Communities Committee Delivery and Improvement Plan 2023/24 Performance Report

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development providing an update on the progress made in the delivery of the Education and Communities Committee Delivery and Improvement Plan 2023/26.

Decided: that the progress made in the delivery of the Education and Communities

EDUCATION AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE – 7 NOVEMBER 2023

Committee Delivery and Improvement Plan 2023/26 be noted.

579 West Partnership Improvement Collaborative Evaluation Report 2022-23 and Improvement Plan for 2023-24

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development providing an overview of (1) the Evaluation Report 2022-23, and (2) the Improvement Plan 2023-24, of the Glasgow City Region Education Improvement Collaborative, known as the West Partnership.

Decided:

- (1) that the contents of the West Partnership Evaluation Report 2022-23 be noted; and
- (2) that the West Partnership Improvement Plan 2023-24 be approved.

580 S & Q (NIF) September 2023 and Updated Strategic Equity Fund (SEF) Plan 2023/24 with Associated Stretch Aims

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development seeking approval for (1) the evaluation report of Stretch Aims for Session 2022/23, and (2) the updated Strategic Equity Funding (SEF) Plan 2023-24 and associated provisional stretch aims covering sessions 2023/24-2025/26.

Decided:

- (1) that the updated National Improvement Framework Report of Session 2022/23 Stretch Aims be approved; and
- (2) that the content and publication of the SEF Plan for 2023-24 including Stretch Aims for 2024-26 be approved.

581 Setting a Sustainable Rate for Early Learning and Childcare Funded Providers

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development seeking agreement to increase the hourly rate paid to funded providers for the delivery of Early Learning and Childcare (ELC).

Decided:

- (1) that approval be given to an increase in the hourly rate paid to all Early Years Funded Providers including Childminders from the current rate of £5.69 per child to £5.87 per child;
- (2) that it be agreed this new rate be backdated from 18 August 2023; and
- (3) that it be agreed this rate will be implemented for all eligible children aged two to five years who are accessing ELC within a funded provider setting.

582 Annual Report – Inverclyde Wellbeing Service

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development appending the Annual Report for 2022/23 from Action for Children, who provide the Inverclyde Wellbeing Service which includes the school aged counselling service.

Decided: that the content of the annual report for the Inverclyde Wellbeing Service be noted.

583 Update on Parental Representative for Education Part of the Education & Communities Committee

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities &

EDUCATION AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE – 7 NOVEMBER 2023

Organisational Development providing an update on the election of a parent representative on the Education part of the Education and Communities Committee.

Decided:

- (1) that the content of the report be noted; and
- (2) that it be noted that the election process for a potential parental representative on the Education part of the Education and Communities Committee is being progressed.

GENERAL PURPOSES BOARD – 8 NOVEMBER 2023

General Purposes BoardWednesday 8 November 2023 at 3pm

Present: Provost McKenzie, Councillors Armstrong, Brennan, Cassidy, Crowther, Curley, McCluskey, Moran, Quinn and Reynolds.

Chair: Councillor Moran presided.

In attendance:

David Keenan	Solicitor (for Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services)
Fiona Denver	Senior Paralegal Licensing Officer
Diane Sweeney	Senior Committee Officer

In attendance also: Sergeant I Robertson (Police Scotland).

The meeting was held at the Municipal Buildings, Greenock with Councillors Curley and McCluskey attending remotely.

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

584 Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest 584

An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Councillor Wilson.

No declarations of interest were intimated.

585 Update Regarding HMRC Tax Conditionality 585

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services providing an update on the introduction and implementation of HMRC tax conditionality obligations in relation to civic licence applications and renewals.

Decided:

- (1) that the update in relation to implementation of the tax conditionality obligations upon licensing bodies, such as the Council, which took effect on 2 October 2023 be noted; and
- (2) that it be remitted to officers to provide a further update on this matter in 6 months' time.

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 of Part 1 of Schedule 7(A) of the Act.

586 Application for Grant of a Taxi Driver's Licence 586

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services on an application for the grant of a Taxi Driver's Licence which was refused following a vote, all as detailed in the private appendix.

ENVIRONMENT & REGENERATION COMMITTEE – 9 NOVEMBER 2023

Environment & Regeneration Committee

Thursday 9 November 2023 at 3pm

Present: Councillors Armstrong (for Robertson), Brooks, Cassidy, Clocherty, Curley, Daisley (for Crowther), Jackson, McCabe, McCormick, Nelson and Quinn.

Chair: Councillor McCormick presided.

In attendance:

Stuart Jamieson	Director Environment & Regeneration
Iain Strachan	Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services
Eddie Montgomery	Head of Physical Assets
Matt Thomson	Finance Manager (Environment & Technical)
Martin McNab	Public Protection Manager
David Aitken	Procurement Manager
Kenny Lang	Service Manager, Grounds, Fleet & Waste Services
David Keenen	Solicitor
Colin MacDonald	Senior Committee Officer
Diane Sweeney	Senior Committee Officer
PJ Coulter	Corporate Communications Officer (Media Relations)

This meeting was held at the Municipal Buildings, Greenock with Councillors Daisley, Jackson and Quinn attending remotely.

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

587 Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest 587

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillor Crowther, with Councillor Daisley substituting, and Councillor Robertson, with Councillor Armstrong substituting.

No declarations of interest were intimated.

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 paragraphs 6 & 8 of Part I of Schedule 7(A) of the Act.

588 Contract Authorisation Report – Residual & Bulky Waste 588

There was submitted a report by the Director Environment & Regeneration seeking approval to conclude the tender and award of the contract for the Collection, Haulage, Treatment and Disposal of Residual and Bulky Waste.

Decided: following consideration, the Committee agreed to the actions recommended, all as detailed in the private appendix.

**APPOINTMENT PANEL
HEAD OF ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, POLICY & COMMUNICATIONS
13 NOVEMBER 2023**

Appointment Panel – Head of Organisational Development, Policy & Communications

Monday 13 November 2023 at 9.30am

Present: Councillors Brennan, Quinn and Robertson.

Chair: Chief Executive presided.

In attendance:

Louise Long	Chief Executive
Ruth Binks	Corporate Director Education, Communities and Organisational Development
Stuart Jamieson	Director Environment & Regeneration
Barbara McQuarrie	Organisational Development & Human Resources Manager (as Adviser to the Panel)

The meeting was held at the Municipal Buildings, Greenock.

589 Apologies and Declarations of Interest

589

An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Councillor McCabe, with Councillor Brennan substituting.

No declarations of interest were intimated.

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

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 for 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.

590 Interview of Applicants – Post of Head of Organisational Development, Policy & Communications

590

The Panel interviewed two candidates and agreed to appoint Morna Rae to the post of Head of Organisational Development, Policy & Communications, all as detailed in the Private Appendix.

THE INVERCLYDE COUNCIL – 16 NOVEMBER 2023

The Inverclyde Council

Thursday 16 November 2023 at 4:00pm

Present: Provost McKenzie, Councillors Armstrong, Brennan, Brooks, Cassidy, Clocherty, Crowther, Curley, Daisley, Jackson, Law, McCabe, McCluskey, McCormick, McGuire, McVey, Moran, Quinn, Reynolds, Robertson and Wilson.

Chair: Provost McKenzie presided.

In attendance:

Louise Long	Chief Executive
Alan Puckrin	Chief Financial Officer
Kate Rocks	Chief Officer, Inverclyde Health & Social Care Partnership
Stuart Jamieson	Director Environment & Regeneration
Tony McEwan	Head of Culture, Communities & Educational Resources (for Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development)
Iain Strachan	Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services
Matt Thomson	Finance Manager (Environment & Technical)
Diane Sweeney	Senior Committee Officer
Colin MacDonald	Senior Committee Officer
Karen MacVey	Members' & Committee Services Team Leader
PJ Coulter	Corporate Communications Officer (Media Relations)

The meeting was held at the Municipal Buildings, Greenock with Councillors Daisley, Jackson, Law, McCluskey, McCormick, McGuire and McVey attending remotely.

591 Apologies and Declarations of Interest 591

An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Councillor Nelson.

No declarations of interest were intimated.

592 2022/23 Annual Audit Report and Best Value Thematic Report to Elected Members and the Controller of Audit 592

There was submitted a report by the Chief Executive presenting (1) the Annual Audit Report, and (2) the Best Value Thematic Report to Elected Members and the Controller of Audit for the Financial Year ended 31 March 2023 for consideration.

Mr Michael Wilkie of KPMG LLP was present at the meeting and spoke to the report.

Decided:

- (1) that the Action Plan as contained within the Annual Audit Report be approved;
- (2) that approval be given to the signing of the Letter of Representation, as detailed at appendix 4 to the report, by the Chief Financial Officer;
- (3) that the signing of the Annual Accounts for Inverclyde Council for the Financial Year 2022/23 by the Council Leader, Chief Executive and Chief Financial Officer be approved; and
- (4) that the Council's thanks to the External Auditors and officers be noted.

POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 21 NOVEMBER 2023

Policy & Resources Committee

Tuesday 21 November 2023 at 3pm

Present: Councillors Armstrong, Brennan (for McGuire), Curley, Law, McCabe, McCluskey, McCormick, McVey, Moran, Robertson and Wilson.

Chair: Councillor McCabe presided.

In attendance:

Louise Long	Chief Executive
Alan Puckrin	Chief Financial Officer
Stuart Jamieson	Director Environment & Regeneration
Ruth Binks	Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development
Iain Strachan	Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services
Morna Rae	Head of Organisational Development, Policy & Communications
Tony McEwan	Head of Culture, Communities & Educational Resources
Craig Given	Head of Finance, Planning & Resources (Inverclyde HSCP)
Matt Thomson	Finance Manager (Environment & Technical)
Angela Edmiston	Finance Manager (Corporate Services & Strategic Finance)
Jonathan Hinds	Chief Social Work Officer and Head of Children & Families and Criminal Justice Services (Inverclyde HSCP)
Tracy Bunton	Revenues and Benefits Manager
Vicky Pollock	Legal Services Manager (Procurement, Conveyancing & Information Governance)
Carol	Information Governance & Complaints Officer
Craig-McDonald	
Roisin Dillon	Trading Standards and Enforcement Team Leader
Karen MacVey	Members' & Committee Services Team Leader
Colin MacDonald	Senior Committee Officer
Diane Sweeney	Senior Committee Officer
PJ Coulter	Corporate Communications Officer (Media Relations)

This meeting was held at the Municipal Buildings, Greenock with Councillors Law, McCormick, McVey and Wilson attending remotely.

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

593 Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest

593

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillor McGuire, with Councillor Brennan substituting.

No declarations of interest were intimated, but certain connections were intimated for the purposes of transparency as follows:

Agenda Item 12 (Governance of External Organisations – Annual Update and Review) – Councillors Curley, McCabe, McCluskey and Robertson.

POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 21 NOVEMBER 2023

Agenda Item 14 (Update on Inverclyde Anti-Poverty Initiatives) – Councillor Law.

594 2023/24 Policy & Resources Committee and General Fund Revenue Budget Update as at 30 September 2023 594

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer, Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development and Chief Executive advising the Committee of (1) the 2023/24 Revenue Budget position as at 30 September 2023, (2) the overall General Fund Revenue Budget projection, and (3) the position of the General Fund Reserve at the same date.

Decided:

- (1) that the current projected Committee underspend for 2023/24 of £198,000 as at 30 September 2023 be noted;
- (2) that the projected overspend of £500,000 for the General Fund and the projected surplus reserves of £3.200 million be noted;
- (3) that the projected 2023/24 surplus of £770 for the Common Good Budget, as detailed in appendix 6 of the report be noted;
- (4) that the virements as detailed in appendix 5 of the report be approved; and
- (5) That the creation of the Smoothing Reserve for Non-Domestic Rates Empty Property Relief from April 2023 be approved.

595 Policy & Resources Capital Budget and Council 2023/26 Capital Programme 595

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer providing an update on (1) the latest position of the Policy & Resources Capital Programme, and (2) the 2023/26 Capital Programme.

Decided:

- (1) that (a) the current position of the 2023/26 Policy & Resources Capital Budget, and (b) the current position of the 2023/26 Capital Programme, be noted;
- (2) that it be noted that officers agreed via COSLA to swap £2.0 million of revenue grant for £2.0 million capital grant to free up revenue resources within the Scottish Government and this report and the Revenue Budget report reflect this action; and
- (3) that it be noted that there is a proposal elsewhere in the agenda to reduce two recurring capital allocations by £74,000 per year from 2024/25 as part of the alignment of projects and resources in the medium term.

596 Finance Update 596

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer providing an update on various matters being progressed by the Finance Service relating to (1) Non-Domestic Rates Empty Property Relief, (2) Council Tax Collection, (3) Discretionary Housing Payments, (4) Scottish Welfare Fund Payments, (5) Delivering Differently Annual Update, (6) Insurance Fund position at 30 September 2023, and (7) extension to the Financial Management System contract.

Decided:

- (1) that the various updates provided in relation to the activity within the Finance Service be noted;
- (2) that the temporary amendment to the Discretionary Housing Payments Policy as detailed in appendix 1 of the report be approved;
- (3) that the Committee notes the following, (a) the annual Insurance Fund update, (b) the overall insurance premium increase from October 2023, and (c) the increase in

POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 21 NOVEMBER 2023

insurance recharges relating to the creation of a Risk Management resource, both of which will be funded from the non-pay inflation contingency; and

(4) that (a) the annual update on the Delivering Differently programme be noted, and (b) it be noted that reports will be presented to the relevant Committee at the appropriate time.

597 Corporate Policy and Performance Update: September-November 2023 597

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development providing an update on Corporate Policy and Performance matters relating to (1) publication of the first census 2022 outputs, (2) an update on national developments relating to Best Value, (3) National Records of Scotland life expectancy statistics 2020/22, (4) success at national awards, and (5) the results from the Citizens' Panel Summer 2023 survey.

Decided:

(1) that the latest update in relation to Corporate Policy and Performance be noted;
 (2) that it be noted that officer discussions have taken place with National Records of Scotland and representations made regarding local population estimates in relation to the publication of the first 2022 census outputs; and
 (3) that it be noted that an update on Pension Credit uptake will be included in a future Anti-Poverty report.

598 Policy & Resources Committee Delivery and Improvement Plan 2023/26 Performance Report 598

There was submitted a report by the Chief Executive providing an update on the progress made in the delivery of the Policy & Resources Committee Delivery and Improvement Plan 2023/26.

Decided: that the progress made in the delivery of the Policy & Resources Committee Delivery and Improvement Plan 2023/26 be noted.

599 Treasury Management – Mid-Year Report 2023/24 599

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer (a) advising of the operation of the treasury function and its activities for the first six months of 2023/24 as required under the terms of Treasury Management Practice 6 on 'Reporting Requirements and Management Information Arrangements', and (b) requesting that the report be remitted to the Full Council for approval.

Decided:

(1) that the contents of the Mid-Year Report on Treasury Management for 2023/24 and the ongoing work to seek to ensure the delivery of financial benefits for the Council during the current uncertainty and beyond, be noted;
 (2) that the early repayment of three Market Loans totalling £29.9 million, and that Officers believe this will generate savings for the Council in the medium to long term, be noted; and
 (3) that the report be remitted to the Full Council for approval.

600 Inverclyde Council Plan 2023/28 – Six Monthly Progress Report 600

There was submitted a report by the Interim Head of Organisational Development, Policy & Communications (1) presenting the first six monthly progress report on the Council Plan

POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 21 NOVEMBER 2023

2023/28 covering the period 1 April 2023 – 30 September 2023, and (2) seeking approval for its publication.

Decided:

- (1) that the progress report on the new Council Plan 2023/28 be noted; and
- (2) that publication of the progress report on the Inverclyde Council website be approved.

601 Inverclyde Council Annual Performance Report 2022/23 601

There was submitted a report by the Interim Head of Organisational Development, Policy & Communications seeking approval for the publication of the Inverclyde Council Annual Performance Report 2022/23, which is the final report to be produced on the Inverclyde Council Corporate Plan 2018/23.

Decided:

- (1) that the progress made in the delivery of the organisational priorities within the Corporate Plan 2018/23 be noted; and
- (2) that the publication of the Corporate Plan Annual Performance Report 2022/23 be approved.

602 Data Protection Officer Annual Report 2023 602

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services providing the Data Protection Officer's Annual Report, which sets out a note of the Council's data protection performance over the past year, together with the Data Protection Officer's assessment of Inverclyde Council's compliance with data protection legislation.

Decided: that the Data Protection Officer's Annual Report 2023, as detailed in appendix 1 of the report, be noted.

603 Updated Policy and Annual Update on the use of surveillance powers – The Regulation of Investigatory Powers (Scotland) Act 2000 (RIPSA) 603

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services (1) seeking approval of an updated version of the Council's RIPSA Policy, and (2) providing an overview and update on the use of directed surveillance powers by the Council.

Decided:

- (1) that the contents of the report, including the recent inspection by the Investigatory Powers Commissioner's Office, be noted;
- (2) that the updated Regulation of Investigatory Powers (Scotland) Act 2000 Policy, as detailed in appendix 3 of the report, be approved; and
- (3) that it be noted that a further update, including a review of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers (Scotland) Act 2000 policy, will be provided in a year's time.

604 Governance of External Organisations – Annual Update and Review 604

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer (1) providing the annual report on the Committee's key external partnerships and (2) seeking approval for the list of external organisations subject to the revised External Organisational Governance Process in the next 12 months.

Councillors Curley, McCabe, McCluskey and Robertson declared connections in this item of business. Councillor Curley declared a connection as a member of the Board of

POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 21 NOVEMBER 2023

Riverside Inverclyde and the Kilmacollm Community Centre and a Director of Inchgreen Marine Park, Councillor McCabe declared a connection as a Director of Inchgreen Marine Park, Councillor McCluskey declared a connection as a member of the Board of Greenock Arts Guild Ltd. and Councillor Robertson as a member of the Board of Greenock Arts Guild Ltd. and Financial Fitness. They also formed the view that the nature of their connections and of the item of business did not preclude their continued presence in the meeting or their participation in the decision making process and were declaring for transparency.

Decided:

- (1) that the significant improvement in the commissioning and service procurement landscape since the current approach to external organisations was implemented in 2011 be noted;
- (2) that the assessment of adherence to the Governance of External Organisations requirements in the last 12 months be noted;
- (3) that the list of organisations subject to the revised External Organisation Governance process in the next 12 months, the list and process being as detailed in appendices 2 and 3 of the report respectively, be approved;
- (4) that it be noted that organisations covered by relevant Social Care contracts will continue to be monitored with updates being provided on a cyclical basis to the IJB and the Social Work & Social Care Scrutiny Panel and therefore they will no longer form part of this annual report;
- (5) that it be noted that specific reports in respect of the two Council arm's-length external organisations will be presented to the relevant strategic Committee next cycle covering the requirements set out in the Financial Regulations; and
- (6) that it be agreed that a further report be presented to the Council by the Chief Executive following a review of the appropriateness of Councillor nominations to the Boards of organisations which tender for Council contracts.

605 2024/26 Budget Update

605

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer (1) providing an update on several matters in relation to the 2024/26 Revenue Budget and 2024/27 Capital Programme, and (2) seeking a number of decisions from the Committee.

Decided:

- (1) that the latest 2024/26 Budget update, and specifically the impact of the Council Tax Freeze announcement and the date of the Scottish Government Draft 2024/25 Budget announcement on the Council's anticipated decision-making timescales, be noted;
- (2) that the proposed 2024/26 Budget Pressures, as detailed in appendix 2 of the report, including the proposal to provide a one-off sum of £600,000 from the Inflation Smoothing Reserve for the ASN transport pressure whilst the current Delivering Differently review is being progressed, be approved;
- (3) that (a) the proposed reductions to the capital programme, as detailed in appendix 3 of the report, be approved, and (b) the decision to progress with the peatland restoration project whilst grant condition discussions are on-going be noted;
- (4) that the proposed approach in respect of the savings which will be experienced by Inverclyde Leisure due to the recent actuarial review, as detailed in paragraphs 4.2 and 4.3 of the report, be agreed;
- (5) that (a) the savings and adjustments, as detailed in appendix 4 of the report be approved, and (b) the illustrative 2024/26 Revenue Budget funding gap, as detailed in appendix 5 of the report, be noted; and

POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 21 NOVEMBER 2023

(6) that it be agreed that the Council Leader write to the First Minister raising concerns regarding the announcement of a Council Tax freeze for 2024/25, which was made at the SNP Conference on 17 October 2023.

606 Update on Inverclyde Anti-Poverty Initiatives

606

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development providing evaluations on the Anti-Poverty Initiatives funded by the Inverclyde Council Anti-Poverty recurring budget to date and make recommendations for next steps.

Councillor Law declared a connection as a Member of the Board of the Inverclyde Community Development Trust. She also formed the view that the nature of her connection and of the item of business did not preclude her continued presence in the meeting of her participation in the decision making process and she was declaring for transparency.

Decided:

- (1) that the contents of this report and the evaluations as detailed in section 4 of the report be noted;
- (2) that (a) the financial information in appendix 1 of the report be noted, and (b) the proposals in section 5 of the report be agreed;
- (3) that the use of delegated powers to support food insecurity in Winter 2023 be noted;
- (4) that the use of emergency powers to make payments to families in receipt of free school meals on days of school industrial action be noted; and
- (5) that it be agreed that a further progress report be submitted to the Committee in six months' time.

607 Update on the Digital Modernisation Programme and Delivery of the ICT and Digital Strategies

607

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services providing an update on the work of the Council's Digital Modernisation Programme.

Decided:

- (1) that the update on the work of the Digital Modernisation Programme, and the projects within it, be noted;
- (2) that the Chief Executive's use of delegated authority to authorise the use of £2,000 from the Digital Modernisation Earmarked Reserve to commission consultancy work from Talentlink, as detailed in paragraph 4.3 of the report, be noted;
- (3) that the use of £105,000 from the Digital Modernisation Earmarked Reserve to appoint a two year ICT Project Support Officer within the ICT Team, to help support delivery and implementation of the approved digital modernisation projects, as detailed in paragraph 4.5 of the report, be approved;
- (4) that the update on the work of the Council's ICT Team be noted; and
- (5) that it be noted that the updates on the progress of the Digital Modernisation Programme will continue to be reported to the Committee at least every second cycle.

608 Vehicle Replacement Programme

608

It was noted that this item was withdrawn from the agenda.

609 Tender for the Provision of a Children's Advocacy Service

609

POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 21 NOVEMBER 2023

There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer, Inverclyde Health & Social Care Partnership seeking approval to change the tender weightings for the forthcoming tender process for a Children’s Advocacy Service in Inverclyde as noted in Contract Standing Order 16.3.

Decided: that approval be given to the use of an 80% Quality and 20% Cost of Service weighting in the forthcoming tender for the Inverclyde HSCP Children’s Advocacy Service and therefore suspends Contract Standing Order 16.2.

610 Business Continuity Policy 610

There was submitted a report by the Director Environment & Regeneration seeking approval for the Business Continuity Policy in line with the requirement to review the policy every three years so that changes in the legislative and risk landscapes can be considered.

Mr Mark Harris of the Joint Local Authorities Civil Contingencies Service was present at the meeting.

Decided: that the Business Continuity Policy be approved.

611 Revised Risk Management Strategy – Remit from Audit Committee 611

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services requesting consideration of a remit from the Audit Committee relative to a review of the Council’s Risk Management Strategy.

Decided: that the revised Risk Management Strategy, as detailed in appendix 2 of the report, be approved.

612 Use of Powers Delegated to the Chief Executive to vote on Members for the Executive Oversight Committee of the Cooperative Councils Innovation Network 612

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services notifying the Committee of the use of Emergency Powers in September 2023 to enable the Council to cast its vote to elect two new members to the Executive Oversight Committee of the Cooperative Councils Innovation Network.

Decided: that it be noted that the Chief Executive used their powers under the Scheme of Delegation (Officers) to agree that the Council cast its vote to elect two new members to the Executive Oversight Committee of the Cooperative Councils Innovation Network, which vote was to be cast by the Leader of the Council, Cllr McCabe, in terms of the Network’s constitution.

The Convener being of the opinion that the undernoted report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development was relevant, competent and urgent moved its consideration in terms of the relevant Standing Order to allow the Committee to consider the 2023/24 pay offer agreed by COSLA Leaders and associated backdating.

613 Use of Delegated Powers to Implement 2023/24 Pay Increase and Backdating and Agreement for Early Implementation of the Living Wage 613

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development (1) noting the use of emergency powers in November 2023 to enable the Council to implement the 2023/24 pay offer agreed by COSLA Leaders and

POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 21 NOVEMBER 2023

associated backdating, and (2) seeking agreement to implement the new Living Wage rate of £12 per hour from November 2023 (the date of its announcement), in advance of the previously agreed timescale of the April following the increase.

Decided:

(1) that it be noted that the Chief Executive used their powers under the Scheme of Delegation (Officers) to agree that delegated authority be granted to the Interim Head of Service for Organisational Development, Policy & Communication in order to immediately implement the pay increase agreed by COSLA Leaders on 3 November 2023 for including in the 6 December 2023 pay to all SJC/Chief Officer employees;

(2) that it be agreed that the new Living Wage rate will be implemented from November 2023; and

(3) that it be agreed that going forward the Committee will consider the implementation of future changes in the Living Wage rate annually.

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 the paragraphs 6 & 8 of Part I of Schedule 7(A) of the Act.

614 Public Space CCTV Contract**614**

There was submitted a report by the Director Environment & Regeneration seeking approval to enter into a contract for a solution for Public Space CCTV which will provide continuity of service while allowing an informed decision to be taken on future provision in the 2024/26 budget process.

Decided: Following consideration, the Committee agreed to the actions recommended all as detailed in the Private Appendix.

LOCAL POLICE & FIRE SCRUTINY PANEL – 23 NOVEMBER 2023

Local Police & Fire Scrutiny Panel

Thursday 23 November 2023 at 3pm

Present: Provost McKenzie, Councillors Clocherty, Crowther, Daisley, Law, Moran, McGuire, McCabe (for Brennan), Quinn, Reynolds and Wilson.

Chair: Councillor Wilson presided.

In attendance:

Ruth Binks	Corporate Director, Education, Communities & Organisational Development
Tony McEwan	Head of Culture, Communities and Educational Resources
Roisin Dillon	Trading Standards and Enforcement Team Leader
Anne Sinclair	Legal Services Manager (for Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services)
Lindsay Carrick	Senior Committee Officer
Colin MacDonald	Senior Committee Officer
Karen MacVey	Members' & Committee Services Team Leader
PJ Coulter	Corporate Communications Officer (Media Relations)

In attendance also:

Gordon McCreadie	Chief Superintendent, Local Police Commander Renfrewshire and Inverclyde Division, Police Scotland
Damian Kane	Chief Inspector, Area Commander, Inverclyde, Police Scotland
David McCarrey	Area Commander, Service Delivery, Scottish Fire & Rescue Service, East Renfrewshire, Renfrewshire and Inverclyde
Rod Anderson	Group Commander, Prevention & Protection, Scottish Fire & Rescue Service, East Renfrewshire, Renfrewshire and Inverclyde

The meeting was held at the Municipal Buildings, Greenock with Councillors Clocherty, McCabe, McGuire, Quinn and Reynolds attending remotely.

Prior to the commencement of business, the Convener welcomed the representatives from Police Scotland and Scottish Fire & Rescue Services to the meeting.

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

615 Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest 615

An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Councillor Brennan, with Councillor McCabe substituting.

No declarations of interest were intimated.

616 Police Scotland Performance Report 616

LOCAL POLICE & FIRE SCRUTINY PANEL – 23 NOVEMBER 2023

Prior to the discussion on this item, Chief Superintendent McCreadie, the newly appointed Area Commander, provided Members with a summary of the challenges and local priorities for Police Scotland. There was submitted a report on the performance and activities of Police Scotland during the reporting period 1 April 2023 to 30 September 2023. During discussion on this item reference was made to the reporting of Domestic Abuse Crimes. Chief Superintendent McCreadie informed Members that this remains one of Renfrewshire and Inverclyde Division's top priorities. The Panel was advised that Police Scotland in Inverclyde will participate in the upcoming '16 days' of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence campaign by promoting local activity, proactively targeting offenders, and running proactive operational activity to prevent abuse and keeping people safe. It was noted that 114 missing person reports have been recorded in Inverclyde in the reporting period, an increase of 15.2% on the same period of 2022, all missing people were traced alive, with over 91% being traced within two days of the reporting period. Looked After and Accommodated Children featured in nearly 40% of missing person incidents. Chief Inspector Kane provided Members with an overview of The Philomena Protocol which is primarily targeted towards young people living in care facilities and foster homes and encourages carers, staff families and friends to compile useful information which could be used in the event of a young person going missing. Concerns were expressed by Members with regard to the reporting of the suspected drug deaths in the reporting period. Chief Superintendent McCreadie provided an overview of the preventative and enforcement work in place to attempt to alleviate this issue. Chief Inspector Kane gave assurance that enforcement in relation to drug dealing in Inverclyde is a matter of priority.

Decided: that the information contained in the report be noted.

617 Scottish Fire & Rescue Performance Report

617

Prior to discussion on this item Area Commander McCarrey conveyed his thanks to Inverclyde Council and colleagues at Police Scotland in relation to Operation Moonbeam acknowledging the positive partnership relationships leading up to and on Bonfire night. He also referred to the positive reporting of the 68% reduction in Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals and acknowledged the successful partnership working in terms of communicating the new guidance to the public. The Panel was advised that ten young people completed the recent fire skills course delivered by the East Renfrewshire, Renfrewshire and Inverclyde Community Action Team and encouraged Members to attend the course due to take place in Inverclyde early next year.

There was submitted a report on the performance and activities of Scottish Fire & Rescue Service during the reporting period 1 July 2023 to 30 September 2023. Group Commander Anderson advised Members there is a downward trend in fire activity in Inverclyde. It was noted that there was a 12% reduction in the year-on-year indicator for deliberate fire settings. Group Commander Anderson answered a number of Members' questions regarding deliberate fire settings. He further advised that ongoing partnership working will continue to be undertaken providing education on fire safety.

Decided: that the information contained in the report be noted.

618 Local Police and Fire Scrutiny Panel Update Report

618

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities and Organisational Development providing an update on current and emerging issues relating to Police Scotland and Scottish Fire & Rescue Services.

Decided:

(1) that the updates on the following matters be noted (a) Police Scotland Online Child Sexual Abuse Campaign, (b) New Police Chief Constable, (c) HMICS Review of Police

LOCAL POLICE & FIRE SCRUTINY PANEL – 23 NOVEMBER 2023

Vetting Policy and Procedures, (d) HMICS Thematic Review of Policing Mental Health in Scotland, (e) 2023-24 Police Scotland Staff Pay Deal, (f) FBU Strike Action, (g) 5th November Action Plan, (h) Inverclyde Police & Fire Scrutiny Panel Letter to Cabinet Secretary and (i) Police Scotland Partnership Hub – Ministerial Visit.